

Micro-project implemented in Debar Branch, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

Participatory Community Development (PCD) training was conducted in Debar branch with young people. Amongst the group were four girls aged 15 years old who were particularly motivated by the opportunity. They identified an elderly Roma woman in the community who was raising children on her own and living in poverty.

After meeting with the woman, they decided to launch a project to build a new house. They initiated a public campaign in the community seeking financial and other support. The result was overwhelming.

Offers of support came from all over the community: some made financial contributions others donated raw materials or labour. The girls even managed to meet with the mayor and convince him to provide the permits required for demolishing and building a new house free of charge.

Once the house was built, the girls continued their campaign and were able to secure donations of furniture and clothes for the children. The project inspired and mobilized a whole community to the support of someone less fortunate. The initiative also helped the branch and the young people to understand the process of mobilizing local resources to address vulnerability and they have since implemented numerous other projects.

Taken from:

Evaluation of Capacity Building Fund support to organizational change in the Macedonian Red Cross 2008–2011, IFRC 2012

Available at:

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