

Mid-Year report



Albania

Appeal No. MAAAL002

31/August/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2011

In brief

Programme outcome: The National Society programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of the Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with the enabling action one to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programme(s) summary: Disaster preparedness and response remains the priority area of the National Society. The work focuses on implementing its disaster preparedness and response plan at local level in line with the national disaster management plan. Moreover, increasing awareness of the public at large, of the government and non-governmental institutions to disaster preparedness and risk reduction make this another important element of the National Society programming, using vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) exercises. All activities are to further improve the operational capacities of the Albanian Red Cross to effectively respond to cases of disaster.

Limited funding meant that only activities in the Disaster Management programme were taking place, while the other programmes are to be implemented as soon as support is ensured. The activities in the Disaster management programme have only just started as the funding arrived at the end of the reporting period. The national society follows the activities of the last year (forming a national team for Disaster Risk Reduction and determining national level priorities) with targeting specific communities and starting the work on risk mapping and development of contingency plans. Albanian Red Cross has been active in seeking other sources of funding, partners and opportunities.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 49,788, of which CHF 42,865 (86 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 0 of the budget. The expenditure is due to that fact that booking of the expenses of the implemented activities has been done after the reporting period.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached:

A total of 40 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes

January - June 2011, Albania	Targeted groups	People Reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable members of communities at risk of flooding	40 (only community leaders at the moment)
Total number of people reached		40

Our partners: Norwegian Red Cross contributed as a multilateral donor.

Context

The political situation in Albania has been influenced by the economic crisis but still fairly stable. The effects of the economic crisis are felt in the country with consumer goods prices going up and the salaries failing to follow appropriately. The economic growth is slow with Gross Domestic Product being estimated at 3.5 per cent in 2010 and the International Monetary Fund estimating that it has slowed down to 2.6 per cent in 2011, suggesting budget and spending cuts as well as tax increases. This last suggestion has been rejected. The unemployment is still high with more than 13 percent of the labour force officially out of work.

Despite the economy's growth in recent years, almost 24 per cent of the population lives below the poverty level of USD 2 a day. The poorest of the poor, who comprise about 5 per cent of the population struggle to put adequate food on the table each day.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose:

Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1: Organisational preparedness

Outcome: Strengthened human capacities both at central and branch level for more effective disaster management.
--

Programme component 2: Community preparedness
--

Outcome: Improved self-resilience of individuals and communities reducing their vulnerabilities to public health and emergencies

The programme activities have only just been started due to the late arrival of the funding. The national society project team identified ten municipalities that have been suffering flooding in the past two years, choosing to focus on improving their resilience and preparedness for response before the season of rain and snow arrive later in the year.

In all of the ten municipalities, the Red Cross teams focus on two of the most vulnerable communities, choosing community representatives for each of them, (while preserving gender balance) and preparing the following work:

- Briefing on the Red Cross mission focusing on the Albanian Red Cross Disaster management programme but covering other programmes like health, youth, first aid etc.
- Guidelines for public awareness education for disaster risk reduction
- Adult learning principles

- How to make a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

The information will be shared through workshops that will be structured so that the representatives of the twenty communities act as community level trainers. Following the workshops they will be tasked with preparing and organising discussion meetings in their respective communities. In this work, they will be supported by secretaries of their respective Albanian Red Cross branches as well as local Government, whose representatives are involved in the project through agreements with local Red Cross branches.

Health and Care

Programme purpose:

To reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation
Outcome: Increased public awareness on non-remunerated blood donation through development of youth club 25.
Programme component 2: Maternal, newborn and child health
Outcome: Improved knowledge of the targeted groups on reproductive health, mother and child care and personal hygiene through health education courses.
Programme component 3: Social support for children and elderly people
Outcome: Improved health and social conditions among vulnerable children and elderly people with no family support.

Achievements: No funding for this activity received through the International Federation.

Organizational Development/ Capacity Building

Programme purpose

To increase local community, civil society and Albanian Red Cross capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component: National Society volunteering development
Outcome: Improved volunteer management system at branch level and the involvement of youth volunteers in decision making is increased

Achievements: No funding for this activity received through the International Federation.

Working in partnership

N/A

Contributing to longer-term impact

N/A

Looking ahead

N/A

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Albanian Red Cross Society:** Zamir Muca, Secretary General; phone: +355 42 25855 or 57532; and fax:+355 42 25855; email: zmuca@kksh.org.al;
In the Europe Zone Office: Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516