

October 2011

#05

Europe Zone

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



Contents

Editorial **2** / World Disasters Report 2011 **3** / ERNA holds meeting in Slovenia **4** / XVII Balkan Conference **4** / Global Volunteer Conference **5** / A joint Africa-Europe-Mediterranean YABC summit takes place in Italy **5** / Focus: Youth Summer Camps **6-8** / Spanish Red Cross Youth elects its new National Council **9** / Hungary: the world's smartest search and rescue dogs are put to the test in Budapest **9** / Interview with President of the Russian Red Cross Society **10** / IFRC advocates for a more humanitarian approach to drug abuse **10** / Resource mobilisation **11**

Sveta, 37, a beneficiary of the Kazakh Red Crescent programme to combat HIV/TB co-infection, in Temirtau, Kazakhstan

Humanitarian diplomacy: the power of persuasion

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Editorial

“

Dear friends,

The last month has seen the Europe Zone busy with a series of high profile events. First was the Global Volunteer Conference, co-organized by IFRC and United Nations Volunteers here in Budapest; the XVII Balkan Conference, hosted by the Romanian Red Cross in the Parliament House; the XV ERNA General Meeting in Slovenia where the topics of humanitarian diplomacy and HIV were at the centre of discussions.

September also saw the 18th Session of the IFRC Governing Board, immediately followed by the Global Senior Management Team (GSMT) meeting in Geneva.

The Board requested our Secretary General to extend his time in office for another two years, a decision that is highly welcome as it will allow us to measure the impact and outcomes of the many initiatives started after the adoption of Strategy 2020.

By analysing the topics discussed at the various fora throughout Europe, I believe that there is a common thread that connects all these events and leads us to the statutory meetings in Geneva next month. A thread that links National Societies' efforts in tackling HIV and TB in their national contexts to the Decision on drug abuse promoted by the Italian Red Cross in the Governing Board (see page X), and to the Declaration on Volunteering signed by over 200 representatives from over 65 National Societies, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society at the Global Volunteer Conference.

This thread is the imperative for National Societies to persuade decision- and policy-makers to act at all times in the interests



of vulnerable people, in full respect of the Seven Fundamental Principles.

Attending the XV ERNA General meeting I realized how much work still lies ahead for all of us in order to tackle HIV, TB and substance abuse.

Each National Society, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, has the duty to pursue humanitarian diplomacy to persuade their governments and parliaments to remove the legal, social and economic barriers that prevent inequitable access to health care for key affected populations.

How much progress has been made by National Societies in acting in the interests of vulnerable people? This will be asked at the General Assembly and I believe it is important that we all come prepared for our Statutory Meetings, in full awareness of what we have been able to achieve and what still remains to be fulfilled.

Anitta Underlin

Director of Europe Zone, Director

”

Responding to emergencies

World Disasters Report 2011

On 22 September, the IFRC launched the 2011 edition of the World Disasters Report, which this year focuses on food security.

According to the report, in 2011 alone almost one billion children, men and women have experienced hunger. There has been progress as the world's population has grown, but in 2010 the number of undernourished people was higher than in previous years: 925 million, according to the FAO – the majority in the Asia-Pacific region and in sub-Saharan Africa. Most living in rural areas.

Malnutrition is still widespread: at least one billion people are undernourished whereas a staggering 1.5 billion people are overweight.

This report argues that creating a well-fed world will be even more challenging in the face of climate change, competition for resources, including land and water, increasing inequality, and continued high levels of spending on weapons.

Europe Zone: climate change-driven food insecurity

Natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and freezing weather, fueled by the effects of climate change, are expected to have an increasingly adverse impact on agricultural output and food security in low- and middle-income countries in the Europe Zone, thus further worsening the effects of food insecurity and malnutrition.

In 2010, wild fires and bad harvests in **Russia** and other major cereal producing regions of the former Soviet Union, dramatically reduced the availability of cereals on the global market.

Also, there is a growing link between disaster risks and abandoned technologies. The catastrophes that could potentially arise within central Asia and beyond from the production of radioactive waste and nuclear tailings are useful examples.

According to some sources¹, a potential locust outbreak as it threatens 25 million hectares of cultivated farmland and the food security of 20 million people in Central Asia and Caucasus (mainly Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), are two of the most immediate warning signs calling for adequate disaster preparedness activities by respective National Societies.

Food insecurity in Central Asia mainly affects populations from rural and marginal urban areas who live in poverty, due to their limited purchasing power, which does not allow them to cover their food needs. In **Kyrgyzstan**, an estimation of 14% of the households (about 763,820 people) are suffering from severe food insecurity, that means they are consuming an inadequate diet based on cereals and potatoes together with a monthly income level well below the extreme poverty line.²



A farm worker in Ittifokh, Tajikistan, carries a bag of fertilizer donated by the Red Crescent.

More on the WDR:

[Videos](#) / [Figures](#) / [Report](#)

[Watch the live publication launch from Delhi, India](#)

[Download the report: Scribd](#) / [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#)

¹ Early Warning-Early Action Report for IASC Member Agencies – 8 July 2011

² Source: Follow-up emergency food security assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic – WFP – March 2011

Past and future events



Participants to the XV ERNA General Meeting. In the middle: Anitta Underlin, Director of Europe. 62 representatives from 25 National Societies took part in it.

ERNA holds its XV General Meeting in Slovenia

From 23 to 26 September 2011, the XV ERNA General Meeting was held in Slovenia, hosted by the Slovenian Red Cross. The theme of the meeting was “Humanitarian Diplomacy, HIV and TB”.

Established in Rome in 1998 with the aim of coordinating the sharing of experiences, transfer of best practices and the promotion of collaborative efforts among National Societies of the European region, the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB currently gathers 40 National Societies from Europe.

The meeting saw the participation of 62 representatives from 25 National Societies of Europe and Central Asia, the IFRC Europe Zone and Geneva offices, GNP+, the Belarus PLHIV network, WHO, UNODC, and other partners.

The conference provided a moment of reflection on the state of affairs in the Europe Zone with regards to the work done in humanitarian diplomacy on HIV, TB and drug use by National Societies with their respective governments, as well as policy- and decision-makers.

It also provided the occasion to present the recently concluded formal evaluation of ERNA since its formation in 1998, based on the terms of reference developed during the last annual meeting in Minsk, in September 2010.



A session of the XVII Balkan Conference, which took place in the Parliament House of Romania, Bucharest.

Romanian Red Cross hosts the XVII Balkan Conference

From 21 to 23 September 2011, the XVII Balkan Conference took place Bucharest, Romania.

The Balkan Conference is a forum designed to strengthen and expand cooperation in humanitarian activity among Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, inside as well as outside the Balkan region. This provides a framework for discussing common humanitarian challenges, sharing experiences and information, best practices and successful projects.

This year, the conference brought to the forefront the challenges of disaster management and social welfare – including the topic of active ageing - in the context of the “practical aspects of a sustainable cooperation between National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent in the region”.

Related news stories:

[Active ageing: are we ready for change?](#)

Past and future events

65 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies gather for the Global Volunteer Conference

From 15 to 17 September over 200 representatives from 65 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, civil society organizations, academia, governments, the private sector and the United Nations came together in Budapest for the Global Volunteers Conference, called upon all stakeholders to take effective steps to advance volunteerism and to continue to call for global recognition, support, and advocacy for volunteers in building communities for peace and sustainable development.

With the ongoing European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of 2011 Year of Volunteering drawing to a conclusion, the conference resulted in the adoption of a Declaration determined to value, recognize and encourage the contribution of volunteerism to the well-being of people, their communities and our planet.

Related news stories:

[Global conference debates the potential and pitfalls of paying volunteers](#)

[Norway Red Cross stresses the value of volunteers in a crisis](#)



(From left to right): Dávid Kovacs, Head of Youth Programme of Hungarian RC, Gabriela Farinango, Ecuadorian RC volunteer, Adrián Vég, Hungarian RC volunteer, at the Global Volunteer Conference in Budapest.

A joint Africa-Europe-Mediterranean YABC summit takes place in Italy

40 Red Cross Red Crescent youth from some 30 National Societies of Europe, Central Asia and Africa attended the YABC Summit which took place in Jesolo, northern Italy, from 5 to 11 September 2011.

Peer education, Fundamental Principles, inter-cultural dialogue, youth empowerment are four key words to describe the spirit of an event jointly organized by the Principles and Values Department, the Europe and Africa Zones, the Italian Red Cross and the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Summit brought together Red Cross and Red Crescent youth around the world to actively contribute to building a culture of non-violence and peace and keep the word given in 2009 in Solferino with the Youth Declaration.

Since the birth of YABC in 2008, the P&V Department, together with the youth who participated in its training initiatives, developed a skills-based toolkit which was pilot-tested in Solferino in June 2009 by 20 YABC peer educators. From then, it has been presented and field-tested during international, regional, national or local gatherings, and has been engaged in practical projects of social mobilisation. The finalized toolkit will be launched at the International Conference this November.

Related news stories:

[From the heart to the mind: YABC spreads the seeds of inner change](#)



Youth participants during a group activity on communication of the YABC summit.

Save the date

Statutory Meetings

23-25 Nov - General Assembly 2011

26 Nov - Council of Delegates 2011

28 Nov-01 Dec - 31st International Conference

Youth Summer Camps and leadership training

Special focus

Summer is, by definition, the season of summer camps. However, for many National Societies, the tradition of having youth- and volunteer-led activities is quite recent. Strengthening Red Cross Red Crescent youth is thus a core element in the capacity development of these Societies, and training youth leaders who can act as both resource persons in the National Society and role models for their communities is pivotal in this process.

Here is a roundup of some of the many youth training initiatives held throughout the Europe Zone during the summer.



Belarusian Red Cross holds its traditional Youth Leader School

On July, 18, at the height of the summer holidays, study had just begun in a village not far from Minsk, where the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC) organized a school for volunteers. After an intense competition, 44 youth volunteers came to the school to become young leaders.

During the days of the school, the participants were involved in different activities, like simulations on the seven principles, workshops on volunteers recruitment and management, sessions on how to interest sponsors and raise funds, support homeless people and prevent the spread of pandemic influenza and HIV; how to work with children with disabilities and perform first aid.

On the fifth day, all passed their final exam. The best students were awarded medals and souvenirs.



Portuguese Red Cross Youth 7th Summer School: Find the volunteer inside you!

Since 2005, the Portuguese Red Cross Youth has organized a summer school, with the aim of training youth volunteers in different areas, and facilitating the sharing of experiences and good practices between local branches. This year, youth volunteers from 18 local branches met between 31 July and 4 August near Lisbon to share their experiences in national and local projects, network, discuss and present proposals.

In 2011 school, which had a specific focus on intergenerational dialogue, volunteers attended workshops on a large variety of other topics, including social entrepreneurship, innovation in volunteering, ecology, emergency response, volunteering for health and social inclusion, development education, youth employment, migration, gender equality, project cycle management, and team work.

Youth Summer Camps and leadership training

Special focus

First Leadership Training: increase Youth capacity to take responsibilities!



The French Red Cross, in partnership with Outward Bound France - an organization specialized in outdoor experiential learning - has tested its new leadership training. Twenty young Red Cross volunteers attended the seven day training in July and followed an intense programme: caving, camping, group climbing, but also theoretical modules to help strengthen their knowledge about the

Fundamental Principles.

In line with the goals of the IFRC and French Red Cross Youth Policies, this leadership training allows participants to develop their interpersonal skills and their capacity to manage a team and to take initiatives, to strengthen their self-confidence, but it also helps reinforce the links among Red Cross youth.



Barcelona hosts the 2011 edition of the Escuela de Verano

From 19 to 23 August, the Spanish Red Cross held its traditional Escuela de Verano (summer school) "FAGEDA 2011", this year with a focus on topics such as promotion and education on health: diet; participation: trainers on youth participation (new project, PINEO); training on methodology and intervention skills; intervention and social inclusion: skills for personal and professional development; gender and co-education perspective: gender-based violence prevention.

These trainings were accompanied by practical workshops through which volunteers were able to get useful tools and skills for their day-to-day work with children and youth. Some of these workshops focused on the new model of local management, evaluation techniques or workshops proposed by the participants themselves.



Youth Summer Camps and leadership training

Special focus



The Academy for Volunteers: for 90 years we have changed the world

The “Academy for Volunteers” is a seven-day traditional capacity building summer camp, which the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth (BRCY) conducts in early September every year, with the aim of increasing the motivation of youth leaders from the regions and teaching them new skills on how to carry on the work of the BRCY at regional level.

This year, the “Academy for Volunteers” was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Bulgarian Red Cross and went under the motto of “For 90 years we have changed the world”. 84 young volunteers from all 28 regions of Bulgaria, mostly between the age of 15 and 18, took part.

The participants had a chance to attend 20 different courses, as well as afternoon workshops. Two musical flashmobs were also organized by the participants and the camp staff on two consecutive days.



The Danish Red Cross Youth Leadership Academy

In mid-August, the Danish Red Cross Youth held this year’s edition of its Leadership Academy. The Academy is a

two-week-long seminar with participants aged between 20 and 30 from different National Societies, established by the Danish Red Cross in order to train youth leaders and empower them to plan and implement activities autonomously, with the overall purpose of creating a positive change for vulnerable children and youth in post-conflict societies. The exchange of culture, experiences and knowledge among future youth leaders is the core element of the Leadership Academy. Danish Red Cross youth also finds it important to create a breeding ground for further networking and exchanging of experiences among the participants after the Leadership Academy has finished.



Campi Giovani 2011: 2000 youth in 64 camps throughout Italy

Organized by the Italian Red Cross in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Youth, the Campi Giovani 2011 (Youth Camps 2011) have given many Italian teenagers the opportunity to participate free of charge to the summer camps organised by the Italian Red Cross. The aim is to help young participants get useful knowledge, discover talents, meet new people and satisfy their interest for civic engagement. After the first successful edition, for the second consecutive year the Red Cross has made available 1828 places for young people aged between 14 and 20.

News from the National Societies

The Governing Board of the Spanish Red Cross Youth elects its new National Council

Between 23 and 25 September 2011, The XII Governing Board meeting of the Spanish Red Cross Youth took place near Madrid: more than 130 members participated in the highest governance body to discuss about the new strategy of the youth of the National Society, which will mark the work for the next four years.



One of the milestones of the XII Governing Board was the approval of the new Institutional Project and the creation of a new Educational Project, which reconfigures the definition of Red Cross Youth, as it captures in one single document the methodology and educational lines that will mark the Spanish Red Cross' interventions from now on.

Last but not least, the Governing Board elected a new National Council that, together with the regional management of the Spanish Red Cross Youth, will be composed of 17 members elected among the participants to the Governing Board. Aitor Murciano Moreno was proposed as National Director of Red Cross Youth for the next four years, which decision shall be submitted for ratification to the National President of the Red Cross Youth.

IFRC advocates for a more humanitarian approach to drug abuse

During its latest meeting in Geneva at the end of September, the IFRC Governing Board adopted a Decision on drug abuse developed by the Italian Red Cross in cooperation with the Federation Secretariat.

This Decision - based on the evidence that substance abuse is a growing global problem affecting more than 200 million people around the world, and that a humanitarian approach to drug addiction has so far proved effective in dealing with issues related to the

Interview with Mme Raisa Lukutsova, President of the Russian Red Cross Society

What are the top challenges you face in your work and what are the highest achievements?

The most significant challenge I have to face in my work is a request to secure the organizational development of Russian Red Cross as the oldest and the most responsible humanitarian organization in Russia. In this aspect we managed to establish close relations with Russian governmental authorities and we were recognized by the Ministry of Health of Russia and EMERCOM. We adopted a new Statute of Russian Red Cross that fully corresponds to the requirements of the Joint IFRC/RC and ICRC Statutory Commission; we also adopted a Strategic Plan for 2020 that also corresponds to the main goals of the Strategy 2020. All these factors should contribute to strengthening of Russian Red Cross.

How do you rate the evolution of Russian Red Cross since 1991 and where will it be in another 20 years?

Since 1991 Russian Red Cross went through a difficult period of new challenges but we could make a strong modern humanitarian organization that has branches in all regions of Russia and increasing number of members and volunteers. I believe that in 20 years Russian Red Cross will become stronger and continue to play a leading role in the International RC/RC Movement.

How you will use the opportunity of the statutory meetings to enhance RRC role and membership of the RCRC Movement?

The Statutory Meetings are a very good instrument to show the role of Russian Red Cross on the international arena. We are going to use this opportunity fully and to step forward with new progressive initiatives to contribute to effective response to humanitarian challenges at country and regional level.

What one thing motivates you every day?

I think it is a desire to live for people – for my beloved ones and also as Russian Red Cross President for those who are in need.

RCRC helps vulnerable women in Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan there are many issues making women vulnerable, such as crippling poverty, lack of education and forced marriages. There are increased levels of domestic violence, rising numbers of women turning to prostitution, as well as many being trafficked for sex to keep their families fed. However, a Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent programme is providing a lifeline for many women facing desperate situations, helping improve their social and economic positions.

To see the video launched on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day 2011, click [here](#).

Find out more about how the [Red Crescent society of Kyrgyzstan](#) and the [British Red Cross](#) are helping.

News from the National Societies

abuse of substances - aims at encouraging Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to bring the fight against substance abuse high on their agenda and develop country-specific harm reduction programmes in cooperation with Govts and NGOs, and asks the Secretary General to best support them in this challenging process.

Recommendations on possible assistance to National Societies would include the establishment of a reference centre aimed to develop strategic knowledge and best practice in the field of addiction and related diseases; the strengthening of cooperation with international bodies and NGOs working with drug abuse and health, like WHO and UNODC; and the support to regional networks working on this issue, such as ERNA and ART.

Related videos:

[The experience of Villa Maraini](#)

The Italian Red Cross has been active in the field of drug related problems since 1976, when Dr. Massimo Barra founded the Villa Maraini Therapeutic Community in Rome, Italy. Over the years, Villa Maraini has become a leading organization in assistance to drug users and PLHIV, as well as in the fight against discrimination and stigma of every kind.



One of the dogs participating in the international search and rescue exam held in Budapest in September

Hungary: the world's smartest search and rescue dogs are put to the test in Budapest

In early September, Budapest hosted the highest level international search and rescue dog exam, in which the world's best trained search and rescue dog teams participated. The exam involved – inter alia - locating people trapped under the rubble left behind by collapsed buildings. A lifelike accident simulation featuring realistic injuries and a hazardous environment served as a real challenge.

The objective of the test involving candidates from eight countries was to ensure that disaster relief missions are performed by proficient search and rescue dogs and handlers. The list of organisers of the international exam included the International Rescue Dog Organization (IRO), the Budapest Branch of the Hungarian Red Cross and the Pest County Search and Rescue Service; and the BM OKF (National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Internal Affairs).

“When a natural disaster occurs, the Red Cross also participates in rescue operations in addition to organising relief missions” explains Mr Istvan Kardos, Director of the Budapest Branch of the Hungarian Red Cross.

“For instance, in Haiti and Japan, thousands of first aid workers and psycho-social experts made serious efforts to help free people from under the rubble by search and rescue teams. We also made available first aid HR resources last year to combat flooding and the ‘red sludge’ fallout in Hungary.

Resource mobilisation

Development Programmes 2011, Donor response

Europe & Central Asia

Code	Programme title	Budget	Funding	Coverage
MAA65001	Europe Zone	1,884,678	3,029,422	161%
MAAAL002	Albania	77,231	43,183	56%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	541,795	457,000	84%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	566,470	694,863	123%
MAAME001	Montenegro	26,732	348	1%
MAAMK002	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	655,310	43,183	66%
MAARO001	Romania	54,581	0	0%
MAARS001	Serbia	586,675	768,968	131%
MAA67002	CHARP	512,163	534,559	104%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,926,020	1,457,479	76%
MAAMD002	Moldova	504,997	158,764	31%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	4,036,841	3,632,104	90%
MAAU002	Ukraine	231,021	106,476	46%
MAAAM002	Armenia	319,355	296,896	93%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	450,108	284,603	63%
MAAGE002	Georgia	631,542	518,814	82%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,227,137	1,119,535	91%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	2,009,347	1,433,019	71%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,594,785	1,321,321	83%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	837,575	937,241	112%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	988,215	653,041	66%
	Subtotal Europe & Central Asia	19,072,577	17,490,819	92%

EU Funding for Development

1. Calls for proposals - EU Funding for development

Current and upcoming calls for proposals are regularly updated on the RCEU website. For any further information, do not hesitate to contact [Camille Gutton](#), or [Gihan Hassanein](#).

- Upcoming global calls:

The forecast global calls for proposals has been updated. Click [here](#).

- 2011-2013 forecast of the In-country Non State Actors (NSA)

Two global calls launched by the Headquarter in Brussels were published on 1 October on Development Education and a second one in 15 October on Actions in partner countries (Multi-country interventions) for Non-State Actors.

- European Instrument for Democracy and Human right (EIDHR)

84 country based support schemes (CBSS, objective 2) are launched throughout the year 2011 on "Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation". The exact calendars for the launch of the different local calls for proposals are decided by the EU Delegations and announced in their specific Annual Work Programmes. For more information, click [here](#).

- Investing in People

This year, no calls on health will be foreseen but one call on Gender - Strengthening protection and promotion of women's rights and women's social and economic empowerment published 1 October 2011

2012: a specific theme would be on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

2013: two calls are foreseen, one on human resources for health and one on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

2. EUNS/IFRC statistics as of April 2011 on development project funded by the EU

For 2010, the Red Cross has received about **€ 50 million for 29 projects financed by the European Commission**. 2010 was marked by the great success rate of Red Cross applications for the ACP-EU Water facility call for proposals launched beginning of 2010 under the 10th European Development Fund.

Staff changes

Welcome to new staff:

Evgeni Parfenov	Head of Operations	Budapest, Hungary
Emese Kádár	Intern	Budapest, Hungary
Leon Prop	Head of Red Cross EU Office	Brussels, Belgium



For further information,
please contact:

Giovanni Zambello
Tel.: + 36 1 888 4511
Email: giovanni.zambello@ifrc.org

Europe Zone Office

Berkenye st. 13-15
1025 Budapest, Hungary
Tel.: + 36 1 888 4500
Email: zone.europe@ifrc.org

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.

