



Europe Zone

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Europe's dormant volcanoes



(Detail) Red sludge-soaked fields around the village of Kolontár, in Veszprém county, Hungary/ Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

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Dear friends,

Luck, relative isolation, and timing prevented a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions in early October when the small Hungarian village of Kolontár was inundated by a “mini-tsunami” of toxic red sludge. The tragedy will never be forgotten by the families who lost loved ones, whose homes were rendered uninhabitable, who lost cherished possessions.

But it could have been so much worse. If the disaster had happened at night the corrosive mud would have smothered people alive in their beds. If Kolontár had been a major centre of population we could have seen one of Europe’s worst peacetime losses of life.

Having just returned from Kiev, a bare 100 kilometres from Chernobyl, I find myself alarmed by the disasters-in-waiting that lie, like dormant volcanoes, all over Europe. Lack of adherence with safety regulations, inadequate legislation, inability to invest in safety, or the pressure to make a profit has turned dozens, maybe hundreds of Soviet-era factories and plants into potential Chernobyls and Kolontárs.

Coming only days before the world marked International Day for Risk Reduction, Kolontár’s deadly red tide showed again the need for adequate disaster preparedness measures and

early warning systems. Hungarian Red Cross rushed to the scene, and the Government response was swift and effective, but more must be done.

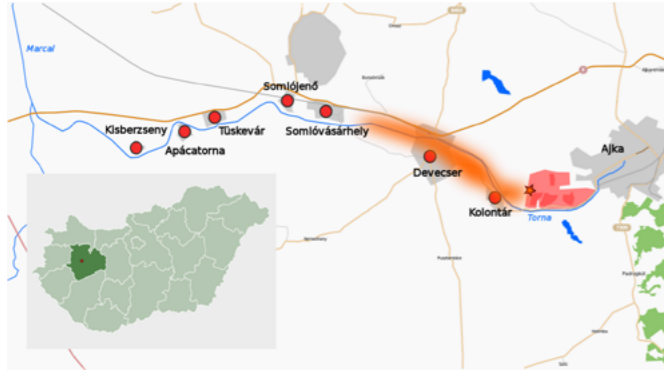
As stated in the first strategic aim of Strategy 2020, “During disasters, due to natural and human-made hazards, it is our basic obligation to be well prepared to use all effective means to help, wherever and whenever this is needed”.

Acting as lead agency in situations of technological disasters in peace time is thus part of our mandate. But can we use the same tools as we do for natural disasters? Can we pursue the empowerment of communities to respond when this kind of disasters occur? Can we expect people to take action themselves when a million cubic metres of toxic liquid waste hurtles across their farmland faster than they can run?

Raising awareness of the risks among the population, making sure it has access to appropriate expertise and support and being a strong advocate with public authorities must be at the core of our efforts.

Anitta Underlin
Director of Europe Zone Office

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES



Hungarian Red Cross responds to the red sludge disaster

On 4 October 2010, the dam of a toxic waste reservoir chain of an alumina plant in Ajka, western Hungary, collapsed, releasing about a million cubic metres of liquid waste, which flooded several nearby localities, including the village of Kolontár and the town of Devecsér. At least nine people died, and 122 people were injured. About 40 square kilometres of land were initially affected. The spill reached the Danube river on 7 October 2010.

The red mud - toxic residue left over from aluminium production contained harmful substances such as lead and highly corrosive elements. Some 90 people were taken to hospital with chemical burns. Gas, electricity and water supplies were affected. According to data from the Hun-



The soil around the village of Kolontár is now contaminated by the harmful chemicals contained in the red mud, a toxic residue left over from aluminium production/ Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

garian Civil Protection agency, the number of houses impacted by the red sludge was 47 in Kolontár, 292 in Devecsér and 21 in Somlóvásárhely. Large-scale recovery work was performed to restore the railway system, to

remove the remaining red sludge and to neutralize it with gypsum.

Red Cross action

The Hungarian Red Cross (HRC) took action within a few hours after the disaster occurred, in cooperation with the local administration in the region, mobilising a team of 50 volunteers to bring relief to the affected population of the two villages. Volunteers supported the delivery



(Detail) István Jakacs, 49, works as a mechanic in a village nearby Kolontár, Veszprém County. He and his family lost their house in the red chemical spill. Here showing the remains of his house to Roland Grubert, Hungarian RC Disaster Manager/ Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

of mineral water, food, camp beds and blankets to the worst-affected settlements, helped with the evacuation, provided meals for local inhabitants and relief workers and took part in the search for those missing.

The current situation

Four weeks after the disaster, the HRC is involved with 20-30

volunteers and four vans in the affected areas, while national authorities (ambulance, fire brigade, the army and the National Directorate General of Disaster Management) are involved with 1,200 staff daily in the comprehensive relief work in Devecsér, Kolontár and Somlóvásárhely. This number was cut back to 800 on 14 October due to the end of the high alert in Devecsér when troops assisting in the evacuation of the town were withdrawn.

Currently the Disaster Management authorities and the military are working on the relief and the clean-up of affected territories. All remaining reservoirs in the area are under surveillance and are subject to continuous monitoring.

Raising money for the affected population

HRC launched a national fundraising campaign to help people affected by the red sludge disaster. It is calling for non-perishable food, hygiene materials and protective gears (boots, masks, gloves). A hotline was set up, which gives HUF 200 (0.73 euro) for each call or SMS to support Hungarian Red Cross relief program. So far, 155 million HUF (569,000 euro) has been collected through this hotline. HRC has received a vast amount of goods in kind and HUF 38,689,818 (142,000 euro) cash donations accumulated to the assigned bank account.

Environmental impact

A by-product of aluminium production, the thick, highly alkaline substance has a caustic effect on the skin. It contains heavy metals, such as lead, and is slightly radioactive. Inhaling its dust can cause lung cancer.

The chemicals extinguished all life in the Marcal river, and reached the Danube River on 7 October, prompting countries located further down the river to develop emergency plans in response.

"The information available indicates that the quality of Danube water has remained substantially unaffected" according to WHO. "However, some 150 waste reservoirs located along the river must be assessed for their ability to withstand extreme weather events and to evaluate any risk of contamination of soil and ground water from poorly insulated installations."

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

ERNA: renewing our fight against stigma and discrimination

From 24 to 28 September 2010, in Minsk, Belarus, the 14th ERNA (European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis) Conference was held, focussing on stigma and discrimination against people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

ERNA was established in Rome in 1998 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as a means to find common strategies in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases in Europe, where they remain some of the major public health issues. Today, with 40 member National Societies, ERNA is increasingly involved in developing activities and strengthening advocacy actions in the areas of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, psychosocial support and, not least, reduction of stigma and discrimination towards the most vulnerable people.



One of the workshops held during the ERNA Conference/ Belarusian Red Cross

among National Societies and our partner organizations to find real answers."

nation, we must first of all promote an increasing involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and TB, so that they are our ambassadors, and bring outside a message they can channel much better than we can as Red Cross Red Crescent" stated Anitta Underlin, Director of the IFRC Europe Zone.

The conference, hosted by the Belarus Red Cross and which saw the participation of over fifty representatives from twenty-four

European National Societies, alongside specialists and experts from partner orga-

"In our fight against stigma and discrimi-

Red Cross Societies fully engaged in European Years

European Years are an outstanding opportunity for putting the spotlight on specific societal topics of common interest. Numerous special events, conferences and projects during a European Year allow for many to participate and to voice the interests of the people affected and the people who take action. Activities are organised at European, national and local level and give multiple opportunities to get involved.

The Member States of the European Union have proclaimed three European Years in a row that are interesting and important for Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. The European Commission is in charge of coordination at EU-level, government agencies in each participating country are in charge of national action plans. Civil society organisations take the lead in turning ideas, plans and proposals into action. The overall goal is to move forward the cooperation among institutions and organisations, exchange of best practice and development of joint policies.

Currently being implemented is the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Preparations are underway for the 2011 European Year of Volunteering, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering. And an official proposal has just been released for the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing. European Red Cross Societies are mobilising people and resources for all three European Years. They are a perfect opportunity to position the movement as important voice and service provider for the most vulnerable in local communities.

2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

Poverty and social exclusion are connected to a wide range of policy areas. Almost 84 million Europeans live at risk of poverty, missing out on basic needs like food, housing or energy, as well as education, training, work and community life in general. The guiding principle for the European Year is to give voice to the concerns of people who have to live with poverty and social exclusion, and to inspire every European citizen and other stakeholders to engage with these im-

portant issues. A series of events, projects and meetings invite to look into causes and effects of poverty and social exclusion, accompanied by a Europe-wide "Stop Poverty Now" campaign. European Red Cross Societies have formulated specific Messages for the 2010 European Year. And 12 National Societies are currently implementing specific actions at national and local level.

2011 European Year of Volunteering

A very special European Year is currently prepared for 2011. Special in the sense that the designation of the Year was initiated by civil society and active citizens who believe that volunteering and volunteers are a tremendously important resource for Europe and the Europeans. Also marking the 10th anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteering, this year will offer plenty of opportunity for National Societies to highlight the benefit of voluntary work and the achievements of Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers. For getting there, close cooperation with governments and voluntary organisations is essential. IFRC, RCEU and National Societies have joined alliances at global, European, national and local level to promote the RCRC dimension of volunteering at all levels. Activities within the EU are currently being prepared together with the UN Volunteers, the EU institutions, the Alliance of Voluntary Organisations promoting EYV2011, and the National Coordinating Bodies in participating countries.

2012 European Year for Active Ageing

Still at the stage of a proposal, the EU Member States will negotiate in coming months the aims, objectives and framework for the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing. The European Commission has recently presented the official proposal which is based on consultations with experts and organisations including RCEU. The proposal outlines as overall purpose of the year to encourage and support the efforts of the authorities, social partners and civil society to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of the rapidly growing population in their late 50s and above, thereby preserving solidarity between generations. The EU institutions have high expectations on civil society including the Red Cross, NGOs, social partners and service providers concerning this year.

SAVE THE DATE

November

- 10 World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 16 International Day of Tolerance

December

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 5 International Volunteers Day
- 10 Human Rights Day

"Nowadays, a greater and greater number of people who live with HIV are subject to stigma and discrimination by those who live around them – said Fabio Patrino, President of ERNA – The suffering of living with HIV is heightened by that of being excluded, avoided, marginalized. Also, stigmatization often limits and/or discourages access to healthcare, thus facilitating the spread of the virus. Our network must promote closer cooperation

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

nizations – WHO, GNP+ (Global Network of People Living with HIV), ART (Asian Red Cross Red Crescent HIV/AIDS network), Belarus Community of People Living with HIV) to list a few – represented and important moment not only to share ideas, good practices and experiences in the field of the fight against stigma and discrimination, but in particular to reflect on the role that ERNA, in light of the challenges and the objectives pointed out in Strategy 2020, will have to play over the next ten years.

Preparing for 2011 Year of Volunteering

“Voluntary Service is one of the seven fundamental principles of the Movement. It brings value to the people who volunteer, those who benefit from their action and the community as a whole. Volunteering gives the opportunity for every individual to make a valuable contribution to improving life in their community and to express solidarity with people in need.”

In preparation of **Year of Volunteering in 2011, from 7 to 9 October, 2010**, in Brussels, the latest **ENDOV (European Network for the Development of Volunteering)** meeting took place.

The meeting, which saw the participation of representatives from sixteen European National Societies, the IFRC and the RC/EU Office, constituted an excellent opportunity to see what National Societies which are part of the network do in the area of volunteering, from the perspective of service delivery.

The National Societies committed to set the goal for Volunteering in 2011 and strengthen their efforts to make the Red Cross become the first choice for volunteering in their country.

In order for that to be fulfilled, it is necessary for each National Society to recognise, value and award its volunteers and ensure that every one of them recognises his/her part in the largest humanitarian movement in the world.

The Regional Volunteer Management Workshop in Central Asia

On **3-4 September 2010**, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the **American Red Cross** held the **Regional Volunteer Management Workshop**. Organized within the framework of DIPECHO VI, the workshop was meant for Central Asia National Societies staff working with volunteers, heads of volunteering and development departments and programme coordinators. The participants shared their experience in working with volunteers and were trained on the volunteer management cycle – planning, recruitment, induction and socialization, training, appraisal and further development, record keeping, and motivation. Such skills shall be used to improve the volunteer management systems in Central Asia National Societies.

100 years on: the challenges of a continuously violated IHL

“If the new and frightful weapons of destruction which are now at the disposal of the nations, seem destined to abridge the duration of future wars, it appears likely, on the other hand, that future battles will only become more and more murderous. Moreover, in this age when surprise plays so important a part, is it not possible that wars may arise, from one quarter or another, in the most sudden and unexpected fashion? And do not these considerations alone constitute more than adequate reason for taking precautions against surprise?”

Henry Dunant
A memory of Solferino



(From left to right) Paola Ceresetti, RSI (Radiotelevisione svizzera di lingua italiana) correspondent, Mauro Reina, diplomat of the Embassy of Switzerland in Italy, Francesco Rocca, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross, Sandrine Salerno, Mayor of Geneva, Charles Kleiber, President of the board of the Foundation of the Swiss Institute in Rome / Italian Red Cross

With this thought, Henry Dunant concludes *A memory of Solferino*. It was 1862. And, by that time already, he seemed capable of foreseeing how increasingly bloody and unpredictable future wars

would become. Nowadays, in spite of the presence of such a precious tool as International Humanitarian Law, standing against the humanitarian effects of armed conflicts, many difficulties are encountered in implementing it worldwide.

On the occasion of the **100th anniversary of Henry Dunant's death**, on 30 October 1910, what does it mean remembering the man who inspired the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the first Peace Nobel Prize winner, the person who changed forever the meaning of the word ‘humanity’?

“The centenary of the death of Henry Dunant represents an important moment for reflecting on the role the Red Cross plays in armed conflicts, on how relevant it still is, on the profound intuition of this man and on the values each Red Cross volunteer is called to spread in increasingly complex scenarios” said **Francesco Rocca, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross**, at the opening of the conference organized in Rome on 26 October.

On such a solemn date, “talking about International Humanitarian Law is important because it is still not enough known

In Switzerland, Henry Dunant's mother country, two commemorations took place on the day of the anniversary:

- In Zurich: the mayor of Zurich, the president of Zurich Red Cross branch and a delegation from Heiden (the place where Dunant lived until his death) laid a wreath;
- In Heiden: a torch-lit procession and a ceremony at the Dunant memorial with the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs as main speaker, then the first production of a scenic oratorio on Dunant's life, created for the occasion, with a libretto written by the Swiss Minister of Finance, and many VIPs attending (for more info, click here).

and, above all, because it is continuously violated around the world” stated **Massimo Barra, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**, in his intervention.

Thus, the acknowledgment of the tremendous impact that the action of a single man has had on the world as we know it must be accompanied by the acknowledgment of the increasing weaknesses the protective function of IHL is showing, as time passes by and new types of war and conflicts emerge.

BEST PRACTICES IN EUROPE

Literacy, Egalité and Fraternité: promoting social inclusion one word at a time

One of the biggest problems facing European society today is integration. And how can migrants even start to integrate into their host countries (work, shop, go to school, fill in forms) when they lack the most basic of tools – literacy?

UNESCO reports that some **nine million people in Central and Eastern Europe are illiterate**, while in France the figure is over three million people – nine per cent of the adult population. Of these, more than two million cannot write, and more than one million are unable to both read and write.

“These are seriously worrying data”, says Claire Lainé, national coordinator for language learning in the French Red Cross. “A person who has difficulty reading, writing, counting, and in some cases, even understanding and speaking French, is a vulnerable person”.

In the framework of the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion** and following the commitments made at the last European Conference in Vienna, the French Red Cross is renewing its effort to promote **equal access to basic knowledge** as an effective tool to fight marginalization and promote social integration.

Thanks to its expertise and an increasingly mobilized network, the French Red Cross has become one of the major organizations involved in the access to basic skills. Today, 800 volunteers are engaged in 120

structures the French Red Cross runs throughout France, with over 180 actions in the form of group workshops or individual lectures: learning or re-learning basic skills (numeracy, reading, writing), school support, French as a second language and so on. In

2009, 121 volunteers involved in these actions were trained, and French Red Cross regularly renews its teaching tools.

“Our action is intended to be the very first



A volunteer of the French Red Cross during a French language lecture / Juliette Ranck

step towards the social reintegration of the people we work with. Helping them better speak, write and count means allowing them to access their rights and duties, means encouraging reintegration, giving them access to independence and encouraging their social, work and family integration. It also strengthens their confidence and improves the image they have of themselves” concluded Claire.

Hungarian Red Cross: breaking the cycle of urban vulnerability

Urban threats can put poor and homeless people at greater risk of ill health, can expose them to urban violence, as well as to extreme weather conditions, which can be especially critical during the severe

Hungarian winters, when temperatures often drop below zero.

“After 1989, the economic situation in our country took a serious turn for the worse,” says Éva Moszt, who has been running the shelters since they were established in 1993. “I never thought things could get this bad, but they did. These facilities are an attempt by the **Hungarian Red Cross** to find a solution to the major problem of **homelessness** in this country, but, most of all, an attempt to prevent vulnerable people from entering the **endless loop of pov-**

erty. Children raised by parents who rely on State care have extremely low, or no chances, to lead an independent life and take their place in society.”

Since 1997, the two shelters have focused on child protection, trying to keep families together in order to avoid children being placed under the care of the State.

Out of the 100 people hosted in the two family shelters, 90 have never had stable housing. Sixty-six of them are children. A team of social workers, guided by the principle of ‘as little interference as possible’ in the affairs of the families, ensure the families are provided with health, social and legal care, while designing personalized care plans to improve their condition and reintegrate them into the social fabric.

“Urban risk reduction can only be achieved through support to people's livelihoods, which means empowering vulnerable people to be self-sustaining and strengthening their resilience to the risks they face in their environment,” notes Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator in the IFRC Europe Zone Office.

To read the full story, click here.



Éva Moszt, Head of the Red Cross Shelter, run by the Budapest branch of the Hungarian Red Cross in Csepel, with some of the youngsters hosted in the shelter together with their mothers / Giovanni Zambello, IFRC

NEWS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Turkmenistan Red Crescent: seeing the difference you can make

Murat Almuradov, 17, an energetic and enthusiastic teenager from Mary in southern Turkmenistan, has been a volunteer for the **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** for a year. He is heavily involved in the disaster management work of his branch, frequently takes part in disaster simulations and has been first aid trained. He also works hard to tell others in his community about the Red Crescent.



Murat Almuradov (17), Turkmenistan Red Crescent youth volunteer, Claudia Janke, British Red Cross

“What I like to focus on the most is spreading the word about the work of the Red Crescent,” Murat explains. “Not many people know about what we do, so the publicity campaigns we run are really important to increase the awareness and reputation of the Red Crescent. Murat recently had to put his first aid skills to the test when a girl at his school

had an epileptic fit. “Everyone around me panicked, but I rushed to her side and did what I was taught by rendering her appropriate First Aid. People were gaping at me as I was helping. Afterwards, they asked me how I knew what to do and I told them all about the Red Crescent. At that point it became more than just a name to them and they realised that they can actually learn practical things from the Red Crescent that can save people’s lives.” Murat learnt a lot from this experience: “It is key that more people are prepared

because disasters can happen at any time. What I experienced was a small personal disaster, but they happen every day and we must be prepared at any moment.” Murat and his fellow volunteers take part in a flooding simulation where a team of Red Crescent volunteers set up a camp for displaced people on the banks of the river

Murgab. He is confident about the disaster management skills he has learnt from the Red Crescent. “If there was a disaster tomorrow, I would be well prepared.” “When I began volunteering, I started to feel needed. This is one of the few activities that are available for young people around here. I feel that I can help and protect people, and that changed me as a person. Not only that, but I feel responsible to help people now. It is my responsibility to give something back to society.”

Georgia: Red Cross strengthens first aid capacity

In November 2009, the **Georgian Red Cross** started a short-term first aid project in Senaki, west Georgia, with the support of ICRC, IFRC and the Magen David Adom. With the final goal of reducing communities’ vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters, the project aimed at expanding the National Society’s existing network of trained first aid volunteers, which gathers together volunteers from five Red Cross branches (Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi, Gori and Rustavi), by establishing an additional three six-member teams in Senaki.

On 11 September, 2010, a first aid competition was conducted in Gori to mark **World First Aid Day**. Organized at local level with the active involvement of the management and volunteers of Gori branch, the competition saw the participants demonstrating their first aid skills in different scenarios and simulations. At the end of the competition, the cup was handed to the Senaki team. While receiving the cup, Levan Shamugia, one of the young members of the Senaki



(Detail) Levan Shamugia and his team while being handed the cup after winning the First Aid competition on World First Aid Day/ Georgian Red Cross

NEWS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Uzbekistan Red Crescent holds its General Assembly

On **26 September 2010**, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent held the **20th ordinary General Assembly**. Assembly delegates from all over Uzbekistan approved the report on the National Society’s activities, accomplishments and challenges for the period 2006-2010. Also, changes to the statute were considered and adopted. The statute will be sent to the Joint State

financial commission, and the Presidium (national level Governing Board). **The new chairperson of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, Prof. Hamid Karimov**, has been a member of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society National Council. Prof. Karimov is the director of the Research Institute of Haematology and Blood Transfusion under the Ministry of Health.

Macedonian Red Cross signs partnership with the corporate sector

On 24 September 2010, as a result of the involvement of the **Macedonian Red Cross** in the overall efforts to implement measures and activities to promote social responsibility of the corporate sector, the National Society, the Commerce Chamber of Macedonia, the Union of Chambers



(Detail) Sopo Gabunia and Salome Khukhia, First Aid trainers in the Senaki branch of the Georgian Red Cross/ Georgian Red Cross

team and first aid volunteer, couldn’t hide his joy. He explained how his first aid skills

ute Commission (ICRC and Federation) for

PORTUGUESE RED CROSS ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The Portuguese Red Cross recently appointed **Mr. Carlos Pimenta Araújo** to the position of **Head of International Department** of the National Society. We took the opportunity to interview him to know more about him, as well as about his plans and expectations for his National Society in the coming years.

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

In the last past five years I worked as an advisor of the National President of the Portuguese Red Cross. During that time I was involved in branch development

of my National Society. Currently there are 195 local branches with different range of activities. The main challenge was to implement the local structures according to the new statutes of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Which do you think are the biggest challenges for your National Society in your regional context and how do you plan to address them?

The main challenge is to implement a new dynamic in the international field by taking our specialized people on disaster response to other countries where they may be necessary, as well as continue to maintain close relations with European National Societies that have the same activities as us.

What is your plan to strengthen the international relations of the Portuguese Red Cross and which mid-

proved vital when he rescued a young man who fainted in the swimming pool.

“The people there gathered around him, trying to help, but acted incorrectly and if I hadn’t stopped them and provided necessary assistance, the accident could have had dramatic results” says Levan. “When I first attended my first aid training I didn’t imagine that those skills would be needed so soon. When the accident happened I just acted, I was not afraid and knew what to do.”

“Thanks to the first aid project supported by Magen David Adom, our first aid teams have strengthened their first aid skills, which can help us become more efficient in bringing support to the most vulnerable people and saving lives” concluded Levan.

consideration and feedback.

The General Assembly elected the National Society’s Chairperson, members of

Tragic accident takes the lives of six volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross

In the afternoon of Saturday 2 October, 2010, on their way back to the Red Cross branch after finishing their relief aid distribution, **six volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross tragically lost their lives in a flash flood**, which suddenly swept them away.

“We are all in shock with this tragic event – said **Xavier Castellanos**, Director of the IFRC Americas Zone Office - We are providing the Nicaraguan Red Cross president with all the possible support we can offer, to make this tragic event less painful. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has also activated a psychosocial support team which has split between Boaco and Managua to support the families of the volunteers and staff, as well as the rest of volunteers and staff who were involved in this tragic event.”

Below the names of the Nicaraguan Red Cross colleagues involved in the tragic event:

Lucrecia Mairena	Director of Boaco Branch, one year with the RC
Alexander Pérez	Head of Youth, Boaco Branch, three years with the RC
Marianela Martínez	Communication & Information Officer, HQ
Doris Rodríguez	Head of Youth, HQ, five years with the RC
Enrique Méndez	Driver of the Relief Department, HQ, five years with the RC
Ana Lugo	Local journalist from Boaco Province

long-term results do you expect?

First of all my, my plan is make contact with the main RCRC structures and make future agreements when necessary. Also, to continue to maintain strong relations with Portuguese speaking national societies through our common group named “Fórum das Sociedades da Cruz Vermelha de Língua Portuguesa” (www.forumsnlp.org)

How do you think the Europe Zone Office can facilitate such improved cooperation among the National Societies in your region?

The knowledge that it has of the European NS and the availability to co-operate with them can improve the cooperation between us, since the Europe Zone is quite vast and has different challenges.

of Commerce and the Commerce Chamber of north-western Macedonia signed **Memorandums for Cooperation**.

Signing of the memos was carried out by the Secretary General of the Macedonian Red Cross, Mr. Sait Saiti, and representatives of the commerce chambers. The established cooperation will contribute to promoting corporate social responsibility of enterprises in Macedonia and raising funds for implementing Red Cross programmes with the corporate sector, in the interest of vulnerable groups.

To read the whole story, click here.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Development Programmes 2010 Donor response by programme

CODE	PROGRAMME TITLE	BUDGET	FUNDING	COV.
MAA65001	Europe Zone	2,134,696	1,904,748	89%
MAAAL002	Albania	77,706	43,000	55%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	349,656	297,025	85%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	585,962	602,658	103%
MAAME001	Montenegro	75,000	9,150	12%
MAAMK002	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	65,808	43,000	65%
MAARO001	Romania	74,385	0	0%
MAARS001	Serbia	752,805	1,250,438	166%
MAA67002	Chernobyl humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation	512,163	481,678	94%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,673,018	939,589	56%
MAAMD002	Moldova	196,706	178,078	91%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	4,301,197	6,329,877	147%
MAAU002	Ukraine	337,985	224,491	66%
MAAAM002	Armenia	306,083	325,645	106%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	543,517	513,629	95%
MAAGE002	Georgia	772,005	618,488	80%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,225,826	1,040,286	85%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	1,911,609	1,598,425	84%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,627,237	1,651,838	102%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	1,332,501	729,258	55%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	1,325,875	515,757	39%
	Subtotal Europe & Central Asia	20,181,740	19,297,058	96%

Active Emergency appeals - Europe & Central Asia Donor response in cash, kind and services

CODE	APPEAL TITLE	BUDGET	FUNDING	COV.
MDRTJ005	Tajikistan - Mudslides and floods	892,624	793,229	89%
MDRUZ002	Uzbekistan - Population Movement	1,116,159	1,149,692	99%
MDRKG007	Kyrgyzstan - Civil Unrest	965,069	270,674	28%
	Subtotal Europe & Central Asia	3,023,852	2,213,595	73%

Funding opportunities: activities within the EU

PROJECT TITLE	OBJECTIVES	DEADLINE
EU - 2011 European Year of Volunteering: Call for proposals flagship projects	- Support to projects for testing and developing new and innovative schemes and approaches with a view to build long-term partnerships between civil society organizations operating in the area of Volunteering; - Support one or two projects per Member State promoting networking in the field of volunteering;	12 Nov 2010
EU - European Refugee Fund Community Actions 2010 Call for Proposals	Support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving, and in bearing the consequences of receiving, refugees and displaced persons, taking account of EU legislation on those matters;	14 Dec 2010

STAFF CHANGES

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

Zsolt	RIEDER	Finance Manager (EZ Office)
Gaëlle	VAREILLES	Volunteer (EZ Office)
Olga	DZHUMAEVA	Senior Advisor (Kyrgyzstan)

Farewell to colleagues:

Inger	NYGAARD	Resource Mobilization Coordinator (EZ Office)
Sanja	PUPACIC	PSP Delegate (Kyrgyzstan)

The World Giving Index 2010*

Giving time or money voluntarily to help others is seen by sociologists as a marker of cohesiveness in a society. The level of giving in a country indicates something about the strength of civil society – the extent to which individuals are willing and able to contribute towards addressing the needs of others both in their own localities and across borders.

The World Giving Index, based upon three charitable behaviours – giving money to an organisation, volunteering time to an organisation and helping a stranger – ranks world countries according to the charitable behaviour of each country's population. Statistics show that in ten of the thirteen global regions, the most common way to give is to help a stranger. The giving of money is the most common way to 'give' in Australasia, Western and Southern Europe and South Eastern Asia.

Key findings:

- Highest ranking EU country is Ireland (3rd in the world), followed by the Netherlands (7th) and the UK (8th);
- Outside the EU, the highest ranking country is Switzerland (5th), followed by Iceland (14th) and Turkmenistan (14th, which is also the highest ranking Muslim country, followed by Qatar, 16th);
- Sri Lanka – the highest ranking Asian country (8th in the world) ranks higher than Austria (10th), Iceland (14th) and Germany (18th);
- 10 of the 19 lowest ranking are in Europe;

*Source: The World Giving Report 2010, by CAF (Charities Aid Foundation).

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