

Plan 2010-2011



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova

Executive summary

The global recession has savaged Moldova. The latest data from the National Institute for Development and Social Initiative was officially described as “the saddest ever”. GDP was predicted to fall by 12.5 per cent, construction industry fell by 48 per cent, imports by 36 per cent and exports by 30 per cent. The national budget will be 26 per cent short with a deficit of over 450 million Swiss francs.

Another study, supported by the EU, IOM and ILO showed that 20 per cent of the people who received remittances from abroad in 2008, had received nothing in 2009. Moreover, the number of people returning had doubled, placing even greater strain on this tiny, shattered economy. It is predicted that in 2009, some 200,000 people- in a country of just four million- will be jobless. One hundred thousand of the new jobless will be government employees. The state will have difficulty finding funds for welfare and other social payments.

Moldova is a major source, and to a lesser extent, transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. It is estimated that slightly more than one per cent of the approximately 750,000 Moldavians working abroad are trafficking victims. Girls and young women are trafficked within the country from rural areas to Chisinau; children are also trafficked for forced labour and begging to neighbouring countries.

Domestic violence is another problem that has severe consequences for the society as a whole. In Moldova, it is one of the root causes of child abandonment, institutionalization, substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. Very often the domestic violence is a precursor to trafficking and exploitation.

Meanwhile, rates of HIV are increasing with the estimated prevalence rate being 139.3 per 100,000 of the population. The epidemic process covers all administrative territories and is characterized by both rural and urban spread of the infection. The highest rate of spread is registered in Balti municipality and Glodeni and Singerei rayons. In the eastern territories, the highest is in Tiraspol city and Ribnita rayon. The share of injecting drug use in the epidemic process continues to decrease and accounts for 15.67 per cent in six months of 2008 (26.72 per cent in 2001). The share of heterosexual transmission route increased to 66.83 per cent in six months of 2008 (60.96 per cent in 2005). The share of women with HIV also increased from 26.72 per cent in 2001 to 43.67 per cent in 2008.¹ The quick spread of HIV in Moldova is due to the economic and social crisis, poverty, stigma and low level of education.

The number of vulnerable people remains high. Elderly people living alone, people with disabilities, patients with chronic diseases, orphans and youth are the most exposed to social and health risks. These people continue to depend on international humanitarian aid. The government-initiated poverty reduction programme has not brought any considerable results yet. Support from the international community has declined, and the local needs overwhelm the capacities of the government. Reforms progressing at a snail’s pace and their impact cannot be seen immediately. An increasing number of older people in the country need nursing care and support in their daily lives and an escape from

¹ Republic of Moldova National Centre of Preventive Medicine

loneliness and isolation. In addition to social and medical assistance, elderly people across the country do not have access to sufficient legal information on their entitlements.

Despite ongoing national and global efforts to combat environmental degradation, the severity and frequency of disasters and their impact on the society are increasing continuously. In 2008, some 285 people died and 667 people were injured in natural disasters and industrial emergencies according to the Department of Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Severe and frequent droughts and floods in recent years prompted the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to launch a number of relief programmes in Moldova. Lessons learnt from these operations have been incorporated into this plan.

The total 2010-2011 budget is CHF 200,000 (USD 193,840 or EUR 131,600).

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

Country context

Moldova is located on the eastern border of the European Union, sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine. The favourable climate, fertile farmland and lack of major mineral deposits means the economy depends heavily on the various fruits, vegetables, wine and tobacco it produces. Moldova imports all of its supplies of petroleum, coal and natural gas, mainly from Russia.

Along with the other Soviet republics, Moldova started to move towards independence from 1988 onwards and declared its independence in August 1991.

Development Indicators		MOLDOVA	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions) (2008)	3.567,500	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	2,300 (2007)
Surface area (square km)	33,843	GDP real growth (%)	7.2 (2008)
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	1.8 (2004)	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	51.7 (2008)
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	98.6 (2005)	Mortality rate (per 100,000)	13
Gender-related development index value (GDI)	96 (2005)	Life expectancy at birth (female/ male)	72.5/ 65.1
Human development index value (HDI)	0.719	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	0.4 (2007 est.)
Human development index rate (HDI)	113 (2006)	People living with HIV (all ages)	9,585 (2008)
Population below national poverty line (%)	30.2% (2006)	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	151 (2007)
Gender Empowerment Measure rank (GEM)	97 (2005)		
Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank; Economic Intelligence Unit.			

Table 1: Selected development indicators for Moldova

The part of Moldova east of the Dniester river, Transnistria, which includes a larger proportion of ethnic Russians and Ukrainians, claimed independence in 1990, fearing the rise of nationalism in Moldova and the country's then-expected reunification with Romania. This caused a brief military conflict between Moldova and forces supporting the secession of Transnistria in 1992. Negotiations between the Transnistrian and Moldovan leaders have been going on under the mediation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Russia, and Ukraine; lately observers from the European Union and USA have become involved.

Country disasters		MOLDOVA
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people
Storm	November 2000	2,600,000
Drought	2007	210,394
Storm	November 1994	25,580
Flood	August 1994	25,000
Flood	August 2005	6,500
Flood	July 2008	4,000
Flood	July 1997	2,244
Flood	March 1999	1,713
Epidemic	August 1999	1,647
Flood	June 2002	500

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

Table 2 : Natural disasters in Moldova since 1990 including dates and the number of people affected

Moldova is a member state of the United Nations, WTO, OSCE, GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and other international organizations. It has officially been a neutral country since its independence and an early member of the NATO Partnership for Peace. Moldova currently aspires to join the European Union and is implementing its first three-year Action Plan within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of the EU.

While the percentage of Moldovans living below the poverty line had improved slightly to 75 per cent by 2005, the country remained the poorest in Europe and emigration continued unabated. By the end of 2006, according to official statistics, the number of Moldovans working abroad totalled 335,000. The International Organization for Migration estimated the figure at more than 400,000 in 2007. According to a World Bank report, also released in 2007, Moldova had the largest share of remittances as a percentage of GDP world-wide. Since 2005 the percentage had been increasing by between 20 per cent and 40 per cent annually. In 2007 workers transferred over 12,000 million US dollars.

Many Moldovan emigrants are women who are sometimes duped into, or knowingly enter, the sex trade. Turkey, Russia, the Middle East and EU countries are the biggest destinations. Men are also trafficked, mainly into construction work. This has led to whole villages and towns experiencing a “missing generation”, where grandparents raise children, who themselves emigrate. Some evidence of remittances from abroad can be seen in the luxury cars parked outside the chic cafes in the capital Chisinau, but for the vast majority migration means bare survival at best, and at worst the break-up of families, exploitation and ruined lives.

The situation in Moldova remains fraught, with violence marring elections in mid-2009 and political uncertainty hampering social progress.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Moldova Red Cross Society, founded in 1924, has 56,344 members, 41 employees, 2,600 volunteers and 19 visiting nurses. It has 26 regional branches, including the Red Cross branch of Transnistria and Gaugauzian Autonomous Unit.

The National Society has been completely dependent on external donor support (apart from some small government support to pay its statutory contributions). This dependence has stifled its development and growth, and made it vulnerable to changes in the donor climate. This came to a crisis point in mid-2009 when it became clear that funding was going to evaporate. The International Federation's representations in Moscow and Minsk, together with the zone office in Budapest, took measures to guard the National Society, supporting a process which will shift focus to resource mobilisation, whilst also attempting to make a contribution to the most urgent social problems in the country.

Moldova's current socio-economic crisis predates the global crisis which started to be felt in the third quarter of 2008. For years Moldovans escaped the poverty of their under-developed agricultural nation, stymied by frozen conflict in Transnistria, through emigration.

Corruption is rife, particularly in self-declared but unrecognised Moldova Republic of Transnistria. Poverty, economic malaise, and corruption combine to foster trafficking, drug use, and the inevitable rise in communicable diseases. The elderly and the very young are left behind as the middle generation emigrates or is trafficked, resulting in severe social anomalies and problems, in a country which does not have the mechanisms to reach and treat its most vulnerable.

The Moldova Red Cross is planning to continue activities to address the needs of elderly people, people with disabilities often living alone, and children with disabilities from vulnerable families. Although the Visiting Nurses Service is recognized as a very important and necessary medico-social service, it is not supported by the Moldovan government and still remains very much dependant on external funding. This will be an absolute number one priority of the new focus on resource mobilisation.

The National Society recognises that domestic violence, and ingrained misogyny, is a vital contributor to the alarming phenomenon of trafficking. If funds permit, it will continue to increase the level of awareness of the target groups (young people, community members, teachers, schoolchildren, students, and the general public) on the problems of domestic violence against women and children, as well as the risk and fate of potential and actual victims of trafficking.

The climate, normally Moldova's greatest asset, has been cruel to this tiny country in recent years. After heavy rains in Ukraine, Romania and northern part of Moldova in July 2008 a number of Moldovan districts were flooded. The total number of evacuated people in affected regions was more than 4,000 persons, 677 flooded houses, 126 of them being damaged.

The International Federation released some about 400,000 Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the Red Cross help the affected people. The operation targeted elderly people, large and single-headed families affected by floods with its distribution of supplementary food parcels and relief items. Within this operation the Moldova Red Cross has also performed minor repair works for more than 80 houses affected by floods.

The challenge is now for the National Society, together with its partners, to build upon the lessons it learnt during the operation and to address some of the longer-term humanitarian issues in the society, in line with its capacities and mandate. A first priority, funding permitting, is to revise its disaster preparedness and response plan, to prepare a contingency plan for specific scenarios, to develop a national disaster response/intervention teams' concept within the National Society through updating the existing training package, training new volunteers and establishing appropriate teams.²

Strengthening the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable communities who live in the most disaster-prone areas is also a high priority. In addition to strengthening the National Society's capacity, educational materials and public awareness campaigns to raise the preparedness levels of the general population need to be undertaken. The main focus will be on schoolchildren being one of the most vulnerable groups, as well as being a rich source of volunteers.

Since 2004 the Moldova Red Cross Society is a member of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) taking active participation in a variety of thematic meetings (fighting TB and malaria, HIV/AIDS) which is both beneficial and relevant for activity priorities. Due to the experience gained and lessons learnt within previous programmes in peer education and harm reduction – there is great experience in the Transnistrian region – the Moldova Red Cross wishes to elaborate new strategies on how to approach injecting drug users (IDUs), and new incentives to motivate Red Cross volunteers. The youth and community volunteers will be trained as peer educators for target groups, developing different types of communication materials on HIV transmission and prevention, advocating and mobilizing the public against stigma, encouraging the involvement of people living with HIV and promoting the

² The application for ICB grant submitted by Moldova Red Cross was rejected. Moldova Red Cross with the support of the International Federation will search funding from other sources/ partners.

partnership of local communities. Working towards building the coping capacities of the community and PLHIV and also identifying orphans and vulnerable children with the objective of developing appropriate care and support are also included in the care and support intervention.

The target group of the HIV and AIDS project has been selected according to the current progress of the HIV epidemics in Moldova, which shows that HIV affects not only traditional youth groups at high risk, such as unemployed youth, orphaned children, unaccompanied and street children, but proves to be spreading rapidly among the general young population as statistics report an increased percentage of heterosexual HIV-transmission³.

With funding available, the Red Cross will train volunteers from 20 branches through peer education training sessions on basic knowledge on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and AIDS and prevention, drug addiction, related complications and dangers. During the sessions, volunteers will hold discussions on healthy ways of living and on the response to discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV. Booklets on safe sex and dictionaries on sexual health will be developed, printed and distributed among Red Cross volunteers, students, schoolchildren and young people. Needles, condoms and swabs will be distributed at existing harm reduction points.

Based on the experience from previous years, the Moldova Red Cross will continue to provide vital assistance to vulnerable groups through 14 medico-social centres throughout the country. They will offer psychosocial consultation; medical check-ups; supply of prescription medicine; distribution of second-hand clothes; home care and awareness-raising on health issues. The Moldova Red Cross will prioritise the lone elderly whose children have migrated and who do not send support.

The Moldova Red Cross will explore funding possibilities to continue raising awareness of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through countrywide youth workshops, nation-wide media and educational campaigns, development and distribution of educational materials and organizing public events. The activities aimed not only to attract youth volunteers to the Movement but also to encourage youth to act as agents of positive change and to promote humanity, tolerance and philanthropy.

In 2008-2009 the Moldova Red Cross jointly with other key partners in this field directed efforts to stop domestic violence against women and children through organizing workshops, awareness campaigns, public events, informational sessions and disseminating informational materials among target groups and general population. The project was implemented in four Red Cross branches (Bender, Calarasi, Glodeni and Comrat). The seminars and workshops were attended by all Red Cross branch directors. The staff and volunteers are trained in management of violence prevention projects. The trained volunteers conduct informational sessions in schools and lyceums, hold meetings with victims of domestic violence providing them psychological support. In 2010-2011 the Moldova Red Cross is planning to continue to disseminate information on domestic violence to general population, to train Red Cross staff and volunteers in providing psychological support to victims of domestic violence.

Effective cooperation with local and national authorities (ministries of health, education, social protection, internal affairs, and emergencies) and their constant and strong support allows the National Society to ensure access to most vulnerable groups of population. Sharing the practices and experience between all project partners increases their capacities to reduce the vulnerability of marginalized groups from the society.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

It is expected that the implementation of the current plan will directly reach 21,000 people over the two years. Programme implementation will directly benefit young people, Red Cross staff and volunteers, local communities in disaster prone areas, teachers, students, schoolchildren, and the general public, particularly through awareness raising activities.

³ Republic of Moldova National Centre of Preventive Medicine

Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RC staff and volunteers, local communities in disaster prone areas 	4,500
Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RC volunteers, population in target regions 	13,000
Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff, volunteers, members of the headquarters and regional branches 	800
Principles and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people, community members, teachers, schoolchildren, students, and the general public 	2,700

Table3: Target populations of Moldova Red Cross programmes in 2010-2011

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
The impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis has been mitigated.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 50,000.

Programme component 1: Community and organizational preparedness
Component outcome 1: Disaster management plan is reviewed and updated.
Component outcome 2: The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened.

With the support of the Norwegian Government in the past two years, the Moldova Red Cross has been able to provide trainings to its staff and volunteers at national and branch levels in needs assessment, emergency planning and reporting. They have strengthened their skills in disaster response as well as organising public awareness campaigns about potential risks in disaster-prone areas. In 2010-2011 the National Society is planning refresher trainings to continue information campaigns about potential risks in disaster prone areas.

The focus on increasing the level of awareness of the population on the risk of different disasters began in 2008 will continue. The programme monitoring and mid-term evaluations conducted by National Society coordinators and International Federation staff have shown that at least 40 per cent of the population from target areas is aware of the risks of different disasters and have gained knowledge on how to prepare and address their consequences.

In 2010-2011 the Moldova Red Cross will raise public awareness of hazards and increase community disaster preparedness and response capacity in the most disaster-prone areas through information campaigns and community-based disaster preparedness activities. The total number of people reached will be 4,500, with 1,350 of them being male and 3,150 female.

b) Potential risks and challenges

The main risks and challenges related to this component are common to all aspects of the Moldova Red Cross work. Without consistent support, the National Society cannot provide services to the most vulnerable, nor grow as an auxiliary to its government. Now it must generate that support by itself.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
The health status of the population of vulnerable groups in Moldova has been improved.

The health and care programme budget is CHF 50,000

Programme component 1: Influenza pandemics

Component outcome: The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened.

Under this component the Moldova Red Cross will train and mobilize volunteers for public education, dissemination campaigns in target districts to promote greater awareness about influenza pandemics. For dissemination of the campaign messages, the volunteers will organize public gatherings or make household visits to the families and organize public awareness events on influenza pandemics in selected districts.

With the involvement of Red Cross youth members and volunteers they will provide technical support and information, education and communication (IEC) materials to the provincial Red Cross branches to complement their ongoing avian influenza dissemination activities in the communities; and organizing PR activities on avian influenza prevention (radio-quizzes, TV spots on central/ local TV and radio spots). The total number of people reached over the two years will be 13,000, with 3,250 of them being male and 9,750 female.

b) Potential risks and challenges

The main risks and challenges are organizational – this component depends on improved organizational capacity.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

The capacity of the Moldova Red Cross to generate its own resources is strengthened.

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget is CHF 50,000

Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.

Component outcome: The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened.

This is the key to ensuring the future success of the Moldova Red Cross. With International Federation support an action plan will be developed and implemented to give the Red Cross access to greater funding opportunities, particularly within Moldova.

In the secretariat-supported organizational development programme the direct beneficiaries are the National Society staff, volunteers, members of the headquarters and regional branches, and through them, the local communities. The male beneficiaries make up 280 and the female 520 of the total 800 over the two years.

b) Potential risks and challenges

This component is a key to making other aspects of the plan workable. If the Moldova Red Cross can present itself as a keen and professional partner then funds should begin to flow.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 50,000

Programme component 1: Combating trafficking

Component outcome 1: Vulnerable communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent trafficking.

Component outcome 2: Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat trafficking are strengthened.

Trafficking in human beings remains a very acute problem for the Republic of Moldova. More than half a million of the population left for abroad as working migrants, forced from their homeland by the difficult socio-economical situation the country is facing. In accordance with the policy of the International Federation, the Moldova Red Cross signed a cooperation agreement with the International Organisation for Migration and has taken a range of actions targeting prevention and overcoming of trafficking and its consequences.

The core elements of the programme focus on disseminating information materials to target groups; increasing awareness of the risks of being trafficked; reducing stigma towards trafficked people; and training volunteers to enable them to carry out dissemination activities among target groups.

The programme will target young people, community members, teachers, schoolchildren, students, and the general public. The male beneficiaries make up 1,100, and the female 1,600 of the total 2,700 people in 2010-2011.

b) Potential risks and challenges

The problem in Moldova is so vast and far-reaching that the Moldova Red Cross branch capacity has to be increased for this element of the plan to succeed.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The International Federation, through its representation in Kiev, regional representation in Moscow and zone office in Budapest will assist the Moldova Red Cross in strengthening its resource mobilisation capacities and thus find ways to strengthen its ability to deliver high-quality services to the most vulnerable. It will also make available support and expertise in the most needed key areas like organisational development and humanitarian diplomacy.

With the expected adoption of the Strategy 2020, and the strong focus on National Society planning and country-based support provided via National Society integrated assistance, an analysis of the present support structure to the Moldova Red Cross and visions for optimal use of available expertise is foreseen, in close dialogue with the National Society.

b) Partnership development and coordination

Alongside the overall support to the existing portfolio of programmes included in this plan, the representation will continue to facilitate partnerships with specific groups of National Societies, government structures and external humanitarian organizations, as well as supporting bilateral initiatives through its coordination functions. Special emphasis will be placed on forging operational alliances with external partners working in Moldova and Moldovan groups overseas.

In its partnership development and coordination effort the International Federation promotes coherent and unified programming by various partners in Moldova, firmly based on the National Society plans and priorities. Effective coordination with partners in programme planning and implementation will eventually result in maximizing the resources available for the Moldova Red Cross programmes, improving the relevance and efficiency of activities, as well as the impact on people reached.

c) Representation and Advocacy

International representation and advocacy will be grouped around the zone office in Budapest, with active involvement of the offices in Moscow, Kiev and Minsk – using the International Federation diplomatic status agreements to network with the international community and raise the profile of the

Red Cross. The high level of political uncertainty and instability in Moldova in 2009 has made it difficult to ensure good contact with government, although some progress has been made.

It is intended that the International Federation representation with governments, donor missions, banks, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations will lead to new funding opportunities and influence policies for enhancing the Red Cross programming and capacity building. All agree that Moldova faces many more significant humanitarian challenges than other countries in the Europe zone, and that the National Society is possibly one of the weakest and least-organized. This means that closer relationships and assistance for the society in line with the enabling actions of Strategy 2020 is highly appropriate. The National Society accepts the International Federation will no longer proactively fundraise but instead support and encourage it to react and respond when disasters strike and as more people are pushed into vulnerability by the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic situation.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

While gender equality is ensured and promoted by law in the Republic of Moldova, women continue to face substantial discrimination in practice, including high levels of unemployment and deep-rooted stereotypes and violence. The Inter-ministerial Commission on Gender Equality resumed its activities in 2008, but the implementation record of the law on Equal Chances for Men and Women remained modest. Domestic violence remained widespread and insufficiently acknowledged. The government undertook awareness-raising activities; in addition a law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence was adopted and entered into force in September 2008. The protective infrastructure for victims of domestic violence remains insufficient.

The Red Cross will secure equal participation of women and men through information and publicity material, in the design of key project activities and access to the opportunities they offer. An appropriate male to female balance will be sought in project management structures and the activities themselves.

Quality, accountability and learning

The Moldova Red Cross has full time staff and management at national and regional levels, temporary hired personnel for separate projects and also trained and qualified volunteers. There is a transparent reporting system both for projects and programme activities. The projects personnel write monthly and quarterly narrative and financial reports. Mid-term evaluation meetings among project management staff as well as external consultants are carried out as part of a number of projects. Staff regularly meet with partners, the mass media and people reached.

The development of community-based initiatives involving young people, as well as applying social inclusion and empowerment approaches to older people, will contribute to increasing the financial sustainability of Red Cross activities and the self-reliance of the National Society.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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