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#04

Europe Zone

A newsletter of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Contents

Editorial **2** / Norway rocked by violence **3** / Life on the border **3** / National Societies working hard to mitigate the effects of seasonal flooding **4** / Forest fire mission to Russia **4** / Solferino: 152 years on **5** / Red Cross of Serbia and HumanaS together on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day **5** / Shelter and recovery training for Central Asia in Tajikistan **6** / Youth Award and Volunteering Development Award 2011 **6** / Working on a non-discriminatory attitude towards refugees **7** / Red Cross of China visits Budapest **7** / Georgia: planting trees to reduce the risk of avalanches **8** / 14 June: 'More blood. More life.' **8** / Adapting to climate change by mobilizing civil society **9** / Resource mobilisation **10** /

Mourners lay flowers outside Oslo Cathedral, after the memorial service on 24 July

Mourning the twin attacks in Norway

Editorial

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Dear friends,

It is with great grief and sorrow that I am addressing all of you, following the tragic events which struck Norway in the past days.

As the situation unfolded in front of the world's eyes, what in the first minutes was communicated by broadcast and online media as a mere accident with no serious consequences, turned out to have much larger scale and longer terms implications.

As I write, my thoughts and my heart are with the families, relatives and friends of the 77

begin to clear up the debris, it will take a long time before they are able to get over what occurred in these streets. And for the families of those who lost their lives, both there and in the island which the Prime Minister called “a youth paradise turned into hell”, it will probably take much longer to recover.

We would like to express our admiration for the strength shown by the Norwegian Red Cross, which, thanks to the support of hundreds of volunteers, was able to promptly intervene and assist the authorities in their emergency response by offering first aid, search and rescue, ambulance service and psychological support to the survivors.

We at the Europe Zone, quoting the words of



people, many of them youth, who tragically lost their lives in the deadly blast and the rampage on the island of Utøya.

In these moments, it is hard even to conceive the pain that an entire nation is going through, to understand the emotional toll not just on those who were witnessing this tragedy and lost their loved ones, but on all the people of Norway.

In normal times, the area hit by the explosion is a busy city centre home to the main Government offices. As the people of Oslo

our President and Secretary General to the President of the Norwegian Red Cross, would like to renew our closeness to and solidarity with the Norwegian people in this difficult moment in their history, and reaffirm our readiness to offer the Norwegian Red Cross any support it may need.

People are saying “Norway will remain the same, only more so.” We fully agree.

Anitta Underlin
Europe Zone, Director

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Responding to emergencies

Norway rocked by violence

Norway has suffered twin tragedies as an explosion hit the heart of the capital city, killing seven. A short time later, a gunman shot dead more than 70 youth at a campsite on the island of Utøya, some 40 kilometres to the west of Oslo.

The Norwegian Red Cross has put its efforts into supporting the authorities and those affected by the tragedy. "As the rescue efforts continued from the official rescue teams and police, we have taken part in care and psychological support to everyone involved near the city centre or anywhere else in our country. We have also opened Red Cross offices around the country for support this weekend," they said in a statement.

In a joint message to the Norwegian Red Cross, The IFRC's President, Tadateru Kono, and Secretary General, Bekele Geleta, said: "We know that the Norwegian Red Cross is already reacting at full capacity at this terrible time, and that your volunteers and staff will bring support and kindness to the wounded, the shocked and the bereaved."

Life on the border

As civil unrest continues in Syria, between 500-1,500 people fled across Syria's 840 km long border with Turkey each day during June, according to UN figures. Some 10,000 are accommodated in camps run by the Turkish government, with relief supplies and psychological support provided by the Turkish Red Crescent.

Since 30 April 2011, in response to the needs of the population on the move, the Turkish Red Crescent has been providing several services, including shelter, food and psychosocial support in the five tent cities which were set up next to the Syrian border.

Moreover, food distribution to the groups of Syrians on the other side of the border, monitored by the International Monitoring Team, representing seven Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from Central Asia, the Caucasus and western Europe, was started on 18 June 2011.

As part of the National Society's efforts in the area of psycho-social support, a number of facilities was also set up, such as prayer rooms, social activity tents, a play ground for children, football and basketball fields, so as to allow social interaction and help people find some relieve from the trauma they went through.



The President of Turkish Red Crescent with a Syrian Boy in Yayladagi

Responding to emergencies



Georgian Red Cross mobile response team surveying a bridge destroyed in recent floods

National Societies working hard to mitigate the effects of seasonal flooding

Torrential rains which hit swathes of Europe in recent months have caused severe damage to buildings and houses, affected thousands of households and forced many persons to evacuate.

Four districts of the Republic of Adygeya and in five districts in Krasnodarskiy region of the **Russian Federation** were struck by flooding at the beginning of June, caused by the increased water level of the rivers. CHF 149,420 has been allocated from the DREF to support the Russian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to 1,800 families in the region. Russian Red Cross branches in Krasnodar and Adygeya are actively involved in disaster response activities and have gone through rapid needs assessment establishing the needs for food, hygiene items and bed linen for approximately 5,400 people.

As a result of heavy rains on 11-12 June 2011, floods hit Sughd province in the northern part of **Tajikistan**, affecting seven villages in three districts of the province. According to the data received, the number of disaster affected dwellings in three districts is more than 213 houses, out of which 99 houses have been badly damaged and 35 houses totally destroyed. The National Society will assist 87 most affected households through the distribution of basic non-food items to help them cope with the consequences of floods.

Between 12 and 22 June, 2011, torrential rains in **Georgia** caused flooding, landslides and mudflows. Seven people lost their lives in the disaster, 3,000 houses were damaged, and thousands of residents have lost water and gas supplies. The Red Cross Society of Georgia conducted a preliminary assessment in the affected regions, and volunteers joined the local population in the region of Mtskheta-Mtianeti to help them clean the main roads and support the most vulnerable people, and, in support of the National Society's efforts, CHF 59,960 has been allocated from the DREF help assist some 1,750 beneficiaries over the next three months.

News stories

[Central Asia quake brings swift response \(25/07\)](#)

[Red Cross supports those affected by the twin tragedies in Norway \(25/07\)](#)

[Oslo rocked by twin tragedies, toll continues to rise \(22/07\)](#)

[Spreading a little happiness in the Turkish border camps \(12/07\)](#)

[Cyprus Red Cross volunteers on the spot after fatal explosion \(11/07\)](#)

[International Red Cross Red Crescent team monitoring the humanitarian situation on the border between Turkey and Syria \(28/06\)](#)

[Turkish Red Crescent helping those fleeing violence in Syria \(17/06\)](#)

Forest fire mission to Russia

Large parts of the Russian Federation are under threat of forest fires, similar to the ones which heavily affected Moscow and other parts of the country last year with smog and related pollution.

With this in mind the Europe Zone and Russian Red Cross conducted an evaluation mission to the affected or potentially-affected regions to prepare for and respond to inevitable forest fires. The IFRC/RRC team spent two weeks in the field, visiting the Krasnodar, Voronezh and Novograd Regions. The team also held discussion with the Russian disasters service (EMERCOM), European Union, OFDA and US embassy representatives. The IFRC report concluded that more investment is needed in prevention and preparation. To this end, the Europe's Zones disaster management coordinator has organised a preparedness workshop in Nizhny-Novgorod to concretize thinking on this theme.

Past and future events

Solferino: 152 years on

On 24 and 25 June 2011, in Solferino, the Italian Red Cross held the celebrations for the 152nd anniversary of the birth of the idea of the Red Cross, which saw the participation of thousands of volunteers and Red Cross Red Crescent friends to the well known Fiaccolata. This year, on the occasion of the ongoing International and European Year of Volunteers and Volunteering, "Solferino 2011" was dedicated to them: the millions of volunteers who every day put themselves to the test, and continue to disseminate the Seven Fundamental Principles in their local communities.

Szekesfehervár-Solferino: a 930 km long-distance bike tour

On 18 June 2011, a team of cyclists from the **Hungarian Red Cross** and the Szekesfehervár Szingo Sports Club completed a 930 km long-distance bicycle tour which took them from Szekesfehervár, Hungary, to Solferino, Italy. Despite the punishing 30-degree heat and the climb of 2700 meters, the participants made it to Solferino pedalling across Hungary, Slovenia and Italy.

A special thanks to all the volunteers and friends of the Red Cross Red Crescent who this year were in Solferino – in person or with their heart - for the 152nd anniversary of the birth of our idea.



Youth participants to the Fiaccolata while lighting their torches

Red Cross of Serbia and HumanaS together on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

On 15 June, 2011, co-organized by the Red Cross of Serbia and the CSO network HumanaS, a discussion panel on the occasion of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was held in the headquarters of the National Society. This event was used to present the results of a recent research carried out by the Red Cross and HumanaS and entitled "Violence against the Elderly in the Family Context". The study, which collected and analyzed data related to reported cases of domestic violence against older people in 2010, as well as in police departments and to those registered in social welfare centres, was aimed at identifying problems in the functioning of existing mechanisms of legal protection from domestic violence and providing psychosocial support to victims of violence. Recommendations for efficient functioning of the institutions in charge of protection of older people will be sent to the relevant ministries.

The panel concluded that dealing with the problem of violence against older people should apply multidisciplinary and multispectral approach, with emphasis on extensive new research, education of professionals, family members and others who care for the elderly. (source: Inpea)

For more information, please contact Ms. **Natasa Todorovic**, senior officer for home care, Red Cross of Serbia.

Videos

[Red Cross Home care programmes for elderly people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.](#)

[European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps Conference- Budapest, 17 June](#)

Past and future events



Participants to the Shelter and Recovery training from Central Asian NSs during one of the sessions

Shelter and recovery training for Central Asia in Tajikistan

From 5 to 9 July, 2011, a Shelter and Recovery training addressing Central Asian Red Crescent Societies was held in in Varzob district of Tajikistan. Jointly organized by the IFRC and the Tajik Red Crescent, and financially supported by IFRC donors and DIPECHO VI, the training worked as a tool to increase the collective response capacity of those National Societies in shelter and recovery programmes and activities.

Based on the existing “shelter technical training” and “shelter tool kit training”, and providing the candidates with a clear understanding of the emergency sheltering process, as well as of the different techniques for early recovery and recovery activities, the training also aimed at making its participants well positioned to train volunteers from the respective branches when relief items such as the shelter toolkits are distributed to the affected population, and to provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries when constructing emergency or transitional shelters.

Youth Award and Volunteering Development Award 2011

In communities around the world, youth and volunteers give their time to make a difference to the lives of the world's most vulnerable people in the name of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in diverse ways.

As part of the Year of Volunteers and Volunteering and aligned with Strategy 2020, and in recognition of the value of youth volunteers in advancing humanitarian efforts, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will present three awards to National Society at the IFRC General Assembly in November this year. The categories include:

- a) Use of IT in mobilising and managing volunteers;
- b) Volunteer management in emergencies;
- c) Volunteer management in urban environments.

Likewise, there will be one youth award and one runner up award presented in each of the following categories:

- a) Live our principles, celebrate our diversity, change our community
- b) Healthy youth make a healthy world
- c) Adapting to climate change and addressing catastrophes
- d) Bridging the digital divide – connecting people through technology

For more info, contact [Oscar Zuluaga](#) or [Ruut-Maaria Mattsson](#). Nominations for both awards must be submitted by 1 September 2011.

Save the date

12 August - International Youth Day

19 August - World Humanitarian Day

5-11 Sept - AFRICA-EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH SUMMIT 2011 - *Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change* - Jesolo, Italy

12-14 Sept - Global Communications Forum - Geneva

15-17 Sept - Global Volunteering Conference - Budapest

News from the National Societies

Working on a non-discriminatory attitude towards refugees

Observed on 20 June each year, World Refugee Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees around the world.

This year, the **Belarusian Red Cross** held a series of events in Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk and a number of other towns throughout the country where refugees live.

Every year, around 400 refugees and asylum seekers receive support from BRC, which implements "Refugees and asylum seekers in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine", the EU/UNHC joint project in Belarus. As refugees do not usually know the local language and local laws, it is difficult for them to find a job and they often do not even have enough money to pay for their accommodation. The Belarusian Red Cross advises refugees and asylum seekers about employment, procedures for obtaining pensions, child benefits, citizenship, accommodation, and also provides social support. Refugee families in need receive humanitarian aid.

To enable refugees to integrate into society, the National Society provides them with an opportunity to attend multi-level Russian language courses, thanks to the support of the Belarusian State University, and also professional training courses: last year, 12 refugees acquired new qualifications, like barber, driver, cook, designer, accountant, and others.

The Belarusian Red Cross Society is also working on promoting a non-discriminatory attitude towards refugees among Belarusian youth. The "Youth on the Run", an annual 24-hour role-play game, is played by students to see how they cope with the difficulties usually faced by people seeking asylum: within the 24 hours, participants are tasked to "try to reach" Belarus from Somalia. They must speak English only, they are not allowed to use mobile phones and watches, they experience lack of food, water, and sleep.

To know more about the National Society's activities with refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in Belarus, click [here](#).



Belarusian Red Cross Youth volunteers at an information booth in Minsk during World Refugee Day

Red Cross of China visits Budapest

On 17 June, a five-people high-level delegation from the Red Cross of China visited the Hungarian Red Cross and the Europe Zone Office last June as part of their trip to Europe, which, apart from Hungary, also touched Bulgaria.

With a massive nationwide structure of 3,200 branches and 9,000 fulltime staff, in the last years the Chinese Red Cross has seen extremely rapid and modern development, which seems to follow that of the country itself.



The delegation of the Red Cross of China together with staff members of the Europe Zone Office during the delegation's visit to Budapest

News from National Societies



Georgian children planting walnut trees as part of the Red Cross Disaster Risk Reduction programme

Georgia: planting trees to reduce the risk of avalanches

Amiran Tvaradze, from Ambrolauri, is naming the trees he is planting after his five grandchildren, aged three to eleven. Today is 7 May, the culmination of one year work by the Georgian Red Cross Disaster Management Department: in April 2010, the National Society's DM Department started the implementation of the "Regional Programme for Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus". This community based programme, with a focus on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, took its first steps in the regions of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, well known as disaster prone areas with frequent earthquakes, landslides, forest fires and floods.

Local Red Cross Branches and volunteers were activated in Tsageri, Ambrolauri and Oni municipalities and a number of workshops and information events addressing local population as well as local and national authorities were held: in case of a disaster, the trained community volunteers would be able to promptly intervene and provide assistance to the affected population while keeping in close contact with the Regional Rescue Team.

The culmination and fruit of all activities and efforts came on 7 May, on the eve of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day: from 7 to 11 May, the National Society's DM department facilitated the plantation of 3,000 walnut trees in Tsageri, Ambrolauri and Oni. The trees were planted in identified avalanche zones, as their roots will reduce the risk of landslides, which represent the greatest hazard for the inhabitants of the villages.



Azerbaijani Red Crescent staff and volunteers holding red blood drops, symbol of the event devoted to the World Blood Donor Day

14 June: 'More blood. More life.'

Every year, on 14 June, National Societies and countries worldwide celebrate World Blood Donor Day, with events to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood. The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2011 is, "More blood. More life.", which reinforces the urgent need for more people all over the world to become life-savers by volunteering to donate blood regularly.

In Azerbaijan, blood donation continues to be a high priority issue, with more than 1,300 patients in the country officially registered as ill with hemophilia, 600 in the capital alone. In 2004, with the financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent established close relationships with the Azerbaijan Association of People ill with Haemophilia and Thalassemia and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and the Blood Bank. Thanks to this programme, during these seven years alone more than 4,000 people have become blood donors. Last 14 June, in Bulvar, the main National Park in Baku, 150 Red Crescent staff and volunteers shaped a big red blood drop made of pieces of pasteboard, which helped attract the attention of passersby, so as to raise general awareness of the importance of giving blood to save lives and of the efforts of the National Society in promoting blood donation and healthy lifestyles.

News from National Societies

To learn more, visit the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's [website](#), [Facebook](#) group and [Twitter](#) account.

To learn more about Club 25, click [here](#).

To learn more about the Albanian Red Cross' blood donation activities, click [here](#).

During the two weeks leading to 14 June, in **Albania**, the National Society and the National Blood Transfusion Centre joined together to organise a series of events to raise public awareness of the importance of blood donation and increase the number of regular unpaid blood donors. From 1 to 14 June, the Albanian Red Cross organised

265 awareness sessions, 41 blood donation events and managed to collect over 583 litres of blood. On 14 of June, thanks to the support of all 39 Red Cross branches, hundreds of volunteers and members of Club 25, a number of blood drives were held in Tirana and 21 in other city across the country. According to the data collected, the national blood donation rate increased by 31% from last year, and by 6% among Club 25 members. On 14 of June, thanks to the support of all 39 Red Cross branches, hundreds of volunteers and members of Club 25, a number of blood drives were held in Tirana and 21 in other city across the country. According to the data collected, the national blood donation rate increased by 31% from last year, and by 6% among Club 25 members.

Adapting to climate change by mobilizing civil society

In January 2011, with the support of the Austrian Red Cross, National Societies from Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and the Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation (CME), a non-governmental organization from Serbia, started the implementation of "South East Europe Forum on Climate Change Adaptation", a regional network project aimed at bringing together a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society actors, and the Red Cross to discuss climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction/preparedness issues. As South East Europe is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change in Europe, joint action from humanitarian, social, economic and environmental actors is crucial to tackle challenges like forest fires, heat waves and floods, as well as climate-related implications in the areas of food production, agriculture, biodiversity and energy.

The overall aim of this cross-border project is to strengthen Red Cross Societies and civil society organizations (CSOs) in EU accession countries in SEE, establish multi-sectoral networks in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and to conduct climate risk assessments. With the support of the RCRC Climate Centre and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), established networks will carry out climate risk analysis in their countries, aimed at identifying major climate-related challenges and elaborating recommendations for solutions on policy level, which will take into account existing national and regional research on climate change adaptation.

Partners in this project are the Institute for Economic Promotion of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the RCRC Climate Centre and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Co-funded by the European Union, the project will run through 2012.



Distribution of drinking water during a summer heatwave



Resource mobilisation

For more information about the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) project and the activities of the national CSO networks, please visit our project [website](#), and/or contact [Sonja Greiner](#), project manager for South Eastern Europe in the Austrian Red Cross.

You can also visit the subpages of [Croatia](#), [Macedonia](#), [Montenegro](#) and [Serbia](#).

Development Programmes 2011, Donor response

Europe & Central Asia

Code	Programme title	Budget	Funding	Coverage
MAA65001	Europe Zone	1,779,973	2,559,172	144%
MAAAL002	Albania	49,788	42,561	85%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	541,795	325,852	60%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	650,179	630,000	97%
MAAME001	Montenegro	26,732	348	1%
MAAMK002	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	34,852	42,723	123%
MAARO001	Romania	54,581	0	0%
MAARS001	Serbia	586,675	663,365	113%
MAA67002	CHARP	512,163	212,674	42%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,067,719	1,287,717	121%
MAAMD002	Moldova	488,239	86,052	18%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	4,036,841	1,748,038	43%
MAAUA002	Ukraine	200,898	30,640	15%
MAAAM002	Armenia	270,652	179,176	66%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	409,638	143,319	35%
MAAGE002	Georgia	541,542	333,459	62%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,227,137	774,331	63%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	2,009,347	1,318,952	66%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,547,008	1,213,203	78%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	837,575	760,875	91%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	988,215	660,668	61%
Subtotal Europe & Central Asia		17,861,548	12,959,848	73%

Funding opportunities

International Development

Programme title	General objective	Funding	Deadline
EIDHR All countries	to strengthen the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in facilitating the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation.	21,600,000 EUR	1 August
EIDHR Serbia	to reinforce civil society organisations (CSO) in promoting human rights and democracy.	1,200,000 EUR	29 August
EIDHR Belarus	to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms [...]	950,000 EUR	5 Sep
Non State Actors - Local Authorities	Cooperation, synergies and structured dialogue in the area of development between civil society platforms, their organisations and EU institutions. RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS	3,174,500 EUR	15 Sept

Staff changes

Welcome to new staff:

Tanja Uttula-Saarinen	Human Resources Manager	Budapest, Hungary
Ekaterina Daummer	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Moscow, Russia

On the move:

Oscar Alfonso Zuluaga Abdala	Senior Advisor on Volunteering	Geneva, Switzerland
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Goodbye to colleagues:

Mirva Lindqvist Okoye	Human Resources Manager	Budapest, Hungary
Mariana Liptuga	OD Delegate	Tbilisi, Georgia
Cornelia Hackl	Programme Assistant, Health and Care	Budapest, Hungary



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