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# Between Vienna and Solferino

Dear friends,

After a short break, we are back with a new issue of our newsletter. We left you with the dramatic images and figures of the Haiti earthquake, which spread its humanitarian echo throughout the globe. The Red Cross Red Crescent is still on site to help the affected population and support the Haitian Red Cross in delivering its services.

By the end of April Tajikistan was hit by a **Polio** outbreak, after not a single case had been reported since 1997, when it was declared a polio-free country. A government-led vaccination and communication campaign supported by the Tajikistan Red Crescent and the IFRC is currently ongoing throughout the 20 provinces of the country. As of 19 May, 129 cases have been confirmed and 3 people have died.

May 2010 was characterized by a particularly devastating series of weather events which occurred across several Central European countries and resulted in **violent floods**. Poland was the worst affected. Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine were also affected. At least thirty-seven people died in the floods and approximately 23,000 people were evacuated.

The last three months were marked by two important Red Cross Red Crescent international events: the **11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 17 to 19 March, and the **8<sup>th</sup> European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference**, held in Vienna between 13 and 16 April.

Moreover, **8 May 2010**, anniversary of the birth date of Henry Dunant, was the **World Red Cross Red Crescent Day**, and a number of celebrations organized by the National Societies took place around the world. Here are reported some stories on the events held by the Hungarian RC, the Italian RC and the Belarusian RC.

Many events still await us in the next months, including **Solferino 2010**, the well-noted yearly event which every year gathers together thousands of people from many countries in the world and this year will take place **from 20 to 27 June**.

Anitta Underlin  
Director of Europe Zone Office

## Poland and Hungary struggle with the floods



Relief work in Zabrze, Poland

Heavy rain during May and June 2010 triggered severe floods in several countries of Central Europe, including north-eastern **Hungary** and a large swathe of **Poland**, where the devastating floods inundated villages and towns and made it the worst affected among the recently flooded countries. According to the Polish Government Security Center, as of 27 May, **30,000 people have been evacuated**, 275,000 hectares, 11 *voivodeships* (administrative divisions) and 564 cities were affected. The response of the Polish Red Cross was based on local or regional capacities, which involved hundreds of staff, volunteers and members from the Red Cross branches in Malopolskie,



Volunteers at work in the villages of Czechowice-Dziedzice

Slaskie, Swietokrzyskie, Opolskie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie. The first emergency response operation saw the mobilization of rescue service teams, which carried out search and rescue operations, and provided medical

assistance, working alongside local fire services and emergency medical services. **More than 100 Red Cross volunteers** worked tirelessly to save lives and provide clean water and first aid. Disaster relief efforts were speeded up thanks fundraising activities at a national level and large donations such as the SMS campaign with

Polsat TV and a **donation of 50,000 USD** to the Red Cross Regional Branch of Kraków **by the American embassy**. This has meant the Red Cross has been able to respond to the humanitarian needs of the affected people in Malopolskie. In Hungary the situation looks less severe: in Győr, Nógrád and Heves, respectively 1000, 100 and 30 people were evacuated, but they were then able to return to their houses. With **Borsod** being the only exception, all counties have started the reconstruction phase. People in Borsod will

have to wait until the flood recedes. The exact number of people affected by the floods is unknown, but more than 100 of the settlements involved are located in Borsod, from where over 5000 people have been evacuated and not yet been able to go back to their homes. After the first wave, many donations were made in favour of the affected people, including a **HUF 500,000,000** one by **OTP Bank** and a **HUF 60,000,000** donation by **T-Home**, cable and mobile phone major company. **USAID** contributed with **50,000 USD**. A toll free line was opened, to be used by both bene-

ficiaries to ask for support, and potential donors to make donations.

## Tajikistan RC tackles Polio outbreak

About **400 volunteers** from the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with the support of the International Federation, are currently involved in a government-led national vaccination and communication campaign after a polio outbreak was confirmed in the Central Asian country on 22 April 2010.

As of 19 May, Tajikistan had reported 432 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in 20 districts, including the capital, Dushanbe. Of the AFP cases, **129** have been confirmed as **poliomyelitis (polio) cases**. The majority of cases are among children



Roma people in Jaloiliddin Rumi district

under five; approximately 62 per cent of the confirmed polio cases have occurred in children aged 1–5 years. The operation involves some 400 Red Crescent volunteers, who are supporting the Tajik government's three-phase vaccination campaign. The first round of vaccinations was carried out from 4 to 7 May, and the second from 18 to 22 May. Red Crescent volunteers are also working to raise public awareness through community health promotion, and information and media campaigns in the 20 districts where cases of polio have been detected. All volunteers received a one-day training on personal protection, water safety and social mobilization.

## Mediterranean: Values in Action

From the 17 to 19 March 2010, the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia was the host of the **11th Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**. The Conference, attended by delegates from 22 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from the Mediterranean, was based on the motto **"Mediterranean: Values in Action"**. Taking place at a period in which the Mediterranean National Societies have been increasingly faced with humanitarian challenges, the Conference set out to tackle issues of great significance in the Mediterranean basin, such as the challenge of protecting and providing assistance to migrants, the problems related to climate change and the environment, the social effects of the world economic crisis and the role of youth in the future of the Mediterranean. The Conference had a special **focus on migration and its humanitarian impact**. Emphasizing the opportunities that the Mediterranean Conference offers to implement respect for diversity, tolerance, peaceful coexistence and cooperation between National Societies with different histories and cultures, the National Societies participating in the Conference agreed on strengthening dialogue with governments to promote humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy in favour of a more comprehensive social inclusion. In particular, the need of an increased awareness of the humanitarian dimension of migrants, in order to provide better protection and assistance to migrants, regardless of their status, was highlighted. The **role of young people as YABC** (youth as agents of behavioural change) was also stressed: the crucial importance of youth in mind-changing processes as well as in the strengthening of community resilience must lead to the rein-

forcement of the role and the action of youth as the key factor in social change and development, as well as to stronger promotion of youth volunteer work and the advantages of their civic engagement at the national and international level, according to Pledge 129. Thus, the National Societies committed to support young people in the revision of Youth Policy and its adaptation to the Strategy 2020 and to encourage the implementation of the YABC approach and its integration in the programmes of National Societies.

## For a discrimination-free Europe

"Ageing begins at birth: it is not a concern solely of older people!". "It is not about them. It is about us". **Ageing populations. Diversity and intercultural dialogue**. These were the topics at the heart of the discussion of the **8th European Regional Red Cross Red Crescent Conference** held in Vienna from April 13 to 16, 2010.



(from left to right): Anitta Underlin, IFRC; Dr. Erkebek Argymbaev, Kazakhstan RCS President; Pascale Meige Wagner, ICRC; Roza Shayahmetova, Kyrgyzstan RCS Secretary General; Zafar Muhabbatov, Tajikistan RCS Secretary General.

During the Conference, **Memorandums of understanding (MoU)** were signed between **ICRC, IFRC and three present National Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**. The rest of MoUs (with Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society) will be signed next month. As the next step it is planned to suggest to partner NSs working in the region to join/sign these MoUs. The MoU purpose is to promote dynamic approach to the interventions of the Movement components and ensure optimal humanitarian service delivery in line with National Societies' strategic plans to coordinate efforts and resources in supporting National Societies in order to ensure capacity building, development and long term sustainability of National Societies effective structures and programmes.

In the Conference's final document, **'The Vienna Commitments'**, the National Societies pledged to engage people of all ages and from different backgrounds in their activities and governance, to better reflect the composition of society in their respective countries, to overcome discrimination and stigma, and to achieve better access to vulnerable groups. The Vienna Conference identified empowering older people as a central goal, and will encourage active ageing, advocating for the inclusion of older people in economic, social and cultural life – including in the Red Cross Red Crescent; as volunteers, as well as in decision making. The theme of diversity and intercultural dialogue was also strongly marked: diversity in terms of diverse ideas, knowledge, culture, histories and opinions must be first encouraged within the Movement: a strong and effective Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, indeed, needs to adequately reflect – in its own staff, volunteers and members - the changing composition of our populations, in order to better reach increasingly diverse vulnerable communities. Multicultural interaction, nonetheless, may also lead the way to a series of challenges, such as **discrimination**. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as part of its mandate, acknowledges its responsibility in fighting discrimination and promoting respect for diversity. Protection from all grounds of discrimination has also been the goal of an **EU-led information campaign**, under the name **'Respect for Diversity. Against Discrimination'**. the campaign works to convey the message to as many people as possible that a diverse Europe is something to be valued, and that a life free from discrimination is a fundamental right in the EU.

For more information about the

8th European Regional Red Cross Red Crescent Conference and the Vienna Commitments, click here.

For more information about the EU campaign, click here.

## Celebrating 8 May

On **8 May**, birthday of its founder, Henry Dunant, the whole International Movement celebrates the **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**. This year, in the aftermath of some of the biggest natural disasters tackled by the Movement in the latest years, such as the earthquakes which struck first Haiti and then Chile and China, such annual appointment plays an even more important part in reminding everyone of the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people.



Hungarian RC tents in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, on 8 May, 2010

"8 May is the very day dedicated to the RCRC Movement itself. A day when we don't want to ask for help but only thank the people for their help" says **Mr. Georg Habsburg**, President of the **Hungarian Red Cross Society** at the celebrations which took place in **Székesfehérvár**. Such gratitude took the form of an awarding ceremony held in Vörösmarty Theatre, where Hungarian Red Cross members and volunteers were handed over diplomas, national awards and prizes for their outstanding work. The celebrations in Székesfehérvár continued through the afternoon with tent exhibitions and demonstrations on Hungarian

Red Cross activities, performances of children coming from HRC Reference School Network from all over the country, and cultural programmes.

### The Director of Europe Zone meets the President of Serbia

On 7 May, as a part of the Serbian RC celebrations for the World RCRC Day, Ms. **Anitta Underlin**, Director of IFRC Europe Zone Office, met H.E. Mr. **Boris Tadić**, President of the Republic of Serbia. Ms. Underlin was invited by the National Society to represent the International Federation in the meeting between the Serbian RC's President and SG and Mr. Tadić. The meeting was particularly relevant for the great human interest showed by the President towards RCRC issues, especially blood donation, first aid, the topics of multicultural integration and ageing population - outcomes of the last European Conference - and the humanitarian impact of the Economic Crisis. Mr. Tadić expressed his absolute willingness to engage more and act in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross, in support of such issues.

Thousands of people visited the camp set up by the **Italian Red Cross in Rome** on the occasion of the celebrations of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The camp hosted a number of events, such as emergency simulations, like road crashes or accidents on the mountains and relief operation demonstrations, which involved Polivalent Water Rescue Operators (OPSA), dog units and Special Rescue Services (SMTS). In the area of the Circus Maximus, a huge archaeological venue in the centre of Rome, the ItRC also set up a PMA and a ERU Base Camp. Visitors had a chance to benefit from free health controls, participate in workshops on first aid



Italian RC tent camp set up in Circus Maximus, Rome, on 8 May, 2010

and pediatric first aid and visit a photo exhibition on the main humanitarian interventions of the Italian Red Cross, whereas kids were entertained by clowns and animators. Moreover, on the same day a group

of 18 Haitian kids among those hosted by the Italian Red Cross visited the camp, together with Geri Benoit, Haitian ambassador in Italy.

"In this day – stated Mr. Francesco Rocca, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross – we want to show people what we do. We meet people everyday, but today is a special one, it's a celebration day. We want to reaffirm our commitment towards the population and also remember the operators who are still at

work in Haiti and Abruzzo".

A solemn ceremony dedicated to the opening of the bust-monument to Henry Dunant, was held in **Minsk, Belarus**, on 7 May, 2010. The bust-monument was opened on the eve of commemoration dedicated to the anniversary of the Great Victory on 9 May and to the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrated in the world on 8 May, Henry Dunant's birthday. Conspicuous statesmen of the Republic of Belarus, diplomatic representatives, Head of ICRC Regional Delegation in Moscow Francois Bellon, other representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international organization took part in the official opening ceremony. "The opening of the bust-monument

to Henry Dunant is a memorial day for the Belarusian people, numerous members and volunteers of Belarusian Red Cross Society to the prominent person who devoted his life to helping the most vulnerable and suffering people - emphasized Viktor Kolbanov, Secretary General of BRC - It is to show our appreciation of his humanity, mercy and compassion".

## Update in the roll-out

**Strategy 2020** was adopted in late 2009 by the 17th Session of the general Assembly of the IFRC, held in Nairobi. S2020 renews the vision of the Red Cross Red Crescent for a changing world and commits individual National Societies as well as their International Federation to do more, to do better, and to reach further in addressing the major vulnerabilities confronting humanity during this decade.

S2020 will be realised, primarily, by individual NSs working in their own domestic setting. The International Federation will encourage that, initially by promoting a rapid and effective roll out through training, facilitation and support, as well as by ensuring effective sharing of knowledge among National Societies. Over time, S2020 will also be built into all International Federation programming, communications and diplomatic activities across Europe. To advance knowledge sharing on S2020-related initiatives, each issue of the Newsletter will contain a list of actions taken or foreseen – by National Societies and by the Zone Office – and we encourage everybody to contribute to the list. Please do so by e-mail to [zone.europe@ifrc.org](mailto:zone.europe@ifrc.org)

### STRATEGY 2020 IN EUROPE ZONE

- **Europe Zone senior management meeting** in February 2010 worked with senior personnel from the Geneva based part of the Secretariat to develop a generic agenda for Zone meetings on S2020;
- The **Central Asia Leadership Forum** met in Ashgabat in March 2010 and developed a standard approach to National Society roll-out meetings for S2020;
- In March 2010, the **General Assembly of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan** adopted a strategy for the period 2010-2018, based on S2020, research in health and disaster management fields, National Society self assessment, and the experience of sister societies;
- Seven National Societies from the Caucasus - **Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia - and from Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine**, met in Vienna in April 2010 to refine the agenda for roll-out meetings;
- The **Bulgarian Red Cross**, at its General Assembly in May 2010, adopted a national Strategy 2020 based on the Federation-wide one;
- In June 2010, the Zone Office in Budapest hosted a **pilot S2020 facilitator training event** attended by eight national societies, primarily Russian speaking ones, and Federation Secretariat personnel from Moscow, Almaty and Budapest;
- The **Italian Red Cross** hosts, 13-14 September 2010, a **global S2020 facilitator training** in **Jesolo**, followed by
- A **S2020 Roll-Out Meeting for European National Societies**, also in **Jesolo**, 15-16 September. Those European National Societies who are unable to attend in Jesolo will have the option of attending a
- **Roll-out meeting for S2020 in Brussels** on 3 November 2010.

### EUROPE ZONE DIALOGUE PLATFORM

The second meeting of the Europe Zone Dialogue Platform – an informal collection of National Societies serving as a sounding board for the Director of Zone on strategic matters pertaining the Zone Office as such, took place, hosted by the **Netherlands Red Cross**, in the Hague 1st of March, 2010.

The topics that were discussed at this meeting included following up on the 2009 report on humanitarian consequences of the economic crisis; **rolling out S2020 in Europe**, implementation of other GA and CoD decisions, and updates on the then-pending Mediterranean and European Red Cross Red Crescent Conferences. In addition the participants were treated to an introduction to and demonstration of an innovative e-learning tool for youth, developed by the Spanish Red Cross.

Participants agreed that it would be useful to train S2020 facilitators for mutual support among National Societies and Secretariat units, and emphasised that, with regard to National Societies, it would be important to train people also at senior level so as to ensure a peer-to-peer dimension of this effort.

The **adoption of S2020** and the current roll out across Europe poses challenges for NSs. So is that case, also, for the International Federation and its Secretariat – and for EZO. S2020, combined with the SG's emphasis on acting on the country level and integrating IFRC resources in the field within NSs, sets the general direction for further development of the working methods and organization of the EZO and its regional and country representations in Europe. Even more important is the question of how NSs see these issues: what forms of support might they wish to receive from the EZO, through which channels, at what time, and in which sequences? What do they think is no longer needed, but is perhaps still being provided because it "always" was? In order for EZO to develop its thinking in this context, a team was recently assembled to undertake a **review** of the nature and manner of IFRC support in the region covered by Moscow (Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine). The review focussed attention, through structured peer to peer conversations with the host NSs, on their priorities, concerns, views and wishes – which have then been written up, collated and fed back. On the basis of this confidential information, the EZO is developing a **consolidated report** setting out some thinking about priorities, approaches and options for co-operation, and which will be shared more widely as soon as it is available. The **Central Asia review**, which commenced 8 June 2010, follows, broadly, the same methodology. The first results of this round are expected to become available towards the **second half of July**, at which point a round of feedback to the NSs concerned will be organised, before a report containing general conclusions and recommendations will be made available more widely.

## Waiting for Solferino 150 years + 1



The Fiaccolata, this year taking place on 26 June

From 20 to 27 June, 2010, Solferino will host the events of “Solferino 2010”. After the huge success of last year’s events for the 150th anniversary of the birth of the idea of the Red Cross, this year, “Solferino 2010” - held within a Humanitarian Village - will gather together again hundreds of people from many countries of the world. Many activities on the agenda, for a yearly event which is turning every time more and more into a place of gathering and dialogue, where people can exchange experiences, knowledge and ideas and get trained to face up to today’s and tomorrow’s humanitarian challenges.



View of the fortress of Solferino from the camp

Among the various events hosted in the framework of Solferino 2010, a seminar on IHL will be held

in Castiglione delle Stiviere on 20 June, while on 23-24 June, the workshop “Lesson Learnt - Abruzzo, one year later” will take place in the International Museum of the Red Cross of Castiglione delle Stiviere, where the Italian Red Cross will share with other National Societies the emergency operation strategy adopted following the Abruzzo earthquake, in April 2009. Moreover, four Youth Summer Camps will be organized in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Youth, throughout the events. And of course, like every year, on the evening of 26 June “Solferino 2010” will celebrate the XVII edition of the Fiaccolata, the well-known torch-lit procession representing a moment of union of the Movement for the commemoration of the extraordinary idea which gave birth to it.

For further information on the events, please visit the Italian Red Cross website, or the Solferino 2010 Facebook page.

## New Blood for the World

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14 June every year. It is an opportunity to express gratitude to those who donate their blood in order to save lives, without expecting anything in return. This year, Barcelona, Spain, hosted this celebratory day focusing on young blood donors, with the theme: *New Blood for the World*. The Red Cross Red Crescent is fully committed to build global partnerships among young people worldwide, with many of these young people in 2010 playing a valuable role in securing a safe and sustainable blood supply, but also in creating a culture of healthy lifestyles among their peers. This movement across continents has become known as the International Club 25 programme, which embraces

young blood donors within and beyond the RCRC family. WBDD, given the focus of 2010, provides an opportunity for all governments, policy makers and blood programmes to acknowledge the key leadership role young blood donors are playing in public health matters and the IFRC as one of the founding agencies of WBDD, joined with key partners to thank and honour them, create public awareness and build a culture of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation everywhere.

For more information on WBDD, click here.

## A conference hub in AIDS 2010

AIDS 2010 will take place in Vienna from 18 to 23 July. This year’s conference will coincide with a major push for expanded access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and will be an important opportunity to demonstrate the importance of continued HIV investments to broader health and development goals. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is one of the most important stakeholders active in mobilizing resources and supporting HIV positive people around the world to strengthen the AIDS response. In order to support these activities, the AIDS 2010 Secretariat would like to invite the National Societies who cannot attend the conference in Vienna to organize their own independent hub (“mini conference”) during or right after the conference. The hubs project is bringing AIDS 2010 conference to you. By accessing and viewing videotaped sessions, organizing and participating in discussions and debates locally, you will be able to network with others and identify how the AIDS 2010 sessions can be used to strengthen the AIDS response in your region!

For more info on how to organize a conference hub, please click here.

Basing on the outcomes of, respectively, the European Conference on multicultural interaction and the Mediterranean Conference on the humanitarian impact of migrations, in this issue a special focus is dedicated to two best practices in Europe, showing how NSs tackle the above mentioned issues.

## Integration through volunteering

It is hard for the Red Cross Red Crescent to reach migrants. And migrants do not always knock at the Red Cross door to ask for help. This often results in a lack of medical treatments, social support and assistance whatsoever. Such difficulty can be reflected inside the Red Cross Red Crescent as well, and a scarcely diverse and multicultural National Society is of course hardly capable of reaching vulnerable groups which are not represented inside it. What is the reason of such difficulty? In 2009 the Austrian Red Cross tried to answer this question through an EU-funded pilot research project targeting young resident Muslims in Austria.

This project, called “Integration through volunteering”, aimed at identifying the reasons why there are so few Muslims among the Austrian Red Cross volunteers, and using the outcomes as a starting step for integration and advocacy. The outcomes were surprisingly both encouraging and frustrating: on the one hand, no major cultural or religious obstacles were identified which could prevent young Muslims from joining the ranks of Austrian Red Cross volunteers and staff. On the other hand, a total lack of even basic information about the Red Cross was found among the young Muslim participants,

who mainly believed that the Red Cross was a Christian organization, where they would not be welcome. “The good news is that much can be done from now on based on these results” – says Dr. Bernhard Schneider, Head of Migration in the Austrian Red Cross – “there is a lot of room for advocating, raising awareness, disseminating information and following up with activities. One possibility would be to have specialised groups of volunteers in each branch, equally composed of people from the majority population and Muslim migrants. After some induction and training they could certainly make a lot of difference. An adequate presence of migrants among volunteers would be vital for raising awareness both inside and outside the organization, bridging the obvious information gap, spreading information and moving forward”.



Austrian RC volunteers

## The Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network

The topic of multicultural interaction becomes particularly relevant when it comes to the issue of migration and its humanitarian implications. Central Asian countries provide a notable example of how the Red Cross Red Crescent are active in facilitating intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, tolerance and non-discrimination, by the successful story of a labour migration project, commenced in 2009 by the

Federation and four National Societies of Central Asia with the support of the European Commission. “The overall objective of the project, named ‘Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network’ is to improve the situation of labour migrants in the region, regardless of their legal status, and to build cooperation between the National Societies”, says Dr. Argymbayev, President of RC Society of Kazakhstan. “This project has an important factor, which is its coverage – both countries of origin – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and country of destination/transit – Kazakhstan involved, which increases the effectiveness of the efforts made to provide need-based services, assistance to labour migrants through information and training centres, to promote migrants’ rights and prevent discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion.” “To achieve such expected results – continues Dr. Argymbayev - National Societies carry out work in four areas: protection, advocacy, integration/reintegration, and humanitarian assistance”. In 2009, twelve RC information centers for migrants were open in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, through centers, hot lines as well as Red Crescent staff and volunteers’ outreach activities at migrants’ working and residence places. Advocacy focuses on the unconditional access to migrants regardless of their status and for governments’ acceptance to provide humanitarian assistance for all those in need. Advocacy and awareness raising within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and among the general public during the action and after it is completed can positively influence behaviour towards migrants. Changing the mindset and the behaviour of authorities and communities towards the project’s targeted group can be considered as long-term perspective.

## Katyn commemorations

On **10 April, 2010**, on the occasion of the **70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre**, a delegation of the Polish Red Cross visited the graves the Polish officers killed near Katyn during the time of World War II, and, on behalf of all its members and friends, laid a wreath on the place of their death. The wreath was placed next



A volunteer of the Polish RC at the official funerals of the victims of the aircraft crash

to the main wall of the Katyn cemetery, among the ones left by the highest Polish and Russian dignitaries. After the terrible news was spread about the catastrophe of the **Polish government aircraft**, the ceremony turned into a prayer for President Kaczyński and the many political figures who lost their lives in the crash. The official funerals were held on 17 and 18 of April. The Polish Red Cross, in agreement with the National Fire Service and Emergency Services of Warsaw and Cracow, was involved in providing medical support during these ceremonies.

## PricewaterhouseCoopers and RC in CA: developing cooperation

In response to Central Asia National Societies' commitment to organizational changes and improvement of the management capacities, and finance development in particular, the IFRC Regional Representation for Central Asia helped to define the needs and develop action plans. Part of the work included

facilitation to explore auditing companies and establishing communication links with National Societies. As result of this support, the **Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society (RCS)** has recently hosted external financial audit held by the **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC)** based on agreement between the Kazakhstan RCS and the PWC. Audit is a part of a finance development project supported by the Empress Shoken Fund. Through this project, the National Society is implementing a plan of action developed and endorsed by its Governing Board

in 2008. In the **Kyrgyzstan RCS**, the PWC held second financial audit, thus following up with the project supported by Capacity Building Fund. It is expected that the Kyrgyzstan RCS will develop sound finance management system, allowing both finance and programme staff to run activities in a more coordinated way, thus contributing towards strengthening the image of the National Society as a reliable partner. In addition, the PWC, through **Norwegian Red Cross**, allocated three-year support of **CHF 250 000** towards change programme within Operational Alliance (OA) development.

## Turkmenistan RC: tackling health issues together

While implementing **health and care programs** as HIV and TB prevention, Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), the **Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society** actively involves volunteers and partners from secondary and high schools, enforcement bodies, hospi-

tals and many other organizations. Volunteers among school and university students, teachers, the military, policemen and medical workers at headquarters and branch levels train



Young volunteers during a training, Balkanabad Town, Turkmenistan

and consult their peers on basic life skills with the focus on safe behaviors. Shemshat, a school student of the tenth grade, is a leader of Red Crescent volunteers in Balkanabad branch. This fragile and modest girl together with her friends conducts 8-12 trainings in two-three schools each month. Her classes are attended with great enthusiasm by all 13-16 year old students, from seventh to tenth grade. Information about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, HIV prevention, the harmful effects of drugs is given in interactive manners, by means of games and quizzes. "After our trainings, many young people want to become volunteers. We have five leaders and each of them have a team of 20 students who help organize public campaigns, which gives us a chance to reach many people - says Shemshat. Interest in cooperating with the Red Crescent's activities on health and care is shown not only by younger generations: representatives of many military institutions have been trained as peer instructors on HIV and STDs prevention and the harmful effects of drugs. Building strong relations with such strategic partners and attracting volunteers among them represents an important starting point for successful activities on preventing global health challenges.

## Human resources

**Over the past two months, the Europe Zone team welcomed some new staff members:**

Sophia Kéri, Programme Assistant, EZO  
Eszter Matyéka, Planning and Reporting Officer, EZO  
Giovanni Zambello (Italian RC), Communications Consultant, EZO  
Oscar Zuluaga (Italian RC), Sr Advisor, Moldova  
David Lynch (Icelandic RC), Disaster Management and Early Recovery Delegate, EZO

**Farewell to colleagues:**

Roberto Christensen (Danish RC), Security Coordinator, EZO  
Nana Tsanova, Health Delegate, Central Asia

## Save the date

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>12 June</b>    | <b>World Day Against Child Labour</b>                                    |
| <b>14 June</b>    | <b>World Blood Donor Day</b> , Barcelona, Spain                          |
| <b>17-19 June</b> | <b>FAEEN 2010 (European First Aid Education Network)</b> , Izmir, Turkey |
| <b>20 June</b>    | <b>World Refugee Day</b>   |
| <b>20-27 June</b> | <b>Solferino 2010 events</b> , Solferino, Italy                          |
| <b>26 June</b>    | <b>International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</b>      |
| <b>26 June</b>    | <b>International Day in Support of Victims of Torture</b>                |
| <b>8-11 July</b>  | <b>FACE 2010 (First Aid Convention in Europe)</b> , Belgrade, Serbia     |
| <b>18-23 July</b> | <b>AIDS 2010 Conference</b> , Vienna, Austria                            |

## Funding

| Budget                                    | Funding           | Coverage*         | Budget     |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Europe Zone                               | 1,963,631         | 1,226,677         | 62%        |
| Albania                                   | 50,000            | 43,221            | 86%        |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                    | 321,242           | 309,132           | 96%        |
| Kosovo                                    | 720,677           | 493,110           | 68%        |
| Montenegro                                | 75,000            | 1,650             | 2%         |
| Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia     | 35,000            | 43,221            | 123%       |
| Romania                                   | 74,385            | 0                 | 0%         |
| Serbia                                    | 741,993           | 1,252,740         | 169%       |
| CHARP (Chernobyl)                         | 512,163           | 159,658           | 31%        |
| Belarus                                   | 1,592,227         | 856,252           | 54%        |
| Moldova                                   | 113,949           | 186,253           | 163%       |
| Russian Federation                        | 2,625,005         | 4,734,575         | 180%       |
| Ukraine                                   | 333,793           | 197,098           | 59%        |
| Armenia                                   | 306,286           | 205,501           | 67%        |
| Azerbaijan                                | 500,000           | 357,199           | 71%        |
| Georgia                                   | 772,005           | 463,856           | 60%        |
| Kyrgyzstan                                | 1,190,014         | 999,559           | 84%        |
| Kazakhstan                                | 1,911,609         | 1,241,660         | 65%        |
| Tajikistan                                | 1,579,779         | 1,295,420         | 82%        |
| Turkmenistan                              | 1,304,241         | 723,139           | 55%        |
| Uzbekistan                                | 1,325,875         | 493,902           | 37%        |
| <b>Subtotal Europe &amp; Central Asia</b> | <b>18,048,873</b> | <b>15,283,824</b> | <b>85%</b> |

## EU open calls

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Albania- Macedonia   | 129993 - IPA 2007/2008 Cross-border programme   | 19/7/2010  |
| Albania - Montenegro | 128783 - IPA Cross-Border Programme   | 18/9/2010  |
| Belarus              | 130100 - Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development  | 5/7/2010   |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 129838 - Support to Mine Action in BiH  | 28/6/2010  |
| Croatia              | 130189 - Building Capacities of CSOs for Implementing Innovative Social Service Delivery Programmes in the Areas of Special State Concern | 1/9/2010   |
| Croatia              | 130091 - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) -   |            |
| IPA region           | 129897 - Support to Partnership Actions to Minorities/Vulnerable Groups Organisations   | 1/7/2010   |
| Kosovo               | 129410 - EU Information and Cultural Centre in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)  | Forecast   |
| Kazakhstan           | 130022 - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)   | 30/07/2010 |
| Kyrgyzstan           | 129859 - Non-State Actors in Development.   | 1/7/2010   |
| Kyrgyzstan           | 129846 - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)   | 1/7/2010   |
| Moldova              | 130130 - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights   | 3/9/2010   |
| Serbia               | 130035 - EIDHR 2010 Annual Action Programme - CBSS  | 30/6/2010  |
| Tajikistan           | 129933 - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)   | 16/7/2010  |
| Turkey               | 130031 - Developing Civil Dialogue among NGOs   | 5/7/2010   |

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