20-27 June
Solferino 2010

“As we walk holding our torches, we feel like those who 151 years ago took injured soldiers to the first medical outpost in Castiglione, because every single day we struggle to take actions which can make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people. This is our dream. And dreams can come true only if we all believe they can”

Francesco Rocca,
ItRC Extraordinary Commissioner

A 151 year long dream

Dear friends,

From 20 to 27 June, 2010, in Solferino, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement celebrated 151 years since the birth of its visionary idea. Right one year after the huge success of the 2009 commemorations, we are still here, to renew our commitment to do more, do it better and reach further.

On this special occasion, the Europe Zone Office decided to dedicate a special issue of its monthly newsletter to the Solferino 2010 event, to spread its message throughout the National Societies and reach also those who were not able to participate in person, but were there with their hearts.

Anitta Underlin
Director of Europe Zone Office
151 years ago, Solferino, a small village of northern Italy, gave birth to a dream. The dream that a vulnerable human being should be helped regardless of his/her colour, creed and race, but on the base of need alone.

Today, the same dream still guides the action of the whole International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, which brings its help around the world in order to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. Today, like then, the Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are ready to provide assistance to the victims of natural disasters, health emergencies, deprivation, and to anyone in need.

“Solferino is becoming every year more and more a place where we gather to share what we have done and what we are best at. Like last year, to reaffirm its commitment to do more, be better and reach further. “Abruzzo, One Year Later: What Has Been Learnt” In the days of the events, right 14 months after the devastating earthquake which struck central Italy on April 6, 2009 and where the Italian Red Cross engaged in immediate emergency response and longer-term reconstruction projects, the Italian Red Cross decided to organize a debrief meeting to share with other National Societies what so far has been done, what has been learnt, what should be improved, what did make a difference in the lives of the many people affected by the earthquake. To read the main article, click here.

Youth As Agent of Behavioural Change

In a world facing increasingly bigger humanitarian challenges, change must first come from inside every single one of us. And youth, as agents of behavioural change, must play a leadership role to promote such change of mindset, attitudes and behaviour in society.

In order to follow up on the commitments taken one year ago in the reflection on our humanitarian role for the next decade, but also a moment when people different in origin, age, culture and religion, but united under the same Seven Principles, gather together to celebrate, have fun and feel they all share the same, crazy idea” concluded Mr. Rocca during the opening session. Musical nights, dances and of course, the yearly memorable Fiaccolata, the torch-lit procession, which, like a long shining river in the night of the 26, took the over 8,000 people gathered in Piazza Castello, Solferino, up to Castiglione delle Stiviere.

To read the main article, click here.

The event also witnessed the sign of an important agreement between the Italian Red Cross youth and the Italian Red Cross Blood Donors: a pilot project in three Italian regions will introduce the International Club 25 in Italy.

Many young agents of behavioural change took part to the various workshops organized by the Italian Red Cross, the International Federation, the National Youth Agency and the National Youth Forum, thus renewing their commitment to mobilize themselves and address the Solferinos of today to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of millions of people across the world.

To read the main article, click here.

Programme

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For more information please contact:

Email: ezo.communications@ifrc.org
Ph: +36 1 888 4542