

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Serbia

Appeal No. MAARS001

30 April 2011

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



Red Cross of Serbia volunteer in a promotional action related to voluntary blood donation among young adults. Photo: Red Cross of Serbia

In brief

Programme purpose: All programmes and activities of the Red Cross of Serbia are aligned and contribute to the Global Agenda goals and Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people through disaster management, health and care, organizational development, and focus on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Programme summary: The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross of Serbia its efforts to provide efficient and quality services to the most vulnerable groups within following programmes:

- **Disaster management** (In addition to the ongoing preparedness activities, dealing with coordination among stakeholders at local level, the Federation provided support for activities aimed at people affected by severe floods.)
- **Health and care** (The focus is on HIV and AIDS as well as Voluntary Blood Donation activities.)
- **Organizational development** (The focus is on developing sustainable systems, procedures and increasing the staff's capacities.)
- **Principles and values** (Work with vulnerable populations on their strengthening and integration, as well as advocacy: vulnerable Roma children, young people living with disabilities, older vulnerable people.)

Limited funding dictates that some of the activities have to be postponed until there are means to implement them. The International Federation continues to support the National Society in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 was CHF 754,722 of which 87% was covered. The total expenses amounted to CHF 599,259 which is approximately 79% of the budget. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

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

No. of people we help: A total of 5,370 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes. Another 15,150 have been assisted through emergency Response activities funded through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

| January – December 2010 - Serbia | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Programme | Target groups | People reached |
| Disaster Management | First responders, school students | 348 |
| Health and Care | HIV and AIDS, Blood Donation | 152 |
| Organizational Development | N/A | 0 |
| Humanitarian Values | Vulnerable people, RC staff and volunteers, youth | 4870 |
| Total number of people reached | | 5370 |

Our partners: Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development contributed as a multilateral donor. Danish and Spanish Red Cross societies have contributed as bilateral donors on programmes coordinated by the Federation. Two ministries were programme partners and some 30 local governments and services were active as partners.

Context

The economy in Serbia has experienced modest growth in 2010 with Gross Domestic Product increasing by 1.8%. This is by far the slowest growth since 2000 and the reflection of the effect that global economic crisis is having on the country. Accompanied with rising unemployment which increased to 20 percent since last year's 18.8 and the steady inflation reaching to eleven percent by the end of the year (as opposed to eight percent planned by the National Bank), the standard of living in Serbia has been stagnating. The number of people living below the poverty line has actually increased for the first time since 2000 and is now 9.5 percent.

The stagnating economy has been kept afloat through credit arrangements with the International Monetary Fund; however this arrangement also includes an agreement to reduce public spending which will be acquired through downsizing the public sector. The exact number of people who will be out of work in the next six to eighteen months is still unknown, but if the estimates of needs (reducing public sector by 20%) are to be believed, tens of thousands will be let go.

On the political front, the tense situation related to Kosovo has been maintained with some instances of violence in the northern part in early summer. The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence – that the International law was not broken – influenced the decision making in the region so representatives of Serbia and Kosovo authorities have started regular discussions on technical topics in the second half of the year. The outcome of these discussions is too early to foresee.

Serbia is still host to the largest body of displaced people in Europe with approximately 86,000 refugees (three quarters of them from Croatia and another quarter from Bosnia and Herzegovina) and another 206,000 internally displaced people from Kosovo still looking for long term solutions. While with Bosnia and Herzegovina most of the property issues have been solved, the same is not true for Croatia and Kosovo and housing is still a serious issue for many in this population. Approximately 5,000 displaced still live in collective centres and approximately 40% of people living under the poverty line are refugees or internally displaced people.

Roma people – particularly children – and older people living alone or in couples are still among the most vulnerable groups in the country, the second group especially affected by the arrangement with IMF as the planned increase of pensions for this year seems to be off the cards.

Heavy rain resulted in floods in Serbia in spring and late autumn, so the Red Cross responded with the assistance of the International Federation and financial support provided through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency fund. 3150 people in spring and another 4000 in fall/ winter were assisted through DREF supported operations. More details can be found at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRS003dfr.pdf>

and

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRS005do.pdf>

A devastating earthquake (5.4 on the Richter scale) hit the area around the town of Kraljevo on 3 November causing significant property damage and putting thousands of people and their homes in jeopardy. The Red Cross of Serbia, with the International federation's support launched a response and recovery operation, backed by an Emergency Appeal, which is still underway. More details at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRS004EA.pdf>

and

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRS004ou1.pdf>

and

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRS004ou2.pdf>

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Disaster management

Programme purpose

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

This programme focuses on strengthening local and national disaster response mechanisms, contingency planning, risk reduction and community-based disaster preparedness and prevention.

Programme component 1: Disaster preparedness/ Municipal disaster preparedness

Component outcome 1: The capacity to be prepared for and respond to emergency situations at national and local level is increased, through better coordination of the work of all the stakeholders, leading to a reduced number of deaths, injuries and property damage.

During the reporting period four Municipal Disaster Preparedness project simulations took place in the municipalities of Smederevo, Trgovište, Priboj and Ljig with 68 participants between the local Red Cross representatives and representatives of other key players in local these communities (public services, local authorities...). In Smederevo, the simulation went beyond the tabletop exercise to include a field exercise, involving Fire brigade, police department of Smederevo, Emergency medical service and the local Red Cross branch. The field exercise was used to test the procedures and coordination in practice, using a simulation of fire in one elementary school in village close to Smederevo city. The simulated evacuation of 250 students went well and was covered by the local media. All local services taking part in the table top simulation were active in this field exercise as well.

One follow up meeting (after a simulation exercise) took place in the municipality of Trgovište, to gauge the effects of the exercise and check whether there has been a change of practices and procedures with participation of 14 community representatives.

Training was organised for 16 Mobile Technical Team/ Field Assessment Team members as well as five training facilitators, to enhance the response capacity of the National Society.

The Federation also supported the reconstruction of the Red Cross of Serbia warehouse space, adding training facilities to it so that now the National Society can rely on its own capacity for training people in Disaster Management.

The provincial Red Cross of the Vojvodina province has partnered with the Vojvodina Province authorities on a Disaster Preparedness project that will be supported with IPA funds. The Federation provided some support in drafting the project and the implementation (that will last 16 months) is scheduled to start in the third quarter. The total value of the project is approximately 300,000 € and it focuses on flood rescue and the formation of a protection mechanism for the civilian population and resources. The activities will include acquisition of equipment, training of responders and development of cooperation between different services as well as educative and training activities for teachers, students and young people. The Federation will be involved with the training activities for the selected municipalities. The national society will be managing (and storing) the disaster response equipment bought through the project, delivering training in coordination and cooperation in disasters to the selected municipalities and delivering training in schools.

Component outcome 2: National disaster management bodies are formed with the role of the Red Cross at national and local levels recognized and officially defined.

Although the new law regulating Disaster Management in Serbia was adopted at the end of 2009, national disaster management bodies have not been formed yet. Bylaws planned to be adopted in the six-month transitional phase between adoption of the law in the Parliament and its full functionality are still either discussed or in preparation and therefore the whole process is slightly delayed. However the National Training Centre for Disaster Management has been formed in January and is at the time situated in the premises of the Red Cross of Serbia which facilitates day to day contact and future joint planning of different activities in Disaster Management training.

Programme component 2: Risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Risk-prone areas within five highly disaster-prone municipalities are mapped, identifying risks and capacities. The data collected is further presented in the form of GIS, an additional tool for disaster management at municipal level.

Component outcome 2: The safety of schoolchildren in ten municipalities is increased through education on hazards and the promotion of safety procedures in emergency situations.

No funding available for these activities.

Achievements

Four communities have, as a result of MDP project simulation exercises, increased the quality of their local coordination in disasters by identifying gaps and creating better mechanisms. The Red Cross role in these communities has been recognised and defined better and the links with the key players are now tighter.

The capacity of the Red Cross of Serbia to respond to large scale disasters has been enhanced through training of new members of Field Assessment and Mobile Technical teams.

Constraints or challenges

Due to absence of funds the Federation was forced to severely reduce planned activities and postpone other activities indefinitely. The national society has, with Federation's assistance developed relationships with governmental actors (Provincial Authorities in Vojvodina Province, National Training Centre for Disaster Management) and is currently working in close coordination with them, adapting its practices to the situation but maintaining its priorities.

Health and care

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The National Society through advocacy and promotional activities addresses the general public in relation to HIV and other public health threats.

Programme component 1: Health promotion with focus on HIV

Component outcome 1: The national HIV and AIDS database (CRIS system) is updated and maintained through the collection of data on activities at local level, using the resources of the Red Cross of Serbia and serving as a basis for coordination of HIV activities nationwide.

Component outcome 2: HIV awareness is increased among high school students.

Due to the limited funding only one activity was supported through the annual plan, a training workshop (fourth in the series started with Federation support in the previous years) for 24 Red Cross of Serbia volunteers. This was a final workshop in the series, covering the remaining 12 municipalities (Stari grad, Zvezdara, Savski venac, Čukarica, Rakovica, Novi Beograd, Mladenovac, Aranđelovac, Valjevo, Požarevac, Šabac and Loznica), facilitated and coordinated by volunteers for volunteers with the aim being training a number of volunteers in each municipality to advocate on behalf of the people living with HIV and educate their peers on all the topics related to HIV, AIDS, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases as well as stigma related to HIV and AIDS. The workshop was using all the methodology and material used previously in the series (interactive method, video material produced by the Red Cross of Serbia volunteers, presence of a person living with HIV) and the Red Cross of Serbia filmed the proceedings in order to create a video guide for training.

Programme component 2: Voluntary blood donation: Youth club 25

Component outcome 1: The number of young people who have donated blood 20 to 25 times by the age of 25 is increased raising the percentage of blood donors among the general population to reach the target of 4 per cent.

Limited funding allowed for support to founding of three new Youth Clubs 25 in the municipalities of Šabac, Gadžin Han and Paraćin which amounted to 128 new regular blood donors. These clubs work with young people (below 25), educating them and encouraging them to regularly donate blood in order to reach the number of 20 to 25 donations between the ages of 18 and 25. A workshop was organised for the new Club 25 members from these three municipalities, as well as from Kikinda, Šabac, Stari grad, Kraljevo, Kragujevac, Niš, Čičevac and Čačak, 35 participants in all, trained to further promote the initiative in their respective communities. Promotional and educational material was also produced and distributed to all the Club 25 members in Serbia (400 T-shirts, 15,000 leaflets and 15,000 bookmarks).

Achievements

HIV awareness is increased among the high school students in another 12 municipalities in Serbia through training of young people for advocacy and peer education. Additionally, the methodology of training is now well practised through repeated workshops with video props and participatory philosophy and the National Society is preparing to produce a video guide that can be used at local level to independently organise similar workshops without the need for central support.

The number of new regular blood donors has increased by 128 and they are actively engaged with the Red Cross through repeated Youth Club 25 activities.

Constraints or challenges

Very limited funding allowed for only small scope activities.

Organizational development

Programme purpose

Increase the Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1: Improvement of public image and public relations

Component outcome 1: The National Society has developed a systematic promotion procedure relying on ongoing activities and contacts with the media

Programme component 2: Development of a well-functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with the desired level of managerial and technical competencies.

Component outcome 1: The National Society has undertaken a capacity/ needs survey and has based its strategic planning on the results.

The funding for this section was extremely limited and the only activity supported focused on strengthening the capacity of the governing structure through producing a guidebook on Red Cross principles and practices and distributing it among the members of the Red Cross boards. It is a repeated observation at all levels that board members lack sufficient knowledge and motivation necessary to guide the organisation so this is a step towards mitigating this situation.

Humanitarian values

Programme purpose

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

Programme component 1: Home care programme

Component outcome 1: Empowered local communities working through the Red Cross branches identify and provide services to vulnerable older people, advocating for their rights and providing them with assistance and support to maintain the dignity of their lives in their own homes.

Component outcome 2: The coordination between stakeholders is improved and the use of capacities and resources becomes more efficient.

Component outcome 3: The Red Cross is leading the advocacy efforts in the area of health and social protection of older people, contributing to their social security, reducing discrimination, neglect and abuse. The older people themselves are actively participating in planning and implementing the activities.

Funding for this section was very limited and was used to support the activities related to training for Red Cross of Serbia branches to apply for municipal governments' funding in the area of social welfare services. Two two-day workshops were organised at the end of the year for the representatives of 53 municipal branches of the Red Cross of Serbia – mostly branches that have continued implementing the Home Care programme after the withdrawal of international donors. 55 staff and volunteers from these organisations were trained by experts from the Republic Institute for Social Protection with the curriculum tailor made for local level humanitarian and charity organisations (NGOs and Red Cross branches). The training provided the Red Cross branches with knowledge and skills necessary to compete for funds and projects that will be available at local level through local authorities once the new Law on Social Protection is adopted (2011, most probably) and licensing and subcontracting of non governmental actors for social protection becomes legal and common practice.

Programme component 2 : Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from marginalized families/ Work with young people living with disabilities

Component outcome 1: The education and social participation of Roma children and children with disabilities has been improved through continued work with 500 Roma children and children with disabilities as well as their families.

Component outcome 2: The number of Roma children from camp Konik enrolling in primary school and completing basic education, is increased.

Joint programme for Inclusion

The programme is run in Serbia and Montenegro in parallel, managed by a team and with largely the same activities. In Serbia, the Joint programme for Inclusion was implemented in 30 municipalities targeting 1,121 vulnerable Roma children, in 12 municipalities targeting 993 pupils – peers of vulnerable Roma pupils and in 30 municipalities targeting 689 children and young people with disabilities.

The Joint programme for inclusion in Serbia was successfully implemented in this reporting period thanks to the hard work 401 Red Cross volunteers, 197 Red Cross employees and staff on loan, nearly 102 associates from partners' organisations and 41 supporters of other status involved in the programme implementation.

Vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities have actively participated in a great number of various Red Cross activities unrelated to the Joint programme for inclusion together with Red Cross volunteers and other children, which is beneficial in the light of inclusion. Examples of such activities include 'Race for happier childhood', activities implemented during the Children's Week and visits to the elderly citizens on the occasion of the World Day of Elderly Persons.

The second project activities cycle completed for vulnerable Roma children

The second project activities cycle for vulnerable Roma children was completed in August 2010, resulting in 275 children completing one year support through mentor classes, 125 children enrolling into the formal preschool institutions, 201 children enrolled into the first grade of elementary school and 442 children successfully passing to the next grade of elementary school. The following table provides an overview of main project results:

| | Project result | Serbia |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Vulnerable Roma children | Completed one year education support in mentor classes | 275 |
| | Enrolled into the formal preschool ¹ | 125 |
| | Enrolled into the first grade of elementary school | 201 |
| | Passed to the next grade of elementary school | 442 |
| Total: | | 1,043 |

Special attention was given to supporting the parents in fulfilling prerequisites and completing administrative procedures related to enrolment of the children into the first grade of elementary school.

The third project activities cycle started in September for vulnerable Roma children

In September 2010, new education groups were formed. The breakdown of beneficiaries in the new project cycle is as follows:

| Beneficiaries | Serbia |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mentor classes | 447 |
| Preschool preparatory programme | 119 |
| Homework support classes | 555 |
| Total number of children | 1,121 |
| Programme for parents | 578 |
| Total number of beneficiaries | 1,699 |

¹ In Serbia, the preschool preparatory programme is a compulsory step in education as a prerequisite for enrolment into the first grade of elementary school defined by the Law and conditioned with certificates issued by the public preschools. In Montenegro, the preschool preparatory programme is optional and certificates are not required for enrolment.

Key segments of service delivery for vulnerable Roma children included:

- **Mentor classes:** support to preschool children (age 3-6) to enrol into the formal preschool preparatory programme was implemented by 25 Red Cross branches encompassing 447 vulnerable Roma children in Serbia;
- **Preschool preparatory programme:** in communities where the capacities of formal preschool institutions or accessibility for vulnerable Roma children are limited, the Red Cross branches provided replacement programmes. This was done by 6 Red Cross branches encompassing 119 vulnerable Roma children in Serbia;
- **Homework support classes:** support to vulnerable Roma pupils in elementary school was provided by 22 RC branches encompassing 555 pupils in Serbia.
- **Programme for parents:** currently organised in the form of parents meetings and thematic workshops based on the local needs, this programme was implemented by 29 RC branches encompassing 578 parents in.

Implementation of Promotion of Human Values project fully operational in twelve municipalities in Serbia

As planned, twelve Red Cross branches have been implementing educational workshops for vulnerable Roma pupils and children with disabilities in elementary school and their peers, to facilitate their inclusion into the education system.

The project included 993 pupils in 38 classes from 23 schools. In this reporting period, 133 Red Cross youth volunteers supported by 68 teachers have carried out a total of 570 workshops for pupils and a great number of additional activities covering the topics of child rights, tolerance, personal and cultural identity and diversity, nonviolent conflict resolution, discrimination and stigmatization, gender equality and internet violence. The following table gives details:

| Beneficiaries | Serbia | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Pupils of Roma nationality | 78 | 78 |
| Peers of pupils of Roma nationality | 698 | 698 |
| Pupils with disabilities | 7 | 7 |
| Peers of pupils with disabilities | 210 | 210 |
| Total number of beneficiaries | 993 | 993 |

The share of pupils belonging to marginalised groups, pupils of Roma nationality and children with disabilities, who are included in the project is 8.57%. The share of vulnerable Roma children in eleven Red Cross branches that are targeting their peers through the project activities is 7.86%, while the share of pupils with disabilities in one Red Cross branch that is targeting their peers is 0.71%.

In 2010, the Red Cross of Serbia organised various summer schools for 499 children coming from 34 Red Cross branches using the funds raised through the sale of charity stamp during the Red Cross week in 2009.

Promotion of human values project has significant impact on developing compassion in children. Anecdotal examples includes launching of a local campaign to raise funds for purchase of a personal computer for a friend whose parents cannot afford it and collection of second-hand clothes for poor children among their peers.

Service delivery for children and young people with disabilities in progress

Key segments of service delivery for the vulnerable children and young people with disabilities included various activities in the form of interactive workshops aiming to:

- Stimulate social development and inclusion;
- Help beneficiaries acquire practical life skills;
- Stimulate intellectual development;
- Stimulate perception and fine motorics;
- Improve skills that are relevant for active job seeking; and
- Support the parents.

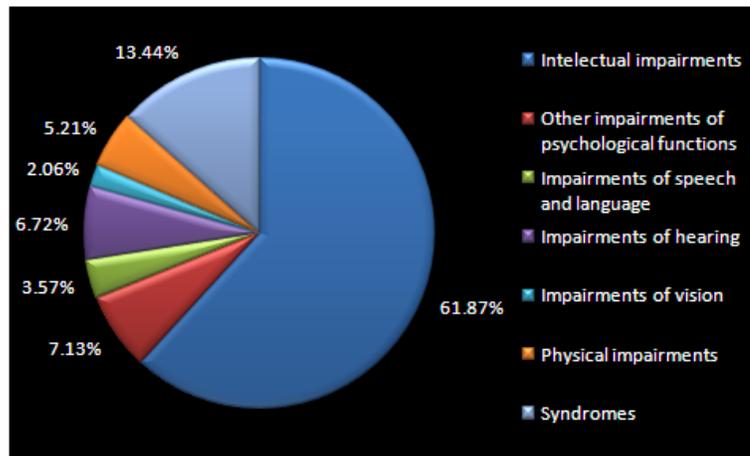
Here is an overview of the four segments of work with children and young people with disabilities:

- C/YPWD attending regular schools who are supported to complete primary and secondary education through the homework support classes (13.00% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- C/YPWD who attend schools for pupils with disabilities who are supported to complete primary and secondary education through the homework support classes (54.37% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- C/YPWD outside the education system who are supported to acquire compensatory education and life skills necessary to achieve appropriate level of independent functioning related to the present disability through various training programmes and workshops (28.25% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- YPWD on the job market who are supported to acquire job seeking skills through various training programmes and workshops (4.38% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project).

The current breakdown of beneficiaries of the project is as follows:

| Beneficiaries | Serbia |
|--|---------------|
| C/YPWD who attend regular schools | 91 |
| C/YPWD who attend schools for pupils with disabilities | 360 |
| C/YPWD outside the education system | 199 |
| YPWD on the job market | 39 |
| Total number of children | 689 |
| Programme for parents | 391 |
| Total number of beneficiaries | 1,080 |

The following graph shows the relative structure of impairments of children and young people with disabilities – beneficiaries of the project in Serbia:



It is rather interesting to point out that the work on developing employment related skills of the Red Cross Vrbas supported by their cooperation with the National Employment Agency resulted in having one young person with disability employed each month. Support provided by the Red Cross Kragujevac resulted in further extension of contracts for two persons with disability.

In addition to this, the beneficiaries of the programme were provided with meals during the activities, school material supplies and hygiene kits, as well as with New Year presents delivered by 'Santa Clause'.

Development

Preparations for launching of implementation of cooperation building workshops in Red Cross branches are completed. In Serbia, the process included:

- a kick-off meeting with representatives of 24 Red Cross branches to present the process and to develop and agree tentative plan of action;
- forming of five teams of trainers to assist the Red Cross branches in conducting of cooperation building workshops; and
- a refresher training for trainers.

Representatives of UNICEF and Pomoc Deci were invited to present their projects at the kick-off meeting with the aim to facilitate networking in the field.

Cooperation building workshops were organised in two municipalities of Serbia in this reporting period.

Knowledge sharing outside the country borders

A workshop was organised in Vrnjacka Banja in November in order to share knowledge and experiences, and improve the quality of work in the framework of the Promotion of Human Values project among representatives of the Red Cross of Serbia, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Spanish Red Cross. Special attention was given to the long term sustainability of the project.

Following the development of the concept paper for the Promotion of Human Values project for the Red Cross of Montenegro, a group of six representatives from Montenegro visited the Red Cross of Serbia in December to further learn about the project and its practical implementation in the field. A director of the Red Cross youth of the region of Asturias, Spain, presented the work of the Spanish Red Cross in this field.

Cooperation of the Red Cross with local institutions continues

Over the years of programme implementation, the established cooperation between the Red Cross branches and relevant local institutions and organisations has continued. The cooperation of the implementing Red Cross branches with the Roma health mediators has particularly strengthened in Serbia, which was facilitated by recommendations elaborated in the Standardisation paper.

Advocacy

Second series of short films about the Joint programme is under development

Initiated by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Belgrade, the production of the second promotional series of short films about the Joint programme in Serbia has started. The second series focuses on achievements in the programme and in this period, the synopsis for the episodes has been completed. Shooting of new episodes will be conducted in early 2011.

Informing the community – key prerequisite for inclusion

Info sessions on inclusion were organised by the implementing Red Cross branches in Serbia in order to better inform the Roma parents and sensitise the general public.

Aligning views on Advocacy

A brainstorming meeting was organised for the project team to align the views on Advocacy and define elements for the Guidelines for implementation. A general consensus was reached on high importance of advocacy component for the programme and focus on the long term achievements in this field. Concrete examples from the field, hands-on experiences and effective practices need to be identified and shared within the National Red Cross Societies. A draft guidelines containing definition of advocacy, objectives, tools and an outline of the process for implementation are under development.

Training on Public Relations and Lobbying for the project team members

Preparations for the organisation of an in-house training for eight project team members began in this implementation period. The training was planned to be conducted in end January 2011 and is seen as an asset in developing the advocacy platform for the Red Cross.

Local advocacy initiatives in continuum

A number of implementing Red Cross branches have carried out various events related to inclusion of marginalised groups drawing attention of general public, local institutions and media both in Serbia and in Montenegro. Examples include public exhibitions of children's artwork about children's rights in the Promotion of human values project during the Children's Week and a public photo exhibition with the slogan 'Tolerance is cool'.

Capacity Building

Roll out of standardized model of projects in progress

Five regional meetings were organised in Serbia to introduce the standards elaborated in the standardisation paper to the implementing Red Cross branches and launch their implementation. The two months adaptation phase started in November after which the close monitoring of the implementation and appropriate feedback to the implementing branches by the Red Cross of Serbia will be conducted. Only three Red Cross branches have withdrawn from the implementation of the programme lacking the capacity to fully implement the standards.

Revised monitoring tools fully in use

Following the recommendations of the Assessment of Monitoring and Evaluation Tools done in December 2009, a set of monitoring tools and reporting templates has been revised and improved. They have been in use in Serbia since February 2010.

Accreditation of the Promotion of Human Values – the second attempt

A new application for Accreditation of the Promotion of Human Values training programme for teachers has been prepared and submitted to the Agency for Improvement of Education ('Zavod za unapređivanje obrazovanja i vaspitanja') for their consideration in December. The feedback from the agency will be available in March 2011.

Social welfare strategy of the Red Cross of Serbia

The process of development of Social welfare strategy for the Red Cross of Serbia was initiated by setting of a meeting with all relevant programme managers of the Red Cross of Serbia and the representatives of the Danish Red Cross and the International Federation. An outline of the development process was prepared and put on the agenda of the Social welfare committee of the Red Cross of Serbia. Strong support from the senior management to develop the strategy is evident.

Preparations for the possible next phase

A meeting of senior managers of the Danish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation took place in November to prepare and make initial arrangements for a meeting of the Red Cross Family in order to align the views and conduct the preparations for the possible next phase of implementation of the Joint programme for Inclusion. The meeting of the Red Cross family will be hosted by the Federation Zone Office in Budapest in end of March 2011.

External financial review completed

External financial review has been completed in this implementation period. The review was conducted by BDO Auditing agency hired by the Swiss Cooperation Office. Audit reports have been issued for the International Federation, the Danish Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

VAT exemption resolved

The matter of VAT exemption has been resolved in this implementation period, both in Serbia and in Montenegro.

Achievements

The vulnerability of Roma children and young people living with disabilities is reduced through their systematic integration into the mainstream society, support in adopting necessary social skills and knowledge, as well as through continuing work with their families, peers and general population.

Constraints or challenges

There were slight deviations from the Plan of Action in implementation of some activities due to prioritisation to implement some joint activities. However, these will not jeopardise the final outcomes of the programme.

Working in partnership

The Red Cross of Serbia worked in partnership with the International Federation and received funds from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Federation secretariat plan. The National Society was supported bilaterally by the Danish Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The health and care programme is implemented through several partnerships at local level including local authorities, centres for social welfare, schools, Roma NGOs and pensioners' associations. At the national level HumanaS, the Pomoć deci NGO and UNICEF are partners contributing to the programme.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The work with vulnerable populations in Serbia through addressing health practices, access to health and social support institutions and education, and ensuring a community-wide response to needs, is in line with the International Federation's Global Agenda and its emphasis on preventing and reducing deaths, injuries and illnesses as well as the building of communities' capacities to combat their own vulnerability.

Programme components are compatible with local and regional initiatives such as The Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Poverty Reduction Strategies. Work towards disaster preparedness pursues the Global Agenda goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries and impact from disasters, a much needed endeavour in both countries as disasters seem to become more frequent.

All programmes have gender as an integrated and important component. Within disaster preparedness the psychosocial component puts special emphasis on gender to ensure that the needs of each family member are adequately assessed and met. In vocational training for refugees, professional training is provided to meet the needs of both genders. In health promotion gender balance is presented as one of the priorities resulting in projects addressing reproductive health as well as sexual hygiene and specific activities for target groups of both genders. In volunteering and youth activities the organizational development programme promotes humanitarian values through a young volunteer project with a clear gender focus.

Looking ahead

The Federation secretariat and the National Society work closely together on planning and implementing activities based on the strategic priorities of the National Society as well as the funding realities. As more of the programmes are taken over by the National Society such as home care, the International Federation focuses its capacities on those areas needing more development. A one-year contract was signed last year with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for a new implementation phase of the social welfare programme focusing on Roma children and children living with disabilities and will be renewed in autumn pending audit. Several other partners participated, including the Spanish Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross, and there is a possibility for extension to three or more years. Other programme activities depend on funding available such as USAID support to disaster management and the National Society priorities.

The National Society will continue to gradually expand its activities from exclusively being a provider of assistance to also being an advocate for the vulnerable, through its role as a partner and driving force behind processes of civil society building at both national and local levels.

| 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>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <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 nonviolence and peace. |
| Contact information | |

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Red Cross of Serbia:** Vesna Milenović, Secretary General; email: secretary@redcross.org.rs; +381 11 30 32 117; fax +381 11 634 348
- **In the Country Representation for Serbia and Montenegro:** Uroš Smiljanić, Head of Office; email: uros.smiljanic@ifrc.org; phone: +381 11 3282 202; fax: +381 11 3281 791
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516