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Moldova

Annual Report 2013

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMD002

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**This report covers the
period
from 1 January 2013
to 31 December 2013.**

*Moldova Red Cross volunteer
delivering a food parcel during the
Visiting Nurses project.
Photo: Moldova Red Cross*



Overview

In line with Strategy 2020 of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Moldova Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan for the years 2010-2015, the priority directions that the National Society established for 2013 were the following.

- Promotion of the humanitarian values and fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- Preparedness for, and response to, natural disasters;
- Prevention of violence against children;
- Home based care for solitary elderly with low income and for infancy disabled children from socio-vulnerable families;
- Training in First Aid.

It was recognised that the Moldova Red Cross would need to further improve the sustainability of its programmes, mainly through building closer partnership relations with state authorities of the Republic of Moldova as well as state-owned and private enterprises, and through promoting commercial First Aid training courses – all of those as potential means for the National Society to reduce its dependence on external donors.

The Republic of Moldova continues to strive in conditions of territorial dismemberment, grappling with high unemployment, poor investment climate and an unstable political environment. The global financial crisis has worsened the economic situation of the vulnerable people living in the country. According to the Red Cross branches, the number of people requesting Moldova Red Cross assistance is continuously increasing, although a recent study on poverty claims that in 2013 a decrease in poverty was recorded in the Republic of

Moldova as compared to previous years. The minimum consumer's basket constitutes approx. 1,500 MDL. The average income of the population exceeds the average subsistence minimum only by 0.1 per cent, while for the retired people, the income covers only 73.3 per cent of the subsistence minimum.

According to the estimates of the World Bank, the Republic of Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, the population of which faces serious economic and social difficulties, unemployment, challenges in the field of health care, and a high incidence of solitary beneficiaries, disabled children, people with sexually transmissible diseases both in urban and rural areas. Also, the situation remains alarming in terms of human trafficking and drug abuse.

Working in partnership

During the reporting period the Moldova Red Cross continued its cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the Europe Zone Office in Budapest and with the International Committee of the Red Cross through the latter's Moscow Regional Delegation.

The established and well functioning partnerships with international organisations: UNHCR, IOM, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP Moldova, as well as the Swiss Red Cross and other sister National Societies have continued to facilitate access to the international resources and experience.

The European Commission and the UK Department for International Development (DfID) provided support to the Moldova country plan through the Federation's coordinated programmes. Support and cooperation also came from the Japanese Red Cross. The Moldova Red Cross was also working closely with the Centre for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection, local authorities and the NGOs "Credinta" and "La Strada".

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) has been collaborating with the Moldova Red Cross (MRC) since 2004, supporting its winter assistance programme and supplying food / non-food items.

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: To raise humanitarian standards

Outputs:

- 1.1.1 Contribute to trend reports through providing support to the country vulnerability mapping and risk assessment.
- 1.2.1 Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and Values among staff, volunteers, and the general population through branches.
- 1.3.1 Enhance capacity, knowledge, and professional skills of staff on DM, Health, IT and modern technologies.
- 1.3.2 IFRC online Learning Platform is promoted.
- 1.4.1 Moldova Red Cross participates in the Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) mechanism.
- 1.4.2 Improve the implementation of the Federation-Wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS).

Comments on progress towards outcomes

With the financial support of the European Commission delivered through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Moldova RC continued during the first three months of 2013 the realization of the project entitled '**Consolidation of national reintegration and rehabilitation mechanisms for the victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova**'. On 31 March 2013, the project was completed, and it was given a highly positive evaluation.

Business line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people

Outputs:

2.1.1 Enhance the capacity of the National Society on timely disaster response to the most vulnerable population, affected by disasters and emergency situations, through an ensured system of trainings for staff and volunteers.

2.2.1 Establish well-prepared branches based on the results of vulnerability mapping.

2.5.1 Develop and update a Code of Conduct and management rules and regulations in all humanitarian programs.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, Moldova RC finalized the **DREF operation MDRMD005 'Severe Drought'**. In the operation framework, a total of 13,235 vulnerable citizens affected by the drought benefited from humanitarian aid. Ten targeted branch directors and twenty Red Cross volunteers have been trained on specific skills in connection with the emergency operation.

With the financial support from the Japanese Red Cross delivered through the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, the project **'Strengthening Visiting Nurses Service'** continued during the second half of 2013 aiming at an improved medical and social assistance by the provision of home based care services. The project fits into the main objectives of Moldova Red Cross Health Strategy 2012-2017 with a view to protection of lives, livelihoods and consolidation of capacity to recover from disasters and crises and contribute to a healthy and safe living and promote social inclusion, the culture of non-violence and peace.

The project was implemented by eight branches: Bender, Calarasi, Chisinau, Donduseni, Edinet, Telenesti, Rezina and Soroca. It represents a successful model of home-based care due to the rich experience and high qualification of the staff involved. Moldova Red Cross implemented activities including medical and social assistance targeting the most vulnerable population, diminishing the stress on lonely elderly people and disabled children from vulnerable families.

Efforts have been directed to the creation and development of certain capacities of the visiting nurses service with a view to provide relevant assistance for solitary beneficiaries and disabled children from vulnerable families, as well as to provide medical and psychological support for vulnerable families.

In this context, eight visiting nurses and 45 volunteers have been trained in the framework of project workshops organized on medical and psycho-social assistance to the elderly.

Beneficiaries, selected as per the set criteria, have been recommended by the territorial associations of family doctors, departments of social assistance, as well as local communities. First of all, patients with severe pathologies, elderly, solitary elderly or their families, people with chronic or specific diseases who do not have sufficient livelihoods and congenitally disabled children from socio-vulnerable families.

From the total number of patients, there are 52 men, 110 women and 37 congenitally disabled children. Each visiting nurse takes care of an average of 20 beneficiaries. The duration of the contract with each beneficiary depends on how the disease progresses and on the needs of the beneficiary.

During project implementation, the visiting nurses provided medical services and psycho-social support to 199 beneficiaries (Rezina – 20, Calarasi -20, Donduşeni - 21, Bender - 51, Teleneşti - 20, Soroca - 20, Chişinău - 17, Edinet – 30).

Business line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development.

Outputs:

3.1.1 Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence targeting the most vulnerable people especially by addressing the needs of the elderly and the youth.

3.1.2 Implement the program to address the violence against children.

3.2.1 HIV/AIDS preventive activities for young people.

3.3.1 Establish First Aid training centre and promote its activity at national level.

3.3.2 Develop and improve strong support mechanisms for other health and care priorities such as road safety, violence against children, psychosocial support, and emergency health activities.

3.4.1 Strengthen operational capacity by project / programme planning process trainings at HQ and branch level.

- 3.5.1 Enhance social mobilisation involving youth and volunteers in programme implementation.
 3.5.2 Increase capacity of local communities and civil society through the promotion of volunteering.
 3.5.3 NS is actively engaged in bridging the gap between youth and adult volunteers in the branches.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

With the financial support from DFID through IFRC, during September-December 2013, a project on **prevention of violence against children** was implemented by Moldova RC in five branches: Anenii Noi, Bender, Balti, Glodeni and Briceni.

In the project framework, Moldova RC aimed at consolidating the branches in the field of prevention of violence against children through development of a volunteer network and promotion of an efficient partnership with relevant organizations and institutions.

Violence against children is widespread in the Republic of Moldova, affecting children, youth and the entire society. According to the UNICEF Office in Moldova, some 25 per cent of children from the Republic of Moldova are beaten by their parents, 3 per cent are violently punished by teachers and 10 per cent have been sexually abused or molested at least once. The study prepared by the UNICEF Office in Moldova showed that if one gathered all the children who have been victims of violence, they would fill more than half of the schools of Moldova.

Violence against children includes all forms of physical and mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. According to the reports, it is foreseen that further children will be abused, beaten, and sometimes sexually abused by adults from their surrounding environment (parents, teachers, caregivers and child care employers), traumatized by community violence, trafficking, exposure to domestic violence, corporal punishment and emotional abuse. The areas of progress are few, and improvement is limited.

For various reasons, violence against children remains largely hidden. One of the reasons is fear: many children are afraid to talk about incidents involving violent acts against them. In many cases, parents should protect their children, but sometimes they remain silent when the act of violence was made by husband/wife, or another family member, or by a powerful member of society, such as an employer, a police officer or by a leader of the community. Fear exists especially in places where the "honour" of the family is placed above the safety and welfare of children. Acceptance of violence by society is also an important factor: both children and abusers may accept physical, sexual and psychological violence as inevitable and normal. Discipline through physical and humiliating punishment is often perceived as normal, especially when these have no visible harms. The problem is more likely to occur in rural areas, where all the above mentioned characteristics persist.

At the end of the project, Red Cross volunteers surveyed the population in order to find out the project impact. The results show that approx. 56 per cent of the surveyed have been informed about forms and risks of violence against children.

The implementation partners of the project were the National Centre of Prevention of Violence against Children, the Local Public Administration, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Youth and international organizations (UNICEF, UNDP and IOM).

Thanks to the undertaken measures and organized activities, the project's impact was very strong. An essential aspect was population awareness on the phenomenon of violence against children, its destructive force and the need to get involved in its prevention and abolishment.

Business line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

Outputs:

- 4.1.1 Promote social cohesion and address discrimination and exclusion by implementing social programmes.
 4.2.1 Implement the new Moldova Red Cross Statutes, introduce amendments on volunteer management.
 4.2.2 An auxiliary role of Moldova RC to public authorities has been strengthened.
 4.3.1 Moldova RC benefits from tailored OD support, coordinated with EZO, HD, ICRC and GVA Governance
 4.4.1 Improve National Society capacity at regional and HQ level to establish a dialogue with local authorities and attract state funds to provide effective social service.
 4.4.2 Resource mobilisation capacities are scaled up for attracting contributions to the NS from national authorities and companies and from the public paying First Aid and Disaster Prevention training services and contributing to specific projects

4.5.1 Reduce dependence on single partners while maintaining and expanding existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative partnerships.

4.6.1 Set up the necessary legal base for commercial First Aid (based on the European certification, etc.).

4.6.2 NS is supported in effective humanitarian diplomacy for implementation of its strategic priorities.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the second half of 2013, Moldova Red Cross continued to organize **First Aid trainings**. In December 2013, in order to consolidate Moldova Red Cross capacities, two trainers in First Aid underwent a master training course organized by IFRC in Minsk.

At the same time, Moldova Red Cross submitted a project proposal to the IFRC Europe Zone Office in Budapest with a view to procure First Aid mannequins..

During six months, four First Aid trainings were organized for 54 participants.

Business line 5: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

Outputs:

5.1.1 Set up effective partnerships with different national and international agencies and attract funds for joint activities.

5.1.2 Facilitate regional initiatives among sister National Societies' and increase participation in international cooperation.

5.2.1 NS has strengthened its operational capacities with the "Bridging the Digital Divide" project in the NHQ and in five branches, with the support of the IFRC Secretariat (communication and IT technology).

5.3.1 Promote and implement the National Society Strategy through following the agreed programme activities in line with the IFRC's Strategy 2020.

5.4.1 Support capacity building in National Society programme monitoring and reporting.

5.5.1 A Plan of Action for a more integrated country presence is agreed and is being implemented.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In partnership with, and with the financial support from, the UNICEF Office in Moldova, Moldova RC continued the implementation of the project '**Disaster Risk Reduction and Response to Emergency Situations**' which is an integral part of the regional project implemented also in Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and which targeted two districts in Moldova: Stefan Voda and Ungheni. Representatives of district authorities in the field of education, health care, cadastral services, emergency situations, ecology and social assistance have been involved in the project implementation.

In the project framework, informative materials have been developed including "First Aid in emergency situations", "Family Guide", "Pocket Guide", „Materials for Pupils of Forms 1 to 12" which have been distributed among the targeted beneficiaries.

Also, one can mention the methodology on assessing the risks, vulnerability and capacity gaps in the field of DRR and the concept on information and communication of the general population with regard to reducing the risks and prepare for natural disasters, which have been put into practice during the project implementation. The project has been promoted through TV (the TV show 'O seara in familie'), the radio show 'Vocea Basarabiei' and the weekly magazine 'Natura'. Different contests and quizzes for pupils have been organized.

In the project framework, two mini-projects were implemented:

- Implementation of the project "Ravine Consolidation and Containment of Surface Waters" in Rascaieti village, district of Stefan Voda;
- Implementation of the project "Placing on the Geo-website the Areas Prone to Floods and Landslides from the Villages in Ungheni District".

Stakeholder participation and feedback

- Many volunteers of the National Society are pensioners, well-educated and respected people of their communities; while others are young people from primary and secondary schools. 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.
- The survey conducted by the National Society related to the prevention of violence against children served as a good basis for Moldova Red Cross to address the real needs.
- The country vulnerability mapping prepared with close cooperation with the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations enabled the NS to approach communities to increase the public awareness of risks in those specific areas defined as prone to natural disasters and other technological risks.
- The cooperation with stakeholders during project implementation supported the National Society to gain experiences from others and also to share their best practices with its partners in different areas, thus meeting the needs of the different project target groups.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
RISK: The capacities of the NS branches are weak in terms of human resources and financial means.	H	The National Society should focus on the building of the capacity further on in their branches, improvement of volunteers and youth networks through the new programs related to education and prevention.
RISK: The country's high vulnerability to disasters and the low level of capacities addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population.	H	Strengthening DM capacities and staff is also recommended.
RISK: High dependence on external support and lack of sustainable programmes due to the low level of funding	H	The Moldova Red Cross needs to increase the sustainability of its programmes, signing contracts and agreements with the authorities and national enterprises, promoting the commercial First Aid training courses.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

- The volunteers and branch directors particularly committed to their work are a promising factor to contribute to the development of the Moldova National Society.
- The potentials to introduce and establish Red Cross activities in local communities are especially promising in Moldova due to the fact that the presence of civil society organizations is limited or non-existent at the community level.
- Moldova Red Cross Society has the following programme priorities based on its strategic plan:
 - a) In the field of disaster management the Moldova National Society will focus on community based disaster risk reduction.
 - b) Within the "promotion of humanitarian values" component, the Moldova Red Cross is aiming at contributing to the reduction of stigma, discrimination and violence against children.

- c) The National Society will work to improve its image and visibility and improve coordination and its relationship with the authorities and other stakeholders.
- d) The consolidation of the first-aid training programme in six identified branches and the accreditation by the European First Aid Certificate will contribute to the introduction of new ideas on how to increase the resources at all levels.
- e) The Moldova Red Cross will contribute to the promotion of volunteering and youth involvement in Red Cross activities as the National Society penetrates further communities and utilizes the adapted tools.
- The National Society is planning to scale up its activities aligned with the abovementioned priorities. Despite the efforts to raise internally and externally sufficient amount of funding for the planned activities, Moldova Red Cross still needs to strengthen its financial background to be able to meet the needs arising in the country.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAAMD00213arf.pdf>

How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

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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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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