

# Revised Plan 2011



## Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Executive summary



With a gross national income per capita of slightly below USD 4,700<sup>1</sup> in 2008, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR of Macedonia) is a lower middle-income country. It is located at the crossroads of important transport routes connecting central and Eastern Europe with southern Europe and beyond. Lately the global economic crisis has been severely affecting the Macedonian economy. Output expanded by only two percent in the last quarter of 2008 and the trend continued in the first quarter of 2009. External demand has plummeted, together with prices for Macedonian exports. At the same time, foreign direct investments, which picked up in 2007 and 2008 in response to an improving investment climate and a strong government investment promotion campaign, are being delayed or postponed.

The financial crisis will reverse some of the recent labour market improvements. Merely around 63 per cent of the working age population participated in the labour force in the last quarter of 2008, with 35 per cent being unemployed<sup>2</sup>. The unemployment rate, already one of the highest in the region even before the crisis, has most likely increased since the number of new job contracts has fallen and lay-offs have picked-up. At the same time, absolute poverty continues to affect around one-fifth of the population. With employment status being the main correlate of poverty, the poverty rate is likely to increase as the labour market situation deteriorates. In 2008, people living below the national poverty line accounted for almost 30 per cent, with poverty being more widespread in rural and mountain areas.

Poverty has a serious impact on the health status of the population and accessibility to health services. Certain illnesses associated with poor living conditions remain typical for some groups of the population and are especially prevalent amongst the Roma population. The infant mortality rate remains a challenge in the rural areas although the national rate has fallen sharply from 22.7 to 11.7 per 1,000 live births in 2008. Youth remains vulnerable to various risky behaviours such as drug abuse, sexually transmitted infections, alcohol, etc.

For the period 2010-2011, the secretariat's key areas of support to the Macedonian Red Cross will include guiding National Societies in their development process of transformation, strengthening their human resource capacities to provide quality services to the most vulnerable and improving their capacities in disaster preparedness and response to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

<sup>1</sup> IMF 2008

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, World Bank, Economist indicators for 2008

The main target groups will be Red Cross volunteers and local branch secretaries for organizational development, volunteers and targeted communities for health and care, and staff, volunteers, community members and other stakeholders for disaster management.

The total budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 0.07 Million of which CHF 0.04 Million for 2011.

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

## Country context

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's (FYR of Macedonia) population is 2.2 million according to 2009 estimates. FYR of Macedonia's position, small-sized and relatively high degree of economic openness make it highly dependent on external developments. The country has come a long way in its transition from a centrally-planned to a market economy. Progress in reforms in recent years has paid off, with the economy picking up and unemployment and poverty showing modest signs of declining. However, much remains to be done to create an environment that will create well-paid and stable jobs through private sector-led growth according to the World Bank Country Brief for 2007. The economic crisis may though, at least in the short term, reverse some of the achievements in recent years.

In a transition economy such as FYR of Macedonia's, poverty has appeared suddenly for many people. The socially vulnerable categories are the unemployed, elderly people, and rural populations. About 20 per cent of the total population live under the official poverty line with minimum resources for living. Poverty is most widespread in the rural areas and in larger households with more members unemployed or with low education. Differences in income levels have a serious impact on the level of accessibility and quality of health services available to the poor. There are still illnesses associated with poor living conditions and illnesses that remain typical for certain groups of the population.

The latest UNGASS<sup>3</sup> report places FYR of Macedonia as a country with a low prevalence of HIV. However, the fact that the regional trends indicate a continuous increase of HIV infection, especially among most-at-risk populations such as sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and prisoners, is worrying and needs special attention.

According to the World Bank in 2004, the national health care system faces the multiple challenge of improving access, quality and efficiency. Underlying factors include governance problems and weak institutional, technical and managerial capacity at institutional level and among health care providers.

These health problems include transmittable diseases, primarily tuberculosis and waterborne diseases, which are the result of poor hygiene and factors associated with lower education levels like alcoholism, smoking and cardiovascular diseases. Living conditions, as measured by access to potable water or access to waste removal systems, are worse in rural areas and certain poor urban areas than elsewhere in the country. These conditions are especially grave amongst many households in the Roma population.

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Macedonian Red Cross is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in the country providing assistance to the most vulnerable people through strengthened partnership with local authorities and other key stakeholders.

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<sup>3</sup> UNGASS Country Progress Report for the FYR of Macedonia 2008. UNGASS – United Nations General Assembly Special Session – Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS.

Significant progress has been achieved over the past years in improving the quality of programmes and projects contributing to the better image of the National Society. The activities of the National Society are based on its development plan for 2006 to 2010. Eight development objectives are part of the plan and in 2007 three programme strategies were developed for the period 2008 to 2010. The priorities of the National Society include disaster preparedness and response, health and social welfare, promotion of humanitarian values including International Humanitarian Law (IHL), capacity building, youth development and finance management. All programmes and activities are focused on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals.

At its General Assembly in 2009, the International Federation adopted Strategy 2020 to guide its work and that of National Societies both domestically and globally. Focussing on "saving lives and changing minds", Strategy 2020 calls on national societies, as effective auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, to provide high quality services within the core mandates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to influence behaviours, promote changes in attitudes and mindsets, and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to play a lead role in advocating for meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities." The Macedonian Red Cross has recently finished work on its national strategy "Improving Lives – Promoting Human Action 2010-2020", incorporating the main elements of Strategy 2020 into its strategic as well as operational framework.

In 2010 and 2011, the National Society will further strengthen the capacities of its emergency response units to be able to quickly respond to any disaster in the country. This will be done through conducting training and practical exercises for logistics, water and sanitation, water safety and first aid teams. An important emphasis will be put on further strengthening the coordination and communication with the state and local authorities. All the activities will be in line with the National Society's disaster management development strategy.

In the health programmes the main focus of the National Society is on further strengthening and scaling up health preventive activities with an emphasis on mother and child care, HIV prevention, harm reduction, tuberculosis and blood donation. The Red Cross is a member of the national coordination mechanism, responsible for implementing and monitoring activities related to HIV and AIDS and TB as a partner of the Ministry of Health supported by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria (GFATM). It is also an active member of the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and TB (ERNA), and working within the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance for HIV and TB is an opportunity which will be explored in the coming period. The blood donation activities are implemented in cooperation with the National Institute for Transfusion supported by the Ministry of Health. Engaging in all these activities with relevant stakeholders at the local level has increased the image of the Red Cross as a reliable partner in the country. The social welfare activities will focus on mobilizing and empowering the local communities, in particular the Roma, through the participatory community development (PCD) approach.

Additionally, the Red Cross of the FYR of Macedonia is committed to pursuing the development of a well functioning National Society that addresses the most urgent needs in the society. This will mean building on the positive initiatives already undertaken that have borne much fruit, and further strengthening its organizational capacity to provide more efficient and sustainable services. The Red Cross has been granted funding from the International Federation's Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) modality of support and has started project implementation. The ICB focuses on building an efficient information management system, management of volunteers and staff and mobilization of funds. Hence the National Society operates within the enabling actions of the emerging Strategy 2020 which among others includes intensified and tailor-made capacity building International Federation support to National Societies.

In total four Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are working with the Red Cross of the FYR of Macedonia in supporting various programmes and activities. They are the Norwegian Red Cross in fundraising activities; the German Red Cross in community development and disaster management, Spanish Red Cross in Roma activities and the Austrian Red Cross in disaster management. Outside the Movement different state ministries, UNHCR and other agencies are partner organizations.

# Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

## Disaster Management

The role of the Macedonian Red Cross within national disaster management is regulated and in compliance with Article 19 of the Macedonian Red Cross law. The main responsibilities of the department include disaster risk assessment, humanitarian assistance in case of disasters, emergency response units, disaster response plans, camp management including close coordination with state authorities and other partners.

This component aims to further build the capacities of the current emergency response teams and in addition five emergency teams will be established in 2010. The readiness of these teams will be checked through various exercises in needs assessment, logistics, water and sanitation, water safety and first aid teams at branch level and simulations at national level. In addition, current contingency and response plans will be updated in line with the disaster management development strategy of the National Society.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
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Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
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The disaster management programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 24,706.

<b>Programme component 1: Disaster Management Planning</b>
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Component outcome 1: Contingency and response plans are updated to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities.
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<b>Programme component 1: Organizational Preparedness</b>
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Component outcome 1: Improved capacity in skilled human resources at both branch and national level.
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## Health and Care

The health and care programme seeks to scale up health activities in the area of mother and child care, HIV, TB and small scale support for new project initiatives. In particular the mother and child care activities are developed and based on the targeted group needs aiming at reducing the vulnerabilities of infants and small children.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
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Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
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The health and care programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 20,695.

<b>Programme component: Maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)</b>
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Improved MNCH through National Society community based activities, including safe motherhood and child health initiatives, vaccination and nutrition activities.
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<b>Programme component: Preventive health activities with focus on HIV and TB</b>
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Increase awareness and reduce stigma associated to TB/HIV through program advocacy, communication and social mobilisation.
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<b>Programme component: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation</b>
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Increased awareness of the population for voluntary non-remunerated blood donation through development of Club 25.
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## Organisational Development/Capacity Building

The implementation of the five development priorities defined in the development plan of the Macedonian Red Cross 2006-2010 remain the priority for further successful transformation of the National Society. Improving the capacities and opportunities of the local Red Cross branches to efficiently respond to the needs of the communities is central. This will be achieved through various projects, with support of various partners of which the key element in this process is the International Federation's Intensified Capacity Building modality of support (ICB) which focuses on building an information management system, mobilization of funds, management of volunteers and staff with the aim of providing efficient services to the most vulnerable.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
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Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
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The organisational development/capacity building programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 24,599.

<b>Programme component: Supporting National Society OD process</b>
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Red Cross law and statutes including other documents and regulations are amended and approved.
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<b>Programme component: Volunteering and Youth development</b>
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Strengthened youth and volunteer base with aim of providing effective and quality services in all programme areas.
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## Role of the secretariat

The International Federation through the Europe zone office will provide technical and advisory support to the Macedonian Red Cross. For this purpose the International Federation has developed a practice of utilizing the best practices and experience available in the region through its human resource roster mechanism. This is a pool of expertise from all the regional National Societies and from the International Federation's offices in the region who have competence and experience in various fields and are available to assist National Societies in need. Such experience will be used to support the Macedonian Red Cross and will be based in the form of regular visits and discussions with the management and programme coordinators as well as monitoring visits in the field.

This practice will be further developed in the coming years since the International Federation is well positioned and experienced in creating platforms for sharing, joint planning and for promoting the latest standards, procedures and best practices. This will be done by further developing and maintaining the regional human resource roster and by providing opportunities for regional meetings, training sessions as well as during regular country visits and daily communication.

Moreover, the International Federation will render tailor-made support in enhancing the National Society's performance management capacities in line with Global Agenda Goal three. The support aims to build basic foundations for longer-term capacity building in managing programmes more effectively and with greater efficiency. To this end the society will be supported through workshops, follow-up visits, satisfaction surveys<sup>4</sup>, network building and SharePoint. Importantly, the support not only puts the National Society at its core, but requires the society itself to take on responsibility for generating the best possible outcomes, especially in a longer-term perspective. Furthermore it stresses the genuine participation of people reached as a means to put the latter at its very centre as well as to enhance the quality of services through their feedback.

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<sup>4</sup> The satisfaction survey is a newly developed tool by the International Federation Europe zone for finding out whether goods and services provided by National Societies manage to meet the needs among people reached. Furthermore it aims to facilitate the participation and feedback from target groups for improving future interventions by National Societies.

## Representation and advocacy

In line with obtaining and maintaining a good international image of the Movement, the International Federation through its Europe zone office will encourage and support the Macedonian Red Cross to better advocate for its mandate and to better promote its activities and increase the National Society's visibility in the country.

The International Federation will continue to support the Macedonian Red Cross to build a better understanding of the potential sources of financial, technical and other forms of support for the National Society's activities and capacity building.

## How we work

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

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