



CENTRE FOR THE COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Key Issues

**Seminar on
«WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN»**

Barcelona (Spain)

29th and 30th of June 2010

Organized by:



In collaboration with:



Cooperació Internacional,
Solidaritat i Pau



International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ZONE منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا



Obra Social
Fundació "la Caixa"

In the frame of:



Our World, Your Move
ourworld-yourmove.org

KEY ISSUES OF THE SEMINAR

The Seminar was organised by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, together with the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia and in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies MENA Zone, the “la Caixa” Foundation, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of United Nations, the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (through the Environment Department of the Spanish Red Cross) and the Barcelona City Council.

The seminar’s general objective was to offer a detailed analysis of the humanitarian impact of climate change, water scarcity and environmental degradation in the Mediterranean region on issues such as health, food security or economic development, providing, at the same time, best practices at local level. It also aimed to raise awareness about the challenges of climate change and water crisis in the Mediterranean region, support a change in attitudes about environmental issues facing the region, promoting a search for innovative and creative responses to improve the current environmental situation.

This meeting was planned as a platform for the exchange of information regarding programmes which are being implemented by the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies in the region, as well as by the other national and international actors involved. All of this in order to bring about procedure alliances, joining the experience of action of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and many other public and private organizations who also play a key role in environmental issues.

The debate focused on the sustainable human development phenomenon from its global dimension, taking into account different perspectives: the consumption and access to water and climate change impacts in the Mediterranean, the exchange of information on ongoing programmes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other major players, the interrelation between climate change and water shortages and other humanitarian challenges and priorities, the research of new mechanisms of action dealing with environmental challenges in

the region. In order to do so, the seminar was structured in five thematic areas:

- ✓ The first one focused on the strategies and policies about environmental issues in the Mediterranean.
- ✓ The second thematic area was devoted to the relation between water, environment and health
- ✓ The third one analysed the impact of the Global Change and the Climate Change, taking into account the effects of climate change, the risk management and the territorial approaches on climate change
- ✓ The fourth thematic area focused on environmental education and sustainable consumption, providing some examples of ongoing projects in the Mediterranean area
- ✓ The last one approached the theme of water and vulnerability

The above mentioned topics were dealt in independent sessions with a chairperson who introduced speakers and encouraged the debate. Each table was set up by several speakers who contributed with practical work experiences - both from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and from other invited national and international organisations, specialised in each of the topics raised.

The result of the information displayed, as well as that of the subsequent debates and the conclusions gathered by the chairpersons, led to a document of some key lines, which are not meant to be exhaustive, but that put together the main points of the work carried out during the meeting.

As a general idea we should mention that the meetings and discussions have shown that water scarcity, environmental degradation and climate change are interrelated and depend on the human model of development. This reality is especially relevant in the Mediterranean region, where there are many environmental risks, where the economic inequalities are still evident and where climate change projections show a region hardly hit from the standpoint of environmental, social and economic development.

During the days of the seminar we have seen that it is time to halt the power of the negative impacts of these projections. And

for this reason we need to promote a sustainable development, involving a change in behaviour, a change in our consumer culture and an exploitation of natural resources.

The world is changing and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has to work to mitigate the negative effects of these changes. We need to change attitudes and behaviours and focus on the social and economic impact of environmental challenges.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement may work in two main areas in this framework: the general awareness for a better preparedness and adaptation to climate change impacts, since everyone is vulnerable in front of the effects of climate change; and the promotion, mainly addressed to youth, of behavioural changes in order to embrace a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

We must translate the raising awareness on climate issues into responsible behaviour, linking knowledge and action.

We need to ensure an adequate funding for ongoing and planned initiatives and commit people to get involved and provide sources to development programs.

Information on environmental issues needs to be as specific as possible in order to have more time to reduce risks. At the same time we cannot expect information to be perfect: we need to act as soon as possible, moving from pilot projects to structured programmes.

We need to find a Mediterranean strategy for a sustainable development, a common water policy. We don't need a unique strategy but a common strategy to be adapted to each Mediterranean context, reality and cultural ways in order to achieve a sustainable development.

Environmental strategies need to contain appropriate, affordable and sustainable technology options and aim to improve community participation. They must ensure the alignment with Governmental plans and policies, as we have to advocate and facilitate access to safe and clean water and raise awareness of the authorities.

We have to promote high water quality programmes and policies, financial considerations (water demand management, water saving policies or cost recovery principles) and we need to

incorporate sustainable water practices into sectoral policies (agriculture, energy production, climate change...).

We will hereby explain the key ideas presented in each session.

Opening speech - Water, Environment and Sustainable Human Development in the Mediterranean

- *Miquel Salgot de Marçay*, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy in Catalonia and Professor of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Barcelona

Introduced by:

- *Marta Corachan*, Vice-President of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Water is a key tool for sustainable development, both because of its important role in agriculture and as a means of transport, with special regards in the Mediterranean region.

Mr Salgot de Marçay highlighted the definition of sustainability, meant as a way of organizing human activity so that society and its members are able to meet their needs and express their full potential at present while maintaining the biodiversity and the natural ecosystems.

The Mediterranean is a diverse region: the need and the use of water change from the islands to the northern and southern coasts, and among them.

We cannot plan a unique water and environmental strategy for the Mediterranean: we have to find several solutions to be adapted to every Mediterranean country, supporting supranational initiatives, adapted to the social and economic conditions of the country.

An integrated management of water resources needs to be promoted, including conventional water (surface and groundwater), non-conventional water (reclaimed water) and technological water (desalinated water). We need to improve the

relation energy/water, since there is a lot of power lost for water treatment and a very little use of natural treatment systems or self-purification.

Theme I. Strategies and Policies

Chaired by:

- *Fernando Reinares*, President of the Environment Commission of the Spanish Red Cross

Participants:

- IFRC, *Leon Prop*, Head of Operations for Europe
- European Commission, *José Rizo*, Principal Administrator DG Environment
- Government of Catalonia, Department of Environment and Housing, *Mireya Canyelles*, Responsible of Sustainable Development

IFRC "Strategy 2020"

As remarked by Strategy 2020, the world is changing. Changes are neither positive nor negative yet their *effects* can be positive or negative. The RC/RC International Movement has to mitigate the negative effects of changes, and in order to do so, we need to change our mindsets and behaviour and look at the social and economic impact of environmental policies. The common environmental strategies must ensure the alignment with Governmental plans and policies: RC/RC International Movement has to advocate and facilitate access to safe and clean water and raise awareness on the authorities.

The RC/RC International Movement has to focus on changing minds about water and sustainable environment. To reach this aim, we have to promote youth projects and sharing of best practices.

Everyone is entitled to live in a sustainable and respectful environment, to have access to natural resources and to be protected against various forms of pollution.

For further information:

http://www.ifrc.org/sp/who/strategy2020.asp?navid=03_03

European Commission: "Towards policies of water and environment in the Mediterranean. The perspectives of the EC"

A Mediterranean policy is necessary in order to agree on a new water agenda on the basis of common needs, common objectives, past experiences and emerging issues.

In the sharing of common objectives, remarked was the need to give priority to water issues, to simplify the cooperation (rationalizing the planning and the management of water resources and finding better ways to use water) and to promote a better funding. We have to support high quality programmes and policies, financial considerations (water demand management, water saving policies or cost recovery principles) and we need to incorporate sustainable water practices into sector policies (agriculture, energy production, climate change..).

Significant human and financial resources are needed to guarantee appropriate use of water meeting socio-economic and environmental needs in the region.

The European Commission will strengthen dialogue and ownership, involving other key ministries and promoting environmental integration into other sectors, it will ensure openness and transparency, promote the exchange of experiences and the sharing of results, support financial assistance to complement funding from other sources and it will ensure a better coordination, targeting on activities where added value is clear and improving the coordination with international bodies and initiatives, while also improving coordination of research with EU policies.

For further information:

Horizon 2020

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/horizon_2020_en.htm

- Communication establishing an environmental strategy in the Mediterranean (also in French and Arabic)
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0475en01.pdf

- European Neighbourhood policy
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

- Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
http://ec.europa.eu/world/where/index_en.htm

Department of Environment and Housing, Government of Catalonia: "2026.cat strategy for the sustainable development of Catalonia"

In a context of socio-economic crisis like the current one, the Government of Catalonia promotes the 2026 cat strategy, which is an opportunity to address the main challenges in Catalonia, contributing to short-term innovative solutions to improve employment and increase wealth.

Such strategy promotes the harmonization of economic development with the improvement of the well-being and the quality of life; the internalization of the costs and the value of the ecosystems and biodiversity; a horizontal and vertical integration; the participation in decision making; the building of an inclusive society offering equal opportunities.

The 2026 strategy aims at ensuring water quality and quantity, reducing water consumption in order to increase efficiency. It also aims at strengthening the link among sectoral planning (energy, urban development, irrigation, forest management...) and water policies which are still too focused on supply and on projects linked to agricultural use of water.

For further information:

http://mediambient.gencat.cat/cat/ciutadans/educacio_ambiental/edscat/edscat_inici.html
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Theme II. Water, Environment and Health

Chaired by:

- *Marta Corachan*, Vice-president of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Participants:

- City Council of Barcelona, *Sònia Frias*, Director of Communication and Environmental Education, Environment Department
- Blue Plan, RACCP (UNEP), *Vanessa Rodríguez*, International Cooperation Specialist
- Government of Catalonia, *Irene Corbella*, Head of the Environmental Health Unit, Health Protection Agency
- IFRC, *Dr. Kasbar Tashjian*, Coordinator of Health and Social Services of the MENA Zone

City Council of Barcelona: "Urban environment and the Local Agenda 21"

Agenda 21 is a programme run by the United Nations. It is a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and major groups in every area in which citizens directly affect the environment.

The Barcelona City Council signed the Agenda 21, committing itself to support sustainable development. The Agenda 21 is a community agreement: every citizen is involved in supporting sustainable development. The undersigning organizations are committed to voluntary action plans that contribute to the shared objectives: protect the open spaces and biodiversity, build quality public spaces, improve the mobility, become a healthy city, promote the use of renewable energies, promote the culture of reuse and recycling, improving social cohesion, increase economic activities oriented to sustainable development, promote environmental education and communication, reduce the impact of the city on the planet and promote international cooperation.

The Barcelona Agenda 21 supports civic organizations in implementing their action plan, it encourages their action, giving

visibility to the collective improvement and strengthening networks.

For further information:

http://www.bcn.cat/agenda21/A21_AGENDA_CAST.htm

RACCP (UNEP): "State of the environment and development in the Mediterranean"

The objective of the Blue Plan is to raise awareness on public authorities about the environment.

It is a pilot exercise which mobilized all MAP (Mediterranean Plan of Action of the United Nations Environment Programme) components to build, on the basis of existing knowledge and information, a picture of the major issues in the Mediterranean in terms of environment and sustainable development.

Formulated around a hundred simple questions, this report first of all delivers a comprehensive picture of the Mediterranean with a share of visible progress in the field of marine pollution, conservation of biodiversity, and secondly, it reaffirms the need to deploy additional efforts to better manage scarce natural resources, like water and energy, considering all along the effects of climate change.

For further information:

<http://www.planbleu.org/indexUK.html>

Government of Catalonia- Environmental Health Unit: "Environment and health"

Environment has a huge role in our welfare and our health. The European Commission adopted in 2003 the European Strategy for Environment and Health (SCALE) which aims at reducing the burden of diseases caused by environmental factors in the EU, preventing new threats to health resulting from environmental factors and facilitating the establishment of policies in this framework.

To achieve a healthy environment it is necessary to promote an active participation of individuals and community as well as an inter-sector collaboration and coordination. We also need to develop information and communication tools aimed at the

general population, the experts, the business sector and the social sector.

For further information:

http://www10.gencat.cat/sac/AppJava/organisme_fitxa.jsp?codi=13566

MENA Zone, IFRC: "Water and sanitation in the MENA Zone, a comprehensive approach"

The RC/RC Movement has to advocate for a zone-wide common WatSan strategy guided by regional and national disaster trends and based on an integrated approach. We need to improve awareness and preparedness for disaster at all levels (earthquake, floods, droughts, climate changes and emerging diseases) as well as facilitate access to safe and clean water at all times.

We have to create space for strong National Societies to provide inputs and help others implement them, explore and expand partnership and leadership support, pursue technical excellence and identify training gaps and resources.

For further information:

http://www.ifrc.org/sp/where/mena.asp?navid=05_06

Theme III. Global Change and Climate Change

Chaired by:

- *Daniel Fernández*, Environment Specialist of the Spanish Red Cross

Participants:

- RC/RC Climate Centre, *Madeleen Helmer*, Director
- UICN-Med, *Andrés Alcántara*, Head of Relations with Spanish Institutions
- WWF-Mediterranean Programme, *Anna Ludlow*, Capacity Building Officer
- Spanish Red Cross, *Noemi Muñoz*, International Cooperation Specialist
- Government of Catalonia, Department of Environment and Housing, *Susanna Rivero*, Responsible for International Relations and Cooperation for Development

RC/RC Climate Centre: "Climate change and risk management"

Through the present challenges related to climate change, it is clear that the more certain the phenomenon becomes, the less certain are its manifestations and its impact on population.

In order to provide a good climate change risk- management, six components should be taken into account:

1. Climate risk assessment: assessing priorities, and planning follow-up
2. Addressing the consequences: integrating climate change in programmes to make them more comprehensive
3. Raising awareness
4. Establishing and enhancing partnerships
5. International advocacy: shaping the global response to climate change
6. Documenting and sharing experiences and information

As far as climate information is concerned, we should not expect it to be perfect to manage risk rising. The slogan is: early warning, early action: the earlier we have the information, the earlier we can act to reduce risks. Such information shall affect regular forecast of impending hazards, seasonal forecast referring to the level of risk in the coming months, as well as climate change rising risks and trends as a whole.

The actions to be taken towards the phenomenon are essentially **mitigation**, that is reducing the causes of climate change (as for i.e. fossil fuels) and **adaptation**, reducing the impacts of climate change so as to have a win-win dynamic concerning benefits both at local and global level. On the local level there are many options to be taken to adapt to climate change while mitigation is implemented: early warning systems; water harvesting systems; malaria reduction campaigns; choice of crops, building dykes; cyclone/ flood shelters...

The most vulnerable people, the people most affected by climate change, are the real expert on this topic: we have to involve them in local projects in order to work together and share skills.

For further information:
<http://www.climatecentre.org>

UICN-Med: "Environmental Sustainability"

The global change that is affecting our planet is unique in our history because of the following reasons: the speediness of this global change and the cause of this global change - human beings.

To face global and climate change we have to preserve biodiversity, implement the sustainable energy systems, manage ecosystems for human well-being, integrate the value of the preservation of ecosystems in the economic, financial and commercial policy.

For further information:
www.iucn.org/mediterranean

WWF-Mediterranean programme: "Climate change: erosion, desertification and drought in the Mediterranean"

The importance of prevention is crucial, as well as the need to carefully consider where to apply rehabilitation and restoration. Prevention includes soft and cheap measures based on management practices, while restoration calls for massive and expensive interventions on soil or vegetation. Policies will have to support the adaptation of European agriculture to climate

change by encouraging the flexibility of land use, crop production, farming system, etc.

It is necessary to consider the multifunctional role of agriculture and to strike a variable balance between economic, environmental and social function in different European regions.

For further information:

http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/mediterranean

*Spanish Red Cross – International Cooperation Department:
“Environmental sustainability in agricultural projects in southern
areas of Mauritania”*

The Spanish Red Cross presented a project carried out in Mauritania. The most obvious effect of climate change in the region proved to be the increasing desertification.

Climate change significantly affects watercourses producing a decrease of water production, increased costs in animal husbandry, the restriction of living spaces and the creation of urban agglomerates, the reduction of grazing land and the disappearance of natural sources.

To promote a sustainable environment we need to facilitate processes that increase diversity, preserve and improve natural resources, develop alternative technologies and hold traditional knowledge.

For further information:

[http://www.cruzroja.es/portal/page?_pageid=174,12253117&_dad=portal30
&_schema=PORTAL30](http://www.cruzroja.es/portal/page?_pageid=174,12253117&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30)

*Government of Catalonia, Department of Environment and
Housing: “TACC-UNDP Project (Territorial approach on climate
change)”*

The TACC (Territorial approach on climate change) initiative originates as a global action, recognized by regional governments, to appropriately respond to climate change. TACC is a partnership between the United Nations and regional governments and associations.

This project aims at increasing the resilience to the impacts of climate change. Another aim is reducing carbon emissions in

developing regions and countries with economy in transition through awareness campaigns, trainings and integrated territorial climate plans.

It also aims at understanding climate change risks and associated opportunities, at reinforcing local governments in order to identify and prioritize risks and opportunities of mitigation, at encouraging the regional governments to promote mitigation and adaptation actions at local and regional level, at developing integrated territorial climate plans through a participatory process involving all the stakeholders.

For further information:

http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/dmah?newLang=es_ES

Theme IV. Environmental education and sustainable consumption

Chaired by:

- *Aitor Murciano*, National Director of Spanish Red Cross Youth

Participants:

- Unescocat, *Sara Batet*, Head of Sustainability Programme
- City Council of Barcelona, *Lluís Coromines*, Director of the Youth Programme
- Spanish Red Cross, *Sara Casas*, Environment Specialist
- RACCP (UNEP), *Enric Villamore*, Sustainable Consumption Specialist
- Red Cross Youth Catalonia, *Mariona Bigas*, Environment Specialist
- National Centre of Environment Education, *Julio Rodríguez Vivanco*, Cooperation and Education Department
- Morocco Red Crescent, *Ali Amziane*, Youth representative
- Italian Red Cross, *Simone Pelissetti*, Red Cross Youth

Unescocat: "Water, climate change and consumption models: an educational approach"

The Department of Sustainability of the UNESCO Centre in Catalonia has the mission of promoting a culture of sustainability starting from the education on different social and ecological global challenges and from alternative ways to make a cultural, social and economic change possible.

To accomplish this mission it is necessary to understand education as a lifelong process and not just as a formal action. Within this scope, the department translates the United Nations documents into Catalan and develops educational materials and activities based on such reports.

For further information:
<http://www.unescocat.org/ca>

City Council of Barcelona: "Tomorrow sharing water"

"Tomorrow, sharing water" is a youth exchange programme about water issues.

Ten young people coming from ten youth associations were selected to take part in this international exchange between Barcelona and Lyon. They worked as a team to organize a seminar in Burkina Faso about water: they exchanged experiences and shared knowledge, improving their capacity of teamworking.

They disseminated information to other young people through web communities and social networks, enhancing the peer education.

For further information:

http://w3.bcn.es/XMLServeis/XMLHomeLinkPI/0,4022,121995261_122000210_1,00.html

Spanish Red Cross – Environment Department: "SRC Strategy on Environmental Education"

Environmental education is a cross-cutting element in all Spanish Red Cross programmes: International Cooperation; Social Intervention; Red Cross Youth; Health; Relief; Social Responsibility; Volunteering.

The Spanish Red Cross environmental strategy aims at protecting people from the negative impacts of environmental degradation through education and awareness activities. Such activities are addressed to both Red Cross members and the general public in order to promote a behavioural change starting from their immediate environment.

Among the most recent projects we encounter "Moving for Water", a project developed in various stages: a first stage of dissemination about global and local issues regarding water; a second stage dedicated to awareness rising - through a rapprochement towards global issues in the immediate environment; and a last stage of environmental education, meant to develop awareness and individual responsibility.

The SRC implemented several tools, all dynamic: exhibitions; didactic kits and the *Terra* game (a role play, conceived as an

effective and entertaining tool used to sensitize groups and communities about the causes, consequences and possible solutions to climate change).

For further information:

http://www.cruzroja.es/portal/page?_pageid=718,1&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30

RACCP (UNEP): "Innovation and cultural changes to sustainable consumption"

The main goal of the RACCP is the promotion and dissemination of prevention and the reduction of pollution at source in industrial, agriculture and tourism sectors. The objectives of RACCP are accomplished by giving technical support to the Contracting Parties (which are the 21 countries of the Mediterranean and the European Community) and to the institutional organisations. Through those last ones, the RACCP gives support to the businesses wishing to promote less polluting and more eco-efficient techniques and practices in their activities.

The most important goals of the RACCP are: advising about cleaner technology, facilitating and promoting a cleaner technology transfer and the exchange of experts, promoting demonstration projects and training activities, carrying out studies about pollution prevention alternatives.

For further information:

<http://www.cprac.org>

Red Cross Youth in Catalonia: "Environmental volunteering"

The Red Cross Youth in Catalonia promotes environmental awareness and education, fostering positive attitudes and commitment to global sustainable development.

It achieves this mission through three actions: environmental quality (greening of some services), environmental education (addressed to the Volunteer and general population) and environmental volunteering (which facilitates participation in the preservation of the environment).

For further information:

<http://www.creurojajuventut.org/index.asp>

National Centre of Environment Education: "Green households: taking action"

'Green households' is a programme to remove barriers that make it difficult to move from environmental awareness to an active and responsible behaviour.

The first step of this programme is to address people with a certain sensitivity and willingness to change in order to commit them to having a wide spread effect on the least convinced.

The second step is to facilitate a social learning, encouraging contacts between participants. The third one is to open roads which connect knowledge to action by promoting effective and feasible proposals and providing resources for change ("teams" or "kits" of savings and consumption). The fourth step is the understanding of participation as a compromise between benefits and duties. The fifth step aims at developing a collective challenge in which the participants could take part. The sixth one aims at keeping the programme in mind, by periodically taking it back it to the foreground. The following four steps aim at building a group by using elements that identify the programme, by creating relationships based on the personal contact, by promoting a culture of evaluation and by working in network.

For further information:

<http://www.hogares-verdes.blogspot.com>

Morocco Red Crescent Youth: "Youth: Environmental education"

The Morocco Red Crescent Youth approached the environmental education after having collaborated in some activities in partnership with the CCM: the seminar on sustainable environment, climate change and population movement (Mehdia, March 2008) and the Atlantis V Youth Camp (August 2009).

The Morocco Red Crescent Youth actions are:

- The celebration of the world days linked to environment and environmental education
- Awareness campaigns in schools based on the YABC approach
- Awareness campaigns and activities in collaboration with civil society.

For further information:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=119>

Italian Red Cross Youth: "Climate in action"

The Italian Red Cross Youth project "Climate in Action" was addressed to RC volunteers, vulnerable people, students and civil society.

The first step of this project aimed at increasing knowledge about climate change, through training courses and workshops directed to the Red Cross volunteers. The second step aimed at developing new communication strategies about climate change promoting a behavioural change. The third step aimed at training students on environmental issues according to several modules as: environmental education and the Human-Environment relationship, sustainable consumption and humanitarian consequences of climate change.

For further information:

<http://cri.it/giovani>

Theme V. Water and Vulnerability

Chaired by:

- *Ramon Jane*, Director of International Cooperation, Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia

Participants:

- CEDIH, *Javier Guisandez*, Professor at CEDIH
- Ludevid Business and Environment, *Manuel Ludevid*, Economist
- Spanish Red Cross in Valencia, *Luis Gorriz*, Volunteer
- Mobadara Association, Morocco, *Mohamed Moumni*, President
- Agència Catalana para la Cooperació al Desenvolupament, *Andreu Felip I Ventura*, Director

CEDIH: "Water as a human right and polemological factor":

Water is a fragile and scarce good and needs to be protected.

The access to water is a human right even if it isn't included in the Human Rights Universal Declaration.

In 1950, the European Convention of Human Rights recognized the right to livelihood, in which we can include the access to water; in 1966 the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) proclaimed the right to an adequate standard of living and in 1986 the United Nations, with the Declaration on the right to Development, confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and individuals who make up nations.

For further information:

<http://www.cedih.sld.cu>

Ludevid Business and Environment “Water management and social vulnerability”

Climate change highly aggravates water-related vulnerability. Water, apart from being a human right, is also an economic good. The effects of climate change, which are already visible, aggravate both the vulnerability of this natural resource (that is more pollution) and social vulnerability (the increase in shortage).

To face water scarcity we need to manage water demand: water is a human right but, nowadays, it is not for free. In the economy of water as such, there is a market where an offer and a demand exist.

The management of the demand is a key factor and it has to be carried out through measures of saving and reuse, as well as innovative means (both technological and social).

Water management by governments, business and social sectors can only be deployed through cooperation. That's why it is necessary to carry out education and capacity building programmes, starting from individual needs (in the case of families), and reaching the needs of service and energy companies. We are all water managers.

Spanish Red Cross in Valencia “Protect their livelihood. Don't mistreat the environment”

Human development is a process and cooperation has an important role in implementing policies and strategies to achieve a more equitable world.

The campaign “Protect their livelihood. Don't mistreat the environment” informs and raises awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability in order to reduce poverty. It wants to strengthen the commitment to contribute to social, cultural and economic change, starting from the acquisition of values, attitudes and skills that will enable every person to create their own alternatives to build a more equitable world.

This campaign is addressed to the associations working in the field of cooperation, to young people and to the general public.

It includes the following activities: creating an itinerant campaign addressed to the Valencia community, disseminating informative material, displaying the water treatment plan, scheduling visits of children, and social entities (companies, associations, foundations ...) in the Valencia Community facilities.

For further information:

www.cruzroja.es

Mobadara Association "Water and Vulnerability in Eastern Morocco"

Morocco has a huge water demand. The problems to face in Morocco are: increasing ongoing needs, drought and desertification, an overexploitation of groundwater, degradation of quality, pollution, and low-valuation of water resources mobilized.

Ecoplatform is a group of associations aimed at protecting the environment. Its objective is to fight against the negatives impacts of tourism on the Mediterranean shores.

For further information:

<http://mobadara.voila.net>

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament "Water and vulnerability"

The access to safe water is very important and it is a human right. Human development is a process and cooperation has an important role in implementing policies and strategies to achieve a more equitable world.

Through the ACCD, the Government and the citizens of Catalonia join the international community in combating poverty and inequality, promoting the access to health, education and water and the extension of human rights and democratic governance.

The achievement of a sustainable human development requires education, knowledge and awareness to improve the quality of aid.

For further information:

<http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/cooperaciocatalana>

Barcelona, August 2010

**CENTRE FOR THE COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

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