

# Plan 2009-2010



## Moldova

### Executive summary



Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, according to the World Bank. Poverty and vulnerability is pronounced in rural areas and among older people. Pensions and wages have increased by 20 per cent on average, but still have little bearing or significant influence on the vulnerability level of people as prices rise even more steeply.

The country is riven by emigration, as people seek a way to escape endemic poverty, provide for their families and make new lives. The rates of migration are extremely high, with about 25 per cent of the population living abroad. Villages made up of older people and children are often the norm rather than the exception, with the

adults of working age having moved, either to the big cities of Moldova or often further afield, where they become vulnerable to human trafficking, particularly in the sex and construction trades.

Meanwhile, rates of HIV are increasing. As of 1 June 2007, the official number of cases of HIV was 3,850 but the real figure is certainly higher, with unofficial estimates ranging from 7,000 to 9,000. Some 80 per cent of all HIV cases are among youth aged 15-29. In Moldova HIV affects not only traditional youth groups at higher risk, such as unemployed youth, orphaned children, unaccompanied and street children, but appears to be spreading rapidly among the young population in general. Statistics indicate an increased percentage of heterosexual HIV-transmission<sup>1</sup>. The consequences of HIV infection across the region often include loss of employment, harassment by law enforcement and lack of access to state-run services.

With a total population of less than 4 million (full-time residents), the Republic of Moldova has 766,000 pensioners, or about 19 per cent of the population, and more than 103,000 people with disabilities. Given that 25 per cent of the population of the working age have migrated,<sup>2</sup> the number of elderly people living alone, people with disabilities and unsupervised children is increasing. An increasing number of older people in the country needs nursing care and support in their daily lives and an escape from loneliness and isolation. In addition to social and medical assistance, elderly people across the country do not have access to sufficient legal information on their entitlements.

Despite ongoing national and global efforts to combat environmental degradation, the severity and frequency of disasters and their impact on the society are increasing continuously. In 2007, some 277 people died and 325 people were injured in natural disasters and industrial emergencies according to the Department of Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Republic of Moldova National Centre of Preventive Medicine

<sup>2</sup> Source: Department of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, 2006

Severe and frequent droughts in recent years prompted the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to launch a food distribution programme in Moldova earlier this year. Lessons learnt from this operation have been incorporated into this plan.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 886,021 (USD 809,891 or EUR 564,344).

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

## Country context

Moldova is located on the eastern border of the European Union, sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine. The favourable climate, fertile farmland and lack of major mineral deposits means the economy depends heavily on the various fruits, vegetables, wine and tobacco it produces. Moldova imports all of its supplies of petroleum, coal and natural gas, mainly from Russia.

In the Middle Ages, most of the present territory of Moldova was part of the Principality of Moldavia, and was annexed from the latter, then a vassal of the Ottoman Empire, by the Russian Empire in 1812, under the name of Bessarabia. Upon the dissolution of the Russian Empire in 1917-1918, Bessarabia joined Romania. In 1940, it was occupied by the Soviet Union, and after changing hands in 1941 and 1944 during World War II, it was split between the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the newly-created Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Along with the other peripheral Soviet republics, Moldova started to move towards independence from 1988 onwards and declared its independence in August 1991. At the end of that year, a former communist reformer, Mircea Snegur, won an unchallenged election for the presidency. Three months later, the country achieved formal recognition as an independent state at the United Nations.

Development Indicators		MOLDOVA	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	4.3	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	2,880 (2006)
Surface area (square km)	33,843	GDP real growth (%)	4 (2006)
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	1.8 (2004)	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	7.3
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	98.6 (2005)	Mortality rate (per 100,000)	13
Gender-related development index value (GDI)	96 (2005)	Life expectancy at birth (female/ male)	67/ 55
Human development index value (HDI)	0.708	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	44.7 (2003 est.)
Human development index rate (HDI)	111 (2005)	People living with HIV aged 15-49	2,305 (2005)
Population below national poverty line (%)	29.5% (2005)	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	91.5 (2004)
Gender Empowerment Measure rank (GEM)	97 (2005)		
Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank; Economic Intelligence Unit.			

**Table 1:** Selected development indicators for Moldova

The part of Moldova east of the Dniester river, Transnistria, which includes a larger proportion of ethnic Russians and Ukrainians, claimed independence in 1990, fearing the rise of nationalism in Moldova and the country's then-expected reunification with Romania. This caused a brief military conflict between Moldova and forces supporting the secession of Transnistria in 1992. Russian military stationed in the region intervened on the Transnistrian side and remain on the territory east of the Dniester. Negotiations between the Transnistrian and Moldovan leaders have been going on under the mediation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Russia, and Ukraine; lately observers from the European Union and USA have become involved.

Country disasters		MOLDOVA
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people
Storm	November 2000	2,600,000
Drought	2007	210,394
Storm	November 1994	25,580
Flood	August 1994	25,000
Flood	August 2005	6,500
Flood	July 1997	2,244
Flood	March 1999	1,713
Epidemic	August 1999	1,647
Flood	June 2002	500

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

**Table 2** : Natural disasters in Moldova since 1990 including dates and the number of people affected

Moldova is a member state of the United Nations, WTO, OSCE, GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and other international organizations. It has officially been a neutral country since its independence and an early member of the NATO Partnership for Peace. Moldova currently aspires to join the European Union and is implementing its first three-year Action Plan within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of the EU.

According to the census data, from 1989 to 2004, Moldova lost about 400,000 inhabitants, or 9 per cent of the population. Analysts estimate that actual emigration could be higher, as many seasonal workers remain registered as living in the country.

Many Moldovan emigrants are women who are sometimes duped into, or knowingly enter, the sex trade. Turkey, Russia, the Middle East and EU countries are the biggest destinations. Men are also trafficked, mainly into construction work. This has led to whole villages and towns experiencing a “missing generation”, where grandparents raise children, who themselves emigrate. Some evidence of remittances from abroad can be seen in the luxury cars parked outside the chic cafes in the capital Chisinau, but for the vast majority migration means bare survival at best, and at worst the break-up of families, exploitation and ruined lives. A harrowing account of the trade in human beings from Moldova can be found [here](#) and a Red Cross Red Crescent perspective [here](#).

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Moldova Red Cross Society, founded in 1924, has 56,344 members, 41 employees, 2,600 volunteers and 19 visiting nurses. It has 26 regional branches, including the Red Cross branch of Transnistria and Gagauzian Autonomous Unit.

The climate, normally Moldova’s greatest asset, has been cruel to this tiny country of 4.3 million people in recent years. Four out of five harvests have been diminished by drought, the most serious in 2007, leaving its famous grapes “boiling on the vine” according to a local agronomist. This led to spiralling prices for staple foods like rice, cereal and grain and pushed many vulnerable people further into poverty and hunger.

Moldova became the only European country to figure on the UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s list of 37 countries experiencing serious food crises. This at a time when world food prices are sharply rising.

The International Federation released some 250,000 Swiss francs (USD 231,000 or EUR 155,000) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the Moldova Red Cross operation to help some 6,700 people between February and April 2008. The Moldova Red Cross targeted large and single-headed families in rural areas with its distribution of supplementary food assistance. The initial number of beneficiaries - 6,700 people living in isolated rural farmsteads and villages - was increased to 7,750 people thanks to savings on transport costs. The challenge is now for the National Society,

together with its partners, to build upon the lessons it learnt during the operation and to address some of the longer-term humanitarian issues in the society, in line with its capacities and mandate. The context within the country has changed, in some positive ways as well as negative, and the National Society needs to adapt and develop to this new reality.

An assessment report written by a member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) who worked for one month as part of the operation was made available to the National Society and the International Federation's representations. This report has been studied and its recommendations are being considered for longer-term programming needs of the National Society. Already, however, some of the recommendations are being acted upon, while included into the National Society's plan for 2009-2010, some with the International Federation's support (see details in the below section on secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010).

General conclusions based on the activities and evaluation is that the Moldova Red Cross has well-established coordination and cooperation with the government. This was demonstrated by the distribution being organized jointly with the regional and local authorities. However, the National Society has a relatively weak regional structure and high turnover of staff and volunteers. This is a major problem, and one that needs active attention by the Red Cross leadership. It is felt that the International Federation is best placed to offer support in addressing this with the National Society (see details in the below section on secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010).

In late July, just as this plan was being finalised, heavy rains brought flooding to Moldova and western Ukraine killing over thirty people and washing away the homes of scores more. A response operation by both National Societies, supported by an emergency appeal launched by the International Federation, is underway at the time of writing, focussing on emergency food aid, ensuring affected populations have bedding and blankets, and providing psycho-social support to people who need it in what were already poverty-ravished regions. The resources of the International Federation will again be drawn upon in supporting the National Societies with an internationally recruited operations manager working closely to ensure that key personnel from the National Societies develop their skills and experience, which are subsequently shared widely through ongoing training and a post-operation workshop.

The Moldova Red Cross aims to improve its disaster management capacity by reinforcing its human, material and technical resources. RDRT training was conducted in 2006 for branch directors and volunteers from all branches and the headquarters, in total 52 people. However, most of the volunteers have subsequently left the country - the impact of migration in evidence again - while the branch directors have changed for the most part. Therefore the need for a further round of training is paramount, although there are no guarantees regarding retaining the services of these people.

The Moldova Red Cross has been shortlisted for Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) support and as this plan was being finalized it was working to produce a three-year capacity building plan. The first priority is to revise its disaster preparedness and response plan, to develop a contingency plan for specific scenarios, to develop national disaster response teams/ national intervention teams concept within the National Society through updating the existing training package, training new volunteers and establishing appropriate teams. If the Red Cross Society is not successful in its application for ICB support it will need to find support from other sources/ partners. Without this support it is quite possible that the National Society will become essentially redundant.

Strengthening the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable communities who live in the most disaster-prone areas is also a high priority. In addition to strengthening the National Society's capacity, educational materials and public awareness campaigns to raise the preparedness levels of the general population need to be undertaken. The main focus will be on schoolchildren being one of the most vulnerable groups, as well as being a rich source of volunteers.

Although the Moldova Red Cross focuses mainly on disaster preparedness and long-term strengthening of community capacities, short-term emergency relief to provide short-term nutritional and material support to vulnerable groups remains an important and highly appreciated area of work. Moldova has a significant proportion of its population living below the poverty line and basic Red Cross

support provides a lifeline for the targeted population such as elderly people living alone, multi-children families and people with disabilities.

In order to reduce the vulnerability and to counter the spread of HIV in Moldova, the National Society will continue to work in peer education and harm reduction. A planned project will focus on raising public awareness of HIV and AIDS, promoting healthy lifestyle and on harm reduction. Due to the experience gained and lessons learnt within previous programmes in peer education and harm reduction – there is great experience in the Transnistrian region – the Moldova Red Cross will elaborate new strategies on how to approach injecting drug users (IDUs), and new incentives to motivate Red Cross volunteers.

The Moldova Red Cross is planning to continue activities in order to address the needs of elderly people and people with disabilities often living alone and children with disabilities from vulnerable families. Although the Visiting Nurses Service is recognized as a very important and necessary medico-social service, it is not supported by the Moldovan government and still remains very much dependant on external funding. Thanks to Norwegian support in previous years the Moldova Red Cross was able to hold trainings for nurses, to print information materials and to provide nurses with first-aid kits.

Building up its organizational capacity at national and regional levels is vital for the Moldova Red Cross, as was again highlighted in the DREF operation. Weak volunteer and staff management systems undermine the organization making it a less than valued partner for the government and funding bodies. Therefore it is of paramount importance that the National Society, in formulating its humanitarian programmes takes concrete steps. These include:

- focussing on a smaller number of activities with higher impact
- ensuring that the selected programmes are aimed at the most vulnerable
- ensuring efficiency, cost effectiveness and accountability
- exploring non-traditional sources of revenue and finance
- building partnerships
- ensuring sustainability
- recruiting, retaining and nurturing competent staff, and ensuring true division of governance and management

The promotion of humanitarian values is an integral and cross-cutting part of key National Society programmes. Youth peer education, disaster management and home-based nursing care all contain components dedicated to promoting humanitarian values. This programme will contribute to the overall humanitarian education of youth. Within this programme the Moldova Red Cross is planning to promote voluntary blood donation as the number of blood donors in Moldova has significantly decreased in the last decades. Its voluntary blood donation component has been implemented in close cooperation with specialists from the National Blood Transfusion Centre.

In the field of health and social welfare the Moldova Red Cross collaborates with the local authorities. The National AIDS Centre runs needle exchange projects and has been invaluable in providing advice and recommendations on how to run a well-functioning high-impact programme. In addition, the NGO “Credinta” for people living with HIV (PLHIV) has provided support in approaching IDUs.

On a bilateral base the Red Cross cooperates with the Swiss Red Cross in the framework of the project *Social canteens for vulnerable people*. Another bilateral cooperation is the *Twice Christmas* programme implemented jointly with the Swiss Red Cross.

# Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

## Disaster Management

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

#### Programme purpose

The impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis has been mitigated.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 313,660 (USD 286,709 or EUR 199,783).

#### Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness

**Component outcome 1:** Disaster management plan is reviewed and updated.

The Moldova Red Cross sees the need to improve its disaster management capacity by reinforcing its human, material and technical resources. Based on the results of risk analysis of the most disaster-prone areas, the Moldova Red Cross has identified branches for the implementation of various components of the programme that will be based on the disaster preparedness and disaster response plan.

In 2006, jointly with the Department of Emergency Situations, the National Society has elaborated its disaster preparedness/ disaster response plan based on a completed Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and hazard risk analysis. Risk maps for earthquakes, floods, landslides, wind storms, map of complex disaster-prone areas of Moldova were prepared. But due to the lack of experts in the field of early warning and due to weak communications means within and between the Red Cross branches, this component was missing. This programme will help the Red Cross to add the missing component, enabling at least 60 per cent of the branches to use it, to consolidate the existing disaster management branch network and to strengthen cooperation both within the National Society and with external partners. Due to the restructuring of the Department of Emergency Situations, the Moldova Red Cross sees the need to establish new partnerships with state authorities in order to be included in the national disaster response plan.

**Component outcome 2:** The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened.

Under this component the society will ensure that at least 70 per cent of Red Cross staff and volunteers at national and branch levels are trained in logistics, needs assessment, emergency planning, and reporting at two workshops, are prepared to provide effective response to disasters and to organize public awareness campaigns about potential risks in disaster-prone areas.

Also, the National Society will ensure adequate and appropriate stocks of relief items to meet the needs of 500 persons affected by disasters.

#### Programme component 2: Community preparedness

**Component outcome 1:** Communities are better informed and prepared to act effectively in case of disasters.

This component will enable the Moldova Red Cross to raise public awareness of hazards and increase community disaster preparedness/ disaster response capacity in the most disaster-prone areas through information campaigns and community-based disaster preparedness activities. The National Society will support communities in setting up information stands, will develop, print and disseminate disaster preparedness posters/ booklets for people living in the most disaster-prone areas, will organize awareness campaigns jointly with other Red Cross programmes (first aid, organizational development, youth, humanitarian values) devoted to the launch of the World Disasters Report and the World Day of Disaster Risk Reduction.

### Programme component 3: Disaster response

**Component outcome 1:** The nutritional and hygiene status of people affected by disasters and their access to quality social services is improved.

This component will enable the National Society to secure access to minimum energy/ dietary and hygiene requirements for some 2,500 vulnerable people affected by socio-economic crisis, as well as PLHIV and TB clients.

#### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The disaster management programme will target residents of high-risk communities, people affected by man-made and natural disasters, elderly people living alone and people with disabilities through providing them with nutritional support. Residents of high-risk communities will get information on and become better prepared for disasters. The National Society's staff and volunteers will increase their skills and capacities in disaster management.

#### c) Potential risks and challenges

The main risks and challenges related to this component are common to all aspects of Moldova Red Cross work. Without consistent support, the National Society is unable to provide consistent service to the most vulnerable, nor to grow as an auxiliary to its government.

## Health and Care

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

#### Programme purpose

The health status of the population of vulnerable groups in Moldova has been improved.

The health and care programme budget is CHF 239,776 (USD 219,174 or EUR 152,724).

#### Programme component 1: Improved Visiting Nurses Service

**Component outcome 1:** The capacity of the communities' visiting nurses service to provide socio-medical assistance to vulnerable people has increased.

Based on the experience from previous years, the Moldova Red Cross will continue to provide vital assistance to vulnerable groups through 14 medico-social centres throughout the country. They will offer psychosocial consultation; medical check-ups; supply of prescription medicine; distribution of second-hand clothes; home care and awareness-raising on health issues. Jointly with the Association of Disabled People and the regional departments of social protection, the centres will run clubs for elderly people living alone to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and other holidays.

In addition, jointly with social workers, actions directed to help elderly people living alone, many of whom are bedridden and live with disabilities, will be organized.

Red Cross volunteers will regularly collect and distribute clothes for vulnerable people in schools and colleges. These actions will contribute not only to assist the vulnerable but also to promote humanitarian values and principles among the younger generation and to attract new volunteers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

#### Programme component 2: HIV and AIDS

**Component outcome 1:** The level of HIV transmission amongst various target groups is decreased due to public awareness and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross.

**Component outcome 2:** The National Society capacities in reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV are strengthened.

This component will enable the National Society to address the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the areas of prevention, harm reduction, stigma and discrimination. Due to previous projects in the area of HIV prevention and harm reduction, the society has gained a good reputation for providing effective and relevant support through running its syringe exchange centres.

The Red Cross will train volunteers from 20 branches of Moldova through peer education training sessions on basic knowledge on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and AIDS and prevention, drug addiction, related complications and dangers. During the sessions, volunteers will hold discussions on healthy ways of living and on the response to discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV.

Booklets on safe sex and dictionaries on sexual health will be developed, printed and distributed among Red Cross volunteers, students, schoolchildren and young people.

### **Programme component 3: Avian Flu Preparedness**

**Component outcome 1:** The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened.

Under this component the Moldova Red Cross will train and mobilize volunteers for public education, dissemination campaigns in target districts to promote greater awareness about avian influenza and reinforce general hygiene messages and safe poultry farming and handling practices. For dissemination of the campaign messages, the volunteers will organize public gatherings or make household visits to the families with backyard farms and organize public awareness events on avian influenza in selected districts. With the involvement of Red Cross youth members and volunteers they will provide technical support and information, education and communication (IEC) materials to the provincial Red Cross branches to complement their ongoing avian influenza dissemination activities in the communities; and organizing PR activities on avian influenza prevention (radio-quizzes, TV spots on central/ local TV and radio spots).

#### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The youth and community volunteers will be trained as peer educators for target groups, developing different types of communication materials on HIV transmission and prevention, advocating and mobilizing the public against stigma, encouraging the involvement of people living with HIV and promoting the partnership of local communities.

Working towards building the coping capacities of the community and PLHIV and also identifying orphans and vulnerable children with the objective of developing appropriate care and support are also included in the care and support intervention.

The target group of the HIV and AIDS project has been selected according to the current progress of the HIV epidemics in Moldova, which shows that HIV affects not only traditional youth groups at high risk, such as unemployed youth, orphaned children, unaccompanied and street children, but proves to be spreading rapidly among the general young population as statistics report an increased percentage of heterosexual HIV-transmission<sup>3</sup>.

The beneficiaries of the avian flu component are people from rural areas, farmers from disaster-prone areas, Red Cross staff and volunteers.

#### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The main risks and challenges are financial and organizational – this component depends on external support and improved organizational capacity.

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<sup>3</sup> Republic of Moldova National Centre of Preventive Medicine

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

#### Programme purpose

The capacity of the Moldova Red Cross to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable people is strengthened.

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget is CHF 161,153 (USD 147,306 or EUR 102,645).

#### Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.

**Component outcome 1:** The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened

This component will insure the revision of the current management systems and procedures (e.g. data, finance and human resource management); the development of a mid-term capacity building plan to improve management at headquarters and branch level; adoption and use of new systems and procedures; support to the National Society leadership and management in the day-to-day management of the society; training for the Red Cross staff and volunteers at headquarters and key branches (teamwork, organizational culture, planning processes, management, fund-raising, volunteering, PR and media, and reporting).

#### Programme component 2: Developing a nation-wide coverage of grass-roots units and services.

**Component outcome 1:** Branches and units are supported with a suitable volunteer policy and simple volunteer management procedures

Under this component the Moldova Red Cross will build a broader volunteer system and improve volunteer management, will ensure the integration of youth staff and volunteers at all levels and in programme management. It will develop modern resource mobilization techniques to sustain Red Cross structures and programmes (medico-social centres/ visiting nurses service) and to decrease dependence on external funding. Further strengthening of material and technical base at branch level is also envisaged (basic furniture and equipment).

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

In the secretariat-supported organizational development programme the direct beneficiaries are the National Society staff, volunteers, members of the headquarters and regional branches, and through them, the local communities.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

This component is key to making other aspects of the plan workable. If support is not forthcoming from the ICB then other elements of Moldova Red Cross work are jeopardized.

## Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

#### Programme purpose

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

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 171,432 (USD 156,702 or EUR 109,192).

## **Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values**

**Component outcome 1:** Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values are increased.

The Moldova Red Cross will raise awareness of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through countrywide youth workshops, summer camps and youth events. The activities will aim not only to attract youth volunteers to the Movement but also to encourage youth to act as agents of positive change and to promote humanity, tolerance and philanthropy. Art and literature competitions and actions to assist elderly people will help youth to comprehend, reflect on, and apply the topic in their daily lives. In addition, the round-table meetings and education sessions will offer young people the opportunity to express their own opinions and develop public speaking skills. The programme will help the local branches mobilize and retain new volunteers, who will be involved in health related peer education and public awareness programmes.

**Component outcome 2:** The level of tolerance and respect for marginalized groups is increased in Moldova.

The Moldova Red Cross will disseminate the principles of humanity by organizing meetings for young people, designated to educate and actively promote tolerance and respect towards marginalized groups (e.g. elderly people, people living with HIV and TB, unemployed people, people with disabilities, and members of minority groups); to involve PLHIV in various activities (based on the experiences gained through the programme *Youth against HIV and AIDS*) and to organize activities fostering the public's accepting attitudes towards people PLHIV.

## **Programme component 2: Combating trafficking**

**Component outcome 1:** Vulnerable communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent trafficking.

**Component outcome 2:** Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat trafficking are strengthened.

Trafficking in human beings still remains a very acute problem for the Republic of Moldova. More than half a million of the population left for abroad as working migrants, forced from their homeland by the difficult socio-economical situation the country is facing.

In accordance with the policy of the International Federation, the Moldova Red Cross signed a cooperation agreement with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and has taken a range of actions targeting prevention and overcoming of trafficking and its consequences.

The core elements of the programme will focus on disseminating information materials to target groups; increasing awareness of the risks of being trafficked; reducing stigma towards trafficked people; and providing training to volunteers that will enable them to carry out dissemination activities among target groups.

### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The programme will target young people, community members, teachers, schoolchildren, students, and the general public.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The problem in Moldova is so vast and far-reaching that investment in Moldova Red Cross branch capacities has to be made for this element of the plan to succeed.

# Role of the secretariat

## **a) Technical programme support**

The International Federation, through its representation in Kiev, regional representation in Moscow and zone office in Budapest will assist the Moldova Red Cross in strengthening its capacities to deliver high-quality services to the people in need. A number of workshops and training sessions will be organized by the International Federation, and the Federation representation will continue to add value by assisting with continuously-improving reports and relationships with the zone office, the government and donors.

The International Federation also provides the Red Cross with information on major donors and available funding in the country, initiatives undertaken by other NGOs and UN agencies, as well as government policies on health and disaster management. The Moldova Red Cross will need direct technical support to apply for and manage any funding received through these mechanisms.

## **b) Partnership development and coordination**

Alongside the overall support to the existing portfolio of programmes included in this plan, the representation will continue to facilitate partnerships with specific groups of National Societies, government structures and external humanitarian organizations, as well as supporting bilateral initiatives through its coordination functions. Special emphasis will be placed on forging operational alliances with external partners working in Moldova and Moldovan groups overseas.

In its partnership development and coordination effort the International Federation promotes coherent and unified programming by various partners in Moldova, firmly based on the National Society plans and priorities. Effective coordination with partners in programme planning and implementation will eventually result in maximizing the resources available for Moldova Red Cross programmes, improving the relevance and efficiency of activities, as well as the impact on beneficiaries.

## **c) Representation and Advocacy**

International representation and advocacy will be grouped around the zone office in Budapest, with active involvement of the offices in Moscow, Kiev and Minsk – using the Federation diplomatic status agreements to network with the international community and raise the profile of the Red Cross.

It is intended that the Federation representation with governments, donor missions, banks, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations will lead to new funding opportunities and influence policies for enhancing Moldova Red Cross programming and capacity building. All agree that Moldova faces many more significant humanitarian challenges than other countries in the Europe zone, and that the National Society is possibly one of the weakest and least-organized. This means that the New Operating Model of closer relationships and assistance for the society is highly appropriate. However, proactive fund-raising must be undertaken by the International Federation's representation – in close collaboration with the National Society – in order to assist the society to react and respond when disasters strike and as more people are pushed into vulnerability by the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic situation.

# Promoting gender equity and diversity

In August 2006, the government of Moldova adopted a national plan for promoting gender equality in society for 2006-2009. Objective four of the plan addresses the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, to be realized through improving the legislative and regulating frameworks, developing the capacities of institutional structures to combat domestic violence, developing services for assisting both the victims of domestic violence and the abusers, and finally preventing domestic violence.

Nevertheless, the financial resources for these activities are not clearly stated, and the plan only refers to the state budget. In line with the national plan, the Red Cross will secure equal participation of women and men through appropriate information and publicity material, in the design of key project

activities and access to the opportunities they offer. An appropriate male/ female balance will be also sought in the project management structure and the activities themselves.

## Quality, accountability and learning

The Moldova Red Cross has full time staff and management at national and regional levels, temporary hired personnel for separate projects and also trained and qualified volunteers.

The Moldova Red Cross also has a transparent reporting system both for projects and programme activities. The projects personnel write mid-term (monthly, quarterly) narrative and financial reports. Mid-term evaluation meetings among project management staff as well as external consultants are carried out as part of various projects. Staff regularly meets with the partners, mass media and beneficiaries.

The development of community-based initiatives involving young people, as well as applying social inclusion and empowerment approaches to older people, will contribute to increasing the financial sustainability of Red Cross activities and the self-reliance of the National Society.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
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