



"Solferino2009" Support Unit, Rome, Italy

Newsletter - 1st issue

The Solferino 2009 events, historical landmark for the whole International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent, are less than seven weeks away. This year more than ever, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant's idea, our Movement renews its mandate of safeguard of human life and health of the most vulnerable people. This year, more than ever, every volunteer of the Italian Red Cross or other National Societies will have a chance to understand how his/her action can really make a difference in changing the world we live in.

This fortnightly newsletter provides the readers with constant updates on the organization of June events, by a series of in-depth articles and a special section dedicated to the different activities taking place within the Humanitarian Boulevard. For further information, please visit our website at www.solferino2009englishversion.cri.it, or email us at solferino2009@cri.it.

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Countdown to the Solferino events!

Less than seven weeks left before the Solferino 2009 events!

Are you ready to take part to this unforgettable event together with thousands of other volunteers of the Movement?

Are you excited?

Solferino 2009 is announced as one of the greatest in the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and will be a not-to-be-missed opportunity of gathering and training.

This year a 200,000 square meter area in Solferino will be modelled as a camp by the Italian Red Cross and organized to host thousands of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff, authorities, media and partners, who will gather together to commemorate the birth of the International Movement. The main framework of the Solferino 2009 commemorations will be a Humanitarian Village, which will host three big events: the **"Youth on the move"**, 3rd world RCRC youth meeting; the **Humanitarian Boulevard**, a large area offering exciting activities, trainings, exhibitions and more; and the memorable **Fiaccolata**, torch light procession, which will conclude the Solferino events on the evening of June 27th.

Keep checking the news section on the Solferino 2009 official website for the latest news!

For further information, you can email the "Solferino 2009" Support Unit at solferino2009@cri.it, or call 06/97844522.

Join the staff!

Solferino events' date is approaching very fast. The setting up of the camp, i.e. dormitory tents, kitchens, canteens, administrative offices, sanitary and hygiene units, electrical and water system, IT installations, as well as preparations of the booths and exhibition areas and much more need human resources and expertises.

The Italian Red Cross has earlier committed to prepare the site calling to action its volunteers and technical staff. However, since the very beginning of the action in favour of the victims of the earthquake in Abruzzo on 6 April, the Italian Red Cross has been fully involved in the emergency response operations, deploying large part of both its human and logistic resources to bring relief to the people affected by the earthquake.

In such difficult and challenging moment, we count on Italy's nearest member societies for helping and bringing logistic support to the Italian RC in Solferino. Volunteers and staff will join the logistic unit in charge of the setting up and management of the camp, contributing to the organization of this unique Red Cross Red Crescent event. The support will be welcome from the very beginning of June but it will be crucial from **10 to 30 of June 2009**. Board and lodging will be provided to all volunteers and staff.

We hope that your National Society has the resources to cover the technical profiles listed in the [call for support](#) issued to the National Societies and you are interested in joining the Solferino 2009 team.

"Youth on the move" – ready the new mailing list!

From now till June, all the "Youth on the move" participants, as well as National Society staff and youth teams have a new tool to communicate quickly and efficiently: a new mailing list (youthonthemove@maillist.ifrc.org) was set up and is now active. Everyone on the list will receive an update on a weekly base with the

latest information on the youth meeting preparation process, practical info, updated programme of the event, visa and flight info, etc.

Don't miss your chance to be updated and communicate with the other participants, make friends, share your ideas and also keep in touch with everybody after the end of Solferino events!

For queries about the Youth on the move, you can email youth@ifrc.org.

Fiaccolata 2009

The Fiaccolata is a yearly memorable event for the Italian Red Cross volunteers as well as for many other National Societies. Every year, since 1992, thousands gather in June in Solferino to follow the same path walked 150 years ago by nurses who took injured soldiers from the battlefield of Solferino to the first medical outpost in Castiglione, and recall the humanitarian spirit which gave birth to what is today the biggest humanitarian Organization worldwide.

This year, the Fiaccolata will not be an independent event, but will be the closing moment of all the Solferino 2009 commemorations: the evening of **27 June**, the volunteers of the Movement who participate in the Humanitarian Village, the participants of the "Youth on the move", staff members and some famous friends of the Movement will gather in Piazza Castello in Solferino and, holding torches, will walk on the site of the battle of Solferino, in a special moment which will remind all volunteers that all their actions are part of a bigger action, of a bigger Movement.



Fiaccolata from Solferino to Castiglione, 23 June 2007.

ECHO

The **European Commission Humanitarian aid Office (ECHO)** is the European Commission's service responsible for humanitarian aid.

The European Union's mandate to ECHO is to provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the European Union. The aid is intended to go directly to those in distress, irrespective of race, religion or political convictions.

Since many years ECHO contributed significantly to many humanitarian operations of the RCRC world. ECHO is one of the official partners of Solferino 2009 events.

For further information, go to: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm.

ERUs

An **Emergency Response Unit (ERU)** is a standardised package of trained personnel and modules of equipment, ready to be deployed at short notice. ERUs are part of the global **Federation Disaster Response system** and used in large emergency response operations, when global assistance is needed.

ERUs provide specific services where local infrastructure is damaged, temporarily out of use or insufficient to cope with the needs. The units are fully self-sufficient for one month and can be deployed for up to four months. Seven are the existing types of ERUs: **Logistics, Relief, IT & Telecommunication, Water & Sanitation, Basic Health Care, Referral Hospital Facilities and Base Camp**. Six of them will be set up and showcase within the Humanitarian Boulevard in Solferino. On **26 June**, an emergency simulation will take place, where ERUs will be shown in full operation. The exercise will involve 300 guests of the camp who will be prepared to act as Red Cross Red Crescent relief workers and victims.



ERU Watsan Iloilo City Philippines
Filling up an onion tank with raw water from a well in San Isidro, Iloilo, Panay Island.