

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova

MAAMD002

31/August/2011

This report covers the period from 01/January/2011 to 30/June/2011.



Evaluation of First Aid courses by European expert during summer 2011. Photo: Moldova Red Cross

In brief

Programme outcome: The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims: *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.*

Programme summary:

In the first six months of 2011 the Moldova Red Cross received funding for Disaster operations, Digital Divide, health and care, and National Society development.

In **Disaster response operations**, the National Society received funds from Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help 700 families affected by the floods in 2010; they received kitchen sets which replaced the ones they lost during the floods.

In addition 300 persons received **social assistance** through the program "Twice Christmas" and delivery of 1,250 meals for elderly and poor people during the period February-June, both programs supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

The Moldova Red Cross received the European accreditation from the European Reference Centre on **First Aid**, to deliver First Aid training courses, which is valid for three years.

Moldova Red Cross consolidated its Information technologies capacity through the **Digital Divide project** of the Federation Secretariat. This involved the improvement of the internet

connection via the optical fibre wireless, receiving equipment at HQ level and in 5 branches, which have been equipped with computers and printers and also with the new design of the Moldova Red Cross web page, which has been re-launched, with information being available in 3 languages (Romanian, Russian and English), which will certainly improve communication at all levels and will open new opportunities for the National Society.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 488,239, of which CHF 86,101 (18 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 91,545 (18 per cent) of the budget.

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

No. of people we have reached:

Programme areas	number of people reached
Disaster management	1,391
Health and Care	1,550
Youth and volunteering	94
First Aid courses	220
First Aid trainers	23
National Society Development	13 (NS staff)
Capacity building	140
Total	3,431

Our partners: The Italian Red Cross, European Union, Norwegian RC/Norwegian Aid and DfiD provided support through IFRC to the Moldova country plan. Support and cooperation also came from the Japanese Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

Moreover the Moldova Red Cross works closely with the Centre for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection and local authorities.

Context

The Republic of Moldova is still in the process of territorial consolidation, grappling with high unemployment, poor investment climate, an unstable political environment. The global financial crisis has worsened the economic situation of the vulnerable people living in the country. According to local Red Cross branches, the number of people requesting Moldova Red Cross assistance has increased recently.

Among the most affected population are older people, people with disabilities, multi-child families, single-parent families and people working in the construction industry that lost their jobs. As many as three out of four Moldovans are living in poverty, including 40 per cent of the inhabitants in rural areas being extremely poor.

High rate of unemployment is another serious problem, which according to the National Bureau of Statistics increased with 5,1 thousand active aged persons only in one year, reaching the number of 107,200 people in the first quarter of 2011. Thus the national rate of unemployment constitutes 9,4% which reveals that from the total number of working age population, one out of ten persons is unemployed.

Widespread poverty and lack of job opportunities are pushing factors for labour migration. To translate this to statistical information one eighth of the population of 4 million are working abroad. Labour migration is also a main source of income for many individuals and families as well. According to a World Bank report, released in 2007, Moldova had the largest share of remittances as a percentage of GDP world-wide.

In recent years the economic situation has brought significant demographic changes. Birth rates have dropped with most families having only one child or postponing having children for indefinite period of time.

The population decrease is accompanied by a deteriorating quality of life, particularly in health. Social ills, among them alcoholism, drug addiction and domestic violence are on the increase. Domestic violence is one of the root causes of child abandonment, institutionalization, substance abuse and juvenile crime. Very often domestic violence is a precursor to trafficking and exploitation.

According to the Ministry of Health in 2009 the spread of drug use still remains high in Moldova. More than 90 per cent of drug users are men and youth aged 15-19, that constitutes almost 40 per cent of that age group. Moldova is prone to various disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, droughts and floods which affect a significant number of people annually

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Community and organizational preparedness
Component outcome 1: Recruitment of a permanent Disaster Management coordinator at National Level.
Component outcome 2: The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened.

Achievements: No funding was received for disaster management programme activities, which resulted in few achievements towards community and organizational preparedness.

In **Disaster operations**, the National Society received funds from Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide support to 700 families affected by the floods in 2010; they received kitchen sets that were replacing the ones they lost during the floods. Also five manuals in full colour were printed – 1,000 copies each, related to Vulnerability to disasters (in Russian and Romanian), Psychological support in emergencies, First Aid, Volunteering in emergencies and Reduction of violence against Children called "Ten steps"(translated and adapted from a manual produced by Canadian Red Cross), also a Ten steps video with subtitles in Romanian and Russian and a video about the Fundamental Principles with subtitles in Romanian. All those manuals and videos were distributed in the branches, among the population, authorities and Red Cross volunteers during March to May 2011, so reaching a total of 1,391 people.

Constraints or Challenges: Limited resources and subsequently low capacity of the National Red Cross impeded the improvement of disaster management capacities.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: First aid and services for the elderly
Component outcome 1: The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened.
Component outcome 2: Provide services for elderly population thorough the visiting nurses programme

Achievements: The Moldova Red Cross received the European accreditation from the European Reference Centre on First Aid, to deliver First Aid training courses, which is valid for three years. In April and May 23 new instructors were trained in five branches: they trained 220 people in First Aid.

Constraints or Challenges: The lack of organizational capacity and human resources for health and care projects hampers the implementation of more ambitious activities.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.
Component outcome: The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened.

Achievements:

Considering the somewhat limited capacities of the National Society at headquarters and branch level, organizational development and capacity building are key priorities.

Having provided direct assistance to the National Society, the Federation special advisor finished his mission in the National Society in June 2011. The key task for the advisor was to support the capacity building processes, while at the same time being integrated with the National Society. He will continue to support Moldova for one more year.

The National Society used the funding received through the Federation **OD/SOS** Fund in January 2011, to strengthen branches, volunteers and youth. In the framework of this programme they trained 140 volunteers and youth in 8 branches on how to organise activities to reduce the violence against children by using the materials produced in February, to promote youth and volunteering and mapping the vulnerability at local level.

On April 14-15, 2011 a meeting with branch directors was organized on IFRC **Strategy 2020** having the head of the International Department of Romanian Red Cross as facilitator. Participants have been discussing practices to identify the global challenges and needs, as well as to estimate our potential within the IFRC. After discussing the global concerns, participants have examined local problems and needs, identified Moldova Red Cross priorities in the context of Strategy 2020.

Constraints or Challenges: Both the work of the Federation special advisor and the implementation of the Federation supported capacity building project are in process, however, the National Society could improve the work in the branches and in the NHQ in this area.

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Combating trafficking
Component outcome 1: Reduce domestic violence and prevent violence against children
Component outcome 2: Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat trafficking are strengthened.

Achievements:

The National Society implemented in 11 branches the program ten steps to reduce the violence against children using the video and the manuals traduced and adapted into Rumanian language. 94 volunteers received training and are aware of this important initiative. Volunteers are a critical success factor in terms of reaching out with messages through information sessions and dissemination. Only through volunteers can the National Society reach all population groups and succeed in promoting for example the prevention of violence against children and the rights of elderly people in terms of social protection and medical assistance.

Moldova Red Cross is implementing partner in a project on human trafficking submitted to the EU and approved at the beginning of 2011, the final contract was signed in June and the implementation is for two years starting in August/ September 2011.

The objective is to strengthen national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Moldova. This will be achieved by the Red Cross becoming more involved in identification, referral and assistance to ensure sustainable access to services for victims of trafficking.

The National Society received a grant from the Spanish Red Cross for anti-trafficking activities. the implementation of the project started in September 2010.

Constraints or Challenges: A somewhat low capacity hampers implementation of needed activities. Hence there is a need to reinforce the human resource base, especially in branches.

Working in partnership

During the last five years international support to Moldova Red Cross has decreased significantly. Unfortunately the National Society has not managed to create a sufficiently stable and sustainable domestically financial base. Most of the efforts in this respect has been ad hoc and without the continuity required for ensuring that ample resources are available at any time. This has somewhat affected the National Society's ability to provide needed services targeting the most vulnerable people in Moldova.

Opportunities exist that need to be seized through a strategic and systematic approach. Establishing partnerships with a wide range of actors including organizations, public and private companies, public authorities and sister National Societies is essential. Meeting points and discussions in which the Moldova Red Cross can present its strategic priorities and demonstrate its worth in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable persons in the Moldovan society need to be organized. This will create an environment of trust and cooperation which will enable constructive discussions on strengths and weaknesses of different partnership models.

Branch involvement and capacity building is called for in this process.

Promoting the capacity of the strongest ten branches as examples to follow, and the impact generated by those branches are a natural element in the partnership building process. Supported by IFRC the Moldovan Red Cross will strive to continuously improve its partnership work and follow up ideas to gain momentum in capitalizing on the opportunities that emerge.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The potential impact of the National Society's work on a national level is presently limited to a few branches that are operational. Still, these branches also has to struggle with limited utilities, as offices are usually in public buildings, lack of communication systems, few places for storage, no room for trainings and a low number of volunteers.

Particularly committed volunteers and branch directors are, however, promising for the development of the National Society. Building on this strong devotion, the capacity of the branches as well as the National Society as a whole, needs to be built through a systematic approach by creating permanent, standardized and sustainable programmes run by volunteers and based on local economies and the needs of communities.

The potential to introduce and establish Red Cross activities in local communities are especially promising in Moldova due to the fact that the presence of NGOs or other civil society organizations are limited or non-existent in many communities. Simultaneously this implies that needs are numerous as they have not been previously addressed and this requires a thorough assessment of needs, and mapping capacities and opportunities.

Many volunteers are retired, well educated and respected people of their communities; while others are young people from primary and secondary schools. Both genders are represented. The diverse structure of volunteers in terms of age and background makes the National Society particularly able to address very different issues such as HIV and AIDS, trafficking in human beings, violence, stigma and discrimination.

However, as the capacity that these trained people represent is in some cases dormant, more focus on encouraging and mobilizing experienced as well as new volunteers and communities is called for.

Looking ahead

The National Society has the following programme priorities for the next six months:

1. In disaster management the National Society will focus on disaster risk reduction.
2. In health and care services for elderly people, education on water and sanitation, are priorities.
3. Within humanitarian values the society will focus on reducing stigma and discrimination and violence among children through the humanitarian activities implemented in the branches.
4. Moreover the National Society will work to improve its image and visibility and improve coordination and its relation with the authorities and other stakeholders.
5. The consolidation of the first-aid training programme in 6 identified branches and the approval of the European first-aid certificate will bring new ideas on how to increase the resources at all levels.
6. At the same time it will contribute to promote volunteering and youth involvement in Red Cross activities as it expands into new communities and utilizes the adapted tools.
7. The EU application addressing trafficking in human beings means that trafficking activities will be implemented in 2011 and 2012.

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.

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