



newsletter

## Europe

Special issue – Solferino 2010

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International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

20-27 June

## Solferino 2010

*“As we walk holding  
our torches, we feel  
like those who 151  
years ago took  
injured soldiers to the  
first medical outpost  
in Castiglione,  
because every single  
day we struggle to  
take actions which  
can make a  
difference in the lives  
of the most  
vulnerable people.  
This is our dream.  
And dreams can  
come true only if we  
all believe they can”*

Francesco Rocca,

ItRC Extraordinary  
Commissioner

# A 151 year long dream

Dear friends,

From **20 to 27 June, 2010**, in Solferino, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement celebrated 151 years since the birth of its visionary idea. Right one year after the huge success of the 2009 commemorations, we are still here, to renew our commitment to do more, do it better and reach further.

On this special occasion, the Europe Zone Office decided to dedicate a special issue of its monthly newsletter to the **Solferino 2010 event**, to spread its message throughout the National Societies and reach also those who were not able to participate in person, but were there with their hearts.

**Anitta Underlin**

Director of Europe Zone Office





**151 years ago, Solferino**, a small village of northern Italy, gave birth to a dream. The dream that a vulnerable human being should be helped regardless of his/her colour, creed and race, but on the base of need alone.

Today, the same dream still guides the action of the whole **International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement**, which brings its help around the world in order to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. Today, like then, the Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are ready to provide assistance to the victims of natural disasters, health emergencies, deprivation, and to anyone in need,



The Fiaccolata, on 26 June

be. Thanks to their commitment and untiring work, it has been possible to face devastating humanitarian crises such as the ones which struck **Haiti** and **Uzbekistan/Kyrgyzstan** earlier this year. "Solferino 2010" is for all of them: the millions of volunteers who every single day bring their actions of solidarity where they are most needed, thus contributing to spread our Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

"Solferino is becoming every year more and more a place where we gather to share what we have done and what we are best at. Like last year, today as well we want to learn from each other how to respond faster and better to today's humanitarian challenges", said **Francesco Rocca, Extraordi-**

**nary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross** at the opening ceremony of Solferino 2010 celebrations, on 25 June. "As we speak, there are many other *Solferinos* around the world, where our help is needed. Haiti is one of them. Let's not forget all the Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers and operators who are still there on the field, bringing their help and support".

Today, right one year after the Youth on the Move spread the echo of its final declaration around the globe and over 140 National Societies gathered together to celebrate 150 years since the birth of the visio-

nary idea of the Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent is still here, to reaffirm its commitment to **do more, do better and reach further**.

### "Abruzzo, One Year Later: What Has Been Learnt"

In the days of the events, right 14 months after the devastating **earthquake which struck central Italy on April 6, 2009** and where the Italian Red Cross engaged in immediate emergency response and longer-term reconstruction projects, the Italian Red Cross decided to organize a debrief meeting to share with other National Societies what so far has been done, what has been learnt, what should be improved, what did make a difference in the lives of the many

people affected by the earthquake.

To read the main article, click [here](#).

### Youth As Agent of Behavioural Change

In a world facing increasingly bigger humanitarian challenges, change must first come from inside every single one of us. And youth, as agents of behavioural change, must play a leadership role to promote such change of mindset, attitudes and behaviour in society.

In order to follow up on the commitments taken one year ago in the

**Youth Declaration** signed in Solferino by 500 youth from 140 National Societies, and implement it throughout the national territory, the Italian Red Cross, in partnership with the **Italian Ministry of Youth** and in cooperation with the National Youth Forum, organized a youth event within the celebrations of Solferino 2010, entitled "**I giovani come agenti del cambiamento**", or, in English, "**Youth as agents of change**".

"What takes us here is a challenge. The challenge to find Henry Duntant's visionary idea in our actions and help vulnerable people without being afraid of looking crazy. Because every crazy idea can be realized – said **Rosario Valastro, National President of Red Cross youth** – star-

ting from the craziness which has been spread for 151 years of Red Cross and Red Crescent history, it is now time for us to **be the change that we want to see in the world**".



The participants to the YABC workshops

Many young agents of behavioural change took part to the various workshops organized by the Italian Red Cross, the International Federation, the National Youth Agency and the National Youth Forum, thus renewing their commitment to mobilize themselves and address the Solferinos of today to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of millions of people across the world.

To read the main article, click [here](#).

The event also witnessed the sign of an important agreement between the Italian Red Cross youth and the Italian Red Cross Blood Donors: a pilot project in three Italian regions will introduce the **International Club 25** in Italy.

To read the main article, click [here](#).

### United under the same Seven Principles

"But Solferino is meant to be not only a moment of

reflection on our humanitarian role for the next decade, but also a moment when people different in origin, age, culture and religion, but united under the same Seven Prin-

ciples, gather together to celebrate, have fun and feel they all share the same, crazy idea" concluded Mr. Rocca during the opening session. Musical nights, dances and of course, the yearly memorable **Fiaccolata**, the torch-lit procession, which, like a long shining river in the night of the 26, took the over **8,000 people** gathered in Piazza Castello, Solferino, up to Castiglione delle Stiviere.

### Programme

20 June	- Opening of Solferino 2010 events - Youth training camp
23 June	- "Lesson learnt – Abruzzo, one year later" debriefing
24 June	- "Lesson learnt – Abruzzo, one year later" debriefing - Guided tours to the International RC Museum - Official opening ceremony and welcome to the international delegations - Musical evening at the camp by the band "Sine Frontera"
25 June	- Guided tours to the International RC Museum - "Youth as agents of change" workshop - Musical evening at the camp by the band "Nema Problema"
26 June	- Guided tours to the International RC Museum - "Youth as agents of change" workshop - Run race from San Martino to Solferino - XVII edition of the Fiaccolata, from Solferino to Castiglione delle Stiviere - Musical evening at the camp
27 June	- Youth summer camp in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Youth - Civil protection delegates national meeting - "Youth as agents of change" workshop

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Volunteers gathered in Piazza Castello before the Fiaccolata