Humanitarian impacts of the economic crisis in Europe

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Europe in Crisis
think differently.
Poverty in numbers

- **Spain**
  21.8 per cent under poverty line (24.6 per cent of the elderly)

- **Moldova**
  Less than 10 per cent of returning migrants qualify for social benefits

- **Hungary**
  80 per cent of middle class – no savings, no buffer

- **France**
  Increase of 350,000 poor from 2009–2012
Consequences for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

- More than half of National Societies report having stopped or reduced programmes or not being able to respond

- One in four have reported decrease in international support received

- Seven National Societies reported a decrease in international support donated

- One third report increased donations from corporates and individuals
Time to think differently

Almost all National Societies report that they have been affected by the crisis

- Much more focus on domestic assistance (national appeals)
- Heavy increase in food aid
- New groups of vulnerable

Some National Societies face frustration not being able to do more
Time to think differently
Trend: The poor getting poorer
Trend: The poor getting poorer

- More people living in poverty
- Widening gap between rich and poor
- More people seeking assistance including food aid
Trend: The “new poor”
Trend: The “new poor”

- More working people seeking financial assistance to make ends meet
- Falling number of middle-income earners
- Many have no financial safety net, no savings
- Increasing needs, despite shrinking funds
Economic Crisis

Think differently

**Trend: Weakening health**
Trend: Weakening health

- Cuts in national health spending
- More people suffering depressing and other mental health problems
- Changes in “health behaviours”
Trend: Migration and mobility
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- Public stance on migrants has toughened
- Ensuring implementation of protective laws is problematic
- Falling levels of overseas remittance
Trend: Unemployment
**Trend: Unemployment**

- Increasing National Society involvement in programmes for unemployed people
- Concern on social consequences of unemployment
- Increasing number of people volunteering
Publication: Think differently

- Illustrates results of mapping exercise
- Supports advocacy and partnership development
  - Analysis, case studies, etc.
- A summary document and media pack have also been produced
- Resources, including an activity catalogue and databank are available on FedNet
Voices of people dealing with the crisis
**Commitments**

- Share knowledge, experience and ideas
- Strengthen & expand existing social programmes
- Find creative solutions to new humanitarian challenges
- Continue to highlight challenges to be addressed
- Cooperate with government and other partners
Recommendations (external)

The IFRC recommends that:

- Social safety nets are guaranteed
- Drastic or indiscriminate cuts to healthcare and social service budgets are refused
- Provision of mental health care services are increased
- Cooperation internationally and nationally to ensure the rights of migrants and to promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion is enhanced
- Active labour market support is continued and expanded
- Private and civil society sector work together to fund and promote voluntary service as an integral component to social health systems
Looking forward

Continued awareness campaign:

- Knowledge sharing activities and discussions
- IFRC support for on-going advocacy efforts of National Societies
- Red Cross Red Crescent European Conference 2014 including call for action
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