



Europe Zone

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Increased disasters: a challenge, an opportunity



(Detail) People in the north of Swat Valley, Pakistan, can only bring the aid they can carry in their hands. /Olav A. Saltbones, Norwegian Red Cross

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Dear friends,

The chilly breeze of the first weeks of September here in Budapest seems to remind us that the summer is now gone. Nonetheless, as we go back to our work, our hearts and minds are with all the 14 millions of people in **Pakistan** who have been devastated by the unprecedented floods which struck the country earlier this summer.

As we speak, the Red Crescent, supported by the International Federation and the ICRC, is striving to bring food, aid emergency relief, medical care and improved access to clean water and sanitation to over 2 millions people scattered throughout the flood-affected provinces.

Much has been and is being done to support the affected population. However, much more work, better coordination among the actors involved and a significant step forward by donors are needed in order for Pakistan to overcome a catastrophe which our Secretary General defined “one of the worst disasters I have ever witnessed”.

The upcoming launch of this year’s edition

of **World Disaster Report**, scheduled for September 21, in Nairobi, comes as an appropriate moment of reflection on the unforeseen challenges that, with Haiti, Chile, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and now Pakistan, the Red Cross Red Crescent has faced in a 2010 which is slowly moving to its close.

It is only in the aftermath of such huge humanitarian crises, where the Red Cross Red Crescent is continuously putting itself to the test, that we can analyze what has been effective, what can be improved and what, instead, should be amended.

And it is only in light of such analysis, that we can scale up our capacity to respond, mobilize resources and coordinate efforts in working multilaterally, so as to finally achieve the **first strategic aim of Strategy 2020**.

Let us grab this opportunity to learn from past experiences and strengthen the capacity of communities to prepare against disasters. Because, if disaster risk may be reduced, then humanitarian catastrophes can be avoided.

Anitta Underlin
 Director of Europe Zone Office

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

RDRT team supports response operations to floods in Ukraine

Heavy rains at the end of June and the following rise in river levels have brought chaos to Chernovtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regions, western Ukraine. As of 30 July, some 6,500 houses have been flooded in the two flood-prone regions, with 141 ruined beyond repair. Almost 40,000 people have been affected, five people have died, one person is still missing and 59 are still living at the Red Cross hospital in Bernamet.

RDRT team provides support to floods victims

As part of the IFRC support to the response operations to the floods, an RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team) team

town of Hertza, Chernivtsy region, got his house destroyed by the floods and now lives alone in a 6 square metre room in the cowshed. Nonetheless, he showed himself optimistic about the future, and unselfishly asked the Red Cross to bring their help to people more in need than he was.

Ukraine Red Cross action and progress towards outcomes

While supported by the RDRT team in the implementation of the operation, the Ukrainian Red Cross is taking measures to restore stocks by purchasing blankets, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, bedding, towels and disinfectants. From its own and donor resources – the Coca-Cola Company and the NGO “Development of Ukraine” – it distributed drinking water, filters, clothes, shoes, bedding, medicine, hygiene items and disinfectants to some 10,000 people

Russian Red Cross helps victims of bush fires

Due to record temperatures and drought in the region, a series of hundreds of wildfires broke out across over 20 regions of Russia, primarily in the west, starting in late July 2010, causing widespread damage in the country and claiming a death toll of over 50 people. Some 170,000 people and 23,000 machines were involved in fighting the fires, thousands of people affected by the fires lost their homes and basic livelihoods, and around 1800 settlements in the Central part of Russia were completely destroyed by fire.

The Russian Red Cross immediately opened bank accounts to raise funds for the affected people. Local branches joined the campaign to receive cash and in-kind donations to provide aid to the



(Detail) Food parcels distribution in Galich District in Ivano-Frankivsk region/URCS

was deployed in the country for a period of one month, from 21 July to 22 August, in order to assess the current and future humanitarian needs of the affected population, and support the Ukrainian Red Cross in defining and coordinating the response to the disaster.

“The operation took us to small villages where we found people who were already in conditions of extreme need and poverty, and were further affected by the recent floods”, said Taras Logginov, RDRT-trained disaster response assistant.

During its visit to the field, the RDRT team visited 31 families in 17 communities of seven districts, examined the people’s living conditions and found these were especially hard for lone elderly, large families, and invalids. The assessment showed that the most urgent needs are for food, bedding, clothing and hygiene supplies.

Konstantin Goriey, 80 years old, from the

in the hours and days following the disaster.

A DREF allocation of CHF 244,126 (USD 230,693 or EUR 182,524) was also released on 13 July to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 people.



(Detail) Konstantin Goriey, 80 years old, from the town of Hertza, Chernivtsy region/URCS

most vulnerable, while working in close coordination with local authorities, getting ready to join the action and spreading messages among the general public about safe behaviour during fires.

The volunteers of the Red Cross branches have been assisting those staying in the

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

shelters through food distribution, provision of first aid and other practical assistance.

Following a request from the Russian Red Cross on 11 August 2010, the IFRC approved a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 111,772 (EUR 81,589) that was replenished by the European Commission by a donation of EUR 81,589. At the same time USAID provided IFRC with a grant of USD 50,000 to support the operation aimed at assisting the Russian Red Cross operations.



Russian Red Cross branch in Astrakhan collects aid for victims of wild fires/Russian RC

These funds will be used to provide about 1,700 families in Voronezh, Belgorod, Ivanovo, Kirov, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow regions with immediate humanitarian assistance in the form of basic food and non-food items, in order to reduce the impact of the disaster on their lives.

The Russian Red Cross branches will provide each family with cleaning materials, bed-linen sets, hygiene kits and food parcels (supplementary food). The relief items will be distributed by Red Cross volunteers.

Focus: KYRGYZSTAN

Two months after the June events in southern Kyrgyzstan, the humanitarian scenario appears now, at least partially, stabilised. Nonetheless, much work still needs doing to dissipate existing tensions and restore a feeling of safety among the affected people. Communities are coping with fear, anxiety, grief and uncertainty that affect their path to recovery.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan was among the first humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to the affected population.

According to an assessment conducted by Red Crescent staff, the southern branch of the Kyrgyz Red Crescent has provided humanitarian aid to over 30,000 people. As a result of a second situation assessment, long-term relief will be provided to the villages of Mady and Furkat, which have been identified as needing continued support.

Residents of these villages – made up around 500 families of various ethnic groups – have already received assistance in the form of tents and food. They will now receive extra help to rebuild their homes. The Red Crescent is mobilizing its volunteers to support these two villages with a focus on particularly vulnerable groups, including homeless families or families with many children, people with disabilities or who are infected with TB,

and the elderly.

Tracing the missing

The work of the Kyrgyz Red Crescent also includes a tracing service, supported by the ICRC. As a result of the unrest, the Kyrgyz Red Crescent received 26 requests to trace missing relatives, including requests from people as far away as Russia and Japan who lost contact with their relatives as the conflict unfolded.

One such case is the story of two girls who were on holiday in southern Kyrgyzstan. Red Crescent staff worked with ICRC to locate the two, who were eventually found in Uzbekistan. Once all the official documentation had been dealt with, the girls were able to travel on an ICRC plane to Bishkek where they were met by their relieved relatives.

Training others

The Red Crescent worked with the Osh municipality with an initiative to give police officers basic first aid training. Over the past two and a half years, the Kyrgyz Red Crescent south regional representation has trained more than 5,000 people, including drivers, police staff, police helpers, students and representatives of neighbourhood committees in Osh and Jalal-Abad.

Psychosocial Support Activities of the Red Crescent in Osh Province

From the very beginning of the crisis, in addition to humanitarian aid in food and hygiene items and medical supplies, the National Society has also engaged its volunteers to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups and individuals who have directly experienced stressful events.

It is estimated that some 100,000 people are in need of some kind of psychosocial support due to recent experience of violence and destruction.

National Society PSS staff and volunteers, supported by the International Federation psychosocial programme delegate, strive to develop a comprehensive programme of psychosocial support with the goal of facilitating the recovery of people in the communities, through a variety of activities aimed at individual, family and community. The programme is focused on the most vulnerable groups - children, elderly, people with health difficulties,

Special Eurobarometer 343 – “Humanitarian Aid” The Red Cross tops the list of humanitarian aid providers

Upon request of the EC Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) and with the coordination of the EC Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM “Research and Speechwriting” Unit), Eurobarometer 73.2, a special report on humanitarian aid by the EC, was published in July 2010.

In surveying people’s general awareness of organisations that provide the actual humanitarian aid at the scene of a disaster, the Eurobarometer shows that three bodies are frequently mentioned when respondents are asked to name an organisation that provide on-the-ground support, with the Red Cross Red Crescent at the top of the list (64%), followed by the United Nations’ Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (36%) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (20%).

To download the full report, click here.

To consult the Eurobarometer website, click here.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

displaced people and persons who survived violence and abuse.

Staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent branch of Osh are currently implementing a programme in the villages of Mady and Kyzyl-Kyshtak, which were affected by the crisis. They provide individual and family support, and are planning to set up various social activities and self-help groups, together with community members.

Re-establishing community support links

Despite the sense of grief and insecurity that grips the communities, the traditional support system within extended families and communities remains strong.

"I was happy to see that despite of destruction and pain over loss, community keeps the common future goal, friendship, and lives shoulder to shoulder, Uzkek



(Detail) Kyrgyz Red Crescent volunteers in Mady village/ Sanja Pupacic, IFRC

any food, neighbours always help with food and products."

Unfortunately, this is not the case in all communities, as those which were affected hard by the conflict need more time



(Detail) Children performance, Kyzyl Kystak village/ Sanja Pupacic, IFRC

with Kyrgyz people, Azeri people and others - said Zulhumor, a young Red Crescent volunteer - They help each other in such hard times. If somebody does not have

and should take small steps forward to re-establish community support links and rebuild trust among people.



(Detail) PSS Coordinator, Osh branch/ Sanja Pupacic, IFRC

A rehabilitation programme for children

As children in the affected communities suffered a lot of fear, shock and insecurity during the crisis, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan decided to provide them with some safe and relaxing space to recover and prepare for the school year. A children rehabilitation camp on Issyk-Kul Lake was organized for fifty-four children who experienced stress during the crisis and volunteers from three southern provinces of Kyrgyzstan. The rehabilitation programme for the children included various structured activities including art therapy, play activities and cultural events.

As autumn and winter approach, families and communities are increasingly anxious and struggle to ensure bare existence and look into future with positive view, praying for peace to be sustained in their region.

"People in the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions are in the phase of adaptation following the crisis and they may function well now, but as time passes, they could experience more distress and Red Crescent needs to be there to help and empower them to cope with challenges ahead of us all as a community." stated a psychosocial support volunteer of the Kyrgyz Red Crescent.

(source: Sanja Pupacic, PSS delegate, IFRC, Naima Sadyrbekova, information officer, KRCS)

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Ageing populations, frailty and dignity: a European challenge

With each year that we add to the latter part of the journey of our lives, we experience the slow decline of our physical abilities, perhaps of our mental abilities. A progressively reduced physical resistance leads to the difficulty and then the impossibility to take responsibility for our behaviour, make decisions and live our social life in the same way we used to. As we speak, worldwide millions of people are living in conditions which threaten their lives, their rights and their dignity.

From **2 to 5 September, 2010**, in Bergen, Norway, an international conference on the topic of **"Dignity for the Frail Old"** was organized. The conference, which saw the participation of over 100 people and 23 nations as well as the active involvement of the **Norwegian and Austrian Red Cross Societies**, explored the meaning of ageing of societies and the related concepts of dignity and dignified care, frailty, human rights and participation.

"Dignity means that a person has an innate right to respect and ethical treatment. To realize dignity is not easy, especially in the care of frail old dependent persons, as they are more vulnerable than others, and, as time passes by, they increasingly face physical and psychosocial disability limitations"

Dr. Stein Husebø,
Director of the Dignity Center – Care for the Old, and
Conference Chairman.

SAVE THE DATE

September	
21	Launch of World Disaster Report 2010, Nairobi
23-27	ERNA annual meeting, Minsk, Belarus
21	International Day of Peace
October	
1	International Day of Older Persons
13	International Day for Risk Reduction
17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
November	
10	World Science Day for Peace and Development
16	International Day of Tolerance
29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
December	
1	World AIDS Day
5	International Volunteers Day
10	Human Rights Day

Coordinated by a European network of experts in the fields of palliative care and care for older people, the conference was organized to show current trends as well as possibilities for future action, and determine long-term recommendations and solutions for better care of frail elderly in Europe.

"By following up to the commitment we took in Vienna to 'contribute to building a positive image of ageing' and 'encourage active ageing, strengthening their resilience and allowing them to remain autonomous', we must advocate for dignity and quality of life in an ageing society and, most important, we must spread this message throughout Europe, so as to engage all National Societies in such challenges."

Dr. Werner Kerschbaum
Deputy Secretary General of the Austrian
Red Cross and member of the International
Conference Committee

As it was already highlighted in the **'Vienna Commitments'**, outcomes of the 8th Regional RCRC Conference, ageing of societies is a fact, and constitutes a common challenge and opportunity throughout Europe.

"The dignity of frail older people becomes a crucial issue in the last years of life, when they are often lonely, and in need of care and protection. We, as Red Cross Red Crescent, can do much, and we can do more to support frail elderly in the end of life and preserve their dignity. We must mobilize our people to increase the involvement of the European National Societies in services and activities for the elderly, such as pain reduction and home healthcare assistance."

Mr. Bengt Westerberg
President of the Swedish Red Cross
and IFRC Vice President for Europe Region

By involving participants from different health and social care systems, cultures and beliefs and bringing wide-ranging and extensive expertise and experience, the conference focused on a variety of issues related to the concept of 'ageism', such as the endangered values in ageing societies, ageing policies and their role to improve social integration, health promotion and the efforts to avoid dependency, the different perspectives of 'good care', the acceptance of death, the role of caregivers and decision-making in care for frail elderly, and the meaning and needs of dignity in a mature society.

"When it comes to elderly care, we can foresee a growing gap between needs and resources in European so-



School-child volunteering in long-term care for the elderly/ The Dignity Center – Care for the Old, Norwegian Red Cross

ciety – Mr. Westerberg wrapped up in the closing session of the conference – and it is in order to close such gap that the Red Cross Red Crescent must contribute with renewed efforts in the coming years. We can do much, but, more important, we can do much more."

The power of positive images

On the 24 and 25 of June 2010, the **British Red Cross** hosted an exciting two day conference in Budapest on **raising awareness of migration issues** among young people. The conference was attended by 70 delegates, including representatives from 15 EU Red Cross National Societies. The Conference marks the midway point in **Positive Images**, a European project led by the British Red Cross. Positive Images promotes positive attitudes among young people towards vulnerable migrants.

Positive Images began in 2009 and aims to reach three million young people over the next three years.

Run in partnership with Red Cross national societies from Austria, Denmark, Greece and the UK, the project brings young people together to teach them about migration.

Speakers at the conference included Karl Zarhuber, Secretary General of the Austrian Youth Red Cross and Vera Rangelova, at that time Migration Coordinator at the Europe Zone Office of the IFRC.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS



(Detail) Participants working together during a session of the Conference / British Red Cross

Day one of the conference focused on sharing good practice and building capacity among participants in developing youth awareness raising projects on migration issues. The Positive Images grant scheme was also launched enabling EU Red Cross National Societies to apply for grants to fund youth awareness-raising projects. Day two focused on the inclusion of migration and development topics in EU education systems. Participants also explored practical actions that they could take as a result of the conference.

Delegates described the conference as "inspiring", "informative" and "collaborative". One delegate described the conference as follows "I believe its great that we all worked together to find actions and think about where we need to go from here. Personally I've gained a lot of new contacts, resources and ideas! Thank you".

For more info about the project, click here, or email: positiveimages@redcross.org.uk.

Atlantis VI: strengthening the role of youth in the Mediterranean

Atlantis is now an annual event for the Mediterranean youth. This week-long camp offers young Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers from the region the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience. This year, as part of the

follow up to the **11th Mediterranean Conference**, hosted by the Croatian Red Cross in Dubrovnik in March of this year, one of the objectives of Atlantis was to **strengthen the role of youth in the region**, by consolidating their role as in changing attitudes and mindsets. "Atlantis is a forum for young people to exchange experiences and best practices on the activities of their National Societies, and be trained through workshops linked to the topics of the Mediterranean Conference," said **Amelia Marzal Torres**, director of the **Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean**, during the opening ceremony of the camp.

Migration, humanitarian principles and values, leadership, youth and employment, sustainable environment and YABC were the topics of the workshops offered during this week-long camp, which brought together 64 young people from 18 National Societies of the Mediterranean basin



(Detail) Participants to Atlantis VI during one of the activities of the leadership workshop / Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

had a chance to learn through discussion and sharing of ideas, improve their skills through practical games, group activities and music.

To read the whole story, click here.

More stories on Atlantis VI:

Youth: the leaders of tomorrow must take a different approach;

Andorran Red Cross: saving lives, respecting diversity, promoting prevention;

"We are small, but we are strong";

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Hungarian Red Cross re-launches its emergency and water rescue service

On 26 August, 2010, in a press conference held in the Ship "Columbus", on the Danube, in Budapest, **Mr. György Habsburg**, President of the Hungarian Red Cross, announced the **reestablishment of the National Society's emergency and water rescue service**, based on decades of experience, which was made possible thanks to **USAID** (United States Agency for International Development)'s generous donation of **USD 50,000**, provided to the Hungarian Red Cross for emergency flood relief this spring and early summer.

"I am happy that after 1945 the Hungarian Red Cross is re-taking position in the provision of ambulance and water rescue services. Ambulance service will be restarted, and now we also have two rescue boats which will be vital to providing increased support to the population, especially during summertime" said Mr. Habsburg. The Hungarian Red Cross has now the ca-



(from left to right) IFRC EZO Director Anitta Underlin, Hungarian RC Director General Erik Selymes, Hungarian RC President György Habsburg, USAID Regional Program Officer Michelle Barrett / Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

capacity to provide water rescue services on Lake Velence, directly from the water. The ambulance vehicles, that will be operated by the Europe Emergency Team, and the rescue boats, on which USAID logo was placed as a sign of appreciation, were showcased after the press conference.

The conference, which saw as well the participation of the **Hungarian Red Cross Director General, Erik Selymes, US Ambassador to Hungary, Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis** and **USAID Regional Director, David Leong**, was also a moment to recall the recent flooding in Borsod County, north-eastern Hungary, and the response

Discovering the European micro-National Societies

Here we are with our monthly appointment with the micro-National Societies of Europe. After a focus on the Sammarinese Red Cross in the last issue, we now are going to have some first hand information on the Monaco Red Cross from one of its youth volunteers.

THE MONACO RED CROSS

Christophe, 23 years old, from Menton, is one of the four volunteers from the Monaco Red Cross who attended Atlantis VI, the international youth event organized by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean in Grans, France. He was happy for the opportunity to present his National Society, which, together with Andorra, Liechtenstein, Malta and San Marino, are among the smallest countries in the world.

"With its **479 volunteers**, our National Society is very small, but very international, with people of over 40 nationalities serving in it," said Christophe, who is himself French. "The majority of our volunteers are of course French and Monegasques, but there are a number of them from other countries." Such diversity mirrors that of Monaco itself, where, out of 35,000 inhabitants, 8,000 are Monaco citizens, 10,000 are French, 10,000 are Italian with the remainder being made up of over 100 different nationalities.

"The Monaco Red Cross is organized in several departments, with the main three being the First Aid Department, the Social Department and the International Humanitarian Department", explained Christophe. "There is no youth department because of the limited number of volunteers, which requires young people to be involved in all the other departments." Nonetheless, youth are many enough to be active and all very much involved in the activities of the National Society.

Christophe specializes in first aid; in the Monaco Red Cross, each volunteer has to specialize in one field. "I conduct some 30 services per year, on average 2-3 times per month." The National Society's first aid activities are particularly intensive during large national events such as the Monaco Grand Prix, the formula one race held each year in the circuit of Monaco, when the Monaco Red Cross receives the support of many other National Societies, including those of Andorra, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

The Monaco Red Cross is very active also on the international level supporting development projects in between 20 and 40 countries in Africa and South East Asia each year. The activities performed by their social department range from food and financial aid, to the distribution of clothes, childcare, furniture and household appliances, as well as community service in rest homes and paediatric hospitals.

"We are small, but we are strong. We are helped, but we help a lot as well. I'm proud to volunteer in my National Society," concluded Christophe.

efforts of the local authorities, the Hungarian military and police, community organizations and, most of all, the thou-

for the immediate disaster".

A blood drive to commemorate 9/11

On eve of 9/11 anniversary, **US Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis** and Embassy staff participated in a **blood drive** organized by the **Hungarian Red Cross** in Budapest, as part of commemorations marking the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Embracing the American tradition of community service, President Obama designated September 11 as the National Day of Service and Remembrance to encourage Americans to reach out to others and give back to their community.



(Detail) US Ambassador Kounalakis at the blood drive organized by the Hungarian Red Cross / Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

sands of Red Cross volunteers, who were there to assist the affected population throughout the emergency. Ambassador Kounalakis delivered a speech where she remarked the importance of joint work with USAID and the HRC to "respond positively to a request for funding to assist with emergency supplies

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

POLISH RED CROSS ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Governing Board of the Polish Red Cross recently appointed **Mr. Roman Rak** for the position of **Director General** of the National Society. On this important moment, we took the opportunity to have an interview with Mr. Rak, to know more about him, as well as about his plans and expectations for his National Society in the coming years.

Could you please give a brief review of your past roles and how these, in turn, led to your present important appointment?

I have a PhD degree in economics. I was close to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as a scout, and later, as a non-remunerated blood donor (I still keep my card), while serving in the Polish army.

For 30 years now, I have been dealing with financing and banking. I was working in almost all kinds of banks, except for the investment ones (Polish Central Bank BNP, state-owned BGK, co-operative banks, the World Bank). In the 1990s I was involved in adjusting the Polish financial system to the requirements of the market economy. I co-founded and managed, for 11 years, a corporation of 73 local banks (similar to DZ-Bank or CNCM). The managerial scope was, however, slightly smaller than at the PRC (18 branches and a staff of several hundreds).

In this period of unprecedented economic crisis, which are the main challenges for the Polish Red Cross in its national context?

The Polish Red Cross has a history of more than 90 years. It survived World War II, which left hundreds of cemeteries on our territory, destroyed towns and villages, some of them wiped off the map. The country shifted westwards, millions of Polish nationals were displaced accordingly. As of today, the nation's social fabric and economic framework have not completely recovered from the aftermath. Our Tracing Service keeps millions of files of concentration camp prisoners and of persons unaccounted for. Under communism and within a state-run economy, our National Soci-

ety lost most of its properties (a network of hospitals and dispensaries, care centres, preventoria, its own fleet of ambulances, warehouses and garages). After 1990, almost all our attempts to regain our belongings failed. Now, we make more endeavours, but the task proves by no means easy.

The Polish economy has not been affected by the latest crisis to the same extent as that of the US or of some other European countries. Nevertheless, one has to bear in mind that Poland remains one of the poorest countries on the continent and that the free market model, currently applied, has been widening the income gap and generating areas of relative poverty, while a continuing double-figure structural unemployment (a high percentage of agricultural workers) has been deepening social exclusion of large groups of the population. Thus, we have plenty to do. On the other hand, the State has been setting up alternative services in the fields previously monopolized by the PRC (e.g. governmental blood system or welfare support). Incidentally, in the year 2010 three devastating floods occurred; therefore, our emergency warehouses were emptied and our rescuers worked on river embankments, doing their utmost to protect the people affected and their households.

What is your plan to address such challenges and which are your priorities?

The main challenge facing the PRC consists in doing away with the widespread image of our organization being a half-governmental one, benefiting from budget support and having no competitor. We acknowledge our auxiliary role to the State but, in order to fulfil it, we must become competitive, which is not easy to attain. One of our principal tasks is to restructure our Society's financial management, which means also finding new ways of financial and in-kind support, apart from the budgetary ones. New challenges have been defined by Strategy 2020. We intend to conduct business to a greater extent, as stipulated in our Statutes.

Since 2004, Poland has been a member of the EU; therefore another challenge is to adapt our activities to new rules and regulations in force, even if they do

not concern directly the PRC.

Which results do you expect to achieve?

Our paramount objective is to achieve financial stability, sustainability and capacity development in a rapidly changing environment. Our staff should increase their efficiency as well. Many charitable and care-providing foundations have been created. They bid for funds, often successfully. A serious challenge is to strengthen the community-focused mindset in view of autonomisation trends in certain branches. It is also of a great importance for us to stay closely connected to international components of the Movement as well as to Sister National Societies in active engagement to different bilateral/multilateral projects focused on humanitarian issues.

How do you think the Europe Zone Office can facilitate improved cooperation among Red Cross Societies in your regional context?

We certainly need to enlarge the exchange of experiences and of good practices. So far, in our Society we have had no success in applying for structural funds allocated by Brussels to Poland. We wish to change this and to transform the PRC into a prosperous organization and a worthy partner.

For the time being, in the course of European integration, National Societies apparently stand by national standards. In case of disasters and other emergencies, assistance continues to flow between nations. I seize the opportunity to thank our colleagues from the Swiss and the German sister societies for the relief they have provided to flood victims in our country. On the banks of the Oder river, but also in the south-east part of the country, we dry flooded houses with Swiss dehumidifiers.

One of the currently arising challenges for East European countries is the influx of non-EU citizens. Some of them are refugees from conflict areas, others are economic migrants. Since Poland is an EU border country, the respective EU agency (Frontex) is operating here. A joint project of Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria, aimed at caring for refugees could prove eligible for support, but the way seems arduous.

Football brings hope to Africa – on and off the pitch

Love them or hate them, the vuvuzelas have been a major part of **2010 football World Cup**, hosted this year for the first time in Africa. But first aid support has centred more on minor injuries than perforated ear drums, according to the **South**

African Red Cross, whose volunteers have been providing support in stadia, fan parks and public viewing areas across the country.

The South African Red Cross has also partnered with FIFA to host one of 20 football for hope centres which aims to achieve positive social change through football. The centre, in Mokopane, will address

local social challenges that young people face in disadvantaged areas by helping to improve education and public health services.

In all, it has been a safe world cup, well organised and with few incidents. The positive



Volunteers of the South African RC providing support during 2010 football World Cup/ SARC

image South Africa has projected to world has demonstrated cause for a renewed hope across the continent.

To find out more about the FIFA project, click here.

(source: Faye Callaghan, Africa Zone, IFRC)



Volunteers of the South African RC providing support during 2010 football World Cup/ SARC

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

**Development Programmes 2010
Donor response by programme**

CODE	PROGRAMME TITLE	BUDGET	FUNDING	COV.
MAA65001	Europe Zone	2,090,510	1,577,884	75%
MAAAL002	Albania	77,306	43,000	56%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	336,623	291,628	87%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	585,962	601,334	103%
MAAME001	Montenegro	75,000	1,650	2%
MAAMK002	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	65,407	43,000	66%
MAARO001	Romania	74,385	0	0%
MAARS001	Serbia	752,805	1,255,313	167%
MAA67002	Chernobyl humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation	512,163	480,384	94%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,674,019	1,004,499	60%
MAAMD002	Moldova	196,706	186,253	95%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	3,862,689	4,551,898	117%
MAAU002	Ukraine	337,985	219,717	65%
MAAAM002	Armenia	306,083	205,239	67%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	541,722	348,057	64%
MAAGE002	Georgia	772,005	481,180	62%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,225,826	911,858	74%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	1,911,609	1,363,162	71%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,627,237	1,277,880	79%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	1,332,501	657,600	49%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	1,325,875	482,181	36%
	Subtotal Europe & Central Asia	19,706,558	15,983,718	81%

To see all development programmes 2010/donor response, click here.

For more information on current emergency appeals/donor response, click here.

You can find updated information and tips regarding fundraising to be found on FedNet Resource Mobilisation pages.

An updated funding guide 2010 on EU funding instruments relevant to the European Union Development and co-operation is available on the intranet of the EU/RC office, under the section "Development aid"- then "funding toolkit". This guide is a dynamic document regularly updated by the Red Cross/EU Office according to the further development of the different budget lines, programmes and policies of the EU.

STAFF CHANGES

Over the past month, the Europe Zone team welcomed some new staff members:

Alberto Monguzzi	DM and Shelter Delegate
Sanja Pupacic	PSP Delegate
Gyula Kadar	Senior Adviser
Alexander Kulikov	DM Delegate
Payrav Imomov	Office Assistant
Lola Abdusalamova	DDR/CCA Delegate, NL RC
Nigina Shoismatulloeva	Finance Officer, NL RC
Imre Nagy	Planning and Reporting Manager
Joe Lowry	Communications Manager
Eszter Gati	Intern

Farewell to colleagues:

Carl Odegaard	Project Coordinator
Inger Nygaard	Resource Mobilization Coordinator
Tanja Uttula-Saarinen	Acting HR Manager Europe Zone

Development aid funding opportunities: EU open calls

PROJECT TITLE	OBJECTIVES	DEADLINE
ENPI East region	Capacity building for access to HIV-AIDS prevention, treatments and care in ENPI East Funded from Thematic Programme: "DCI - Invest in People"	16 Sept 2010
IPA Macedonia	Supporting Participation of Civil Society in the Decision-Making and in Providing Social Services.	29 Sept 2010
IPA- KOSOVO	Addressing poverty and long term unemployment through active labour market measures promoting job opportunities linked to public regeneration schemes that enhance quality of life for all Kosovo inhabitants.	4 Oct 2010
Croatia	IPA Building Capacities of the CSOs for Monitoring and Advocacy in the Field of Democratization, Human Rights, Minority Integration and Sustainable Refugee Return in the Areas of Special State Concern.	5 Oct 2010
IPA Greece-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	IPA Cross-Border Programme 2007-2010. Promoting sustainable economic and social development in 2010 the border areas and assisting co-operation for addressing common challenges in fields such as the environment, natural and cultural heritage and public health.	18 Oct 2010
Moldova	Reducing poverty in the context of sustainable development, including the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and other internationally agreed targets.	3 Nov 2010

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For more information, or to suggest an item for a future issue, click here.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the EZ newsletter.