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#03

# Europe Zone

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



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Japanese Red Cross hospital in Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture, 12 March 2011.

## European solidarity with Japan

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International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Editorial

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Dear friends,

Two months have elapsed since the terrible disaster in Japan. We now know that over 26,000 people perished in the earthquake and tsunami, and we still mourn their loss. We remember the spectre of a nuclear catastrophe that hung over Japan in the days and weeks after the initial quake. That fear was underlined by the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster in April, at which the Europe Zone was represented, alongside our Undersecretary General and representatives from Japanese Red Cross.

To date, almost CHF 400 million has been raised by Red Cross and Red Crescent societies worldwide, much of this in Europe and Central Asia. From Iceland to Tajikistan, from Norway to Turkey, you have rallied your volunteers and your public to dig deep in a living embodiment of the principle of Universality. Their contributions, big and small, keep hope alive in this traumatic time for the people of Japan.

One development which is particularly worthy of mention is the use of social media and mobile phone giving. Our zone communications and resource mobilization office has been monitoring activity on your web sites and we are encouraged that you have used Federation communications and fundraising tools so innovatively. Your use of blogs,



Our deepest-felt plaudits must go to the staff and volunteers of Japanese Red Cross, who – led by our Federation President Tadateru Konoe – toil day and night to bring comfort to those who have lost their homes, their loved ones, their livelihoods. But we would also like to pay tribute to the immense solidarity shown by the Red cross and Red Crescent societies in the Europe Zone, who almost without exception have run successful fundraising campaigns to assist their sister society in Japan.

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, podcasts and flickr has been creative and eminently successful. We salute you.

As the months and years pass, the people of Japan, assisted by their Red Cross society, will rebuild their lives, they will rise from tragedy as they have so often in the past, and your staff and volunteers can be proud to have played their part.

**Anitta Underlin**  
Europe Zone, Director

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## Responding to emergencies

### Kazakhstan hit by the worst floods in 50 years

From 9 to 15 April 2011, western Kazakhstan was hit by the strongest flooding over the last 50 years.

Twenty settlements in the region were flooded leaving 9,000 persons without shelter, including 82 pregnant women and 117 children. One 14 year old boy drowned. More than 1,400 buildings have been damaged by high waters that flooded cities and towns in Uralsk region.

“On the basis of the needs assessment, the Red Crescent plans to assist 600 families - some 2,700 persons - with basic non-food items, including 2,700 blankets, 1,200 mattresses, 2,700 bed linen sets, 600 towel family sets, 2,700 family hygiene kits, 600 kitchen sets, 1,000 hygienic packs for women and 120 diapers” explains Nurlan Panzabekov, Head of Disaster Management department of the Kazakh Red Crescent Society. “The National Society will also work to promote safe hygiene and sanitation practices, in order to prevent the spread of diseases. This will include printing and distribution of information materials in target settlements through Red Crescent volunteers. “This operation is expected to be implemented over three months.”

CHF 193,479 has been allocated from the IFRC’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,700 beneficiaries. A team of Red Crescent staff from Almaty and Southern Kazakhstan and Regional Disaster Response Team members from the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society have been deployed for the relief operation in Western Kazakhstan.



One of the areas of western Kazakhstan seriously affected by the floods

#### News stories

Malta Red Cross assists migrants following maritime rescue (20/05)  
Red Cross assists after deadly Spanish quake (12/05)

#### Opinion pieces

Mediterranean tragedies highlight the need to safeguard the rights and requirements of migrants (13/05)

## Past and future events

### News stories

Chernobyl 25 years after: we stand in solidarity

### Videos

Chernobyl: 25 years on

### Speeches

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster

### Op-ed

Humanitarian work and technological disasters

## Chernobyl: 25 years on

Wednesday 26 April 2011 marked 25 years since Reactor Number 4 at the Chernobyl power station in the then Soviet Republic of Ukraine exploded, causing the worst civilian nuclear disaster the world has seen.

In 1990, at the request of the affected National Societies, the IFRC began the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP), which now screens 100,000 people a year for thyroid cancer.

CHARP has already been studied to see what lessons can be learned from Red Cross and Red Crescent societies dealing with technological disasters, and the experience gained will be very useful for Japanese Red Cross in the months and years to come.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the disaster, a major international conference was held in Kiev from 20 to 22 April. The IFRC sent a ten-person delegation, including Under Secretary General Matthias Schmale, and representatives from the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Hospital, Ukraine Red Cross and the IFRC's Europe zone office.



The CHARP (Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Programme) teams can only visit a certain number of localities in any given week or month. When the local authorities announce the date, hundreds of people line up at village health centres for screening.

A conference on home care in South Eastern Europe will take place in Sutomore, Montenegro from 8 to 12 June, 2011, hosted by the Red Cross of Montenegro.

The main goal of the conference is to discuss ageing in the context of demographic and social changes in South Eastern Europe, to further debate and examine different models of care for the elderly. In this context the role of RC NS and Civil Society Organisations in home care and active ageing shall be discussed with a focus on the sustainability of home-based services.

The conference is supported by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Austrian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross and the ERSTE foundation.

For further information, please contact **Milica Kovacevic**, communications officer, Red Cross of Montenegro.

To visit the FedNet page of the conference, click [here](#).

### Save the date

**21 May** - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

**5 June** - World Environment Day

**6-8 June** - EFPG Annual Meeting (European Funding Practitioners Group) - Budapest

**14 June** - World Blood Donor Day

**20 June** - World Refugee Day

## News from the National Societies

### Turkmenistan Red Crescent holds its 85-year anniversary celebrations

On 26 March 2011, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (TRCS), on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of its foundation, held a series of official meetings and an international conference which saw the participation of sister Societies from Central Asia and other parts of the world, together with ICRC, IFRC, partners from state agencies, parliament, public and international organisations and foreign embassies.

Vital elements of discussion and ongoing cooperation between the Movement components in the region are the development of the legal base at country level and the determination of National Society's auxiliary role to public powers in humanitarian affairs. The TRCS has developed a draft Red Crescent law and received legal expertise at country and international level. It is anticipated that the draft law will be brought to the Parliament for endorsement in the near future.

The event gave the National Society and its partners an additional opportunity to highlight the considerable contribution of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent in the common cause of improving the lives of vulnerable people by strengthening the coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas, and increasing community awareness of actions to take in case of a disaster.

By recognising climate change as one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century and joining global efforts to fight its humanitarian impact on the most vulnerable people, the Red Crescent has recently included new climate change adaptation elements, with the aim of integrating risk awareness into Red Crescent programming and addressing the related humanitarian impact. The National Society has also been improving its national disaster preparedness and response and contingency plans.

In 2010 alone, about 100,000 people directly benefited from the Red Crescent services, not counting the hundreds of thousands who were reached by Red Crescent messages through public campaigns and mass media.



**Participants to the conference laying flowers on the monument of independence of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, on 24 March 2011**

### Red Cross and Russian Parliament: together against Tuberculosis

On 16 March 2011, the Russian Red Cross, jointly with Eli Lilly Company and in close collaboration with the Health and Youth Committees of the State Duma, opened a photo exhibition in the Russian Parliament on the topic of tuberculosis, with the title "Your health in your hands".

In order to attract other colleagues to this initiative, which was aimed at demonstrating a strong political commitment in the fight against tuberculosis, the members of the mentioned Committees were photographed while holding their own x-rays.

"The Russian Red Cross, with the support of IFRC, has a long-lasting experience in TB activities, including public awareness and advocacy" stated Ms. Raisa Lukutsova, President of the Russian Red Cross. "In this context, I believe that the attention raised through this photo

### Turkish Red Crescent launches the Eurasia Fund

Last March, the Turkish Red Crescent Society launched the Eurasia Fund, a special fund to be granted to the National Societies around the Eurasia Region.

With a maximum allocation of EUR 25,000 per National Society over a period of one year, the establishment of the Eurasia Fund is part of the overall goal of the Turkish Red Crescent to contribute to cooperation and organisational development of National Societies in Eurasia Region.

For more info, please contact the **Eurasia Fund Secretariat**.



## News from the National Societies



**Davron Mukhamadiev, IFRC Regional Representative in Moscow, and Raisa Lukutsova, President of the Russian Red Cross, inside the State Duma**

exhibition in the Parliament of Russia can be a very good example of dissemination of health messages among the general population.”

Professor Sergey Kolesnikov, Deputy Head of Health Committee, who was one of the over 50 parliamentarian members who participated in the photo exhibition, stressed that members of Parliament, as well as decision- and policy-makers, need to have a better understanding of the importance of fighting TB.

### Red Crescent/IFRC supported by WHO for monitoring of polio campaign in Tajikistan

In light of the work done during 2010 National Immunization Days (NID) for Polio in Tajikistan, this year Tajik RC/IFRC was selected by UNICEF and WHO as a cluster partner to conduct monitoring for 2011 NID, to be held April 18–22 and May 23–27 in the country. This is the first time in the Europe Zone that NSs/IFRC has received support from WHO for such an activity.

## Belarusian Red Cross commemorates people who died from AIDS

On 15 May 2011, houseplants appeared near the railway station in Minsk. Passers-by watered them with small medicine bottles.



**Belarusian Red Cross volunteers involved passers-by in Minsk in commemorating people who died from AIDS**

Thus, the visitors were able to both commemorate those who died from AIDS and express solidarity with people living with HIV. The concept of the activity of the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC) dedicated to World AIDS Memorial Day is based on an idea that all people living with HIV need support and respectful attitudes, like flowers need water. BRC volunteers reminded the participants that HIV infection is not a punishment for sexuality, homosexuality or drug abuse, that no human being deserves HIV-infection, and people living with HIV can live a long and worthy life if receiving appropriate treatment.

“I was just walking by and noticed an information tent marked by bright flags. When I learned the purpose of the campaign, I wanted to participate in it. We all, especially people living with HIV, are in need of understanding” said Nikolay “I thought that I knew enough about HIV, but I was surprised to learn how many people are currently living with HIV in our country.”

In Belarus, more than 12 000 people are living with or affected by HIV, and each month about 80 persons are diagnosed HIV positive. More than 75% of HIV transmission cases are through sexual contacts.

## Georgia: restoring family links across borders

“A mother’s heart never gives up. I never stopped thinking about my daughter and granddaughter, who were struggling to survive so far from home” tells Nino, from Georgia, now back in her country after two years living in Orenburg, Russia, with her daughter, where they had moved in search of a better life. The same daughter who, even after her mother

## News from the National Societies

and sisters decided to head back to Georgia, chose to stay there and get married to a local citizen.

What Nino tells us is a story of domestic violence, poverty, and health vulnerability.

"After getting birth to two kids, my daughter started to experience serious problems, from the abuses by her husband, who had entered the circle of alcohol and drug addiction, to the lack of any sources of income, which made it impossible for her to leave the country and go back to Georgia, to the dramatic discovery that she got infected with HIV and TB" continues Nino "I realized that if I didn't seek support, there would be no hope for my daughter and granddaughter."

Nino decided to contact the National TB Programme, to ask for help. In July 2010, the Secretary General of the Red Cross Society of Georgia received a letter from the National TB Programme and the country coordination mechanism of the Global Fund, which informed them about the situation. The National Society forwarded the information to the Russian Red Cross and the IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow, and asked for help to provide assistance to two young ladies suffering in isolation and without basic medical care in Orenburg.

### Red Cross of Moldova signs MoU on Digital Divide

Red Cross of Moldova signs MoU on Digital Divide

On 11 May, the President of Moldova RC signed a MoU prepared together with the IT Department in Geneva, with the support of the Europe Zone. This represents an important step for the National Society in the process of closing the Digital Divide, and its results will be presented in the General Assembly in November.

### Portuguese RC celebrates 146 years serving humanity

Last 11 February, the Portuguese Red Cross commemorated its 146th anniversary. A series of events were organized, including a tribute to volunteers and their work in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as we mark the 2011 International Year of Volunteers and Volunteering.

This anniversary saw the participation of the President of the PRC, Mr. Luis Barbosa, and the Ministers of Defense, and Labour and Social Solidarity. All members of the Portuguese Red Cross were invited to participate in the celebration.

"Thanks to all the support I received, last February my daughter was able to come back home, after four years. I deeply thank the Georgian and Russian Red Cross, the IFRC and all their partners for helping our family get together again."

### Motoheart: motorcyclists for kids

"Motoheart" is an annual event created by the Polish Congress of Motorcycles' Clubs in 200, in partnership with the Polish Red Cross and the National Blood Service Centre, and taking place all over Poland. The main aim of the initiative is to collect blood, but also to raise awareness among public opinion, media and other non-governmental entities of the alarming scarcity of blood supplies in Polish hospitals, especially in children's hospitals.

The first edition took place in 2009. More than 3,000 motorcyclists from 60 clubs in 50 cities of Poland gathered together for one cause: helping youth in need of blood supplies. But the incredible success of 2011 edition surprised everyone: more than 64,8 liters of blood were collected in Warsaw alone, and 3197,88 liters in the whole country.

### Tajikistan hosts RDRT training

From 14 to 22 May, 2011, the Federation Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training was held in Norak, Tajikistan. The training, aimed at strengthening disaster response skills and knowledge at regional level, saw the participation of about thirty staff from Central Asian National Societies, as well as from Russia, Armenia, and the IFRC. Facilitators and experts from different countries were invited to hold sessions on various disaster-related topics, such as disaster preparedness and response, first assessment, shelter provision, early recovery, communications in emergency and media relations, water and sanitation, emergency health, first aid and logistics, etc. Tajikistan is hosting the RDRT training for the first time.

Media coverage of the event can be found on the NS's [blog](#).

## Resource mobilisation

### Development Programmes 2011, Donor response

#### Europe & Central Asia

Code	Programme title	Budget	Funding	Coverage
MAA65001	Europe Zone	1,779,973	2,412,943	136%
MAAAL002	Albania	49,788	43,653	88%
MAABA002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	490,249	303,216	62%
MAAKV001	Kosovo	650,179	489,319	75%
MAAME001	Montenegro	26,732	348	1%
MAAMK002	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	34,852	43,653	125%
MAARO001	Romania	54,581	0	0%
MAARS001	Serbia	586,675	660,698	113%
MAA67002	CHARP	512,163	208,726	41%
MAABY002	Belarus	1,067,719	1,296,671	121%
MAAMD002	Moldova	488,239	70,611	14%
MAARU002	Russian Federation	4,014,992	1,772,005	44%
MAAUA002	Ukraine	200,898	25,879	13%
MAAAM002	Armenia	270,652	178,827	66%
MAAAZ002	Azerbaijan	409,638	130,279	32%
MAAGE002	Georgia	541,542	312,349	58%
MAAKG001	Kyrgyzstan	1,227,137	456,930	37%
MAAKZ001	Kazakhstan	1,733,761	1,331,319	77%
MAATJ002	Tajikistan	1,547,008	767,598	50%
MAATM001	Turkmenistan	837,575	416,909	50%
MAAUZ001	Uzbekistan	988,215	601,666	61%
<b>Subtotal Europe &amp; Central Asia</b>		<b>17,512,567</b>	<b>11,523,598</b>	<b>66%</b>

### Fundraising for Japan

Two months have passed after the disaster, and most of the Sister NSs' weekly fundraising figures are getting smaller and stable. On 9 May, the Japanese RC held the Partnership Meeting in Tokyo, and NSs' continuous fundraising reports have contributed to the Japanese RC to make their project plans and budgets in such a situation of skyrocketing amount of contributions from all over the world.

The latest global fundraising figure is as follows:

**Period: 12 March – 6 May 2011 (8 weeks)**

**Japanese RC: CHF 1.9 billion**

**Other 32 National Societies and the Federation: CHF 407 million**

**Total: CHF 2.3 billion**

### Funding opportunities

#### National and EU activities

Programme title	Description	Funding	Deadline
<b>Ambient Assisted Living call for proposals</b>	The AAL Joint Programme is a funding scheme for research and development on ICT-based solutions for older people.	Max 3 mln EUR	30 June

### Staff changes

Welcome to new staff:

<b>Aleksandar Sekulic</b>	Finance and Administration Manager	Belgrade, Serbia
<b>Nurlan Baydolotov</b>	Administration Officer	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
<b>Bence Pakai</b>	Finance Officer	Budapest, Hungary
<b>Yuriy Kharitonov</b>	Logistics Assistant	Almaty, Kazakhstan

On the move:

<b>Davron Mukhamadiev</b>	Head of Regional Representation	Moscow, Russia
<b>Cornelia Hackl</b>	Staff on-loan from Austrian Red Cross	Budapest, Hungary
<b>Leon Prop</b>	Senior Advisor to the RCEU Office	Brussels, Belgium
<b>Evgeni Parvenov</b>	Acting Head of Operations	Budapest, Hungary

Goodbye to colleagues:

<b>Eszter Gati</b>	Intern	Budapest, Hungary
<b>Alexandra Makarova</b>	Health Manager	Minsk, Belarus
<b>Vitaly Timofeev</b>	Driver	Kiev, Ukraine
<b>Aliaksandr Kulikou</b>	Disaster Management Delegate	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



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