RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO

1875

HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS IN MONTENEGRO

Red Cross of Montenegro was founded in 1875, as a Committee for provision of support to the people fleeing from Herzegovina, only one decade after the foundation of the "Committee of Five". Red Cross was established out of the need to provide support to children, women and older people who fled from the neighboring Herzegovina where there was a conflict situation. The Committee soon transformed into the Montenegrin Society of the Red Cross, and with the ratification of Geneva convention on wounded in November 17th (29th) 1875, Principality of Montenegro became 22nd member of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and Montenegrin Society of the Red Cross became the first Red Cross organization in the Balkans.

As such, the National Society operated as independent organization until 1918, when in 1920, following the state structure, it joined the Kingdom of Montenegrins, Serbs, Croatians and Slovenians, becoming part of the Serbian Red Cross.

After this merge, the work of the organization practically ceased until 1924, when the new Zeta Board was established in Cetinje which lead to the renewal of its humanitarian activities. With the beginning of the Second World War, the Zeta Board stopped with its work, and the new Red Cross Society for the area of Montenegro and Boka began was established, eventually becoming the part of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

After the renewal of independent status of Montenegro, on May 21^{st} 2006, the Red Cross of Montenegro also regained its status of independent National Society after almost nine decades, at the Red Cross General Assembly meeting, held on June 12^{th} 2006.

POSITION OF THE RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO

Red Cross of Montenegro is an independent and voluntary humanitarian organization that operates in line with the Fundamental principles and mission of the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies.

Law on the Red Cross of Montenegro (Official Gazette no. 28/06) defines the position of the Red Cross, its functioning, scope of work, emblem and Fundamental principles, affairs of public interest, funding, responsibilities in case of conflicts

and mass disasters, etc.

One of the specific responsibilities of the Red Cross that derives from the governmental responsibilities and ratification of Geneva conventions is to implement the mission of the International Movement, as well as the International Humanitarian Law, to monitor its implementation in the conflicts, advocating for protection of all the victims and respect of human rights.

Bulletin

In conducting affairs of public interest, according to the Red Cross Law, the Red Cross of Montenegro has legally defined role of the organization that provides assistance to the state in in the humanitarian area.

Red Cross of Montenegro is a unique organization that operates at the territory of Montenegro and it consists of 19 local Red Cross branches, Red Cross of the capital of Podgorica, Red Cross of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje and city Red Cross branches Tuzi and Golubovci.

The use of the Red Cross emblem is defined by the Law on the use and protection of Red Cross emblem.

The Day of the Red Cross of Montenegro is November 29th, the day when the Red Cross was founded in 1875.

Red Cross of Montenegro operates in line with the Fundamental principles of the Movement: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality.

POSTION WITHIN THE RED CROSS / RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Red Cross of Montenegro, founded in 1875, on November 29th, was functioning as an independent National Society until 1918. The status of independent National Society was renewed after almost nine decades, on June 12th 2006, after which the Red Cross applied for the membership within the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

On September 21st 2006, the International Committee of the Red Cross recognized the Red Cross of Montenegro as its member, and the General Assembly of the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies confirmed this membership on its meeting on November 20th 2007, when the Red Cross of Montenegro became 186th member of the IFRC.



DISSEMINATION – DISSEMINATE THE KNOWLEDGE ON THE RED CROSS, FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Dissemination of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Fundamental principles and International Humanitarian Law derives from the international commitment of every state signatory to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional protocols from 1977.

This area is entrusted to the Red Cross who has the permanent task to disseminate the knowledge on the basis of International Humanitarian Law and Fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, with the goal of better protection of victims of wars and other vulnerable persons Additionally, commitment to advocacy and promotion of humanitarian values and rules of the International Law is defined by the Statutes and other Movement's documents.

The importance of disseminating the knowledge on Red Cross/Red Crescent Fundamental principles and International Humanitarian Law is of greater interest, so the target groups are different: Red Cross members and volunteers, Red Cross staff and members of different bodies, Youth and Youngsters from primary and secondary schools, representatives of National and local bodies, representatives of Police, Army and Civil protection, media representatives, health and education workers, general public.

MAIN GOAL:

Disseminate the knowledge on history, mission and Fundamental principles of the Red Cross and legal sources that are the basis for the work of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent in peaceful times and during the emergencies and war times.

- Intensifying activities on disseminating the knowledge on the Red Cross within the traditional activities of the Red Cross of Montenegro: World Red Cross Day/Week, Red Cross Days;
- Organization of national trainings for Dissemination and International Humanitarian Law;
- Strengthening the disseminating capacities in the Red Cross of Montenegro;
- Lecture on the topic "Dissemination spreading the knowledge on the Red Cross/Red Crescent ad International Humanitarian Law" for all the groups accommodated in the Training center House of Solidarity in Sutomore, as well as within all the trainings organized in the Red Cross of Montenegro;
- Cooperation with educational institutions and organization of lectures for students in primary and secondary schools;
- Cooperation with Universities;
- Participation in international events;
- Creation of educational-promotional material.



HEALTH AND CARE

FIRST AID

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

First aid is a set of procedures and measures that save lives and health of injured people on the spot. Majority of the activities within this program are related to education.



VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

According to the statistical data from 2020, Voluntary blood donation in Montenegro is underdeveloped- there is only 2,7% of voluntary blood donors in the country. Out of that number, 40% are non-remunerated blood donors and 60% are family donors who are donating blood for their family members, relatives, friends etc. According to the reccomendations of the world Health Organization, the number of family donors should be decreased as much as possible, while the level of voluntary blood donors should be at least 4%.

Voluntary Blood donation (VBD), as an activity of national interest, is defined by the Law on Health Care, Law on Blood and the Law on the Red Cross of Montenegro.

MAIN GOAL:

Motivate as many people as possible to join the voluntary blood donation, increase the number of voluntary blood donors and provide sufficient amounts of blood as a medicine of human origin.

MAIN GOAL:

Educate citizens of Montenegro in First aid basics in order to be able to help the others and themselves.

ACTIVITIES:

Red Cross organizes:

- First aid trainings for volunteers and basic trainings for staff in companies;
- Trainings for First aid instructors;
- BLS/AED trainings- trainings for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of AED (automated external defibrilator),
- Trainings for lifeguards on water;
- Lectures and first aid trainings in kindergartens, elementary and high schools, as well as on faculties;
- Trainings and lectures for citizens;
- Exercises and demonstration of first aid in cooperation with the Protection and Rescue Service;
- Provision of first aid assistance in manifestations and mass events.



ACTIVITIES:

Within its responsibilities, the Red Cross of Montenegro:

- Provides the required number of VBD;
- Initiates and encourages recruitment of VBD;
- Takes care of VBD and presents the Red Cross awards for the contribution in the area of VBD;
- Promotes and develops VBD among wider public;
- Organizes educational activities for youth in schools, companies, organizations;
- Organizes annual awards ceremony of the Ministry of Health for VBD;
- Organizes VBD actions;
- Participates in creation of the annual plan of required blood quantities and in cooperation with the Institute for Blood Transfuzion creates the plan for informational-educational campaign;
- Establishes coordinating bodies for analizing and improving VBD.



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Red Cross of Montenegro is active within HIV/AIDS prevention and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and in cooperation with other stakeholders, organizes different educational activities.

Additionally, Global agenda goals of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, set out the direction for active prevention of communicable diseases and addictions.

The Red Cross is committed to strengthening the volunteers' base in the local Red Cross branches and educating number of young people for actively pursuing this activity in their respective communities, as peer educators.



MAIN GOAL:

Decrease stigma and discrimination of people affected by the virus and raise awareness among general population on HIV/AIDS.

- Organization of seminars for volunteers in the Red Cross local branches;
- Establishing team of volunteers for HIV/AID prevention activities;
- Celebration of important dates in the area of HIV and STD prevention;
- Creation of educational-promotional material;
- Cooperation with relevant stakeholders Ministry of Health, Institute for Public Health and NGOs active in this field;
- Organization of lectures and seminars with the following CSOs: "CAZAS", "JUVENTAS", "MOMSIC";
- Conducting raising awareness campaign "Anti-stigma and discrimination";
- Participation in regional events where this topic is discussed.

SOCIAL WELFARE

HOME CARE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Montenegro belongs to the group of European countries whose population is ageing rapidly, and population movement along with continuous increase of number of older persons in the last three decades and expected future trends will have significant socio-economic consequences for Montenegro and its economy, but also for the society in general. According to some researches, older people face with many challenges, such as: poverty, loneliness, lack of care and access to services, poor health condition, etc. For all these reasons, Home care program is one of the priority programs for the Red Cross of Montenegro

For many years now, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been improving the quality of its services for this target group. Additionally, with the aim of responding to different needs and challenges, the Red Cross introduced new services that promote the concept of healthy ageing, intergenerational solidarity and older people's human rights. These are the beneficiaries of Home care program: persons above the age of 65, who live alone or with a family member who is also in need, persons who have minimal or no allowances at all, persons with health problems and persons who don't receive similar



type of support from other organization. Not all of these criteria have to be satisfied but there is a needs assessment as well. The decision on including the beneficiaries in the program is made in line with needs assessment.

MAIN GOAL:

Contribute to improvement of quality of life of older people in Montenegro.



ACTIVITIES:

There are several projects that are implemented within the Home care program and they are all aligned with the needs of this group. The projects are constantly being improved with innovative support models. The following activities and services are available to older people:

- Voluntary support services through regular house visits;
- Home care services provided by professional home helpers;
- Clubs for older people;
- Workshops and other educational and recreational activities within healthy ageing;
- Celebration of important dates;
- Distribution of humanitarian assistance for socially vulnerable older people;
- Provision of psychosocial support in emergencies;
- Cooperation regarding Home care with relevant institutions and organizations at national and local level;
- Participation in different working groups with the aim of influencing decision making process related to strategic planning of support to this target group;
- Organization of trainings for volunteers for Home care and Healthy ageing;
- Organization of accredited program for provision of Home care services;



- Creation of educational and promotional material, situation analysis regarding the position of older people, needs assessment for older people, etc;
- Cooperation with other National Societies, exchange of experience, knowledge, participation in different international events;
- Applying for projects for securing funds for services.



FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Implementation of Fight against human trafficking program is based on preventive and educational activities, as well as on activities related to provision of humanitarian assistance. Human trafficking presents modern form of slavery that results in violation of basic human rights.

MAIN GOAL:

Contribute to decrease of number of trafficked persons in Montenegro and improve cooperation with relevant stake-holders.

ACTIVITIES:

- Cooperation with governmental and other relevant stakeholders who work in the area of fight against human trafficking;
- Organization of campaigns and celebration of important dates;
- Organization of educational seminars for Red Cross volunteers;
- Participation in regional and international seminars and annual meetings;
- Creation of educational material;
- Cooperation with educational institutions.

MIGRATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

As migration represents one of today's major challenge, affecting many countries in the world, it requires a response from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, including the Red Cross of Montenegro. The Red Cross of Montenegro has been implementing the migration program for many years now and according to its mandate, it relates to provision of humanitarian assistance and provision of psychosocial support to asylum seekers, persons with granted protection in Montenegro, migrants, Roma and Egyptian population.

MAIN GOAL:

Provide support to people on the move, alleviate the suffering and the consequences of migration and support the integration of those who want to stay in Montenegro.

- Provision of humanitarian assistance to people in need;
- Organization of preventive and educational workshops on different topics, such as First aid, anti-trafficking, Restoring Family Links, HIV/AIDS;
- Support for restoring family links, support in cases of connecting families (communication with other National Societies and institutions, collecting documents);
- Support to beneficiaries (migrants, asylum seekers and persons with granted protection in Montengro) for accessing rights to health and social protection, joint visits to doctors, employment, communication with teachers, etc;
- Provision of psychosocial support;
- Besides field activities, the Red Cross of Montenegro participates in the creation of Strategies and Plans of action whose main objective is to define activities, plans for integration, treatment of persons seeking international protection in Montenegro but also for Montenegrin citizens who are returning to the country through readmission process and process of voluntary return;
- Organization of health preventive workshops for Roma and Egyptian (RE) women and girls within Family center activities;



- Informing parents and children of RE population about the school enrollment procedures;
- Provision and distribution of school kits and hygiene items for RE children enrolled in town schools;
- Workshops with RE youth within the Youth club activities (media literacy, computer workshops, basics of foreign languages, health preventive workshops etc);
- Support to employment and enterpreneurial activities for RE adults through Bussines incubator activities;
- Organization of craft trainings for RE adults.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Red Cross of Montenegro participates in the reception and accommodation of evacuated people, collects and distributes humanitarian aid and prepares the teams to act in emergency situation.

MAIN GOAL:

Strenghten the Red Cross capacities in terms of disaster preparedness and response, both on land and water.

ACTIVITIES:

- Performs the tracing service tasks, in order to gather and record data on evacuated citizens, refugees, internally displaced people and missing persons due to war, natural and other disasters and catastrophes in times of peace and war and to trace the missing people (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 4);
- Participates in reception and accommodation of evacuated citizens, refugees and internally displaced people, provides support and takes measures that can contrib-





ute to the wellbeing of the affected population, refugees and internally displaced people (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 5);

- Organizes collection and distribution of humanitarian assistance received from international organizations and other donors, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, earmarked for humanitarian social needs at the territory of Montenegro, both in times of peace and war (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 6);
- Initiates, organizes and implements or participates in regular and extraordinary solidarity campaigns in Montenegro to provide assistance to vulnerable people and victims of natural, ecological, and other disasters resulting in mass suffering, epidemics, armed conflict in the country and abroad, and keeps in stock certain quantities of material goods for such needs (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 7);
- Co-operates and participates in actions of international assistance and solidarity campaigns (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 8);

- organizes and implements First aid trainings for lectures, in cooperation with relevant health institutions, keeps records on the training and issues relevant certificates regarding the lecturers' skills (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 9);
- Organizes and implements First aid trainings, in cooperation with the relevant health institutions, organizes exams, keeps records and issues certificates on completed First aid tests, trains, trains members of the police, fire brigade and others (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 10);
- Organizes and trains disaster response teams in the area of social welfare protection, water and ski rescue, psycho-social support to the population and in cooperation with state bodies implements the disaster preparedness program (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 12);
- In cooperation with transfusion centers, popularizes voluntary blood donation, gathers/recruits voluntary blood donors, keeps record on them, defines criteria and delivers certificates to voluntary blood donors (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 13);



 Organizes the Water rescue service and Service for rescue in organized ski paths, organizes trainings for rescuers in these services, keeps records and issues certificates on competencies, organizes annual renewal courses and checkups of physical preparedness of life guards (Article 9, paragraph 1, point 14).

WATER RESCUE AND RESCUE ON ORGANIZED SKI SLOPES

DESCRIPTION:

Water rescue and rescue on organized ski slopes are the activities organized within Disaster preparedness and response program. The Red Cross conducts activities related to increasing the safety and preserving people's lives in both water and snow surroundings, in a professional way. The Red



Cross partners with relevant governmental institutions while conducting these affairs of public interest. According to the Red Cross Law, the Red Cross secures sufficient number of trained rescuers for beaches, pools and ski slopes. All the plans and programs that are aligned with international standards (International Life Saving) are also aligned with the national requirements.

- Raising awareness activities for general public on dangers on water and ski slopes, disaster prevention;
- Lifeguards trainings (professional courses for jobs in these areas);
- Renewal courses (annual);
- Trainings for instructors;
- Active participation in all the activities related to improving safety of people;
- Active participation in the work of international bodies for water rescue;
- Opening and closing of ski slopes;
- Regular patroling and monitoring of ski slopes;
- Terrain search in case of need;
- Provision of first aid and adequate assistance to injured skiers;
- Transportation of injured person to the ambulance;
- Evacuation of skiers from the cable car;
- Safety and risk assesment of the operation of ski resorts in case of weather disaster.





RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (TRACING SERVICE)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In line with the national legislation and international conventions, the Red Cross of Montenegro performs tracing service tasks at the territory of the country, both in times of peace and emergencies.

Tracing service performs tasks of informing and locating the victims of natural and other disasters with mass casualties. It collects, records and process the data, provide information on victims of armed conflicts, war prisoners, civil internees, asylum seekers, persons on forced labor, wounded, sick, dead, missing children, children evacuated in other countries as well as children separated from parents, and share it to interested individuals, relevant authorities and organizations. It also exchanges family messages and connects family members separated due to natural and other forms of disasters.

MAIN GOAL:

Provide support to families separated due to natural disasters, migration and wars, and support in receiving information on their family members.

ACTIVITIES:

- Processing request for tracing;
- Exchange of family messages when this is the only way of communication;
- Providing phone call services with the aim of restoring family links;
- Issuing notes on war imprisonments during the World War II
- Providing support for connecting the families;
- Implementation of a software sollution that will facilitate the finding of a missing person.





YOUTH AND YOUNGSTERS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Red Cross volunteers are mostly persons belonging to the categiries of youngsters (up to 15 years) and youth (from 15 to 27 years) and are the key bearers of all activities organized within organization.

MAIN GOAL:

Strenghten the capacities of existing volunteers and increase the number of new volunteers who will actively participate in development of program activities and the society, in general.

- Organization of traditional activities and celebration of important Red Cross days; celebration of the International Youth Day and International Volunteers Day;
- Regular meetings of Commission for Youth and Youngsters;
- Defining the structure (establishing the rules, communication, ways of work, support and award system) of youth at national and local level;
- Meeting of youth from all Red Cross local branches;
- Planned and continuous education of youth, strengthening and expanding the volunteers' network in all Red Cross local branches through an unique training system (involve certain number of volunteers from youth and youngsters in trainings for Voluntary Blood Donation,



First aid, Home care, Disaster response, psychosocial support) and opening the Youth Clubs;

- Analysis of number of volunteers and the way they are organized, their engagement and involvements, by defining the concept of their work in concrete programs (First aid, Disaster response, Water and ski rescue, Psychosocial support, Home care, etc.);
- Establishing cooperation with youth from other National Societies, humanitarian and other organizations in the country and abroad;
- Participation in international and other Youth meetings at national and international level;
- Creation of educational-promotional material;
- Sharing information and media promotion of youth activities; volunteer's promotion and emphasis on the importance of youth's volunteerism.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Red Cross of Montenegro conducts International cooperation as internationally recognized Red Cross National Society and member of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

Program activities of the Red Cross of Montenegro are focused to providing support to different target groups, which leads to the continuous improvement of image, both at national and international level.

International cooperation is very significant part of the organization. Strengthening international relations and establishing bilateral and multilateral contacts with many partners, at national and international level is one of the precondition for creating well-functioning organization.

MAIN GOAL:

Improve the development of the Red Cross through establishing bilateral cooperation, with other National Societies and other humanitarian organizations and stakeholders, leading up to the fulfilment of the missing- helping those in need.

- In line with its mission, the Red Cross of Montenegro intensively develops and expands its cooperation within the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and other international humanitarian and other organizations;
- Red Cross of Montenegro cooperates with diplomatic-consular sector in Montenegro, as well as with many international organizations (EU delegation, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, WHO, IOM);





- As part of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the Red Cross of Montenegro enjoys excellent cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Red Cross of Montenegro is a member of network of National Societies from small European countries (SENS), together with Red Cross of Andorra, Iceland, Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg;
- The Red Cross is involved in the work of European associations for specific fields, with the aim of following the latest updates and developments, such as ERNA (European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS & TB), ENPS (European Red Cross/Red Crescent network for Psychosocial support), PERCO (Platform for European Red Cross-Red Crescent Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum seekers and migrants);
- Red Cross of Montenegro is an active member of the Centre for cooperation in the Mediterranean;
- As of 2008, the Red Cross is a full member of International Life Saving Federation;
- Representatives of the Red Cross regularly participate in international meetings which contributes to establishing cooperation, especially among young people, but at the same time, promoting the organization, as the oldest Red Cross organization in Balkans.;
- The Red Cross hosts many international events, fostering exchange of experience and improvement of cooperation.



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