

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova and Ukraine: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR67003
Glide n° FL-2008-000122-UKR/MDA
5 August 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,250,355 (USD 1,193,428 or EUR 765,881) in cash, kind, or services to support the Moldovan and Ukrainian National Red Cross Societies to assist 60,000 beneficiaries for eight months.

A total of CHF 636,942 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the initial phase of operations in Ukraine (CHF 437,942) and Moldova (CHF 199,000) respectively. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Flooding on the Dniester and Prut rivers has resulted in over 30 deaths, some 30,000 people displaced and up to one billion dollars worth of damages, according to government figures. Based on the situation, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the National Societies, and focuses on

providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors: water supply (filters), emergency food aid, hygiene supplies, household kits, bedding, repair work and psychological support.

This operation is expected to be implemented over eight months, and will therefore be completed by April 2009; a Final Report will be made available by July 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget; here to link to a map of the affected area; or here to view contact details>](#)



Yaroslav Narozhnyak, 62, a former miner and crane operator in Siberia, stands outside his ruined house, in Dubivsti village, Ivano-Frankivsk region, southwest Ukraine (Photo IFRC)

The situation

The worst storms in over two centuries have led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. More than 38 lives were lost in western Ukraine, with

dozens more people still missing. Thousands of homes were destroyed or made uninhabitable and the homes of more than 20,000 people had to be evacuated. The governments will be providing assistance related to the rebuilding of the houses. Estimates put the damage at over one billion US dollars.

Six regions were affected in western Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia. In these regions 655 settlements, with around 40,000 houses, more than 30,000 hectares of arable land and 680 kilometres of roads have been damaged. More than 50 settlements are still inundated and about 80 villages in the Carpathians remain isolated with all access roads and bridges having been destroyed by the flooding. The five days of constant rain brought precipitation equivalent to one year's normal rainfall.

In Moldova, where recent months and years have brought a fierce drought that has rendered the fertile soil barren, and boiled crops in the fields, tracts of land are now awash with water. The northern district of Briceni was at the centre of the disaster with 626 persons evacuated, 339 houses flooded, out of which 64 were seriously damaged. In the Oknitsa district the river Dniester flooded 15 houses.

Rescue teams from the department for emergency situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have rescued hundreds of people. This includes over one thousand children from summer camps in the municipality of Chisinau and 18 children from a boarding centre in Soroca district.

Some reports suggest that the risk of flooding and contamination of water supplies to major cities in both countries has receded. However, the Odessa region of Ukraine is still facing the risk of inundation, with the according to the Ministry of Emergencies predicting that the level of water in the lower sections of the Dniester region may exceed a critical point on August 5. The road linking Odessa and Reni and the agricultural lands near the Dniester lagoon are already half a meter under water. In Moldova water levels are decreasing on the Dniester and Prut rivers and over 1,500 people are helping evacuate people and goods, constructing and strengthening dams and supplying drinking water, food and other relief items.

Weather forecasts have warned of a new storm in the western and central regions of Ukraine raising fears that more rains could trigger mudslides that have already claimed one life in the village of Chernohusi and caused a further 50 people to be hospitalized.

In both countries the disaster can be described as massive, even though it quickly faded from the international news headlines. Prompt action by local authorities, backed up by the Red Cross response activities definitely saved lives, although the waters rose too quickly to enable people to save their possessions. Whole communities are severely traumatized by the loss of their homes and belongings. Many people have lost everything except the clothes they were wearing when they fled.

Thousands of homes will be uninhabitable for weeks if not months as their elderly occupants do not have the strength, or the means to make repairs. The floods have wiped out market gardens which provide local populations with crops to pickle and preserve for the winter months. Food stocks are often left in outhouses, these have been contaminated by filthy water, full of animal and human excrement. Wells and latrines have also been rendered unusable in many cases. Livestock have been lost, including much poultry which are an important source of nutrition and income for many people, particularly the elderly, who rely on pension of as little as USD 100 per month in Ukraine, and a paltry 40 USD per month in Moldova.

Damage recorded in Ukraine as of 1 August:

Region	Flooded houses	Agricultural lands damaged (hectares)	Roads and bridges destroyed	No. of people died	Settlements without electricity	Water supply points flooded
Lviv	7,989	1,213	21 road bridges, 28.3 km highways	-	61	-
Zakarpattia	163	2,000	3 road bridges	-	-	-
Ternopil	268	-	-	-	15	-
Chernivtsy	8,811	3,135	8 road and 41 foot bridges	7	52	-
Ivano-Frankivsk	22,930	28,321	329 road bridges, 409 foot bridges, 579.6 km highways	15	160 without electricity, 259 without communication	8
Vinnitsa	670	472 (1,407 farmlands)	-	-	--	-
total	40,831	31,928		22		

Source: The Emergency Ministry and the Ukraine Red Cross.

The numbers of flooded villages and persons evacuated in Moldova as of 1 August:

Region	Flooded villages	Evacuated people
Riscani	8	2,027
Glodeni	8	557
Falesti	5	1,060
Soroca	44	450
Soldanesti	3	n/a
Anenii Noi	5	n/a
Ocnita	3	n/a
Briceni	n/a	626

Source: Moldova Red Cross.

Coordination and partnerships

Both National Societies work very closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional and local – in their auxiliary role. To promote a coherent and unified response, the International Federation facilitates coordination activities for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement including the host National Society, Partner National Societies - both bilateral and multilateral support, National Societies of the region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as relevant, and externally with key operational agencies or organizations (UN, NGOs and others).

- The National Societies will implement the operation with technical and financial support from the International Federation's Kiev representative office. A locally-recruited programme coordinator is required for four months to assist with procurement and distributions.
- The International Federation, via its offices in Kiev, Chisinau, Moscow and Budapest will lead the coordination of international relief assistance, including the mobilization of financial resources and technical expertise where required. The National Societies have already been successful in raising some funds and relief items locally.
- Feedback and the views of the communities affected by the flooding are extremely important to the National Societies and to the International Federation secretariat to check that the operation meets the needs. Once the distributions and services in the objectives below have been carried out, simple beneficiary satisfaction surveys will be conducted in the communities by volunteers. Efforts will be taken to ensure that this information informs future operations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ukraine Red Cross has carried out an assessment of the situation and initiated relief efforts. In the days immediately following the disaster Red Cross staff and volunteers distributed food parcels, hot meals, tea and clothing from their emergency stocks, and volunteers have been sheltering those who lost their houses in their own homes. The National Society appealed to its branches to collect humanitarian assistance for the affected regions. In Ivano-Frankivsk region, the local branches started to distribute 7,000 food parcels from locally raised funds.

Based on the information received from the Briceni Red Cross branch, the Moldova Red Cross conducted a needs assessment in Briceni and, subsequently, provided immediate support to the two most affected villages of Drepcauti and Criva. In total 245 families have been assisted by the distribution of blankets, bed linen, shoes for children and adults, clothes, water filters, food parcels and hygiene kits from the society's emergency stock. Needs assessments are ongoing and larger distributions have started.

The International Federation's country representative for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the representation's programme coordinator for Ukraine and the Ukraine Red Cross's head of humanitarian department visited five villages in the disaster zone before driving to northern Moldova to assess the situation with the local Red Cross branch.

Allocations from the International Federation's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) have enabled both National Societies to move ahead with their plans – within minutes of the DREF being announced Ukraine Red Cross had ordered the first of 10,000 membrane water filters.

The Turkish Red Crescent sent four truckloads of basic relief items to the affected people in Moldova. The aid, consisting of food rations, blankets, jerrycans and hygiene materials left on 3 August and was due to arrive in Moldova on 5 August. A needs assessment team accompanied the shipment and will assist the Moldova Red Cross in identifying further needs. The Irish Government announced an immediate contribution of €20,000 to assist the Red Cross relief efforts in relation to the natural disaster caused by floods in Western Ukraine, while the French Embassy in Moldova confirmed it will make a direct contribution to the Moldova Red Cross.

The needs

Immediate needs: For the first two to three months of the operation Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross Societies, with the support of the International Federation's representation in Kiev, will concentrate on providing emergency relief supplies. In the very early stages of the operation (i.e. from now and for the next three weeks) the emphasis will be on providing clean drinking water, food, personal and domestic hygiene materials.

This will have a threefold impact: it will replace stocks families have lost, enabling them to use scarce cash resources for other pressing needs; it will protect their health status which is endangered by stagnant and contaminated water, poor sanitation and depleted nutritional stocks; and it will also provide vital psychological support, particularly for lone elderly people who have been traumatized by their isolation and vulnerability.

It is expected that the National Societies will be able to procure and deliver a total of 12,000 water filters (10,000 in Ukraine and 2,000 in Moldova) in the first week of this operation. At the same time tenders will be made for other relief items. Each food parcel will contain rice, buckwheat, flour, sunflower oil, sugar and canned meat.

Hygiene parcels will contain soap, detergent, scrubbing brush, plastic bowl, bucket, mop, brush sponges. Kitchen sets will consist of cups, plates and a pot. Finally bedding sets will comprise a mattress, bedlinen and blankets.

A second round of food parcel distributions will take place in December as this is when food stocks will be at their lowest. Household plots which normally produce vegetables for canning and preserving for consumption in the winter months were wiped out in the floods. Pickled and canned foods are staples for families in this region and their absence will have a detrimental impact on nutrition.

Mattresses, sheets and blankets have often been destroyed in the floods, representing a significant and severe loss to families. The temperatures regularly fall below minus 25 during the winter months from November to March and very few houses have more than wood burning stoves for heating.

Beneficiary selection: The beneficiaries will be those worst affected by the floods – those who have lost their homes and possessions, those whose food stocks and market gardens have been destroyed and who are thus vulnerable to food insecurity. The beneficiaries are overwhelmingly from small, isolated rural villages, and the hardest hit are the lone elderly, pensioners, invalids, pregnant women and families with small children.

They were selected by observation and interviews (rapid assessment) and by consultation with the local authorities and local Red Cross branches.

Longer-term needs: While some houses have been damaged beyond repair, the majority have light to moderate damage such as cracked walls, rotten floors, fallen plasterwork, broken doors or damaged roofs. The physical work of simply clearing the mud from floors and walls is too much for many elderly people. For this reason the National Societies propose replicating the concept of Mobile Repair Teams (MRTs). This concept was highly successful in Crimea when the displaced Tatar population returned from exile to their abandoned homes in the 1990s. A team of five craftsmen, plus driver, will perform repairs on 5-10 houses per week in each of the two worst-affected areas in Ukraine. A single team will operate in Moldova. The teams will operate for six months, reaching up to 600 households.

An innovation of this operation will be the provision of mobile psychological support added to the technical teams. Ukraine Red Cross has good experience of psycho-social support programmes (PSP) following mine disasters and storms in recent years, using the model developed by Russian Red Cross after the Beslan tragedy. Both National Societies have home Visiting Nurses who have been trained, or will be trained in psychological support. They will travel with the mobile teams and will be provided with basic medical kits so that they can dispense practical medical help as well as psychological support. In addition, they have been trained in provision of advice on legal entitlements to the elderly, and more training is planned. This operation will give them a chance to put their training into practice, offering valuable services to isolated and vulnerable communities.

Ukraine Red Cross already has extensive experience of running mobile teams, such as the diagnostic laboratories under the long-established Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP). Local authorities contribute to running costs and the NSs will endeavour to get local support for this response operation as well. It is envisaged that at the end of the programme the vehicles will be handed over to Ukraine and Moldova Red Cross branches for use in ongoing domestic programmes involving mobile teams. Discussions have already taken place with French Red Cross who have recently started harm reduction activities in Chernivtsi, one of the heaviest flood-affected regions in Ukraine. Similarly, the Moldova RC has a very successful harm reduction programme in the city of Benderi which would benefit from a mobile unit.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide emergency relief (food parcels and basic non-food items) to a total of 12,000 families (60,000 people)	
Expected results	Activities planned
12,000 most-affected families receive emergency food aid, bedding, hygiene supplies and/or household sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary lists will be supplied by local branches in conjunction with the local authorities at village level • Distribution of relief supplies to 12000 most affected families. • Replenishment of essential stock already distributed • Basic relief training for selected staff and volunteers where required • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions • Carry out beneficiary satisfaction surveys to determine follow-up, and to guide future operations

The proposed breakdown of items per country for the relief distribution is summarised in the table below. Distributions will be carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and records the movement of such goods.

Relief distribution targets	Ukraine	Moldova	Total
Food parcels (1 st stage)	4,000	1,500	5,500
Food parcels (2 nd stage)	4,000	2,000	6,000
Kitchen kits	2,000	300	2,300
Hygiene kits	4,000	1,500	5,500
Water filters	10,000	1,000	11,000
Bedding (mattress, bed-linen, blankets)	1,500	1,500	3,000

Emergency shelter

Objective: To assist 600 affected households in making their damaged houses habitable again by supporting basic repairs through the provision of Mobile Repair Teams (MRTs).	
Expected results	Activities planned
Up to 600 affected households in the two most affected areas in Ukraine	MRTs assess where cheap and effective interventions can be made, moving from village to village repairing doors, windows, interior (floorboards, plasterwork) but no major structural work or

and Moldova have been supported with basic repairs to damaged housing	reconstruction. Purchase and distribute sheets and blankets to families that lost bedding in the floods (see above).
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A real strength of the operation is the strong link between the emergency shelter component of the operation and emergency health and psycho-social support. Experienced Visiting Nurses Service counselors will travel with the MRTs providing psycho-social support to traumatized people, as well as basic health care and health promotion where required (see below for more details).

Emergency health and care

Objective: To reduce health impact and future health risks of the emergency on the affected population through the provision of basic community-level health care and promotion for six months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The psycho-social well-being of the affected populations is improved through targeted psycho-social support (PSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained PSP counselors will visit affected communities offering psycho-social support to those most affected or at risk. • PSP counselors will accompany mobile repair teams during field visits
Visiting nurses have provided basic health care and promotion to most affected families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure medical kits for visiting nurses to use with people who have skin or respiratory infections. • Visiting nurses treat people with skin ailments, respiratory infections and other minor illnesses. • Visiting nurses and volunteers conduct basic health promotion activities

Federation and National Society assessment teams reported on the psycho-social impact of the disaster on people who had often lost most or all of their few belongings including household items and precious livestock. Experience from previous disasters confirms the importance of addressing psycho-social support needs particularly for extremely vulnerable people such as elderly people living alone.

Preliminary reports by a WHO/MSF assessment team travelling in the region found that there are no other major emergency health needs. Slight skin and respiratory infections were identified among children in one location visited by the International Federation/National Society teams.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 12,000 families in seven areas for three months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 12,000 families through distribution of inexpensive water filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 12,000 locally-made membrane mini-filters which have a working life on one year and require minimal maintenance (weekly cleaning). • Promote hygiene awareness and basic sanitation, and provide guidance on maintenance/cleaning of filters
Wells in the affected regions are tested to determine clean-up needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy a water and sanitation technician to assess the water and sanitation needs • To advise on the need for clean-up of contaminated wells in affected areas

Capacity of National Society in conducting water and sanitation assessments on usability of wells and chlorination is boosted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train National Society volunteers and staff on well safety, using water and sanitation technicians • Monitor the progress of those trained so they can be used as resources in future emergency operations of this kind within Europe.
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Procurement and distribution of water filters have already been initiated as a high priority, as many affected communities or individual families do not have access to clean water. A water and sanitation specialist will be deployed to assess further needs in this area, including the clean-up of community or household wells that were contaminated during the floods.

Capacity building

In addition to the operational objectives outlined above the two national Societies will be supported in their long-term capacity building, with a particular focus on further strengthening their ability to respond to future disasters. This will be addressed initially through on-the-job training of staff and volunteers during the first phases of the operation. Evaluations and lessons learned will be used to review existing contingency plans, to strengthen systems and procedures, and to further build capacity of staff and volunteers through targeted training. Where relevant such activities will be closely linked to ongoing long-term programmes in areas such as disaster management, health and care, and organizational development. These are described in more detail in the respective annual plans.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities outlined in this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Two stories about the people living in areas, how they have been affected, and importantly, how they are responding themselves to their plight, have been posted on the International Federation's website. The latest one can be read here: <http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/08/08080401/index.asp>

Capacity of the National Society

Both National Societies have solid experience of responding to floods – heavy flooding in Moldova in the mid 90s and in western Ukraine in 2001 both saw international appeals launched. Recently Moldova Red Cross carried out a successful food parcel operation to 7,000 families affected – ironically – by severe drought. Ukraine Red Cross' disaster management capacities have recently been utilized in operations responding to mine disasters and storms. It also forms part of the ongoing Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation programme.

The Ukraine Red Cross is developing a good capacity for psychological support and has a network of 3,200 home visiting nurses funded by the government, who will be used to provide support to persons affected by this disaster. They have also successfully implemented cash donations to disaster survivors, however this type of assistance is not recommended in this operation.

The National Societies cooperate closely with their governments and ministries of emergency situations, and are coordinating their relief efforts at national, regional and local levels. Both however have limited capability to work with international organizations and prospective donors, and will require some assistance from the Federation in this regard.

Another area for investment is in prepositioning of disaster response stocks, as more heavy floods can be expected in the future. As the National Societies have used some of their own stocks in meeting the immediate needs after the flooding, replacing these quickly is a must to ensure ongoing preparedness.

Capacity of the Federation

The International Federation's representation in Kiev covers Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. It currently has one delegate, one local programme coordinator for Moldova and for Ukraine, and one finance manager for both countries. A Russian-speaking programme coordinator is urgently required to work for four months in the region, and will be recruited as part of this appeal. Members from the regional disaster response teams can be mobilised to provide further technical and operational support as required. Additional support is available from the Federation's regional office in Moscow and the Europe Zone office in Budapest.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Ukraine:** Alla Khabarova, Executive Director, phone: + 380 44 235 0334, email: international@redcross.org.ua
- **In Moldova:** Vasile Chernenky, Executive Director, email redcross@mtc.md, phone: +373 2272 58 24
- **In Ukraine:** Joe Lowry, Federation Representative for Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova; email: joe.lowry@ifrc.org, phone: +380 674431657
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 502; fax: +361 336 1516; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Linda Stops, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 227304300, email: linda.stops@ifrc.org

[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

APPEAL NAME : Floods Operation in Ukraine and Moldova 20

APPEAL NUMBER: MDR67003

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	53,000
Clothing & Textiles	133,500
Food	319,010
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	197,000
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	30,500
Other Supplies & Services	106,200
Total Relief Needs	839,210

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	60,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	6,000
Distribution & Monitoring	9,600
Transport & Vehicles Costs	16,800

PERSONNEL

International Staff	59,500
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	16,988
National Society Staff	95,316
Consultants	2,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	6,000
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	35,750
Information & Public Relations	2,500
Office running costs	5,618
Communication Costs	11,800
Professional Fees	2,000
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

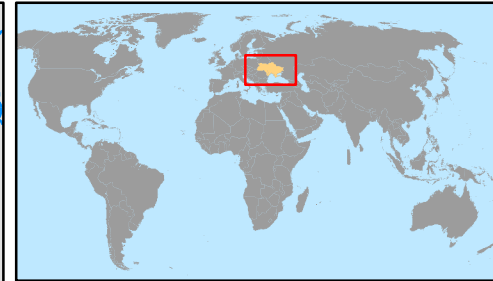
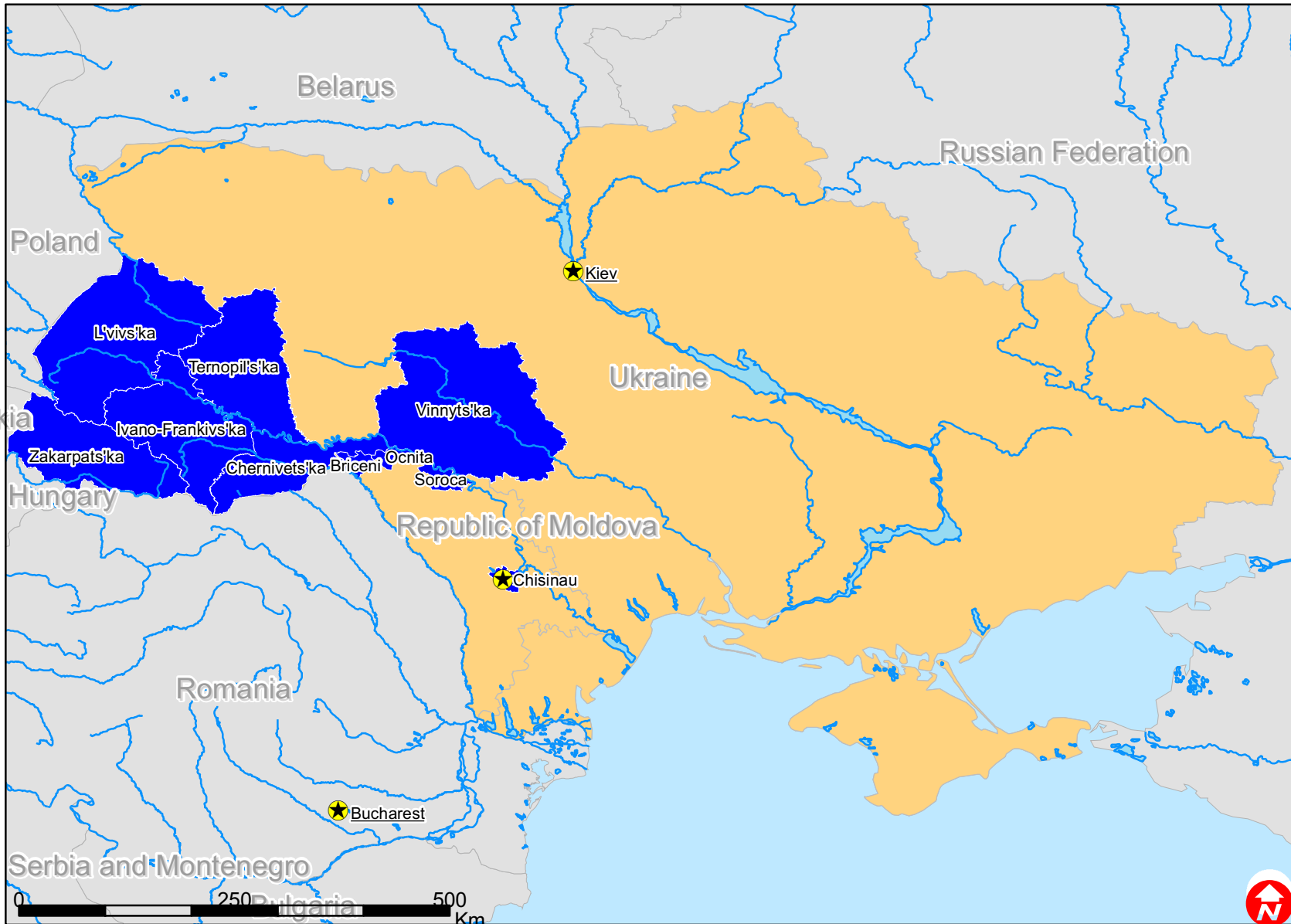
Programme Support - PSR	81,273
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Total Operational Needs	411,145
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	1,250,355
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Moldova and Ukraine: Floods



 Affected area