

# Annual report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Albania

Appeal No. MAAAL002

30 April 2011

This report covers the period from 1 January 2010  
to 31 December 2010.



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

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** 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:** Limited funding meant that only activities in the Disaster Management programme were taking place, while the other programmes are to be implemented as soon as support is ensured. Albanian Red Cross has been active in seeking other sources of funding, partners and opportunities.

Within the Disaster Management programme, a project focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction was started by forming national level team, as well as training local level trainers. Workshops to determine main national level priorities as well as to discuss local level risks and capacities were held with participation of 719 people.

**Financial situation:** The total 2010 budget is CHF 77,706 of which CHF 43,008 (55 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 43,008.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

See also *Albania country plan for 2010-2011*

No. of people we have reached:

January – December 2010 – Albania		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Community representatives/ representatives of authorities	719
Total number of people reached		719

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

## 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 and the end of the year demanded Red Cross response. Albanian Red Cross launched emergency response operations, 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 for the first operation can be found here: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAL002dfr.pdf>

and the information on the second one here:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAL003do.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

A team composed of the national Disaster Management Programme coordinator, Volunteer Management coordinator and Health Coordinator was set up at the Albanian Red Cross

Headquarters to organise and develop the workshops at national and local level, as well as to monitor group discussion at community level. The team communicated with the Directorate for Civil Emergency in the Ministry of Interior and it was jointly agreed to involve 9 Districts in the project (one more than originally planned). Some criteria used for the selection of communities are as follows:

- Frequent disasters affecting the districts,
- Not involved in previous similar projects,
- Geographical diversity.

The districts involved in the project are: Shkodra, Puka, Kukes, Librazhd, Korca, Fier, Vlora, Gjirokastera and Permet.

With help of the Directorate an information letter was sent to the Head of the involved districts inviting them to cooperate with their Red Cross Branches to identify two most risk-prone Communities in their respective administrative divisions.

In October a two day workshop in Tirana was organised with participation of three representatives from each district (Head of Civil Emergency office, Fire Brigade unit and Secretary of Red Cross Branch). Also, two representatives from the Directorate of Civil emergency and one representative from UNDP covering disasters participated making the total of 29 participants.

The project team used the workshop to make a presentation of the Disaster Risk Reduction project and activities planned for raising the awareness of the communities, while the other representatives presented their involvement in this project. The conclusion of the discussions was that there is a need to improve the legislation, more specifically to adapt the Law on Civil Emergency which focuses mostly on response activities into a Law on Disaster Risk Reduction with more focus on prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities.

The second step was identifying two representatives of each community in the selected districts, keeping the gender balance (one man, one woman). These community representatives, along with the representatives of Communities' Authorities participated in two local workshops organised by the Albanian Red Cross in November, taking place in Shkodra and Fier. 31 people participated In the Shkodra workshop and 29 in Fier, while the topics were:

- Briefing on the Red Cross mission focusing on the Albanian Red Cross Disaster management programme but covering other programmes like health, youth, first aid etc.
- Guidelines for public awareness education for disaster risk reduction
- Adult learning principles
- How to make a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

The workshops were structured so that the 16 representatives of the eight communities would act as community level trainers, so following the workshops these 16 were tasked with preparing and organising discussion meetings in their respective communities. In this work, they were supported by secretaries of their respective Albanian Red Cross branches as well as local Government. The communities where the meetings have been subsequently organised to discuss risk reduction and public awareness are the following:

- Librazhd district : Qukes and Polis community
- Kukes District : Lagje e re and Shtiqlen Community
- Fier district : Levan and Ferras
- Korca district : Pirq and Sheqera
- Gjirokastra district : Libohove and Dropull i Siperm
- Puka district : Iballe and Puka town
- Permet district: Piskove and Permet town.
- Vlora district: Novosela and Selenica.
- In Shkodra district due to the severe floods at the end of November (the response operation is still underway), the community meeting was not organised. Shkodra Red

Cross branch is involved in the response operation and large parts of Shkodra district have been isolated by or are still under water.

The participants of these meetings were men and women from risky areas, teachers and pupils, nurses and doctors as well as representatives of local authorities, community and municipality. The total of all participants in all the meetings is 630 people. The meetings were facilitated by the trainers trained in the mentioned workshops, supported by the secretaries of the Red Cross branches and monitored by the three project coordinators from the Albanian Red Cross headquarters. The topics discussed in these meetings were:

- Short information about the Albanian Red Cross activities, national and local
- Disaster Management programme,
- Relation/ formula between risk/ disaster, vulnerability and capacity
- Group discussions among the participants about:
  - risks threatening their communities,
  - the impact on the most affected groups,
  - involvement of the local institutions and the community involvement to prevent, mitigate and respond effectively to the situation.

30,000 leaflets and 2000 posters with Disaster Risk Reduction information were printed to be used as promotional and educational material at local level. A 15 minutes promotional/ educational video was produced and will broadcast in the upcoming months during the activities with different communities.

#### **Achievements:**

The Albanian Red Cross has initiated the top level and local level discussion about Disaster Risk Reduction. The overall conclusion is that the changes in legislation are necessary and this will be the focus of the future efforts.

A team of local level Disaster Risk Reduction trainers has been formed and prepared for the activities leading to local level discussion on risks capacities for prevention, mitigation and response to disasters. These 16 people are the asset that will carry the work in the next phases of the project.

#### **Constraints or Challenges:**

Due to the flood happening in Shkoder since November 2010, two community discussions in Communities of Dajc and Obot (two areas affected by the flood) planned for December have not taken place. The funds planned to be spent for these activities are 3000 CHF

Due to the heavy involvement in relief operation in Shkodra the Albanian Red Cross did not manage to carry out the evaluation of the activities done so far in the Disaster Risk Reduction project. The funds planned to be spent for this activity are approximately 1000 CHF.

## **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

<b><i>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></b>	
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"><li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li><li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li><li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li></ol>
<b>Contact information</b>	
For further information specifically related to this report, please contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the Albanian Red Cross Society: Zamir Muca, Secretary General; phone: +355 42 25855 or 57532; and fax:+355 42 25855; email: <a href="mailto:zmuca@kksh.org.al">zmuca@kksh.org.al</a>;</li><li>• In the Europe Zone Office: Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: <a href="mailto:elias.ghanem@ifrc.org">elias.ghanem@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516</li></ul>	