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Europe Zone

A newsletter of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Contents

Editorial **2** / Responding to emergencies **3** / Past and future events **4-5** / Youth and migration - *special focus on youth* **6-10** / News from National societies **11-13** / Resource mobilisation **14**

Children of Kosovo refugees in Cegrane refugee camp, Macedonia 1997. Refugee children improvise toys as they await their return to Kosovo, Cegrane refugee camp, Macedonia.

World Refugee Day 2012: advocating for a true culture of inclusion

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International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Editorial

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Dear friends,
On 20 June every year, the world marks World Refugee Day. According to the UNHCR, every minute eight people across the world leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror, torn by the dilemma of staying and putting their lives at risk, or fleeing and risking the unpredictable.

The topic of migration – including forced migration - has been at the centre of the political debate of the last years in a variety of contexts, not least the Arab Spring last year, when thousands of people from north Africa and Middle East escaped from situations of chaos, internal instability, poverty and widespread violence, guided by the hope of a better future beyond the borders of their country.

Working for and with migrant people in situations of vulnerability across the world is one of the long-lasting traditions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Our mandate of addressing the humanitarian concerns of migrant people, clarified by the adoption of the Policy of Migration in 2009 and by the International Conference resolution of 2011 on “Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion”, remains to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need - irrespective of their legal status.

The topic of migration is also one of the commitments related to diversity and intercultural dialogue that Red Cross Red Crescent Societies made at the Vienna Conference in 2010, on whose progress we will have to report at the next European Conference in 2014.

Many well-established good practices exist today in Europe, which show National Societies' efforts not only to directly support migrant people with basic services, but also to advocate with decision-makers for the migrants' access to basic services, facilitate an enabling environment for their inclusion in the hosting communities and fight against xenophobia, prejudices and discrimination. This issue of the Newsletter will specifically focus on the actions that the Red Cross / Red Crescent youth across Europe are taking to address the humanitarian challenges faced by

migrant people as part of the commitments made in the Youth Declaration.

In the last two years, in **Sweden**, the Red Cross youth has intensified its humanitarian diplomacy efforts with national decision-makers and politicians to have the legislation changed and extend access to healthcare for undocumented migrants without discrimination. Youth volunteers are also involved in a number of activities with children of undocumented migrants living in Stockholm, including a playgroup as well as visits to museum and amusement parks.

In **Switzerland**, in September 2011, volunteers of the Red Cross Youth of the canton of Aargau started a long-term project called Sports Days with Refugees. Once a month, youth volunteers launch a game or an outdoor activity that brings together people living in asylum seekers' housing centers in the area, and then Swiss Red Cross Youth volunteers to compete together in different sports activities such as inline skating, volleyball and swimming.

In **Ukraine**, since November 2009, the URCS has partnered with the Danish Refugee Council in the project “Legal and Social Protection of Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children in Ukraine”, within which the National Society assists unaccompanied minors in reuniting with their families, conducts sanitary and educational work on the prevention of TB, HIV and other diseases, and cooperates with other NGOs in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

As we look into the future, driven by many good examples like these, let us not forget that National Societies – in virtue of their community-based action - are uniquely well placed to determine the true vulnerabilities of migrant people and to best advocate for a true culture of inclusion, in which all individuals are encouraged to participate fully, based on our Fundamental Principles.

Anitta Underlin
Director of Europe Zone

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Responding to emergencies

Red Cross responds to powerful earthquakes in Italy and Bulgaria

An earthquake of a magnitude 5.8 on the Richter scale killed at least 17 people in northern Italy on 29 May 2012, damaging buildings and leaving 14,000 people homeless in the Emilia Romagna region north of Bologna, in one of Italy's agriculturally and industrially most productive areas. The epicentre of the earthquake, which struck at the depth of 9.6 km, was less than 30 km from Modena, not far from the place where the magnitude 6 earthquake had struck on 20 May. Officials said 350 people were injured. Buildings that had been hit during the quake the previous week were damaged further or completely destroyed.

The **Italian Red Cross** immediately increased its presence in the affected area by deploying more ambulance cars and volunteers. Red Cross staff and volunteers were involved in the provision of medical service and psychosocial support as part of emergency health activities, as well as in the logistics, including search for and transportation of injured people to medical centres and hospitals. In close cooperation with the Civil Protection, the Italian Red Cross was involved in managing the reception centres where the evacuated people were accommodated. The Red Cross also supported the damage assessment of the buildings and the needs assessment of the affected population.

Another strong earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 hit the western part of **Bulgaria** early in the morning on 22 May. The epicentre of the earthquake was registered near the town of Pernik also affecting the country's capital, Sofia. All concerned services from the Joint Rescue System in the Republic of Bulgaria were activated and deployed immediately in the affected area to provide support to the population. The Bulgarian National Society worked on providing psychosocial support and distributing relief items to the affected population.



Volunteers from the Italian Red Cross were working around the clock to ensure families displaced by the earthquake are comfortable and safe.

DREF funds released to help Red Cross response to landslides and tremors in the Caucasus

CHF 122,954 was allocated from the IFRC's DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund) to support the local efforts of the **Georgia Red Cross Society** in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,800 people, after the central and eastern parts of the country on 12 and 13 May 2012 were severely affected by heavy rains and multiple landslides. At least 5 people were killed in the capital city of Tbilisi, and over 3,200 families have been affected by the disaster.

Following a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that struck the south-western part of **Azerbaijan** on 7 May 2012, destroying or damaging 3,124 houses and public buildings, the IFRC released CHF 286,454 from the DREF to support the National Society in assisting 3,500 beneficiaries. On 18 May, another quake hit the region with a magnitude 4.8. So far, only in Zagatala more than 6,500 homes and public buildings suffered from the earthquake.

Related materials:

[Web stories](#) / [Second quake causes destruction in northern Italy](#)

[Italian Red Cross volunteers respond to deadly earthquake](#)

[Information bulletins](#) / [Italy: earthquake \(20 May\); \(30 May\);](#)

[Bulgaria: earthquake \(23 May\)](#)

[DREFs](#) / [Georgia Red Cross Society](#)

[Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan](#)

Past and future events



(from left to right) Mr Bekele Geleta, IFRC Secretary General and Ms Valentina Matviyenko, Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, during the signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between the IFRC and the IPA CIS.

Red Cross Red Crescent and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS to strengthen the Red Cross Red Crescent legal base

On 17 May 2012, Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), visited Saint Petersburg in the Russian Federation so as to sign an agreement with the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States. By giving the IFRC a voice in the development of legislation covering disaster law, migration and the laws which govern the protection of Red Cross Red Crescent emblems and the auxiliary status of a National Society within a country, the agreement will strengthen the ability of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to fulfil their mandate in the humanitarian field.

The auxiliary role is one of the defining characteristics of the Red Cross Red Crescent relationship with governments. Its recognition means that a National Society can become a permanent fixture within the civic life of a country, and can work within all parts of the society to address the needs of the vulnerable.

"The world is constantly changing. It is here", Geleta said, "that the auxiliary role really comes into its own, but it too must evolve to suit the situation. There is a need for adjustment – adaptation – not just for us, but for the whole world. But in conflicts and emergencies, we are on the front line, and all parties recognize the mission of National Societies to bring humanitarian help to all vulnerable people."

To read more:

[Web story / Strengthening the Red Cross Red Crescent auxiliary role: a humanitarian imperative in a fast-changing world](#)



(from left to right) Barbro Merckell (78), Berith Jansson (74) and Christina Malmqvist (67), Swedish Red Cross volunteers at the Conference on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations hosted by the Latvian Red Cross.

Latvian Red Cross moves forward humanitarian agenda on active ageing

Between 24 and 26 May 2012, the Latvian Red Cross hosted a regional conference on "Aligning the Red Cross Red Crescent Action with the Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations", which saw the participation of eight Red Cross Societies from the Baltic region, Scandinavia, Belarus and Georgia and an IFRC delegation from the Europe Zone and Geneva Offices.

Building on the Vienna Commitments of 2010, and in the framework of the ongoing European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the eight Red Cross Societies that participated in the conference adopted a final statement, which commits each of them to strengthen their work at country level to create an enabling environment in favour of the elderly, to give them a voice, as well as to prioritize healthy living and access to healthcare.

The visit to Latvia of IFRC Under Secretary General for Governance and Management Services Malika Ait-Mohamed Parent and IFRC Director of the Europe Zone Anitta Underlin offered the opportunity for a high level meeting with the Latvian Government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Riga. The senior leadership of the Latvian Red Cross and the IFRC delegation centred the discussion on the strong relationship that exists between the Latvian Red Cross and the Latvian Government and the possibilities of scaling up cooperation to further optimize the role of the Red Cross as auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian sphere.

To read more:

[Web story / Adding life to years: promoting active ageing and intergenerational solidarity across borders](#)

[Riga Conference Statement](#)

Past and future events

IFRC President visits the British and Italian Red Cross Societies

At the end of May 2012 the President of the IFRC, Tadateru Konoé, accompanied by the Director of the IFRC Europe Zone, Anitta Underlin, paid an official visit to two Red Cross Societies in the Europe Zone, the British Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross.

Cash from **British Red Cross** donors kick-started work to rebuild lives devastated by last year's Japanese tsunami, President Konoé said. Speaking during his visit to London, he said the generosity of international donors had brought forward Japanese Red Cross programmes that are helping people recover after the disaster.

During his visit to British Red Cross headquarters on 30 May, Mr Konoé also paid tribute to murdered Red Cross worker Khalil Dale who was kidnapped and killed in Pakistan earlier this year. Mr Konoé said he was very sad to hear of the Briton's death – but added “we must be prepared for this kind of eventuality”.

To read more:

[Blog](#) / Global goodwill boosted recovery for tsunami victims

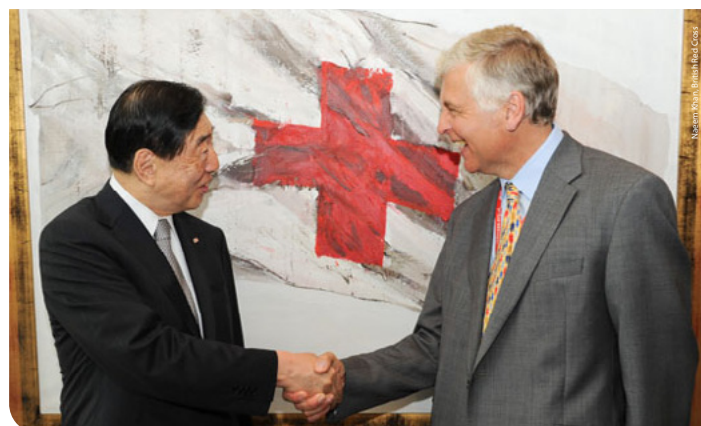
[Web story](#) / President Konoé visits the Italian Red Cross as the country shows its resilience following second earthquake

Mr Konoé, who has been Federation president since 2009, said the Red Cross has to adapt to a changing world with more natural disasters caused by climate change and more complex political situations. He said distinctions between conflicts, peacetime and natural disasters were becoming blurred

– which would challenge the way the Red Cross movement helped people in crisis. He also predicted global financial problems would make things more difficult for the Red Cross, in Europe and elsewhere.

Just a few days later, President Konoé was in Rome, Italy, to meet the **Italian Red Cross** leadership. The visit came only two days after a 5.8-magnitude earthquake – the second in 10 days - struck the region of Emilia Romagna, north-eastern Italy leaving 19 people dead, 350 injured and rendering more than 15,000 residents homeless. While visiting the site of another major earthquake – the one that jolted the town of L'Aquila in April 2009 – with the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross, Francesco Rocca, and Ms Underlin, Mr Konoé mentioned the crucial role of National Societies in keeping affected communities together after a traumatic event such as an earthquake. During his mission to Italy, Mr Konoé also had the opportunity to visit the Villa Maraini Foundation, one of Italy's most advanced centres for drug users and people living with HIV, which last month signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian Red Cross and the IFRC on a Red Cross Red Crescent training and research partnership on substance abuse.

The mission of the IFRC President to the British and Italian Red Cross proved important in reaffirming a strong and constant dialogue between the IFRC and these two National Societies, and marked a milestone in the spirit of togetherness that binds them in their shared humanitarian mission.



Tadateru Konoé, IFRC President, and Sir Nicholas Young, British Red Cross Chief Executive, during President Konoé's visit to the British Red Cross at the end of May 2012.



Tadateru Konoé, IFRC President, Francesco Rocca, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross, Massimo Barra, member of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross Red Crescent, and Gabriele Mori, President of Villa Maraini Foundation.

Youth and migration

Special focus on Youth



Belarusian Red Cross Youth participants to the fourth edition of "On the Run" in Belarus, held on 26-27 May.

Belarus: how we became refugees

My name is Pubika. There are six of us in our family. We are all HIV positive and want to leave Somalia for Belarus.

War, violence, drugs and hunger are just "your problems" here, and no piece of paper is ever given for free. Even though we have tried to learn how to write our names, dates of birth, and passport numbers, we can hardly remember all this while they yell at us, constantly offensively. English is the language of communication. We are not allowed to keep food, mobile phones, watches and other blessings of civilization. These are the rules of the game. "On the Run" is a 24-hour-long role-play game that was organized by the Belarusian Red Cross together with the UNHCR Representation in Belarus on May 26-27. The idea was borrowed from the Danish Red Cross and became very popular here, where the game was held for the fourth time this year. There are currently more than 800 refugees in Belarus, most of them from Afghanistan. Asylum seekers can stay in temporary

residences in two administrative centres, while the Department of Citizenship and Migration of the Ministry of Interior of Belarus is considering their application and is making a decision. Once they are given the refugee status (if it happens), they need to find a place to live and work. So the advice on these and other issues, which they get from the Belarusian RC, is as important as humanitarian aid.

After 24 hours and 30 kilometres of walking, running and crawling, sharing a glass of rice among the "family" and lack of sleep, more than 30 participants who were "refugees" could also feel the importance of one more thing – people's support.

Tajikistan: an agreement to ease migrants' life

On 2 May 2012, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) signed a cooperation agreement with the Government of Tajikistan's Migration Service. Under the agreement, the Migration Service will establish training centres on pre-migration preparation to train the potential migrants on new skills, languages and legal issues. Mr. Muhabbatov, RCST Secretary-General, highlighted the Red Crescent experience in training migrants in the informational-educational centres for migrants run by the National Society. Cooperation in this area was actively discussed in the meeting and both sides agreed to continue negotiations on further avenues of collaboration.

Simulating a refugee's journey to Norway

The Norwegian Red Cross Youth was also among the organizers of the role-play activity entitled "On the Run". A huge gap lies between Norway's privileged youth and those ready to risk their lives for a better future. According to the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), 2,810 migrants were accepted into safety asylum in 2011. During that time, 3,838 requests were denied, forcing those applicants to return to the desperation they came from. The Norwegian Red Cross Youth is committed to raising awareness of this situation among the general population. In this context, "On the run" was aimed at giving young Norwegians a brutally honest taste of life as a refugee, in the hope of embedding a stronger sense of compassion and understanding in the upcoming generation. The role-play participants represent escapees from Somalia who will risk everything to cross simulated borders into Norwegian territory. Each season an average of ten role-play activities are held around the country, and continue to grow in number. "On the Run" has grown immensely since it began 15 years ago and today nearly 30,000 Norwegian youth have experienced its life changing impact. These brave, receptive souls are usually in their teens. Such exercises can play a key role in deconstructing biased perceptions about refugees in Norway and cultivate compassion – a small step in positively influencing Norwegian attitudes towards migrants and refugees.

Youth and migration

Special focus on Youth

4.7million young people get a 'Positive Image' of migration issues thanks to education project

A three-year programme to raise awareness of migration issues and challenge stereotypes has been hailed a success after reaching millions of youngsters across Europe. Positive Images, which was led by the British Red Cross and funded by the European Commission, was launched in 2009 in schools and youth groups in 11 countries. Run in partnership with 14 Red Cross National Societies across the continent, the project brought an estimated 4,798,380 people under 25 years together to teach them about migration. As part of the project, 20,039 schools and more than 6,000 youth groups were given access to Positive Images learning resources.

The Positive Images toolkit is an educational resource for teachers, youth workers and other educators to teach young people about migration and development. It is available in ten languages, and includes ten innovative educational activities for young people aged 12 and over. It also includes a selection of case studies, videos and short films, giving people an insight into the lives of different types of migrants – from a nurse who moved from the Philippines to find work to a family who fled Sri Lanka amid violence and civil war.

Working towards an inclusive society

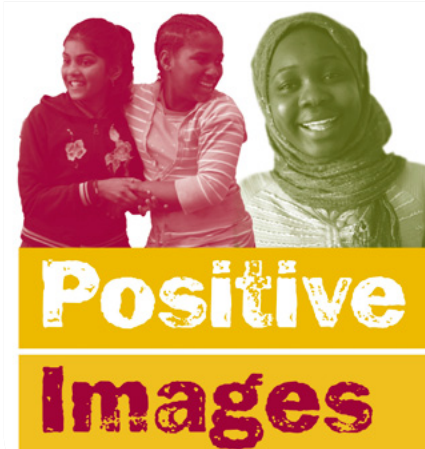
There have been drastic changes in the past few years in the make-up of the population of Ireland, the latest census showing that the number of Irish residents born outside Ireland grew by 25% between 2006 and 2011 and now account for 17% of the overall population. Consequentially, Ireland has an increasingly diverse population in cultural terms. The Irish Red Cross Youth (IRCY) feels strongly about the need to make 'new' communities feel welcome and encourage everyone to contribute to the rich cultural landscape of the Irish society without discrimination or prejudice.

IRCY members are engaged with a range of activities aimed at highlighting the humanitarian effects of migration and promoting positive attitudes towards migrant groups. In the past year, more than 40 youth leaders were trained in the Positive Images Project and these leaders are now helping their youth groups work on action projects in their local communities. Youth have also been raising awareness about the experiences of refugees. IRCY members from around Ireland recently participated in an event which included a short simulation of the challenges faced by refugees fleeing persecution. IRCY members also created a 'Welcome Wall' for young refugees arriving in Ireland. In addition to work within the IRCY network, youth leaders have also been engaging with schools on this topic, working on empowering young people and giving them tools to tackle negative stereotypes in their school and local area.

Kazakh RC tackles the humanitarian consequences of labour migration

With Kazakhstan being mainly a recipient and transit country for labour migrants, the Kazakh RCS feels important to address the issue through regional and international cooperation, maintaining close contacts with the NSs in Central Asia and the Russian Red Cross as well.

In 2009, with the support of the IFRC Regional Representation in Central Asia, the Kazakh Red Crescent Youth (KRCY) started the implementation of a programme on



Positive Images

PI's impact:

11 countries across Europe teamed up to tackle prejudice and strengthen understanding of migration.

4,798,380 young people reached by the project.

Attitudes to migrants changed by outreach and education.

To find out more, click [here](#).



Learning how to use chopsticks. Intercultural evening.

Youth and migration

Special focus on Youth

Kazakh RC: looking ahead

Compared with the beginning of the activities in 2009, currently there are fewer problems with migrant people, and the number of migrants who visit the informational-educational centers without fear, contact employees and use the services provided under the programme, is on the rise. The Kazakh RCS is currently seeking further financial means to sustain this important initiative as there is a clear need to provide beneficiaries further with these services. With the support from the IFRC Regional Delegation, the Kazakh RCS together with three National Societies from Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) participated in the submission of two concept notes to the European Commission (EC) in the field of labour migration and health services to migrants for the total amount of EUR 3.2 million, and was invited by the EC to develop full proposals. The final decision is expected for August 2012. A positive decision by the EC would allow to further sustain the work of the operating informational-educational centres and to open an additional one in Karaganda.

labour migration. In the framework of this programme, the Kazakh RCY opened three informational-educational centres in the cities of Almaty, Astana and Taldykorgan. In 2011, with the support of the Japanese government, another four centres were opened in Aktobe, Atyrau, Semey and Shymkent cities. These centres mainly provide information and consultancy to undocumented migrants based on their needs, including legal consulting and psychosocial support, health trainings, for instance on HIV and TB prevention, drug abuse and first aid; and tailored humanitarian actions in support of migrants in conditions of vulnerability.

As part of the programme, Kazakh Red Crescent Youth volunteers have organized awareness-raising and advocacy activities on the humanitarian effects of migration, aimed at promoting positive attitudes towards migrants.

Netherlands Red Cross Youth to build bridges through sports

On 28 May 2012, the Netherlands Red Cross Student Desk in Rotterdam organized a soccer tournament for young refugees and Red Cross youth volunteers. Before the match, team players had some time to get to know each other, then the teams were formed up and the first match started! In total, six matches were played. After the end of the sixth match, it was time to make the balance. After an astonishing 15 minutes of play, team "A" scored the decisive goal. Mejrem, Student Desk board member, and her team proudly received the cup and were declared the winners of the day! After the match, participants had a chance to gather around a picnic table and share their personal experiences. The stories of many of the young asylum seekers profoundly impressed the Red Cross volunteers. Many of the asylum seekers among the participants had lived in asylum seeker centres for years and were still waiting for the outcome of their application for refugee status. Living in this condition of uncertainty makes life hard, particularly because many of the youngsters do not have a natural bond with their country of origin but feel 'Dutch'.

Unfortunately, an end comes to each project and also to this one. The Red Cross volunteers and the youngsters from the asylum seekers centre really enjoyed the day and were eager for a new project together.

Millionnaya street 11: a safe haven for children and adults

For many years now, on Sundays, the Russian Red Cross Regional Branch in St. Petersburg has been meeting migrant people and their children in its Centre at 11, Millionnaya Street. Here, Red Cross volunteers and staff engage children in various forms of activities, ranging from maths and English language classes, to art therapy classes and organized city sightseeing trips. Children and volunteers draw with crayons in the streets, make snow sculptures not only for their own pleasure, but also to catch passers-by's attention to the problem of migrant families. Over the time, the Centre has developed an atmosphere where children learn how to communicate, trust and respect each other. Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers worked on the establishment of such a Centre where, while having fun, children can learn how to better communicate with other people, and reflect on their actions and feelings. Tutoring in the Red Cross Centre does not only mean assisting children in mastering different school subjects, but also in overcoming study-related accumulated fears and frustrations, and discovering that even a disliked subject can be fun. Attention is also given to adults; for them Red Cross staff organize "the club of communication", with tea parties and celebrations on national holidays. Recently it has become possible for adults to study the Russian language and literature.



Migrant children while studying school subjects with the support of Red Cross volunteers.

Youth and migration

Special focus on Youth

La vuelta al Mundo en cuatro historias

La vuelta al mundo en cuatro historias (lit. "A tour of the world in four stories") is an online game developed by the Spanish Red Cross with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the European Social Fund, which offers youth and teenagers an overview of migration processes and the realities of second generation migrants. Jenny, from Latin America, tells us about the difficulties she faced to regularize her situation in order to stay in Spain. Youssef, son of migrant people but born in Spain, speaks about the discrimination he suffers from despite being a Spanish citizen. Adanna tells us her story since she had to leave her country. Last, Andrei invites us to get to know his story of a movie. This game has proved a useful, easy and novel tool to transfer values and promote empathy with people who come from different contexts...but, actually, who doesn't?



The Red Cross work for undocumented migrants in Sweden

Sweden is one of the most difficult countries in Europe to stay in as an undocumented migrant, and entertainment activities organized by Red Cross volunteers are sometimes the only escape for children. Children can play while their parents can have a coffee and relax from an otherwise hard and stressful situation. The Swedish Red Cross Youth is also very concerned about the lack of accessible health care for undocumented migrants in Sweden, who only receive emergency care. "It is impossible to separate urgent from non-urgent care", says Hanna Ingelman-Sundberg, doctor and volunteer for the Red Cross Youth. "Without the help from rather hidden modest NGO clinics, many migrant people would severely suffer and risk possible death due to the lack of treatment of, for example, diabetes, cancer and infections". In addition, the Red Cross Youth and the Swedish Red Cross have taken action to change the legislation through humanitarian diplomacy.

"We now focus on local health authorities that provide health care. We hope that a different attitude among them will influence politicians on a national level", continues Hanna. "Our goal is that all necessary care be provided to everyone in Sweden without discrimination".

Campaigning activities have been intensified during 2011 and 2012, and the Red Cross in Sweden will continue until all undocumented migrants are guaranteed unrestricted access to health care without any discrimination.

Social inclusion, good health and big fun through sports

In Switzerland, in September 2011, volunteers of the Red Cross Youth of canton of Aargau started a long-term project called Sports Days with Refugees. Once a month, youth volunteers launch a game or an outdoor activity that brings together people living in asylum seeker housing centers in the area and Swiss Red Cross Youth volunteers to compete together in different sports activities, like inline skating, volleyball and swimming. On a hiking tour or during a boat trip on one of the many Swiss rivers, refugees get to know the surrounding area and deepen their understanding of the host country. And last but not least, locals and people from abroad get together, share a good time and after the activity there's a lot to talk about, and participants can improve their knowledge of the German language that is spoken in that canton.



Young migrants and Red Cross volunteers during one of the outdoor sports activities organized by the Red Cross Youth of canton of Aargau.

Youth and migration

Special focus on Youth

Only when everybody is tired but satisfied, is it certainly a good moment to get to know the individual stories of the refugees and the challenges in their day-to-day life.

"I arrived in Switzerland eight months ago, and today's the first day I'm doing sports since I had to leave my home country. I'm very happy", a teenager from Syria once told us.



Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers together with young migrants.

Ukrainian Red Cross provides legal and social protection of asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine

Since November 2004, in Ukraine, with the support of the ICRC and in cooperation with the Administration of the State Border Guard Service and the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior, the Ukrainian Red Cross has been implementing a programme providing detained migrants within the country with a number of services, including temporary accommodation, support in establishing communication with their families back home and with consular services of their countries of origin. Since November 2009, the Ukraine RCS has partnered with the Danish Refugee Council in the project "Legal and Social Protection of Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children in Ukraine", within which the National Society assists unaccompanied minors in reuniting with their families, conducts sanitary and educational work on the prevention of TB, HIV and other diseases, and cooperates with other NGOs in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

"We provide various services including the accompanying of refugees to the hospital", commented Aleksey, Ukrainian Red Cross young social worker in the Red Cross branch in Odessa. "We have temporary shelters where migrants receive humanitarian aid. We also cooperate with our Red Cross nurses, who are involved in prevention activities for HIV, TB and other diseases. Recently, we managed to get free tickets for the Odessa Theatre and we went to see a play with the people we work with. We are trying to do our best to help migrants, refugees as well as unaccompanied minors to blend in the society by helping them in their studies and delivering lectures on the issues of xenophobia and tolerance in many educational institutions in our region."



Youth participants to the Seminar on Forced Migration during the role-play *Terra Game*.

CCM and Italian RC hold seminar on the humanitarian consequences of forced migration

At its 11th session back in 2010, the Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent had underlined the commitment of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to focus on vulnerabilities so as to identify major humanitarian needs along migratory trails, and to intensify the dialogue with national authorities in order to increase their awareness on the humanitarian dimension of migration. In order to provide follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference and to promote the implementation of the IFRC Strategy 2020, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM) and the Italian Red Cross organized a four-day Mediterranean Youth Seminar on the 'Humanitarian consequences of Forced Migrations' from 2 to 6 May 2012. Hosted by the Italian Red Cross in Rome and with the support of the IFRC North Africa Regional Office, the seminar offered a platform to debate on the role of red Cross Red Crescent Youth in promoting a change of attitude when dealing with migration-related issues and advocating for a more inclusive society.

News from National Societies

AIDS memorial Day: *Together for life*

"Imagine that, out of five of your friends, one is living with HIV. In some towns of Belarus, this is unfortunately a reality. We believe that knowledge about HIV shared by means of arts, music and media will encourage people to take specific measures against HIV and in favour of people affected by HIV".

These were the first words delivered at the opening of "Together for Life", a charity event organized by the **Belarusian Red Cross** in Minsk on 20 May, on the occasion of the AIDS Memorial Day. The event saw the participation of over 60 people among creative professionals, businessmen, leaders of public organizations and international agencies and people living with HIV, who gathered to remember all those who lost their lives because of the virus, and to talk about the facts and stereotypes linked to living with HIV. Young Belarusian designers, inspired by the charity-oriented event, created a collection of thematic handmade adornments and souvenirs. The event which included a concert, the presentation of the photo-exhibition "knowledge about HIV", a short film about history of HIV-infection and a charity auction helped establish new contacts and partnerships between HIV-oriented organizations and leaders, as well as with young creative specialists in various areas. All the money raised during the event was directed to the centre for HIV-positive people in Zhlobin, Gomel Region.

Anna Nazarova, a representative of the Belarusian community of people living with HIV, delivered an optimistic speech. Having herself lived with HIV for 17 years now, she has dedicated her life to ensure access of people living with HIV to high quality treatment and care and to guarantee a good quality of life for them.

"A remarkable evening, which proves that openness around the topic of HIV and people living with HIV is possible; we can and should all be agents of behavioural change on this issue in our communities" commented Carsten Mahnfeldt, Danish Red Cross Country Coordinator for Belarus.



Young Belarusian designers, inspired by the charity event, created a collection of thematic handmade adornments and souvenirs. All the money raised during the event was directed to the centre for HIV-positive people in Zhlobin, Gomel Region.

Young Swedes more likely to have ties to war

When is a war over? For thousands of families torn apart by the atrocities of war, the suffering continues for years. Today, more than half of young Swedes have acquaintances affected by war, shows a new survey commissioned by Swedish Red Cross. And half of them say their friends' families have been torn apart by the experience. Six out of ten survey respondents in the age bracket 18-29 have either themselves been affected by war or know someone who has.

"The number is higher than what we expected, especially among the young," says Ulrika Årehed Kågström, Secretary General of Swedish Red Cross. "The result confirms, nonetheless, what we encounter daily in our efforts to restore family links."

The survey is part of a national campaign with the aim of bringing attention to the plights of families torn apart by war, and the crucial work of the Red Cross Movement to trace people, exchange family messages, reuniting families and seeking to clarify the fate of those missing. Only in Sweden, around 2,000 families are put into contact with the missing beloved ones on a yearly basis.

One of them is the ten-year-old Miché who lost touch with his parents during the conflict in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2007. Thanks to the relentless efforts by Swedish Red Cross he was reunited with his family in Sweden in 2010.

This joyful reunion is one of the portraits in the Canon Sweden/Red Cross photo exhibition called "The Way Home" which depicts the destiny of some 60 families.



Ulrika Årehed, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, inaugurates the Canon Sweden/Red Cross photo exhibition called "The Way Home".

News from National Societies

Montenegro hosts regional meeting of Red Cross National Societies

On 1 June 2012, the Montenegro Red Cross hosted a one-day meeting for the representatives of Red Cross National Societies from the ex-Yugoslavia region. With the participation of Secretaries General and Presidents of Red Cross Societies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro, the meeting came as the result of a long-term and successful partnership between the Montenegro Red Cross with its neighbouring Societies. It also provided a platform for exchanging

Interview:



Five years ago, a Red Crescent Law was adopted in Azerbaijan. Here is an interview with **Dr. Novruz Aslanov**, President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society.

Which do you think are the benefits for both a RCRC Society and its respective government to have a Red Cross/ Red Crescent law in place? Which is the specific case of Azerbaijan?

The adoption of the law helped our National Society set up relevant activities and establish high level relationships with non-government and governmental organizations within the country. The Government started to provide financial support to the National Society, which was destined to the annual membership fee to the IFRC, financial support to the ICRC, and the payment of the salaries of the National Society's staff members, which granted the Red Crescent more financial and technical stability. This,

in turn, allowed using all financial allocations from donors, membership fees, donations, fundraising operations exclusively to humanitarian activities and support to vulnerable people.

In Azerbaijan, the Red Crescent law was adopted 5 years ago. What was the process that led to such adoption by the parliament?

For a long period of time, thanks to the constant assistance of the International Federation, the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan could benefit from the financial support of various donors in the implementation of relevant operations. However, with the advancement of the global financial crisis, we were aware that soon donors' support would significantly decrease. Therefore, we decided to include the strengthening of the financial and technical capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan into our Strategic Plans for 2003-2010 and, in order to achieve that, a relevant legislative act was needed.

After some period of time, when the support from external donors went back, the first difficulties arose in collecting the membership fees together with an increasingly serious staff turnover. In the year 2000, with the aim to adopt the law we appealed to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, but without success. Finally, in 2007 we appealed to the President of Azerbaijan, who submitted the law to the parliament, thus adopted it on 8 May 2007, on the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Five years on: to what extent can you say that the adoption of the Red Crescent law changed your National Society's positioning and response capacity within the country?

The adoption of this law raised the status and image of the National Society as humanitarian organization and helped to improve its capacity to better respond to the needs of vulnerable people in the country. Memorandums of Understanding and cooperation agreements were signed with several state structures such as the respective ministries of Health and Emergency Situations, and the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan also succeeded in implementing various humanitarian projects from its own resources - including support campaigns for Somalia and the Van earthquake in Turkey - which turned the AzRC into a donor society, in line with the recently adopted Strategic Plan for 2011-2015.

Experience teaches that the adoption of a Red Cross Red Crescent law is only the first step that a National Society needs to take to strengthen its humanitarian role within the country. Based on your experience, which are the areas that need improving, and why?

In order to ensure its good functioning and becoming a strong National Society, each Red Cross Red Crescent Society needs a solid financial and technical basis. Only a strong Society can positively influence all aspects of life in the country. Today, it is important for our National Society to strengthen the role and activities of its own local branches, to enhance fundraising activities, public relations, to sign new agreements and carry out all necessary work towards closer relationships with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is also necessary to make the needed changes or amendments to the existing law in order to reflect the realities of today's life.

opinions on current and future cooperation, projects, possibilities for joint application within the regional funds and concrete talks, especially about disaster preparedness and response, Voluntary Blood donation, First Aid and Volunteerism.

This meeting also saw the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Slovenian Red Cross and the Montenegro Red Cross, which closely defined mutual support and exchange of opinion and experience in all programme activities conducted in both National Societies. All participating National Societies agreed that this meeting should become a good practice for the future and that these gatherings should be organized at least once a year, hosted by different National Societies.

News from National Societies

Polish Red Cross rescuers ensures the safety of fans during Soccer Euro 2012

The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship officially opened on June 8th as the biggest international event in Poland this year. The Polish Red Cross Rescue Teams were mobilized to provide potential medical support to fans and other people involved in this huge sports event.

The Polish Red Cross rescuers cooperate with the State Fire Service with whom there

Interview:



Famous Tajik TV presenter and cinema actress **Tahmina Rajabova** accepted the invitation to become a Goodwill Ambassador during the World Red Cross Red Crescent month and to promote the humanitarian values and activities of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST). We had a small interview with Tahmina.

Tahmin-banu, salom. First of all, we express our thankfulness to you for accepting the invitation to be Red Crescent Goodwill Ambassador. Could you please tell us why you accepted this invitation and what your reaction was when you first heard about this offer?

I love to do good things myself and I believe that every human being should help others, if they can. I was very happy when I was offered to become a Red Crescent Goodwill Ambassador. If my contribution could help just one more person become aware of the Red Crescent and help somebody else, I would consider that I did my job well.

When was it the first time you volunteered?

When I was a student, I volunteered for a few international organizations in Dushanbe, but when I found a job, unfortunately I was not able to continue my volunteering experience. I believe that volunteering opens new doors of opportunities and experience for youth.

Did you already know something about the Red Crescent?

It would be a shame not to know about the Red Cross Red Crescent, as it is the most famous humanitarian organization in the world, which supports people in need, wherever they might be.

Could you tell us more about your duties during the Month of the Red Crescent?

During May, my duties were not limited to taking part in events, delivering speeches and giving interviews. I did my best to spread the word and encourage youth to volunteer in the Red Crescent. Volunteers are the backbone of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and, without them, it would not be possible to reach thousands and millions of people in the world. Millions of people in the world and thousands of people in Tajikistan are always ready to spend their time and energy to assist others and this should be praised. If the Red Crescent was able to help anybody and anywhere, one should know that this helping hand is the hand of a volunteer.

Why is such high attention paid to the youth?

I think that the youth are the engine of each community, and this is particularly true in Tajikistan. In our country, the power of youth is extremely valued and, despite all the sayings about how modern youth have lost all their values, we want to show that still thousands of them are strong living examples of the humanitarian values that the Red Crescent promotes, and are ready to do their best to support those who find themselves in a condition of vulnerability. We want to show that Tajik youth still are not indifferent to what the Persian poet Rudaki said more than one thousand years ago, when he called everyone to take the hand of a person in need.

Will you do volunteering in the future?

Sure, every time and everywhere I can. Helping each other should be one of the goals of people's lives. Even human body parts are the evidence that helping should be a priority. See, one foot helps the other to walk; one hand helps the other, and so on.

Tahmin-banu, can you tell us more about yourself?

I am Tahmina, a mother, a sister, a woman, an actress, a lawyer and a TV presenter. I would like to conclude this interview with a call to everybody to take some time to think about other people too. I think that is the thing that makes us human.

is a long-term cooperation in handling large-scale threats, such as floods, and the last train crash near Szczekociny last March.

In Warsaw, both in the Fan Zone and in the area of National Stadium, teams from Warsaw, Kielce and Bydgoszcz ensured the safety of fans. In other cities, rescuers protected Fan Zones and other places where people were gathering to cheer their favourite teams.

The Polish Red Cross has 23 highly qualified Rescue Teams which work with public authorities and institutions, providing medical aid during natural disasters and catastrophes. Each group consists of skilled rescuers - including doctors, rescuers, paramedics and nurses - with specialized equipment. The rescue operations conducted by the Polish Red Cross are usually supported by rescue dogs, divers and climbers.

Resource mobilisation

Development Programmes 2012, Donor response

Europe & Central Asia

Code	Programme title	Budget	Funding	Coverage
MAA65001	Europe Zone	2,156,148	2,323,919	100%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	392,879	276,894	70%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	642,649	446,287	69%
MAAME001	Montenegro	15,000	348	2%
MAARS001	Serbia	367,151	299,178	81%
MAA67002	CHARP	522,500	207,583	40%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,032,887	1,312,928	100%
MAAMD002	Moldova	72,898	50,731	70%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	1,702,599	1,392,222	82%
MAAAM002	Armenia	245,956	130,773	53%
MAAUA002	Ukraine	76,000	70,381	93%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	159,891	97,804	61%
MAAGE002	Georgia	451,256	57,411	13%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,055,893	678,315	64%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	428,413	498,513	100%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,397,877	743,842	53%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	642,060	531,402	83%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	198,494	29,528	15%
	Subtotal Europe & Central Asia	11,560,551	9,144,595	79%

Funding for Cooperation within EU

Open calls for proposals with RCEU relevance (EU-level only):

Civil Protection Financial Mechanism : Exercises

Improve civil protection preparedness and response to emergencies
Deadline 16 July 2012 + [Details DG ECHO website...](#)

European Partnership on Sports : Preparatory Action

Fight against match-fixing; Promotion of physical activity supporting Active Ageing; Promoting sport at municipal level, cross-border grassroots sports competitions
Deadline 31 July 2012 + [Details EAC website...](#)

Youth in Action : Centralised actions

Exchanges, voluntary service, training, networking, youth workers, youth policies
Deadline 1 September 2012 + [Details EACEA website...](#)

Youth in Action : Youth Support Systems, Support to Youth Workers' Mobility

Transnational learning experiences for youth workers
Deadline 3 September 2012 + [Details EACEA website...](#)

PROGRESS programme : Call for Proposals VP/2012/008

Supporting a Partnership for Enhancing Europe's Capacity to Tackle Demographic and Societal Change

NB: Limited budget. Only one project to be selected.

Deadline 11 September 2012 + [Details DG EMPL website...](#)

European Social Fund : Learning Networks for transnational actions

Reinforce learning networks for effective implementation of ESF transnational actions
NB: Restricted call. National Societies may join as "other partner" if considered as key stakeholder

Deadline 14 September 2012 + [Details DG EMPL website...](#)

Staff changes

Welcome to new colleagues:

Getachew Ta'a Woyessa	Head of Corporate Services and National Society Support	Budapest, Hungary
Noemi Nemeth	Human Resources Assistant	Budapest, Hungary

Farewell to colleagues:

Elias Ghanem	Head of Support Services	Budapest, Hungary
David Lynch	Disaster Response and Early Recovery Senior Officer	Budapest, Hungary



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