

# Mid-Year report



## Montenegro

Appeal No. MAAME001

31/August/2011

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



Vulnerable Roma children in the homework support class – Konik Camp, Podgorica.  
Photo by Red Cross of Montenegro

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The Montenegro Red Cross Society's programmes are aligned with the principle aims of Strategy 2020 of the International Federation to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Programme(s) summary:** The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross of Montenegro in its efforts to provide efficient and quality services to the most vulnerable groups within the following programmes.

- **Disaster management** In addition to the ongoing preparedness activities, dealing with coordination among stakeholders at local level, the Federation provided support for activities aimed at people affected by severe floods.
- **Health and care** The focus is on HIV and AIDS as well as Voluntary Blood Donation activities.
- **Organizational development** The focus is on developing sustainable systems, procedures and increasing staff capacities.
- **Principles and values** Work with vulnerable populations on their strengthening and integration, as well as advocacy: vulnerable Roma children, young people living with disabilities, older vulnerable people.

Limited funding dictates that some of the activities have to be postponed until there are more financial means to implement them. The International Federation continues to support the Montenegro Red Cross Society in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

**Financial situation:** The total 2011 budget is CHF 26,732, of which CHF 348 (1 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 0 (zero per cent) of the budget. The activities in the Humanitarian

Values programme have been funded through the Federation budget for the Red Cross of Montenegro, as stipulated in the contract with the donor.

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

See also

[Revised 2011 country plan for Montenegro](#)

**No. of people we have reached:**

A total of 648 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes

January - June 2011, Montenegro	Targeted groups	People reached
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable Roma children and their parents	<b>380</b>
Humanitarian Values	Children/ Young people living with disabilities and their parents	<b>268</b>
Total number of people reached		<b>648</b>

**Our partners:** The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development contributed as a multilateral donor.

The Danish, the Austrian, the Italian and the Spanish Red Cross Societies have contributed as bilateral donors independently or on programmes coordinated by the Federation. Two Government Ministries were programme partners.

## Context

The political situation in Montenegro has been stable despite some minor concerns over a linguistic and ethnic issue whether the local language is only a dialect of the Serbian language, or an independent language, which is the official legal approach. Economically the country is feeling the effects of the global financial and economic crisis with unemployment currently being at 10.93%. The number of advertised open positions, however, has increased by 18.8 % in comparison with the same period in 2010. The period of huge foreign investments (especially in real estate) that have fuelled the Montenegrin economy until recently has ended, and at the moment the experts are talking about the need to increase domestic savings in order to manage international debts and continue economic growth. With inflation at 3.9% and the Gross Domestic Product slowly increasing (by 1.1% in comparison with 2010), the economic situation can be described as stable.

The humanitarian situation is largely unchanged inasmuch as the Roma-Ashkali-Egyptian (RAE) population, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain the most vulnerable segments. The biggest group of displaced Roma people from Kosovo is still in Konik camp in Podgorica where nearly 2500 people are still awaiting a lasting solution. Their return to Kosovo is very slow averaging at ten families per year, and integration efforts apparently need to be better coordinated.

When it comes to international humanitarian support, the Red Cross of Montenegro has in recent years successfully made a transition from predominantly Federation-channelled funding to a number of bilateral partnership agreements that are in line with the strategic priorities of the National Society as well as the identified needs in the Montenegrin society.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

**Programme purpose:**

Reduce the number of deaths injuries and impact from disasters.

No multilateral Federation-channeled funding was available for these activities.

## Health and care

### Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

There was no multilateral Federation-channeled funding for these activities.

## Organizational development

### Programme purpose

Increase the Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

No multilateral Federation-channeled funding was available

## Humanitarian values

### Programme purpose

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

<b>Programme component 1:</b> Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from marginalized families/ Work with young people living with disabilities
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The education and social participation of Roma children and children with disabilities has been improved through continued work with 500 Roma children and children with disabilities as well as their families.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The number of Roma children from camp Konik enrolling in primary school and completing basic education, is increased.
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## Service delivery

The programme was implemented in 3 municipalities targeting 249 vulnerable Roma children, one of them being Podgorica where the programme is implemented in the Camps Konik 1 and 2 which are managed by the Red Cross of Montenegro Headquarters, and in 6 municipalities targeting 203 children and young people with disabilities per year. As such, the Joint Programme includes in total 3,259 children and youth and 1,212 parents per year - 4,471 direct beneficiaries in total.<sup>1</sup>

The Joint Programme for Inclusion was successfully implemented in this reporting period thanks to the hard work of 61 Red Cross volunteers supported by 30 Red Cross employees and part time staff.

### ***The third project activities cycle for vulnerable Roma children in progress***

The third project activities cycle for vulnerable Roma children started in September 2010. Until the end of June 2011, children were supported for one year through mentoring classes, preschool preparatory programme, and, in addition, vulnerable Roma schoolchildren were assisted through homework support classes. The following table provides a breakdown of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries	Montenegro	Total
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<sup>1</sup> Calculated as the average of the number of beneficiaries in the second and in the third activity cycle.

	<i>RCB</i>	<i>Konik</i>	
Mentoring classes	<b>105</b>		<b>105</b>
	10	95	
Preschool preparatory programme	<b>91</b>		<b>91</b>
	19	72	
Homework support classes	<b>53</b>		<b>53</b>
	21	32	
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>249</b>		<b>249</b>
	50	199	
Programme for parents	<b>131</b>		<b>131</b>
	25	106	
<b>Total number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>380</b>		<b>380</b>
	75	305	

Special attention was given to supporting the parents in fulfilling prerequisites and completing administrative procedures related to the enrolment of their children into the first grade of the elementary school.

As for the achievements, the precise data on enrolment in public preschools, elementary schools and passing to the next grade of the programme beneficiaries will be available in mid October 2011. Meanwhile, the implementing Montenegro Red Cross branches have reported of improved general knowledge, increased self confidence, better conversational skills and regular attendance to activities for preschool children and regular attendance in elementary school for pupils as visible achievements.

Key segments of service delivery for vulnerable Roma children included:

- Mentoring classes: support to preschool children (age 3-6) to enrol into the formal preschool preparatory programme was implemented by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 117 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 91 live in the Konik Camps housing displaced Roma from Kosovo;
- Preschool preparatory programme<sup>2</sup>: in communities where the capacities of formal preschool institutions or accessibility for vulnerable Roma children are limited, the Montenegro Red Cross branches provided replacement programmes. This was done by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 88 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 68 live in the Konik Camps;
- Homework support classes: support to vulnerable Roma pupils in elementary school was provided by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 52 vulnerable Roma children, out of which 32 live in the Konik Camps.
- Programme for parents: currently organised in the form of parents` meetings and thematic workshops based on the local needs, this programme was implemented by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps in Montenegro encompassing 131 parents out of which 106 parents were from the Konik Camps.

In addition to this, the beneficiaries of the programme were provided with meals, school material supplies, and hygiene kits during the activities.

The Red Cross of Montenegro is also planning to organise the usual outdoor classes for vulnerable Roma children in the Red Cross House of Solidarity in Sutomore at the Montenegrin coast during one week in the summer. During that week, the children will be involved in a number of social and educational activities. Taking the children out of their regular environment and giving them quality

<sup>2</sup> In Montenegro, the preschool preparatory programme is optional and certificates are not required for enrolment.

experiences with other children and adults not only strengthens the children's educational competences and skills but also their social competences and self-esteem.

**Specifics of Konik Camp require specific actions**

Konik Camp 1 and 2 and the nearest surrounding area, with 2,500 Roma displaced from Kosovo and Metohija in 1999, are recognised as a project of national importance by the Government of Montenegro. Numerous particularities related to the camp and close involvement of the Government call for specific attention and unique approaches for including the children of the camps into the educational system. At present, the following activities are implemented:

- Inclusive education for displaced Roma children: In 2008 a pilot project furthering inclusive education for these children was initiated by the Montenegro Red Cross, the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF and local Roma NGOs.
- A total of 45 Roma children from the Konik Camps were enrolled into five mainstream schools in Podgorica town – instead of the segregated school located in the camps which is otherwise the most common choice by parents. Through this activity, 16 children completed the first grade and all 16 have continued the second grade in September 2010, while 22 have continued to the third grade. In addition, 7 new children have been enrolled into the two public schools in September 2010.
- Second chance education: In Camp Konik, literacy training classes were carried out for youth who dropped out of the formal education system or never started schooling. The coordinator of the camp reported that there was a huge interest for this programme among Roma youth. In the previous reporting period the activity targeted 18 beneficiaries who were supported in preparations for official exams equivalent to grades in the formal elementary education system. The exam took place in January 2011. Out of 18 beneficiaries, 16 have submitted an application for exam and successfully obtained certificates for completion of the respective grade of elementary school as follows:

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• Grade of elementary school certificate was obtained for	• Number of applicants
• 4 <sup>th</sup>	• 3
• 5 <sup>th</sup>	• 4
• 6 <sup>th</sup>	• 3
• 7 <sup>th</sup>	• 4
• 8 <sup>th</sup> • (completed elementary school)	• 2
• <b>Total</b>	• <b>16</b>

- Language classes: Furthermore, language classes were organised for 20 children aged 5-6 years, as the camp inhabitants predominantly speak Albanian or Roma language only. The activity aims to support the children in overcoming the language barrier when they enrol into the formal education system.

**Service delivery for children and young people with disabilities in progress**

Key segments of service delivery for the vulnerable children and young people with disabilities included various activities in the form of interactive workshops aiming to:

- Stimulate social development and inclusion;
- Help beneficiaries acquire practical life skills;
- Stimulate intellectual development;
- Stimulate perception and fine body motorics;
- Improve skills that are relevant for active job seeking;

- Support the parents.

The current breakdown of beneficiaries of the project is as follows:

<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Montenegro</b>
C/YPWD who attend regular schools	<b>25</b>
C/YPWD who attend schools for pupils with disabilities	<b>125</b>
C/YPWD outside the education system	<b>53</b>
YPWD on the job market	-
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>203</b>
Programme for parents	<b>65</b>
<b>Total number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>268</b>

#### ***Methodology for facilitating municipal cooperation launched in Montenegro***

Implementation of cooperation building workshops in targeted municipalities is in progress.

It is expected that the implementation of this methodology will help Red Cross branches in actively involving relevant local authorities and civil society organisations in the project implementation, ultimately contributing to more effective use of resources in the targeted communities. Following the cooperation building workshops, municipal teams will be formed and will continue to meet occasionally for discussions/ exchange of experience.

#### ***Knowledge sharing outside the country borders***

The Red Cross of Montenegro hosted the Red Cross/Red Crescent Roma networking meeting in early April 2011. The European Red Cross/Red Crescent Thematic Roma Network was established in 2005, involving a number of Red Cross National Societies working actively with and for vulnerable Roma. The aim of the network is to facilitate continuous exchange of experience among European Red Cross/Red Crescent societies on work with and for vulnerable Roma, to stimulate programme development and to promote cooperation across borders.

The overall theme of this particular meeting was “Strengthening and increasing the value of cooperation with public authorities”. National Societies from Europe have gathered to present effective practices from their experience and learn from each other. Besides presentation of the Joint Programme for Inclusion, the Red Cross of Montenegro shared their experience of implementation of Participatory Community Development methodology for cooperation development, while the International Federation gave a presentation on Red Cross cooperation model applied in the Joint programme for Inclusion.

#### ***Participation in the National activities related to inclusion of vulnerable Roma***

Cooperation continued with the Ministry of Education, the Institute for Public Health, UNICEF, UNCHR, the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and other relevant organisations in the framework of the Konik camp management.

#### ***Cooperation of the Red Cross with local institutions continues***

Over the years of programme implementation, the Montenegrin Red Cross branches have established the cooperation with the relevant local institutions and organisations which is maintained in the semiformal setup. The standardisation paper produced by the management team

has provided guidance for the implementing Red Cross branches for cooperation development with the relevant local stakeholders.

### ***Training on Public Relations and Lobbying for the project team members***

An in-house training on public relations and lobbying for eight project team members was organized in this implementation period as an asset in developing the advocacy platform for the Red Cross.

### ***Advocacy framework under development***

A draft concept paper on advocacy has been developed outlining definition of advocacy, objectives, principles, tools and the process for implementation within the programme. A decision was made to develop and include training sessions on advocacy in all trainings for volunteers and staff that have been planned in the framework of the Joint Programme for Inclusion.

### ***Local advocacy initiatives in continuum***

A number of implementing Red Cross branches have organized various events related to the inclusion of marginalised groups and drew the attention of the general public, local institutions and media in Montenegro. Examples include public exhibitions of children's artwork about children's rights under the Promotion of Human Values project during the Children's Week and a public photo exhibition with the slogan 'Tolerance is cool'.

### ***Standardisation paper for Montenegro completed***

Standardisation paper for the Red Cross of Montenegro has been finalised following several workshops that were organised to gather the input from the staff working directly with vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities and discuss the draft standardisation paper. The roll-out of the standards that will define programme implementation parameters is planned for September 2011.

### ***Preparations for launching of Promotion of Human Values project in Montenegro completed***

Printing and distribution of the manual for Promotion of Human Values was completed for the Red Cross of Montenegro. Training for youth volunteers, teachers and Red Cross employees was organized to support the launch of the project in the field. The training programme was conducted by experienced trainers of the Red Cross of Serbia.

### ***Supervisory training in Active Teaching for teachers and facilitators in Montenegro completed***

The Red Cross of Montenegro organized a supervisory training in Active Teaching<sup>3</sup> for teachers and facilitators in the programme aiming to increase and maintain the quality of teaching by introducing accredited contemporary teaching methodology.

### ***Preparations for the next phase***

A meeting of senior managers of the Red Cross of Montenegro, the Red Cross of Serbia, the Danish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation was hosted by the Federation Zone Office in Budapest at the end of March 2011 to discuss the future cooperation between the Red Cross partners in relation to the Joint Programme for Inclusion. The key conclusions were as follows.

- The Red Cross of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Serbia will be direct partners of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in the next phase of the programme (2012-2015);
- Possible roles of the other Red Cross partners in the next phase (on consultancy basis) will be identified during the planning process that will follow the evaluation of the programme;
- Current phase of the programme, in sense of coordination of reporting, evaluation, planning process for the next phase and financial review will be managed and coordinated by the Federation;

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<sup>3</sup> Training programme developed by the Ministry of Science and Education of Montenegro, the Ministry of Education of Serbia, the Institute for Psychology and UNICEF and the Institute for professional development of teachers.

- The Red Cross of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Serbia will take over full responsibility for programme management as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

### **Issues in Implementation**

There were slight alterations from the Plan of Action during the implementation due to the prioritisation to implement some joint activities. However, these will not jeopardise the final outcome of the programme.

## Working in partnership

The Red Cross of Montenegro worked in partnership with the Federation and received support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Federation secretariat plan. Bilaterally the Danish and the Spanish Red Cross Societies supported the Montenegrin National Society in the activities listed in the annual plan, and the Italian and the Austrian Red Cross Societies supported the Home Care programme that was until recently supported through the Annual Plan and the Federation but is now completely planned and managed by the Red Cross of Montenegro in cooperation with partners. The NGO Pomoć Deci and UNICEF were partners in the field of humanitarian values.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The work with vulnerable populations in Montenegro and efforts to ensure a community-wide response to community needs is in line with the International Federation's Strategy 2020 goals and its emphasis on preventing deaths and illnesses as well as building communities' capacities to combat their own vulnerability.

Aligned with Strategy 2020, the programme components are also compatible with local and regional initiatives such as the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Poverty Reduction Strategies. Work towards disaster preparedness pursues the goal of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters, a much needed endeavour in the country as disasters, both natural and man-made, seem to become more frequent. All programmes have gender equality as an integrated and important component.

## Looking ahead

The current funding situation allows the Federation to be directly involved only with activities funded by the Swiss ADC. It will continue providing technical support and looking for alternative funding opportunities to support other priority areas included in the country plan.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p><b>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</b></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>

## Contact information

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