

Mid-Year report



Albania

Appeal No. MAAAL002

31 August 2010

This report covers the period
1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010



Relief distribution in Livadhe suburb of Shkodra. Photo: Albanian Red Cross

In brief

Programme Purpose: In line with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Strategy 2020 the aim of the Federation supported programmes in Albania is to *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; and to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.*

Disaster preparedness and response remains the priority area of the National Society. The work focuses on implementing its disaster preparedness and response plan at local level in line with the national disaster management plan. Moreover, increasing awareness of the public at large, of the government and non-governmental institutions to disaster preparedness and risk reduction make this another important element of the National Society programming, using vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) exercises. All activities are to further improve the operational capacities of the Albanian Red Cross to effectively respond to cases of disaster.

Programme(s) summary: No activity in any of the Federation supported programmes has taken place. For most of the year no funding channelled through the Federation was available and the Albanian Red Cross has been active in seeking other sources of funding, partners and opportunities. In late May some funding was provided by the Norwegian Red Cross through the Federation, earmarked for Disaster management activities. The national Society is currently preparing plan of action that will outline the activities in this area.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 50,000, of which CHF 41,301 (83%) covered during the reporting period. Expenditure against budget was zero. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also [Albania country plan for 2010-2011](#)

No. of people we have reached: N/A

Our partners: The Norwegian Red Cross provided funds for the Disaster Management activities

that will take place in the second part of the year.

Context

The political situation in Albania has been influenced by the economic crisis. In May tens of thousands people protested in capitol, Tirana, requesting from the government a partial recount of an election the opposition claimed involving vote-rigging. The effects of the economic crisis are felt in the country with consumer goods prices going up and the salaries failing to follow appropriately.

Though improvements in living standards have happened in the recent years, there are three sources of inequities which still remain; these are income levels, rural/urban spread and gender inequalities. In transforming from a centralized economy in a rigid communist state to a free market economy in a democratic republic, Albania's people, and particularly its poor people, have paid a price. Despite the economy's growth in recent years, almost 24 per cent of the population lives below the poverty level of USD 2 a day. The poorest of the poor, who comprise about 5 per cent of the population struggle to put adequate food on the table each day.

Heavy floods happening at the beginning of the year demanded Red Cross response. Albanian Red Cross launched emergency response operation, supported by the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, providing assistance to some 2,200 families in food, hygiene items, mattresses etc. The detailed report can be found here:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAL002dfr.pdf>

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose:

Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1: Organisational preparedness

Outcome: Strengthened human capacities both at central and branch level for more effective disaster management.

Programme component 2: Community preparedness

Outcome: Improved self-resilience of individuals and communities reducing their vulnerabilities to public health and emergencies

No activities have taken place since the funding arrived only late in the period. Plan of action for the second half of the year is in preparation.

Constraints or Challenges: Very limited funding.

Health and Care

Programme purpose:

To reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

Outcome: Increased public awareness on non-remunerated blood donation through development of youth club 25.

Programme component 2: Maternal, newborn and child health

Outcome: Improved knowledge of the targeted groups on reproductive health, mother and child care and personal hygiene through health education courses.

Programme component 3: Social support for children and elderly people

Outcome: Improved health and social conditions among vulnerable children and elderly people with no family support.

Achievements: No funding for this activity

Organizational Development/ Capacity Building

Programme purpose

To increase local community, civil society and Albanian Red Cross capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component: National Society volunteering development

Outcome: Improved volunteer management system at branch level and the involvement of youth volunteers in decision making is increased

Achievements: No funding for this activity.

Working in partnership

N/A

Contributing to longer-term impact

N/A

Looking ahead

N/A

How we work	
<i>All Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i>	
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.
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