



Italian Red Cross

2009 Abruzzo Earthquake

Emergency Response to the Earthquake in the
Region of Abruzzo:
A Collective Action of National and
International Solidarity



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I. Summary

An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy around 3:30 AM on April 6th, 2009. More than 300 people were killed, around 2000 injured and 70'000 were left homeless. Several strong aftershocks hit the region in the following week. The Italian Red Cross (ItRC) dealt with first aid and emergency rescue, as well as the sad task of recovering human remains. In addition, it assisted the afflicted population by providing crucial supplies, as well as psychological and social support. The first phase of the operation was in effect for the first three months and was completed on July 7th, 2009. The second phase was completed at the end of November 2009. The third phase of the ItRC operation, the "Radici" Project, is still in effect.

Eleven months after the earthquake, the most **important figures** on the intervention were:

- Over 12'000 volunteers from all Italian regions were mobilized,
- Over 200 ItRC staff members were involved in search and rescue operations, and in the coordination and planning of the operation,
- Over 200 vehicles were used in the operation,
- Over 1'500'000 hot meals were served, with a peak of 20'000 per day,
- 12 tent camps and 1 base camp for ItRC volunteers were set up and managed,
- 9 field kitchens,
- 10 field hospitals with ambulances were set up,
- 12 psychological and social support teams were involved,
- 1 veterinarian clinic was established in the Centi Colella camp,
- 3 movie theater tents were established in 3 different tent camps,
- 9 playrooms for children and adolescents were set up.

In addition, a 14'000 square meter supply warehouse was set up in Avezzano, where all the relief material received by the ItRC and other organizations were stored. The warehouse provided for the needs of all the tent camps in Abruzzo and guaranteed provisions of food and materials for the distribution center of the ItRC base camp, which gave assistance to more than 2'500 families.



II. The Situation in Abruzzo

On April 6th, 2009, a devastating earthquake struck the region of Abruzzo. The ItRC intervened, from the first hour of the disaster, alongside the population of Abruzzo, to assist victims of the disaster. The Association's (i.e. the ItRC) territorial-based organization of the emergency response system allowed the ItRC to act through its local branches. The first branch to respond was the Provincial ItRC Committee of L'Aquila, followed by the Provincial Committees of Teramo, Pescara and Chieti; the latter branches rapidly sent ambulances and sanitary assistance teams to the disaster. The Extraordinary Commissioner, Francesco Rocca, was summoned within 15 minutes of the disaster by the Civil Protection Department to participate in operations in the Department's Italian Situation Room.

The Extraordinary Commissioner rapidly took charge of coordinating all of the Association's emergency response units, which were in charge of rescue operations in the afflicted areas, alongside the Department Chief for Health and Social Activities and Emergency Operations, Dr. Leonardo Carmenati. Roberto Antonini, already the ItRC national delegate for Civil Protection, was named the ItRC's National Coordinator for the Abruzzo Earthquake Emergency. The Commissioner also created the National Operational Headquarters for the ItRC, in Legnano (MI), to maximize the use of available human and material resources in addressing the needs of the population. The Operational Headquarters were entrusted to the National Coordinator for the Abruzzo Earthquake Emergency while the Director General of the ItRC was put in charge of mobilizing the organization's resources, an activity that would later be delegated to the Department Chief. The dispatch of the first field hospitals from the Provincial Teramo and Rome ItRC headquarters was immediately arranged, as was that of canine units.



The Extraordinary Commissioner of the ItRC, Francesco Rocca, and the National Head of Civil Protection, Guido Bertolaso, rapidly convened the ItRC's Operational Support Centers to assist emergency response teams from Rome, Verona, and Potenza.

Notwithstanding the fact that the local emergency hotline ("118") call center was located in the San Salvatore Hospital, which was itself heavily damaged by the earthquake, the operators, doctors and nurses continued to respond to the overwhelming quantity of calls, and coordinated rescue missions with the support of ItRC personnel from L'Aquila. The latter were present both in the call center and inside ambulances, continually in contact with each other while they coordinated the emergency response. Around 2 PM the call center in the hospital was condemned due to the heavy damage it sustained, and was evacuated and moved inside the gymnasium of the Financial Guards. In the meantime the calls and coordination of rescue operations were routed through Teramo's "118" center.

Difficulties in communicating particularly through mobile phone networks, rendered the coordination of the overall emergency response even more complicated. As time went on and the number of casualties rose, it became necessary to create a mortuary chamber, initially located for logistical reasons in Piazza d'Armi and later transferred to a dedicated



room in the Finance Guard's School in Coppito.

The same structure was determined to be a suitable location to place the Head of the Central Coordination and Control Command (or "Di.Coma.C."), which included the operational center of the "118" line and the ItRC.

Within 4 hours of receiving the intervention request, a field kitchen with the capacity to distribute up to 7'000 meals per day to over 150 volunteers who were lodged in the Caserma Rossi in L'Aquila was set up. With this mobilization, in the few hours following the initial tremors, the first rescue team was able to provide urgent first aid and medical assistance as well as necessary supplies for survival and basic comfort.

The Head of the Emergency Department, Dr. Leonardo Carmenati, activated the Logistical Center of Legnano, solicited the dispatch of another field kitchen from the Centro Intervento Emergenza (Emergency Intervention Center) of Verona, capable of furnishing 2'000 meals per day. The base camp formed around the latter field kitchen, in Boschetto, near the Finmek industrial zone in L'Aquila.

Following the Civil Protection Department's request, another wave of supplies, including an additional field kitchen, was sent by the Regional ItRC Committee of Tuscany and installed in the Collemaggio camp. Two more kitchens capable of providing 3'500 meals per day were requested to deal with the growing needs of the population and were sent by the ItRC Mobilization Centers of Naples and Torino to the Centi Colella camp. In the mean time, another kitchen unit arrived in Centi Colella, donated by the Swiss Red Cross, which provided over 2'000 hot meals per day.

While part of the ItRC personnel worked in rescue and first aid and to prepare the tent camps, the other part, those who had administrative and logistical experience, collaborated with representatives for preparation and organization of the Coordination Center, the operational Headquarters, in an indoor sports arena inside the grounds of the Finance Guard Superintendents and Inspectors School.

Less than 48 hours after the earthquake, the ItRC had around 450 volunteers on the ground from all regional chapters, 5 off-road vehicles, 26 ambulances, 1 off-road ambulance, 9 transport vans, 1 minibus for transporting disabled people, 1 minibus with 20 places, 10 cars, 2 refrigerator vans, 4 semi-trucks, 2 lorries, 1 tow truck, 1 crane, 1 repair truck, 1 rescue truck, and 1 fork lift. The 5 field kitchens had already served over 13'000 meals per day to the wounded, evacuees, and rescue personnel. There were three active tent camps in Collemaggio, Centi Colella, and San Gregorio, and the majority of the ItRC personnel was stationed in the base camp.

There were four field clinics completely managed by the IRC and active in the first few hours of the tragedy: two in L'Aquila, in Piazza d'Armi and in the San Gregorio Sport Field, and two in Paganica. Over 1'000 medical interventions took place from the first day the units arrived in the field on April 8th.

In the first 72 hours of the disaster, then, the Territorial Organization for Operations in Abruzzo was composed as follows:

- Overall Coordinator of the Operation: Extraordinary Commissioner Francesco Rocca;
- Acting ItRC Commissioner for the earthquake-afflicted areas: Maria Teresa Letta;
- Territorial Coordinator: Dr. Leonardo Carmenati;
- National Coordinator for the Emergency in Abruzzo: Roberto Antonini;
- Operational Representative and Coordinator of ItRC volunteers: Pierluigi De Ascentiis, already the regional ItRC delegate of Civil Protection in Abruzzo; he was also assigned the management of the ItRC Emergency Coordination Center, specially created to deal with the 2009 earthquake
- Medical Manager: Dr. Antonella Pescini;
- Pharmaceuticals Manager: Dr. Teresa Marinelli;
- ItRC Representatives for the Operations Center and Civil Protection in Abruzzo (Di.Coma.C.): Fabio Torretta, Volunteer Nurse Anastasia Siena and Major Raffaele Cosetti;
- Manager of the ItRC Unified Collection and Sorting Center for Abruzzo located in Avezzano: ItRC Major Carlo Remor.

72 hours after the onset of the disaster, the ItRC had already put its own resources to use and, in conjunction with the Civil Protection Department, began the “stabilization” phase of the emergency, beginning to dedicate its own activities to the management of vulnerable cases and to prepare for the situation after the end of the emergency. For example, it organized many small events for young and old, from clown shows to the opening of a rest house with a medical annex in one of the tent camps.

The supply of meals provided to the victims, volunteers and personnel was massive, with a maximal peak of 22'000 meals prepared per day. The distribution of critical supplies collected and organized in the ItRC warehouse in Avezzano continued uninterrupted through June 2010.

Moreover, given the thousands of calls to the Public Relations Office (“URP”) of the ItRC’s Central Committee in Rome, from the 6th of April, the National Center of the URP was activated in the Council Room of the Central Committee of the ItRC, which remained uninterruptedly open until May 30th, 2009, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, including during all days off and holidays, with 10 computer emplacements and a dedicated email address for material donations and a hotline with 15 phones. From April 8th to May 30th 2009, 145 volunteers from all sections of the ItRC Provincial Committee of Rome as well as 4 staff members of the Central Committee worked on rotating shifts, and the head of URP was uninterruptedly present.

[after 240 days]

The evolution of the emergency response saw the ItRC begin to administer tent camps that had been run by other volunteer organizations, which, lacking the large and organized structure of the ItRC, after some time of (very noteworthy) work in the field, no longer had the resources to continue to assist the afflicted populations.

Halfway through April 2009, 22'000 people had received life-saving treatment.

Halfway through October 2009, six months after the earthquake, the ItRC was operating in 9 tent camps, assisting the population that still did not have shelter and was undertaking medical and social operations.

Recalling all interventions would be almost impossible: the activity was non-stop and in all sectors, from emergency support and basic assistance to the population, to reconstruction and more. Eight months after the earthquake, the ItRC directly managed 9 tent camps and provided supplies to 12 others; 8 field hospital units with doctors, nurses and ambulances; a playroom for children (on top of those in all the camps the ItRC directly ran). In these structures over 12'000 volunteers and logistical assistants distributed 12'000 covers and started a vast rescue program to free those trapped under debris, organized food (around 1'500'000 hot meals in total) and lodging for the displaced, and provided socio-psychological help for victims of the earthquake.

[the present but that which for us is also the near future]

The Civil Protection Department arranged for the closing of the tent camps and is working to find long-term solutions for all the afflicted inhabitants. The ItRC has asked to remain present both in the Base Camp in L'Aquila and in the Di.Coma.C. and in Avezzano to guarantee that all projects were carried out and completed.

At the end of November 2009, the ItRC's emergency plan for rescue and reconstruction in L'Aquila was completed. In the first few days of December the Base Camp in L'Aquila was closed and all supplies were transferred to the Logistics Center in Avezzano where volunteers and ItRC personnel continue to operate to ensure that all necessary functions are fulfilled.

The social and medical assistance activities and the reconstruction interventions were guaranteed until full recovery and return to normality.

The reconstruction efforts are coming to a close while an assistance and psychological accompaniment program for the local population, the "Radici" Project, is under way.



III. Coordination and partnerships

The Italian Red Cross worked in close cooperation with the Civil Protection Department which led the overall response. This cooperation was present not only in decision-making but also at the field level between the local authorities and volunteer structures. The effective coordination, both at the national level and in the field, reinforced the strong position of the Italian Red Cross and contributed to avoiding confusion and delay.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, more than 1'000 organizations were present on the field helping and providing assistance. After some time, most of these organizations left, in particular the smallest ones. The ItRC stayed among the organizations that had been accredited by the Civil Protection Department and guaranteed the continuity of the intervention by managing the camps that were left by the smaller organizations. The ItRC agreed that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies should actively support fund-raising for people affected by the earthquake in Abruzzo. With the support of the International Federation, the Italian Red Cross kept other contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies informed on the situation and its activities.

Many Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies contacted the Italian Red Cross and offered direct partnerships, and provided financial support in the emergency and rehabilitation phases. The Albanian Red Cross donated EUR 3'414. The American Red Cross offered USD 50'000 and EUR 366'798 for the Onna project as well as EUR 250'000 for the social and psychological support project "Radici", while bilaterally USAID also contributed with USD 50'000. The Australian Red Cross contributed EUR 2'345 (for the Onna project). The Austrian Red Cross with EUR 84'500. The British Red Cross contributed EUR 264'450. The Canadian Red Cross along with the Abruzzese Community in Canada offered EUR 900'000 especially for Onna project. The Chinese Red Cross gave EUR 21'980 through its Jet Li One Foundation and pledged an additional EUR 22'600. The French Red Cross contributed with EUR 7'160. The German Red Cross donated of 10 heaters (EUR 50'000 in kind) and pledged an additional EUR 76'000 in cash. The Icelandic Red Cross contributed with EUR 1'500. The Irish Red Cross contributed EUR 7'000. The Japanese Red Cross contributed EUR 7'951. The Luxembourg Red Cross offered EUR 60'000 in in-kind donations (4 field kitchens). The Monaco Red Cross contributed with EUR 60'000 (for Onna project). The Montenegro Red Cross contributed with EUR 3'000. The Spanish Red Cross gave EUR 50'000. The San Marino Red Cross contributed EUR 45'000 and pledged an additional EUR 90'000 for the Onna project. The Swiss Red Cross assistance, composed of 231 tents with a capacity of 1'155 beds each, 2'310 blankets and a field kitchen for 1'000 meals also contributed EUR 99'823 in cash and pledged another EUR 99'823. The Swiss Red Cross, with Swiss Solidarity, will also contribute to the construction of two health centers, one in Barete and one in Navelli. The International Federation of the Red Cross gave EUR 430'182 towards tents.

IV. The Activities of the Italian Red Cross

The activities of the Italian Red Cross in mitigating the Abruzzo emergency in 2009 can be summed up in two large-scale activities:

1. Large-scale Logistical Activities,
2. Large-scale Socio-Medical Activities

The large-scale logistics activities took form in the so-called Project 1, “Emergency Rehabilitation”, in which the ItRC gave direct support to the population afflicted by the earthquake, providing hot meals and other materials, and tried to use the resources of the local social network so that the afflicted areas could start themselves up again.

There were in essence two separate activities.

1. Day-to-day management of the tent camps and provision of essential supplies:

These were interventions that furnished immediately necessary goods and services, in particular by providing food, board, and hygienic services.

- Food support: initially all meals were cooked and provided to victims, but gradually families were given access to either private or shared kitchens to begin regaining autonomy. A key goal was to shift from the passive, victim lifestyle, to being an active participant in daily life;
- Aids for mobility (baby-carriages, crutches, etc.);
- Family lodgings: large family tents, kitchen tents, cooking equipment and refrigerators, heating equipment (Alpinter lamps), beds and bedding;
- Family-packs of food and supplies;
- Animal food for pets and farm animals (chickens, etc);
- Gardening tools, seeds and supplies

In addition there was a large amount of maintenance work involved to keep the facilities, tools, and vehicles used from the first hours of the disaster in working order.

2. Replenishing the stocks of supplies used in the field during the disaster, by acquiring structures and materials to employ in the case of emergencies:

Replenishing the stock of materials was a response to the need to guarantee the availability of supplies and tools in case those currently in use wore out or were used up and to ensure that in the case of another disaster that might arise during the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Abruzzo the necessary materials would be available.

It was therefore urgent to begin to acquire medium sized tents, pagoda tents, bunk beds, kitchen materials (ovens, pots and



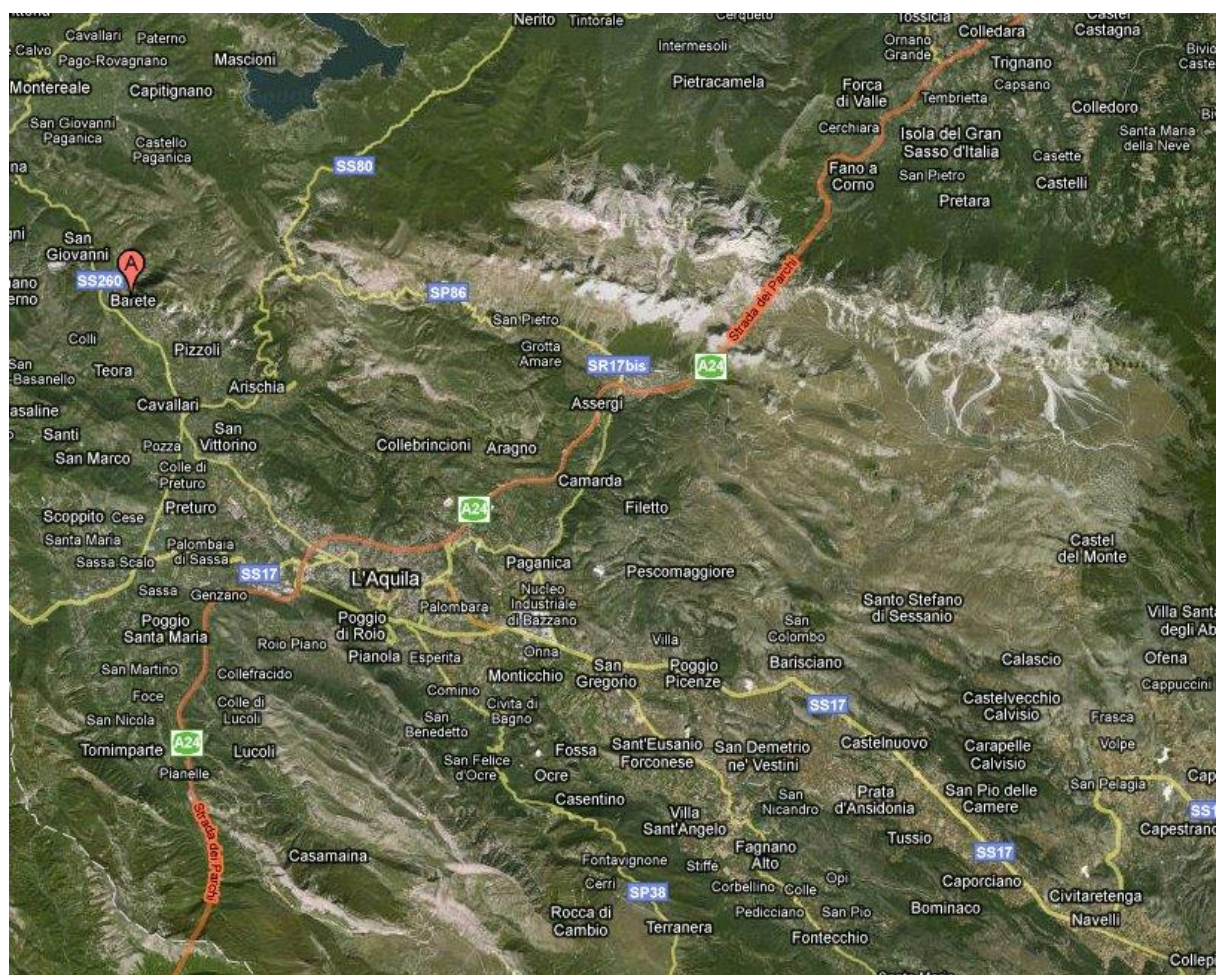
pans of various sizes), electric generators and lighting units, to ensure the lasting success of the rehabilitation efforts and the emergency. In addition to the expansion of the stock of supplies, the ItRC also began acquiring cars, lorries, shipping containers, campers and trailers. This was to make interventions in Abruzzo more efficient and ensure the availability of the necessary means to intervene effectively in the case of national emergencies, as specified by the ItRC's Action Plan (pt. 4.2.4) "Appraisal of the need to acquire or replace materials and means due to wear and use".

SUMMARY TABLE: THE PRESENCE OF THE RED CROSS IN TENT CAMPS IN ABRUZZO (in order of date of establishment of the camps)

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date of establishment or initial ItRC management</i>	<i>Date of closing or end of ItRC management</i>	<i>Beds available (approx.)</i>
Assergi	07/04/2009	12/09/2009	300
Avezzano	07/04/2009	Still open	150
Caserma Rossi	07/04/2009	30/05/2009	100
Campo base CRI	07/04/2009	23/12/2009	250
Centi Colella	07/04/2009	12/11/2009	500
Collemaggio	07/04/2009	22/11/2009	500
San Gregorio	07/07/2009	08/11/2009	600
Acciano	20/04/2009	21/06/2009	250
Cagnano	20/04/2009	20/09/2009	300
S. Benedetto di Bagno	30/04/2009	02/10/2009	100
Mascioni	01/05/2009	30/08/2009	70
Pescomaggiore	12/05/2009	08/10/2009	100
Italtel 2	01/06/2009	22/11/2009	500
Campotosto	10/09/2009	30/09/2009	300

SUMMARY TABLE: MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS IN ABRUZZO

Tent Camps or lodgings	Field Kitchens	Field Hospitals
Acciano	Assergi	Aragno
Assergi	Cagnano Amiterno	Assergi
Cagnano Amiterno	Caserma Rossi	Centi Colella
Campotosto	Centi Colella	Collemaggio
Centi Colella	Collemaggio	Italtel 2
Collemaggio	ItalTel 2	Paganica
L'Aquila – Italtel 2	Pescomaggiore	Piazza D'Armi
Mascioni	San Gregorio	Poggio Picenze
Pescomaggiore	Campo base	San Gregorio
San Benedetto di Bagno		Campo base
San Gregorio		
Campo base		
Avezzano		
Caserma Rossi		



Large-scale Socio-Medical Activities



The socio-medical activities, which began in the first days of the emergency, were characterized by many initiatives and projects realized inside the tent camps.

In summary:

- Taking a census of those affected by the earthquake, in particular those in tent camps,
- Collecting input from the population on their needs,
- Large-scale “Banca del Tempo” Project (an initiative to help with the return to normal daily activities),
- Mail delivery and pickup by the Postal service,
- The “Patchwork” Project in collaboration with the Italian Quilt Association,
- Recreational activities: karaoke, traditional concerts (the Fanfare of the Alps), various festivals, various musical concerts (pop, classical), birthday parties, baptisms and dance lessons,
- The “CineTV Tende” project, which included three projection tents donated by NBC Universal (located in Collemaggio, Centi Colella, San Gregorio camps), and various socio-cultural activities,
- Creation and production of a Camp “mini-newspaper”,
- Delivery of boxes containing track suits and shoes donated by the Unione Tifosi Romanisti,
- The “Ludobus” Project in collaboration with the Provincial Administration of L’Aquila, in San Gregorio,
- Support for family reunions,
- Support and assistance for pregnant women,
- Coordination of “listening” groups from Caritas,
- Listening activities (ASA, Dottor Clown, SSEP),
- Pet therapy.

For **MINORS**: creation of playrooms, study trips (to New Castle), the “Una Vacanza per loro” Project, recreational trips such as “Il mare in Senigallia” (by National Female Committee of the ItRC), and sporting activities in collaboration with the Civil Protection Department and the Italian National Olympic Committee, CONI: the “Scosse di Sport” Project, mini-Basketball and football tournaments, swimming. School (Collemaggio, Centi Colella) and after-school (all camps) activities, painting contests, play-putty lessons, acting classes with a final essay, the “Bimbambulanza” Project (to give children a non-traumatic exposure to ambulances), meetings with the Canadian ambassador for a twinning between L’Aquila and Canada. The “Città che vorrei” project, which gave children and adolescents an opportunity to create projects for reconstruction using plastic models that they would then send to the Communal Councils as real potential projects. The “rientro sicuro nelle scuole “ (“Safe return to School”) Project, led by the prefecture along with other bodies within the Civil Protection Department

sought to place Civil Protection personnel inside schools during the first week of classes as a psychological reassurance to students and parents.

For the **ELDERLY**: in the first two months after the earthquake, specific activities were organized inside the Centi Colella tent camp. They included listening groups (ASA, Dottor Clown, SSEP), the O.A.S.I Project (“Operation Safe Elderly People”), the creation of air conditioned areas with board games and TV, and organized events such as bingo nights, raffles, dancing evenings, gardening – a vegetable garden was created in the Collemaggio camp, as well as assistance with bureaucratic issues and paperwork, and musical therapy activities.

For **ADULTS**: “Banca Del Tempo” Project – a way to escape simply being a victim of the disaster and the recipient of assistance and to start regaining some normality and routine – created spaces for laundry, and started rotating shifts for clearing bathrooms and distributing meals.

In addition, an important component of the assistance activity was the distribution of food items by the Center for the Distribution of Food Supplies, working out of the base camp in L’Aquila. Despite the closure of the camps, including the base camp, the distribution nonetheless continued to be guaranteed based on the population’s needs as expressed to the volunteers of the L’Aquila Provincial ItRC Committee.

The ItRC under the auspices of the Civil Protection Department is currently managing the playroom and polyvalent space in the Finance Guards School in conjunction with the local chapter of Caritas. The latter structure housed close to 1’500 displaced individuals and collaborated with the Italian Quilt Association in the “Patchwork” project in the school itself.

From September 21st 2009, the date schools opened again in the region, ItRC volunteers assisted the Civil Protection Department in welcoming the returning students who were still residing on the Abruzzo coast who nonetheless attended school in L’Aquila. The volunteers distributed warm beverages and pastries at the school bus drop-off point.

In collaboration with the “Terra del Fuoco” Association, the ASA Coordination Center of the ItRC organized a trip to Auschwitz for 15 youths between 18 and 21 years of age. The trip was preceded by preparatory meetings in which the youths were given the means to prepare for and then elaborate on the emotions of their experience, which for them was even more significant due to the particular timing in which the trip occurred and the trauma they just experienced following the earthquake.

V. The Projects of the Italian Red Cross

Reconstruction Projects

Project 2 – Housing units to overcome the emergency: the village of Onna

This was a fairly urgent project in that, once the immediate aftermath of the earthquake was dealt with, the ItRC's main task was to ensure that the population afflicted by the tremor had the necessary conditions for an effective rehabilitation.



On the 17th of June 2009 an agreement between the delegate Commissioner for seismic events, the Autonomous Province of Trento (which was the actuating entity) and the Extraordinary Commissioner of the ItRC was reached for the urgent construction of lodgings in the Abruzzo region. It tasked the Association with guaranteeing the financial cost of building the family units in the village of Onna. The project included 94 habitable units, to be used over the long term and an

urbanization and service installation component, as spelled out in a project created in conjunction with the National Office of the Civil Protection Department, on a plot of land located in the village, given in free tenancy by Fabrizio Pica Alfieri.

The ItRC financially supported the project with 5'200'000,00 EUR, and the Autonomous Province of Trento, as the actuary body, worked to finish the work by the 15th of September 2009, which was the set date of the inauguration ceremony of the village.

After the plot was prepared, the work on the construction proceeded in overtime shifts. The project consisted of building 94 housing units of three different types: 24 type "A" units for 1-2 people and with a surface area of 45 square meters, 40 type "B" units for families of 3-4 people and an area of 52 square meters, and 30 type "C" units destined for families of 5-6 people with an area of 74 square meters. In addition, a large communal room for a day care and kindergarten, as well as a Church were built.

The definition of the housing units was agreed upon between the Commune de L'Aquila (Municipality of L'Aquila), Associazione Onna Onlus (the non-profit Onna Association) and the residents of Onna. The ItRC's activities were not limited to construction, however, and it assisted residents by furnishing food items and materials for the houses.

The main financial contributors to the Onna project were: **the Commune di Roma (Municipality of Rome), the Canadian Red Cross, the Sole24Ore Group, the Western Union Foundation, the Red Cross of Monaco, and H3G SpA.**



Project 3 – The Collemaggio Clinic

The new "Centro di Riabilitazione Territoriale" ("Territorial Rehabilitation Center") in the location of the former hospital of St. Maria of Collemaggio in L'Aquila was inaugurated on Tuesday, October 6th 2009. The structure, donated by the Genesio and Antonio Alessandrini Foundation from Rome to the ItRC, was used by the Local Sanitary Unit no. 4 of L'Aquila.

Built according to stringent eco-compatibility standards, and equipped with photovoltaic panels and a small wind turbine on its roof to produce electricity, the center will offer services in pediatric physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

"The inauguration of the clinic donated by the Alessandrini Foundation to the ItRC, said the Extraordinary Commissioner Francesco Rocca at the inauguration, it is another demonstration of how institutions and private individuals can collaborate on a concrete contribution to the rebuilding in Abruzzo and more generally on all initiatives of solidarity in favor of the most vulnerable".

Project 4 – The Barete Clinic

Barete is a small village 20km to the north-west of L'Aquila and around 800 meters above sea level. There were 633 residents before the earthquake, but around 10% of houses were destroyed. The village's only health clinic was located in the badly damaged public school.

The local authorities and the Civil Protection Department rebuilt a temporary village composed of 15 houses for those who had lost their homes. At the center of this area a wooden structure for the health clinic was planned and built very rapidly.

The Extraordinary Commissioner of the ItRC, as laid out in Ordinance no. 282 of 2009, approved an allocation in favor of the Clinic for 74'000,00 EUR. The project was also supported by the **Swiss Red Cross** and **Swiss Solidarity**.



Project 8 – Housing units to overcome the emergency: the village of San Gregorio

The village of San Gregorio was almost entirely wiped out by the earthquake. Its full reconstruction was estimated at 4-10 years. In the meantime, the Municipality of L'Aquila intended to urbanize a specific area for the community of San Gregorio by building wooden

housing units (“Provisional Housing Modules”), and thus to provide temporary lodging to 88 families.

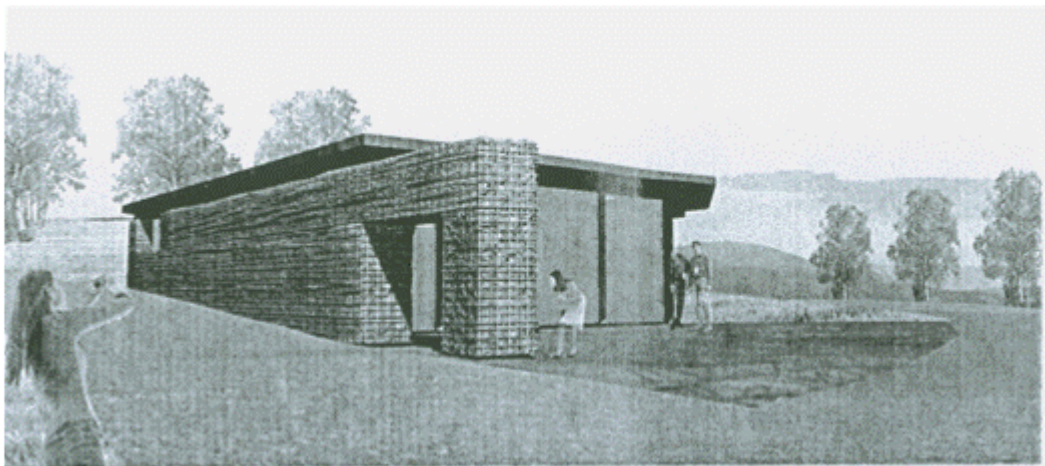
Putting the project into practice required various phases, including:

- Laying and connecting water, sewage and gas lines and setting up an electric grid,
- Building roads and sidewalks,
- Installing urban fixtures (public lighting, plants, etc),
- Building the platforms for the foundations of the wooden houses,
- Building 88 wooden houses,
- Building a large civic and conference room (Earthquake memorial),
- Building a clinic for the young and the elderly.

The cost of each house was estimated at around 55'000,00 EUR. The structures were two-story town houses.

The Italian Red Cross worked on the construction of the clinic and the conference room (civic center) as well as several houses, with total contributions to the order of 1'967'000,00 EUR.

The first houses were inaugurated in early 2010, with the Health Center and Civic Center nearly completed.



Project 7 – Clinic and Communal Room in Navelli

Navelli is 30km to the south-east of L'Aquila at 760 meters above sea level. It is split into two sub-units: the main village of Navelli, proper, with 630 inhabitants in which the houses were only partially damaged, and the smaller village of Civitaretenga of roughly 450 inhabitants and in which nearly half of the houses were severely damaged by the earthquake. The local authorities and the Civil Protection Department rapidly built a temporary village of 20 wooden houses for those who had lost their homes.

Following the earthquake, the municipal building of Navelli, in which a health and emergency response clinic was located suffered heavy damage and was not salvageable. The building the ItRC financed will have a wood frame structure, with a surface area of 150 square meters, and will house the council room, the technical and administrative offices, the office

of the mayor, and two waiting areas for the public. Moreover a clinic with hygiene services annexes will be constructed nearby.

The realization of the project will be under the direction of the Commune. The financial support provided by the ItRC is of 155'200,00 EUR. The project was also supported by the **Swiss Red Cross** and **Swiss Solidarity**.

Social Assistance Interventions

Project 5 - "La Città che Vorrei" ("The City I would Like")

Both Public and Private Entities were involved in planning the restructuring of the urban spaces and the services provided to the communities of the Abruzzo affected by the earthquake.

"La Città che Vorrei" was an urban planning experience in which children and young adults were able to express their need to be "protagonists in their own city", developing their sense of belonging to their own region and the attachment to their local environment, particularly after the critical phase that compromised the livability and the sense of security. These activities gave the young a voice so they would not be passive in their interactions with their surroundings.

The aim of the project: To offer children and adolescents a concrete opportunity to be active "planners" in the reconstruction of their own realities by coming up with projects, in the form of plastic models, which represented ideas, suggestions, and proposals for rehabilitation and reconstruction of a zone of their own village. The proposals, which were then presented to the Public Administrations, looked at urban areas and the services destined to the activities of socialization of children/teenagers, with particular regard to formal and informal meeting areas (parks, public squares, athletic spaces, etc).

Specific Objectives of the Project:

- To engage in planning for the future, which is an essential moment in the development of children/adolescents, in a critical phase of their lives such as following a natural catastrophe;
- To push children to get to know their own village from an architectural, cultural and social point of view to develop their sense of belonging to their own community and in areas of daily life (public squares, parks, school);
- To contribute to the formation of a "conscious citizenry" through the expression of proposals of projects to rebuild or improve urban spaces where the city is on a "child's or a teen's scale".

The Recipients of the Project: Children and teenagers who lived in the Commune of Cagnano Amiterno and in the camp run by the ItRC. The project participants' parents filled out a release form to allow their child to participate in the project.

Operational Plan: The project intended to create "artistic laboratories" in which young "planners", alongside professionally accredited volunteers (architects, surveyors, etc), came up with urban planning proposals in the form of plastic models which were then shown to the Public Administrations of the territory. The final presentation of the modeled projects was designed to promote spaces for interactions between the Public Administration and

youths. By listening to the latter's requests and desires, the hope was for local public entities to proactively take their opinions into account in the reconstruction phase.

Place and time of the project: The project intended to create a plastic arts laboratory inside the ItRC run camp. The "planning sessions" took place according to a calendar sent to the Commune di Cagnano Amiterno (Municipality of Cagnano Amiterno), the participants and their parents and to the ItRC personnel that managed the Cagnano Amiterno camp.

The project was made possible thanks to the dedication of ItRC, without incurring high costs (the materials used represented the only expense).

Project 6 - "Scosse di Sport" ("Sport Quakes")

The project was made up of three parallel components:

- 1) The Italian Red Cross was present at the coordination table in camps guaranteeing a presence alongside the instructors from the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI);
- 2) A practice schedule (10 meetings) was organized for sporting activities (mini-basketball and mini-volleyball) for youths in the province of L'Aquila, culminating in a tournament that took place at the end of October;
- 3) Six day trips for various youth athletic teams from L'Aquila to other Italian cities were organized, to encourage fundraising efforts for structures that would directly benefit children and teenagers (school libraries etc).

OBJECTIVES IN THE TERRITORY:

Short-term: to offer the population an alternative to the inactivity and stress of being a victim of the earthquake living in a tent camp.

Medium-term: to allow the ItRC's pilot project to take hold in the region, through partnerships with CONI and the Civil Protection Department in Abruzzo.

Long-term: to revitalize the labor market in the territory, in particular in the athletic sector, to facilitate economic recovery.

The strategic plan relied on several levels of intervention:

1st level: INTRODUCTION OF MOTOR ACTIVITIES IN CAMPS;

2nd level: CREATION OF MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ATHLETIC CENTERS;

3rd level: RESTARTING THE TERRITORIAL ATHLETIC NETWORK.

Lessons for children: multi-disciplinary sporting introduction (volleyball, basketball, football, tennis, martial arts, gymnastics, dance, cycling, mountaineering...).

Lessons for adults: martial arts (karate, judo, aikido), dance (Latin-American, standard, argentine tango, group dancing, folk dancing), aerobics, gag, step, pilates, total-body.

Lessons for the elderly: dance, rehabilitative gymnastics, postural therapy, bocce, card games, checkers, chess...

Events calendar:

- Football tournament: May 19th, 2009 in the Cagnano Amiterno camp
- Centi Colella Gym: opened on May 25th, 2009,
- Mini-Olympics: 11-12th June, 2009, in the Collemaggio camp,

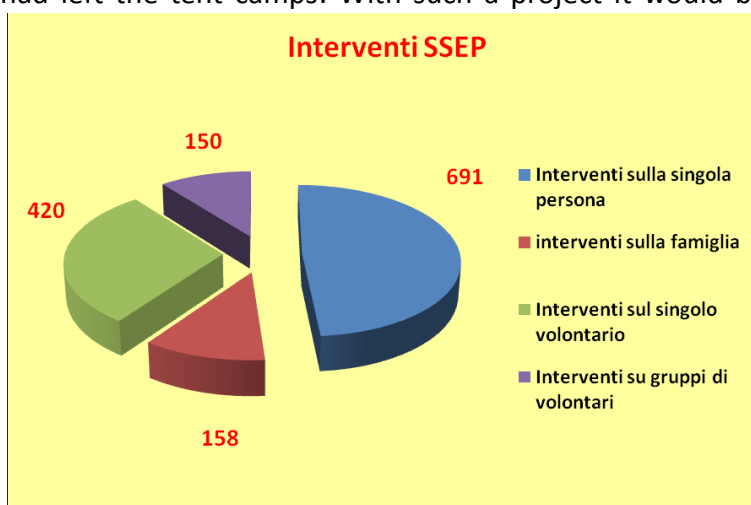
- Basketball Tournament: "SMILE, regaliamo un sorriso " ("SMILE, let's give a smile as a gift"), 19-21st June, 2009, in the Collemaggio camp (Arezzo ItRC Committee)
- Volleyball Tournament: 17th July 2009, in the Centi Colella camp
- Trekking and Biking trails: High Quota Association of Rome, summer months 2009
- Residential Summer Camps: July-August (the second national CONI project)
- Bocce Tournament: summer months 2009
- Dancing Competitions: summer months 2009

The project was made possible thanks to the dedication of ItRC volunteers, without incurring high costs (materials were the only expense).

Project 9 - "Radici" ("Roots")

A large-scale disaster such as an earthquake is a major traumatic event for the whole region. The Italian Red Cross planned a psychological support project that would allow citizens to adequately confront the challenges of a new and different reality.

The objective was to provide clinical and psychological support that would assist the region's population, including those who had left the tent camps. With such a project it would be possible to guarantee different services: assistance to the elderly, to the non-self-sufficient, and to disabled people, through in-home support, hospital cures and various clinical services that included counseling activities, both individual and familial, and group psychotherapy. Around 11'000 inhabitant of 37 tent camps in L'Aquila would be able to benefit from the project.



The project is set to last 12 months, and to consist of two separate actions:

- Professional training courses for 5 social and psychological intervention teams (one dedicated to assisting the elderly, one to disabled persons, one to the non self-sufficient, one to individuals needing in-home assistance, and one to clinical psychological treatment); in those courses volunteers from the ItRC Provincial Committee of L'Aquila, who will integrate the intervention projects designed by the professionals.
- Support and social and psychological assistance interventions for 300 family units, undertaken by qualified personnel.

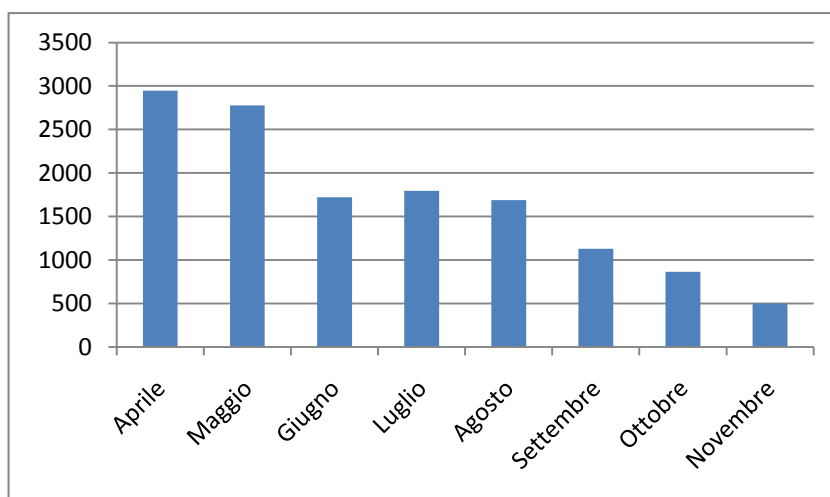
The projected cost of the initiative is 250'000,00 EUR, largely financed by the **American Red Cross**.

VI. The Way We Work

All the initiatives were undertaken with the support and coordination of the Civil Protection Department. Thanks to the crucial support of the citizens of Italy, public institutions, other Red Cross Societies throughout the world, local ItRC committees, private firms and various donors: this huge network of international solidarity led to a total of 13 million EUR in financial donations and a lot of material and goods donations.

In addition, the total volunteer personnel that worked through the National Operational Center in Legnano (MI) from the 6th of April 2009 to the 28th of February 2010 was 11'558 people from all of Italy.

The volunteer presence was typical of emergencies, with a peak in the initial days, weeks and months after the disaster (April/May) which slowly dropped off as conditions on the ground stabilized and efforts turned to more routine matters such as running the camps, after which people slowly began to return to their homes.



Evolution of levels of ItRC volunteer support in the Abruzzo Earthquake Emergency

The ItRC personnel was made up of 60% men and 40% women. This refers to the totality of active volunteers, without taking into account the number of days of service or the possibility that individuals may have taken part in more than one operation.



Within the active personnel there were individuals possessing specialized training who were almost exclusively put to work in particular fields. Their specializations largely were in the social and sanitary fields but some were also involved in logistics and emergency interventions.

VII. Transparency and Accountability

The Italian Red Cross would like to thank all private citizens, public institutions, National Red Cross Societies, private firms, and local ItRC committees that helped sustain operations in Abruzzo.

MAIN SPONSORS



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Municipality of Rome



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Canadian Red Cross



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National Red Cross Societies

- American Red Cross
- Australian Red Cross
- Austrian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Chinese Red Cross/Jet Li One Foundation
- Monaco Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Icelandic Red Cross
- Japan Red Cross
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Montenegro Red Cross
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- International Federation of the Red Cross - DREF

National and International firms that donated materials or goods

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 Allied Joint Force Command Headquarters Naples - Ufficio Personale Civile (NATO)
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Yves Meyfroidt - Sleep Well

DONATIONS

As of April 28th, 2010, the Italian Red Cross had received **12'011'005,43 EUR** in financial contributions destined specifically for operations in Abruzzo.

In addition, the Association received a lot of supplies and materials, including:

- 1'229'088 liters of water,
- 706'839 Kg of provisions,
- 2'473'425 packages of disposable dishware,
- 477'402 items of clothing,
- 300'000 items of underwear,
- 2'843'876 personal hygiene packages,
- 236'128 assorted large items (beds, hospital beds, cots, pillow-cases, mattresses, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, fans, dryers, chairs, tables, stationery, bins, water tanks, wheelchairs, etc),
- 7'700 books (approx.),
- 1'906 sets of table ware,
- 1'170 sets of glassware,
- 1'584 sets of pots and pans,
- 27'864 micro-fridges,
- 85 blood pressure cuffs,
- 85 stethoscopes,
- 2 pneumatic tents,
- 6 WC/shower containers, three of which were handicap equipped,
- 1 portable echography machine,
- 1 multi-purpose woodstove,
- 4 electric forklifts,
- 16 multi-purpose printers,
- 1 color photocopier.

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

As of June 30th 2010, the ItRC had contributed the following amounts to the projects below:

Alla data del 30 giugno 2010, la C.R.I. ha destinato le donazioni a queste iniziative:

Project 1 – Emergency Rehabilitation	€. 2.050.000,00
Project 2 – Housing units to overcome the emergency: the village of Onna	€. 5.200.000,00
Project 4 - The Barete Clinic	€. 74.000,00
Project 7 – The Navelli Clinic and Communal Room	€. 155.200,00
Project 8 - Housing units to overcome the emergency: the village of San Gregorio	€. 1.967.000,00
Project 9 - Project "Radici"	€. 250.000,00
Project 10 - The San Gregorio Clinic	€. 270.000,00
Project 11 – The San Gregorio Communal Room	€. 370.000,00
total	€. 10.336.200,00

VIII. Contact Us

Per specific information on our activities please contact:

In L'Aquila: Maria Teresa Letta, Carla Lettere, Pierluigi De Ascentiis.

cr.abruzzo@cri.it

In Rome: Stefano Brizi, Michele Detomaso, Fabio Torretta, Marco Accorinti.

servizio12@cri.it



All initiatives were carried out in coordination with the National Civil Protection Department, and thanks to the crucial support of the Italian population, public institutions, private firms, various ItRC committees and all the donors.

A fundamental contribution to the overall operation was given by 14 National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and by over 500 Italian and foreign companies and firms.