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# Moldova

## Annual Report 2014

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAMD002**

**30 April 2015**

**This report covers the  
period  
from 1 January 2014  
to 31 December 2014**

*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 2014 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;
- Home-based care for solitary elderly with low income and for congenitally 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.

Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, whose population faces serious economical and social difficulties and challenges in the field of health care, unemployment and high incidence of solitary elderly, disabled children and people with sexually transmissible diseases from urban and rural areas. Also, the situation remains alarming when speaking about human trafficking and drug abuse.

Economic hardship still leads to systematic social exclusion of poorer segments of Moldovan society. Uncontrolled urbanization and out-migration produce a widening gap between urban and rural populations dependent on subsistence farming and remittances. Social exclusion, therefore, is largely driven by poverty and a sharp increase in economic inequality. Social exclusion based on ethnicity is very rare.

With a per capita GDP (at PPP) of around USD 3,000, and an overall size of around USD 7 billion, the Moldovan economy is one of the weakest in Europe. In the last 10 years, however, the country witnessed sustainable growth rates of around 5 to 6 per cent, with a decline, only in 2009, of 6 per cent as a direct result of the economic crisis. Due to the country's weak industrial base, the Moldovan economy is consumptive rather than productive. Therefore, it is highly dependent on remittances and thus vulnerable to external shocks.

### 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 IFRC Secretariat's 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 like UNHCR, IOM, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP Moldova, as well as with sister National Societies have continued to facilitate access to the international resources and experience. Support came from and cooperation was also further strengthened with 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 NGOs.

### 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 Improve the implementation of the Federation-Wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS).

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

During 2014, the Moldova Red Cross had no funding with a view to raise humanitarian standards. Nevertheless, the National Society spent efforts to increase awareness and disseminate information on the risks and preparedness to natural disasters. The regions mostly prone to calamities have been kept under surveillance of the Moldova Red Cross through the relevant branches. Also, in doing this and during implementation of other activities, the Moldova Red Cross puts the stress on the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values which are disseminated to general population through Red Cross branches, to staff and volunteers.

## 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, the Moldova Red Cross organised a refresher training for the districts/branches mostly prone to natural calamities. Activity in this field were mainly of informative character as during the year no major emergency situation occurred and the National Society did not implemented a project in this regard.

The targeted branch directors and the 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 2014, 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. The 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, ten visiting nurses and 124 volunteers have been trained in the framework of project workshops 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, 99 are men, 145 women and 56 congenitally disabled children. Each visiting nurse supervised an average of 18-20 beneficiaries. The duration of the contract with each beneficiary depended on how the disease evolved and on the needs of the beneficiary (usually between six and twelve months). In exceptional cases, assistance is provided for longer term or even for the entire lifespan.

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross visiting nurses have performed the following:

- Providing medical and psycho-social support for 461 solitary elderly with disabilities and congenitally disabled children from Donduşeni, Ungheni, Criuleni, Balti, Rezina, Soroca, Teleneşti, Edinet, Bender and Chişinău. They have benefited of medical and legal counselling, manipulations, hospitalization, asylum determination, social services (food products, clothes, hygiene items for multi-children families).
- Organizing and participating at medico-social and psycho-social trainings (three trainings – 67 participants, two coordination meetings – 29 participants).
- Identifying, in cooperation with branch directors, of volunteers and their involvement in project activities.
- Supporting volunteers during their first home visits to beneficiaries, as well as providing joint assistance with a view to accumulate experience.
- Organizing and supervising activities with regard to the new methods of work with the elderly.

- Initiating cooperation with different non-governmental organizations aiming at providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

### **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.
- 3.2.1 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**

Incidence of technogenic and car accidents, climate change and global warming lead to more large scale natural disasters resulting in continuously increasing numbers of affected people. At the same time, there is higher need in providing first aid until the arrival of medical aid.

Unfortunately, in the majority of European countries only 5 to 10 per cent of population is qualified to provide first aid. The Republic of Moldova is not an exception in this regard. In this context, the role of Red Cross in population first aid training becomes crucial.

According to the Government Decision No. 1471 from 24 December 2007 "With regard to the approval of the Strategy on development of the health system for the period 2008-2017", Governmental Decision No. 1214 from 27 December 2010 "With regard to the national strategy on road safety 2010-2020", Moldova Red Cross, in partnership with the Ministry of Health is playing the leading role in training population in first aid.

During the second half of 2014, Moldova Red Cross continued population training in first aid. Given the fact that the National Society does not have financial resources to cover all related expenses, based on a Presidium decision, some categories of the population was decided to pay for training.

At the local level, Red Cross branches continued cooperation with local public authorities, departments of education, services of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a view to train population in first aid. All in all, 48 trainings have been organized in the framework of which a total of 1,458 persons have been trained.

In order to increase public awareness, Moldova Red Cross placed in the municipality of Chisinau 20 billboards on organization of first aid courses.

The target group is aged 20-50 years, including: staff of private sector, companies and institutions, youth, students, social workers, oil companies, general population.

In the second half of 2014, Moldova Red Cross was supported by the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office in the form of a project on **First Aid training** (total budget was CHF 14,362), in the framework of which the following was done:

17 October 2014 – 1,511 First Aid leaflets were printed and distributed.

27 November 2014 – 200 sterile wipes and 230 wet wipes for practical first aid training were procured.

28 November 2014 – informative sessions held within the Department of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Labour.

15 December 2014 – with financial and logistical support from IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office, in the framework of project "First Aid training", Moldova Red Cross received first aid dolls and materials for training.

30 December 2014 – printing and distribution of 3,818 First Aid leaflets among Red Cross branches.

22-24 October 2014 in Chisinau, the Moldova Red Cross participated at the sub-regional workshop “Road safety fundamentals and interventions” in the framework of TRACECA Road Safety II Project supported by the IFRC, Global Road Safety Partnership, Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport, Moldova Automobile Club.

With the financial support from DFID through the IFRC Secretariat, during 2014, **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 consolidation of branches in the field of prevention of violence against children through development of 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 UNICEF 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 UNICEF Moldova showed that if we gathered together all the children – victims of violence, they will 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 reports it is foreseen that further children will be abused, beaten, and sometimes sexually abused by adults from their surrounding environment (parents, teachers, caregivers, child care employers), traumatized by community violence, trafficking, exposed to domestic violence, corporal punishment and emotional abuse. 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 exist especially in places where “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 possible to occur in rural areas, where all the above mentioned characteristics persist.

The main objectives of the project were as follows.

- Reduction of violence, intolerance, discrimination, social exclusion and promotion of diversity and human dignity among children and youth;
- Raise awareness of teachers, parents and communities with regard to the phenomenon of violence towards children and youth;
- Build capacities with a view to implement youth projects in the five Red Cross branches involved in the project implementation.

In the framework of the project, workshops, round table meetings, drawing contests, social theatre performances, public events and informative sessions were organized.

The major implementation partners 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 Child and NGOs like UNICEF, UNDP and IOM.

Glodeni branch suggested continuation of cooperation with all partners in order to provide support to children - potential victims of violence and those already abused. Also, Glodeni branch recommended the change of angle of activity realization and put the stress on responsibilities of children, not only on their rights.

Thanks to undertaken measures and organized activities, the project 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.

Awareness methods had a very positive impact among teachers, parents and educators. Local public administration manifested increased interest towards Red Cross activities in the field of prevention of

violence against children.

Volunteers trained in the project framework will continue to organize different actions in order to promote the non-violence culture, humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the International Movement.

#### **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 2014 Moldova Red Cross continued to organize First Aid trainings.

### **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 above mentioned 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.](#)

<https://fednet.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/Development%20Operational%20Plans/2014/SP567MD14arf.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 Humanitarian 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:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace.**

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