

Appeal 2001-2002



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

BELARUS, MOLDOVA, AND UKRAINE (Appeal 01.61/2001)

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

	<i>In CHF</i>
1. Belarus	3,595,152
2. Moldova	1,634,561
3. Ukraine	5,229,480
Total	10,459,193

1. Disaster Response
2. Disaster Preparedness
3. Health and Care
4. Humanitarian Values
5. Institutional & Resource
Development
6. Regional Co-operation
7. Coordination & Management

Introduction

Belarus

National Context

Market reforms initiated in Belarus after the break up of the former Soviet Union in 1991 were accompanied by a serious economic decline and lowering of living standards. Indeed, the economic crisis exacerbated extremely difficult problems following the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, when 70 per cent of radioactive fallout covered Belarus' territory - with some 20 per cent of the nation's land remaining no longer viable. Damage from the Chernobyl accident was calculated as equal to eleven annual state budgets and there was no compensation to

Belarus from the USSR. About two million residents of Belarus still live in the contaminated areas. In addition, the country is hit year after year by various natural disasters such as severe storms and floods.

Approximately 70 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line; in the summer of 1999 the average monthly salary amounted to USD 20, while the average pension is USD 8. Pensioners and the disabled, living on state allowances, comprise almost 30 per cent of the population. Over the last five years, the average life expectancy rate has decreased from 72 to 68 years and the number of deaths is, at present, outstripping births. Poor nutrition, widespread pollution and a marked increase in social diseases - tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other infectious illnesses - were recorded. Meanwhile, 11 per cent of children up to the age of 14 experience abnormal psycho-physical development and the high incidence of thyroid gland cancer among this group is of special concern.

Compounding the difficulties, social programmes and payments of special allowances to people living in the contaminated areas were curtailed and the cost of food, medicines and other basic necessities continues to rise. In summary, the economic situation in Belarus is developing in such a way that any improvement in the near future seems unlikely.

National Society Context

Since 1995, the Belarusian Red Cross has functioned on the basis of a presidential decree. The National Society (NS) covers the entire territory of the country with six regional (*oblast*), 116 district (*rayon*) and over 8,000 primary organizations.

The NS is well known in the country for its humanitarian activities and social services. There is no division between governance and management because the president, vice presidents and regional chairpersons become executive officers once elected for five years and two-thirds of the presidium can be staff members.

The Society has 2.3 million members and 790,000 volunteers. Volunteers participate in the visiting nurses programme, youth, disaster preparedness activities, refugee programme and first aid training. Financial problems make it difficult to attract and retain staff.

The priority programmes of the NS include: medical-social aid; institutional development; disaster response; population movement; youth Red Cross; and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Priority Programmes for Federation assistance

To support the Belarusian Red Cross, the Federation will focus on:

- **Disaster Response:** alleviating the impact of poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress on the most vulnerable population and facilitating adaptation of vulnerable refugees and forced migrants into the society.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** strengthening the National Society's disaster preparedness and response capacities, including increased awareness and support from the community at the national and regional levels.
- **Health and Care:** improving the mental and physical health of vulnerable populations in the country.
- **Humanitarian values:** promoting awareness and understanding of International Humanitarian Law, the Movement's fundamental principles, activities and its humanitarian values among the public.
- **Institutional Development:** establishing a youth section in the NS to improve the life of vulnerable young people through active involvement of youth in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects.

Coordination and Management: coordinating and providing direction for activities of the NSs in the region and building more efficient organizations with increased capability and capacity to independently design, manage and implement more focused and responsive programmes.

Moldova

National Context

The Republic of Moldova gained independence in August 1991, following the break-up of the former Soviet Union. Since then it has undergone a period of transition from a command to a market economy. As a result, the country suffered from economic disruption and political instability. Inflation with consumer prices multiplying by 1,600 times in the last four years has swallowed up savings. There has also been a significant currency devaluation since 1993 and economic growth remains elusive.

A dependency on agriculture - which accounts for some 60 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product - coupled with an inability to modernize this industry is a major factor in keeping Moldova a poor country. Bottlenecks in the payment of pensions, salaries and social allowances exposed an increasing number of people to social hardship, with more than 80 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. Today, an average salary covers less than half the cost of a minimum subsistence consumer basket, down from more than 93 per cent in 1993. Meanwhile the gap between rich and poor grows wider.

Exacerbating all these issues is the festering problem of Transdnistria, the self-proclaimed republic seeking independence from Moldova, where economic and democratic reform is at a standstill. The unresolved status of Transdnistria presents one of the major reasons for Moldova's inability to achieve economic and political normalcy.

Pensioners, who comprise more than one fifth of the population, are receiving their pensions up to 11 months in arrears but still at the rate of the month they were due. As a result, pensioners are losing two thirds of the value of their pensions due to inflation. Inevitably, there has been a decline in the nation's health and a corresponding increase in morbidity and mortality rates from 9.7 to 11.9 individuals per 1000 inhabitants between 1990 and 1997. The previously free and high quality health service was replaced by an inadequate system for which payment is required for treatment, putting it outside the range of many people.

The country is considered to be one of the most polluted and disaster prone areas of the former Soviet Union. Moldova is situated in an area with high potential for earthquakes and some 45 per cent of the country's water sources and lakes are contaminated by chemicals.

National Society Context

The government recognized the Red Cross Society of Moldova in a Presidential decree in December 1992. The Society's statutes were revised at the 15th congress in June 1996 to reflect the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. However, the National Society (NS) has yet to attain the status of a recognized member of the Movement and is working towards this goal with support from both the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

There are many challenges awaiting the NS in these strained social and economic conditions including the struggle to cope with the growing number of vulnerable, redefining its place and role in society and developing a response capacity. Due to the restructuring of the country's administrative sectors completed in June 1999, the Society is undergoing a wide-ranging internal reorganization.

The activities of the RCS of Moldova focus mainly on the following programmes: visiting nurses service (VNS); community-based first aid; winter relief activities for the most vulnerable; dissemination; tracing; and capacity building.

Priority Programmes for Federation assistance

To support the Red Cross Society of Moldova, the Federation will focus on:

- **Disaster Response:** alleviating the impact of poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress on the most vulnerable population and facilitating adaptation of vulnerable refugees and forced migrants into the society.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** developing and strengthening the National Society's potential for providing full-scale assistance to victims of natural and manmade disasters, as well as obtaining a recognized role and integrating the Society's capacities into the state's disaster preparedness system.
- **Health and Care:** improving the health of the vulnerable population with particular focus on prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.
- **Humanitarian values:** promoting awareness and understanding of International Humanitarian Law, the Movement's fundamental principles, activities and its humanitarian values among the public.
- **Institutional Development:** improving the capacity of the RCS of Moldova to deliver services to the vulnerable and to become a recognized member of the Movement.

Ukraine

National Context

As with many countries of the former Soviet Union, the Ukrainian economy is in a period of transition following independence in 1991 and the adoption of a new constitution in 1996. Subsequent reforms resulted in falling living standards, high levels of unemployment, delays in the payments of pensions and salaries, an increased mortality rate and a reduction in the state budget contribution for social needs. Russia's 1998 financial crisis also brought about a currency devaluation.

Currently, it is estimated that two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line and pollution of the country's rivers and air has reached significant levels. Life expectancy is 69 years (compared to 70.5 in 1990) and the infant mortality rate is 16 per 1,000 (comparing to 12.8 per 1,000 in 1990). The number of deaths continue to outstrip the birth rate. Approximately 2.8 million people are living in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster and dealing with the aftermath of this tragedy still requires considerable resources. A series of natural and technological disasters - including floods, landslides and mining accidents - also hit the country hard, the latest being heavy floods this past summer.

National Society Context

The Ukrainian Red Cross consists of its headquarters (the National Committee), 24 branches (regional committees) and the Crimean republican, Kiev and Sebastopol municipal organizations. The branch committees are separate legal entities and have their separate bank accounts. However, their activities are coordinated with the National Committee and its representatives. The Society's Chairperson, whose deputies carry out different programmes and implement statutory tasks, heads the National Committee.

The Society's programmes are funded through membership fees, donations from the public and organizations, assistance from participating National Societies and a limited governmental subsidy. The country's difficult economic situation is an obstacle to fundraising and the National Society (NS) has to rely on external financial support.

During the last four years, the National Society counted on financial assistance from the International Federation for its anti-diphtheria vaccination and TB programmes, winter appeal activities; the first aid programme; and medical assistance to refugees in the Mukachevo (Zakarpattia region) camp. In addition, the Federation provided support for victims of a series of recent natural and technological disasters.

Among the challenges facing the Society are: insufficient knowledge of fundraising methodology; the poor logistics base of the regional and district committees which curtails rapid programme implementation; and, the country's difficult economic situation.

In recent years, mainly due to the difficult economic circumstances, the Ukrainian Red Cross has had to down scale planned actions and suspend others. Included among the priority programmes are: the Visiting Nurses Service; Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP); winter emergency appeal; disaster preparedness; dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL); Population Movement; first aid; and Red Cross Youth.

Priority Programmes for Federation assistance

To support the Ukrainian Red Cross, the Federation will focus on:

- **Disaster Response:** alleviating the impact of poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress on the most vulnerable population and facilitating adaptation of vulnerable refugees and forced migrants into the society.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** providing help to people affected by emergencies and further integrating the National Society's potential in the national disaster preparedness plan, raising its image in the process.
- **Health and Care:** alleviating the impact of stress of disaster victims and improving the general health of the population, particularly those vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.
- **Humanitarian Values:** promoting the use of humanitarian values and fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the National Society's everyday work and attracting media coverage for it.
- **Institutional Development:** strengthening and developing the capacity of the NS in responding to the needs of the population and rendering assistance in emergency situations.
- **Regional Cooperation:** facilitating the conference of 15 National Societies of the Newly Independent States and the Baltics in Kiev, as a follow up to the 1996 event in Almaty.

1. Disaster Response

Belarus

- **Emergency relief to the most vulnerable**
- **Population Movement**

Background and progress to date

Emergency Relief

The need to provide support to the most vulnerable when state welfare systems break down was emphasized at conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1997. Since then the Belarusian Red Cross Society (BRCS) and the International Federation have been developing appropriate strategies for identifying and assisting the most vulnerable in Belarus.

As reflected in the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) 2000-2001 for Belarus, the services provided through relief assistance programmes in Belarus are focused on decreasing the suffering of victims of socio-economic collapse and of local disasters, e.g. floods and severe storms. Assistance to victims of the enduring Chernobyl disaster is also a priority for international support covered by a separate rehabilitation programme.

To address the needs resulting from extreme poverty, the Federation launched Winter Emergency Appeals over the last three years. The last one targeted 24,000 of the most vulnerable people in Belarus. These are people who, for various reasons, do not receive governmental support or fall outside the welfare system. They include lonely elderly, large families, persons affected by tuberculosis, the handicapped and bedridden, street children, the homeless and refugees.

Through this countrywide programme, funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Swiss, British and Canadian Red Cross Societies, food parcels were provided on two occasions to some 34,000 people; clothes and footwear to over 65,000 people with low income; hygiene parcels to 3,000 bedridden individuals and TB patients. The Swedish Red Cross supplied six trucks with 93 tons of used clothing and shoes. Clothes banks at 15 Red Cross medico-social centres were renovated and re-equipped with shelves and hangers. Relief items (e.g. soap) were delivered from the French Red Cross. More than 1,380 homeless people and orphans and children from socially disadvantaged families received hot meals. School items were provided to 1,000 children. Two psycho-social support training workshops were conducted in order to provide coping skills to the Red Cross staff and volunteers and to strengthen problem solving through simple, reliable tools such as counselling and active listening.

Gradual improvement of the social conditions in the country is hoped to be achieved through economic reforms. In the meantime, activities of the BRCS have mitigated individual emergencies. Thanks to the last three years' experience in implementing large programmes, the capacity and competency of the BRCS are increased, both at the headquarters and local levels. The image of the BRCS was markedly improved and enabled its branches to mobilize local resources through a productive fundraising campaign.

Population Movement

The Population Movement (PM) programme commenced early 1998 in 14 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Baltic countries to augment assistance programmes, auxiliary to governmental response. The programme was adopted by the National Societies (NSs) on the basis of the 1996 "Almaty Declaration" which identifies PM as one of the four key areas to reinforce the Federation's mandates for technical support. Programme development and proposals by the NSs will be discussed at the Kiev conference in June 2001, which succeeds the 1996 Almaty conference for CIS and Baltic NSs. The NS

PM co-ordinators in the CIS countries are active in making needs assessments, liaison with respective governmental representatives and international humanitarian agencies, with the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in particular. A number of cooperation agreements were signed between the UNHCR in Minsk and the Belarusian Red Cross' refugee department.

Although Belarus is not a party to the 1951 Convention on Refugees and the 1967 protocol, a national law on refugees was passed in July 1995. Refugee status determination procedures became operational in the country in June 1998. Over 2,000 persons applied to the Belorussian migration authorities for granting of refugee status. As of 1 July 2000, 385 persons were officially recognised as refugees, including 294 persons from Afghanistan, 18 from Ethiopia, 35 from Georgia, 16 from Tajikistan, 14 from Azerbaijan, four from Iran, and one person each from India, Iraq, Liberia and Rwanda. Applications of another 300 persons are under consideration.

The main obstacle in the process of integration of recognised refugees in the society is the existing registration, or *propiska*, system (for residence permits). The Migration Committee estimates there are 100,000-150,000 'illegal' migrants presently in Belarus. The Belarusian-Russian border especially aggravates the migration flow. The Belarus Council of Ministers set quotas for the number of persons to be granted refugee status in Belarus in 2000. The total quota is set at 100 persons, divided over six regions. The regional governments were authorised to offer housing to refugees who cannot afford renting an apartment. Some 160,000 persons are classified as returnees, and 131,000 people are classified as ecological migrants. The most intensive migration flows reportedly originate from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Baltics and the southern Caucasus countries.

On 13-14 July 2000, the chairperson of the Committee on Migration, the Deputy Minister of Labour, outlined to the fifth Steering Group meeting in Geneva the problems and energies associated with the growing flow of illegal migrants to western countries. Every year, thousands of illegal migrants are detained on the western border, dozens of channels of illegal migration are uncovered. During 1999, units of the state border guards and the Ministry of Interior detained 170 organised groups of illegal migrants in Belarus. The chairperson called for better cooperation and burden sharing on this issue as in Belarus, there is a shortage of resources for detaining and deporting the large number of detained illegal migrants, among whom are women and children.

The National Society established its Population Movement programme in July 1998 to alleviate needs of the most vulnerable among refugees, asylum seekers and ecological migrants, in cooperation with its refugee department (established in 1995). The main target groups include: single parent families, children, elderly and large families. Since 1998, the range of PM and refugee services has included: social and legal counselling for asylum seekers; financial allowances to a small number of beneficiaries from the target group; medical assistance and dental care for 100 beneficiaries; Russian language instruction for 60 Afghan women; (e) social assistance programmes to 100 refugee children; psycho-social rehabilitation for 26 elderly Afghan refugees; and, emergency relief assistance. In 2000, the majority of the PM and refugee programme activities were funded by the UNHCR and the U.S. State Department.

Goal To alleviate the impact of poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress, and to protect the dignity of the targeted population by supplying them with winter clothing and footwear, hot meals, food and hygiene parcels and providing psychological support. To alleviate needs among most vulnerable refugees and other forced migrants, through medical and social assistance projects, in order to facilitate their adaptation into the society.

Objectives and Activities planned

Emergency relief

Objective 1 to provide short-term assistance to approximately 40,000 lonely elderly, disabled, homeless, ex-prisoners, TB-patients and children from single-parent and socially disadvantaged families by the end of 2002. To achieve this objective, the National Society will provide 20,000 targeted beneficiaries with food parcels three times during the six months of the most unfavorable winter weather conditions. Some 3,500 beneficiaries will receive hygiene kits twice during a six-month period. Soup kitchens will provide nutritional support to 200 people without means of subsistence, e.g. homeless and ex-prisoners, for five months. In August 2001, the lists of beneficiaries will be checked and updated; tendering, selection of suppliers and procurement of relief items, customs clearance, warehousing and transport to the operational area of relief items will be arranged and for establishment of the soup kitchens. Leaflets inviting the most vulnerable to receive assistance will be published. In

all, 100,000 kg of clothes and footwear, 120,000 food parcels, 48,000 hot meals and 14,000 hygiene kits will be distributed and monitored by the end of 2002.

Objective 2 to strengthen local capacities, as a development element of the relief programme, by providing sustainable structural support and training to national headquarters and branches of the BRCS. Seminars on conducting vulnerability and needs assessment, leadership training, project management, fund raising and youth work will be held to enhance the capacity of the BRCS. The experience gained over the previous winter programmes will be maintained and shared with those branches of the NS that do not have the same experience in various aspects of administrating and monitoring of large relief operations. The purchase of office equipment and further improvement of the facilities at Red Cross clothes banks and warehouses will be undertaken. The existing clothes banks will be rehabilitated and equipped with 20 sewing machines, and training courses in sewing will be offered to the beneficiaries.

Objective 3 to boost the use of local community resources (human resources, goods and services) by promotion of volunteer action, local fund-raising, advocacy and encouraging beneficiaries to become more self-sufficient. In cooperation with the Association of Social Educators and Psychologists, a consultative centre for provision of relief assistance in emergencies (e.g., fires, floods, road accidents) will be set up. For this purpose, a core group of volunteers will be selected and trained. Volunteer activities targeting lonely elderly and disabled will be increased to help their preparation for winter. Through publications, mass media and Red Cross events, local fund-raising activities will be organised, encouraging donations from the communities and collections of used clothing, books, toys, food and hygiene items. The dignity and collective concerns of the most vulnerable will be promoted to the government and the public, utilising the Red Cross network of branches and volunteers, while the government will be encouraged to prioritise social support system reform. Potato seeds and fertilisers will be distributed to 1,500 beneficiaries encouraging self-sufficiency and improving nutritional intake. Volunteer work in the farms will be organised to plant and harvest potatoes for the disabled and elderly living alone.

Population Movement

Objective 1 to develop a small-scale emergency assistance project to refugees and asylum seekers which can urgently alleviate unforeseen needs among the target group. To achieve this objective, a small fund for a rapid intervention will be maintained to assist refugees and asylum seekers in Minsk in order to alleviate urgent needs (such as for temporary shelter, medical and nutritional assistance).

Objective 2 to develop, in cooperation with the UNHCR office Minsk, two medical-social centres for refugees and asylum seekers. To achieve this objective, the Belarusian Red Cross/Federation intend to: equip the two planned centres (under the management of the Minsk City and Pinsk Red Cross committees) with special rooms for medical-social activities; to employ and train a part-time social worker, medical doctor and nurse for each centre; to render health support to refugees and asylum seekers; to provide employment opportunities for refugees (e.g., medical staff for these centres); to organise community activities; to introduce a psycho-social counselling component in the Pinsk community centre; to train a counsellor through the Federation's trainer at the Minsk delegation (two workshops in 2001); to coordinate project activities, on a regular basis, with UNHCR office in Minsk.

Objective 3 to develop a social centre in Brest, through the Red Cross committee there, to provide emergency support and legal counselling, and also to cooperate with the UNHCR office in Minsk, and the NSs in Lithuania and Ukraine on sharing experiences and best practises for the humanitarian response to trafficking and detainment of migrants in the western part of Belarus. This objective will be achieved by: equipping a room for a legal counsellor; employing and training a legal expert for counselling and rehabilitation support; organising exchanges of experiences for this expert by planning visits from colleague Red Cross and Red Crescent legal counsellors from other countries. Project activities will be co-ordinated with the UNHCR office in Minsk, the Brest branch office, IOM and with state border guards on a regular basis. A small fund will be maintained to allow for rapid intervention for alleviating urgent needs of refugees and asylum seekers (providing temporary shelter, medical supplies and food) through the existing response capacity of the Brest Red Cross committee.

Objective 4 to organise a summer camp for refugee and local children, supported by local Red Cross committee staff members and volunteers. A planning committee will be nominated and Red Cross volunteers will be mobilised. Sites for the camp will be identified, approval obtained from local government and administration and a list compiled, in cooperation with local authorities, of local children to participate in the summer camp.

Objective 5 to strengthen the knowledge and awareness of refugee issues among Red Cross staff and volunteers. Dissemination work will be undertaken at the national and regional levels among NS staff and volunteers in order to increase their awareness of refugee issues and the refugee law in Belarus. Cooperation with the UNHCR is planned for the preparation of a grassroots workshop with this purpose.

Objective 6 to disseminate the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values through implementation of the disaster response programme, explaining that these principles guide Red Cross activities and ensure protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. This will be achieved by undertaking, wherever possible, the principles and humanitarian values of the Movement as a determining factor in the way the Red Cross is organised and carries out its work. Also, by taking opportunities within the structure of the programme to disseminate the Red Cross/Red Crescent message, such as: to make visible the labelling of the relief supplies in transportation and distribution; to include messages in the food parcels; to display posters at distribution points; to provide clear and concise information on the nature of the operation to local officials and the local population through active external relations.

Expected results

Emergency Relief

Relief assistance (100,000 kg of clothing and footwear, 120,000 food parcels, 48,000 hot meals and 14,000 hygiene kits) will be provided to approximately 40,000 lonely elderly, disabled, homeless, ex-prisoners, TB patients and children from single-parent and socially disadvantaged families by the end of 2002. Homeless and ex-prisoners will be helped to find jobs and change their social status. Partnership between the BRCS, other NGOs and the donor Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be promoted.

Staff members at the headquarters and branch levels of the BRCS will be trained in conducting vulnerability and needs assessments, leadership, project management, fund raising and youth work by the end of 2002. The capacity and competence level of BRCS to implement large relief programmes and run sustainable activities will increase. Red Cross structures at the grassroots level will be further re-enforced and the facilities of 40 clothes banks improved.

Local contributions to complement international relief efforts will increase. Some 25 volunteers will be trained and provide consultancy services and psychological support to the most vulnerable. Dignity of the targeted population will be better protected, and 1,500 beneficiaries will be enabled to grow supplementary food and improve their diet.

Population Movement

Immediate temporary needs among the target population will be alleviated on short notice for a total of 200 persons a year in Minsk and Brest. Minimal conditions of treatment of refugee children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child will be ensured. Community and legal counselling activities will help facilitate the adaptation and integration of refugees in society.

Summer camps for 80 children are expected to have a positive impact on reducing stereotypical opinions about asylum seekers and refugees. Dissemination activities are expected to trigger off small-scale refugee projects at the branch level, to be co-ordinated by the Belarusian Red Cross' PM coordinator.

The PM programme in general will strengthen the operational capacity of the BRCS to work on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers. Continued reference to the fundamental principles will improve the activities and image of the Movement and promote credibility and interest in reports to donors which may be used in a national or local news story.

Indicators

Emergency Relief

Reduced vulnerability of 40,000 vulnerable (lonely elderly, disabled, homeless, ex-prisoners, TB patients and children from single-parent and socially disadvantaged families) in Belarus. Better trained staff at headquarters and branch levels of the BRCS with increased capacity for programme management and self-sustaining activities. Increased contributions from local sources.

Population Movement

Improvement in the status and protection of asylum seekers and refugees in Belarus. Adaptation and integration of refugees into society. Increased knowledge and awareness of refugee issues among Red Cross staff and volunteers. Programmes implemented guided by the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Emergency Relief

Programme monitoring will be a joint multi-party exercise, including the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva, the donor National Society, the BRCS and the delegation in Minsk. Monitoring will concentrate on the programme inputs and outputs, checking on work progress against earlier identified indicators, and examining reasons for any differences between actual and planned results. The monitoring and ongoing evaluations will review the programme objectives themselves, verifying if they are still valid for achieving the ultimate programme goal. This will be done during field trips, through discussions and consultations with all parties involved identifying problems and looking together for solutions. Any changes to the programme needs will be agreed to by all parties.

During the entire implementation period actual expenses will be regularly compared with those budgeted for. The headquarters of the BRCS, in close cooperation with the Federation's delegation, will control the use of financial resources in accordance with the established procedures.

Interim evaluations will be carried out for adjusting the plan of action for subsequent phases. At the end of the programme, an impact assessment will be carried out on a double sample. The Red Cross teams will visit households living in similar conditions of poverty or social exclusion, chosen among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the relief distributions.

Population Movement

Monitoring visits are planned throughout 2001 and 2002. The PM coordinator will visit and assess project developments on a regular basis. Analysing reports of the monitoring visits will allow constant adaptation of the current project activities to reach objectives in an efficient way.

Close cooperation and coordination meetings with key players, like UNHCR, IOM and local governmental representatives, will allow the National Society's PM and refugee department activists to measure input and output of their activities continuously with set objectives and responses by other organisations.

Critical assumptions

Emergency Relief

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme without delays which could affect winter assistance activities.
- New staff is recruited and trained by the BRCS to share the extra workload related to the programme.
- The necessary authority and responsibility are delegated by the National Society's leadership to its programme officers.
- The Belarus market offers the required variety of food items for local purchase.
- State sanitary requirements for clothes banks do not hinder implementation of the programme's used clothing component.

Population Movement

Recruitment of a PM coordinator (position vacant since August 2000) to implement the planned activities and to integrate the programme into the mission and vision of the NS for 20001 and 2002

Moldova

- **Emergency relief assistance**
- **Population Movement**

Background and progress to date

Emergency relief assistance

The need to provide support to the most vulnerable when state welfare systems break down was emphasized at the conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1997. Since then the Red Cross Society of Moldova and the International Federation have developed appropriate strategies for identifying and assisting the most vulnerable.

The services provided under relief assistance programmes in Moldova are focused on decreasing the suffering of victims of socio-economic collapse and of local disasters, including floods and landslides. Disaster response, in particular emergency assistance to the most vulnerable during winter time, is a priority area for the Federation's support as reflected in the Country Assistance Strategy 2000-2001 for Moldova.

To address the needs resulting from extreme poverty, over the last three years the Federation launched Winter Emergency Appeals. The last Appeal targeted 22,200 of the most vulnerable people in Moldova. These are people who, for various reasons, do not receive governmental support or fall outside the welfare system. Beneficiaries included: large families; tuberculosis patients; orphans; elderly living alone; handicapped and bedridden persons. Through this programme the targeted beneficiaries in 38 districts of the country received 6,000 hygiene kits and 6,000 food parcels procured by the National Society (NS) with funds donated by the British and Canadian Red Cross Societies. The Swedish Red Cross supplied three trucks of secondhand clothes/footwear which were distributed by the local Red Cross branches. Relief items (e.g. soap) were received from the French Red Cross. The bilateral relief programme of the Netherlands Red Cross is complementary to the Federation coordinated support.

Population Movement

The Republic of Moldova continues to suffer from the consequences of the 1992 civil war, which led to the displacement of approximately 130,000 persons; 51,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in Moldova. The self-proclaimed "Moldovan Trans-Dniestrian Republic" continues to control 14 per cent of Moldova's territory (inhabited by some 700,000 people of the country's total population of 4.3 million). According to best estimates over 800 families continue to await a durable solution. Since a cease-fire was declared, most displaced persons returned to their pre-war homes in areas not controlled by the government, though some 6,000 persons settled in other parts of Moldova. Because of the conflict, governmental authorities are unable to control the eastern border with Ukraine, or to ensure respect for human rights in the areas they do not control. As a consequence, there are growing numbers of clandestine transit migrants in the country and individuals still flee the areas outside government control.

Up to 2,500 foreigners would apply for refugee status if functional asylum procedures existed. Students originate mostly from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Africa, while fresh arrivals are mostly from Sudan and Chechens from Russia. As of 28 April 2000, UNHCR had 391 cases registered which represent some 625 individuals. Of them, 132 files (concerning 199 persons) with five cases resolved positively (total of nine persons) and 39 rejected (72 persons).

As Population Movement is a new programme for the NS, one of its main objectives remains to disseminate knowledge pertinent to displacement to its branches, creating a basis to respond to emergencies in their own right. A PM grass-root workshop for all regions of the country, including Trans-Dniestria, was held in Chisinau in March 2000. At the end of June, a summer camp project was started for more than 90 children of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, with a Red Cross visiting nurse providing children with moral support and promoting the fundamental principles, values and ideas of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Previous projects of the Red Cross Society of Moldova aimed at providing medical-social assistance to the refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and their children, and were supported by the Federation, UNHCR and the French Red Cross.

Goal(s)

- *Emergency relief assistance* - The programme aims to alleviate the impact of poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress, and to protect the dignity of the targeted population by supplying them with winter clothing and footwear, hot meals, food and hygiene parcels and stationery supplies.
- *Population Movement* - To address the basic assistance needs of the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons in Moldova. Also, to expand and enhance the capacity of the NS to manage projects assisting refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.

Objectives and Activities planned

Emergency relief assistance

Objective 1 to provide short-term assistance to approximately 15,000 beneficiaries (large families), 11,250 schoolchildren and 1,666 elderly people by the end of 2001. To achieve this objective, the NS will:

- establish lists of beneficiaries who will receive emergency assistance during six months of the most unfavorable winter weather conditions;
- check and updating the lists of beneficiaries in August 2001;
- organize tendering, selection of suppliers and procurement of relief items;
- organize customs clearance, warehousing and transport to the operational area of clothing and footwear received from international donors;
- establish soup kitchens for provision of hot meals;
- distribute and monitor the distribution of 100,000 kg of clothing, 50,000 kg of footwear, 70,000 hot meals, 90,000 food parcels, 60,000 hygiene parcels and 22,500 stationary sets by the end of 2002.

Objective 2 to strengthen local capacities, as a development element in the relief programme, by providing sustainable structural support and training to the national headquarters and branches of the RCS of Moldova. To achieve this objective the Moldovan RC will hold seminars in vulnerability, needs assessment, leadership training, project management, fund raising and youth work for NS staff at the headquarters and branch levels.

Objective 3 to boost the use of local resources (including human resources, goods and services). Local fund-raising activities, including TV marathons, Red Cross weeks and other charitable events will be organized. The NS will advocate the dignity of and support to the targeted population through mass media and personal contacts with the authorities.

Population Movement

Objective 1 to provide medical and social assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers through creation of a medical-social centre which will also serve as a reception centre, involving beneficiaries in health education activities. To achieve this objective the NS will:

- set up a medical-social centre and provide it with necessary equipment and essential drugs and supplies;
- carry out elementary medical examination of 250 of the most vulnerable among the migrants;
- promote sanitary health education through distribution of appropriate educational literature among migrants, especially targeting teenagers, and through educational sessions run by the Visiting Nurses Service of the NS.

The NS also plans to organize a first aid training workshop for 40 beneficiaries and to hold a training of trainers course in first aid for ten volunteers from the beneficiary group. Also, computer classes will be organized for migrants in order to provide them with skills for easier access to the job market.

Objective 2 to improve psychological conditions and social rehabilitation of the most vulnerable refugee and non-refugee (IDPs and asylum seekers) children through organization of a Red Cross summer camp. To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- purchase of vouchers and organizing transportation for 90 children to the summer camp;
- employing one instructor (member of the Visiting Nurses Service);
- developing teaching materials;
- organizing various sport activities and cultural events (including football, Moldovan National Wrestling Competition, comedy play, first aid contest, etc.)

Objective 3 to identify the needs of the most vulnerable groups and to assist them to meet their basic and specific psycho-social needs; to mobilize and organize the refugee community towards self-support, self sustainability and active involvement in assistance programmes. Activities will include:

- renting premises in the building where IDPs live, and purchase of furniture, equipment and materials required;
- employment of a social counsellor and other personnel;
- provision of training for NS social welfare workers and volunteers in organisational, counselling and resource building skills;
- providing social counselling, advice and guidance to IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers;
- organizing hobby groups and various training sessions for children and elderly;

- holding meetings of the refugee movement committee to discuss actions to be carried out for protection and assistance of the most vulnerable.

Objective 4 to facilitate a grassroots training workshop for the branches and local organizations of the RCS of Moldova and for participants from neighbouring countries (such as Ukraine and Belarus). The NS will facilitate a regional training seminar and organize visits to PM colleagues to exchange/gain experience in project design and management.

Objective 5 to disseminate the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values through implementation of the disaster response programme, explaining that these principles guide Red Cross activities and ensure protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. This will be achieved by undertaking, wherever possible, the principles and humanitarian values of the Movement as a determining factor in the way the Red Cross is organized and carries out its work. Also, by taking opportunities within the structure of the programme to disseminate the Red Cross/Red Crescent message, such as: to make visible the labelling of the relief supplies in transportation and distribution; to include messages in the food parcels; to display posters at distribution points; to provide clear and concise information on the nature of the operation to local officials and the local population through active external relations; publishing of informational and teaching materials. Also, day-to-day emergency response work will apply the principles and be in spirit of the Code of Conduct.

Expected results

Emergency relief assistance

Emergency relief assistance (winter clothing, footwear, hot meals, food parcels, hygiene parcels and stationary sets) will be provided to over 55,800 beneficiaries by the end of 2002. The partnership between the RCS of Moldova and donor Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be promoted. Logistics and procurement systems of the NS will be further adapted and improved. Staff at the headquarters and branch levels of the RCS of Moldova will receive training in conducting vulnerability and needs assessment, leadership, project management, fund raising and youth work by the end of 2002. The capacity and competence level of the NS to implement large relief programmes and run sustainable activities will be increased. Local contributions to complement international relief efforts will increase. The dignity of the targeted population will be better protected.

Population Movement

The medical-social centre of the NS will be created and properly equipped to deal with immediate health care needs. Free of charge medical assistance is ensured to the identified vulnerable groups in need of special attention. A basic first aid training programme and other educational activities will decrease future vulnerability of the target beneficiaries. Computer literacy and other skills will be developed and this will enhance self-reliance in refugee communities and contribute to their overall well-being. Social and recreational activities will enhance self-esteem, generate a sense of community, communication and provide an opportunity for social exchanges and learning new skills. Counselling provided will help diffuse stress experienced by IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers, thus preventing it from developing into a post-traumatic stress disorder. Active involvement in the work to assist the most vulnerable among the IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers will help them to keep their sense of dignity, self-sustainment and to prevent isolation. Social activities will help to restore a sense of community and normality and will support target beneficiaries to re-establish their cultural patterns and traditional coping mechanisms. Successful implementation will be ensured through effective co-ordination with partner organisations.

The programme co-ordinator will continue to deal with the following major issues: legal base; maintaining regular contacts with the UNHCR/IOM/governmental authorities; elaboration and supervision of the PM related projects. Training completed by the PM coordinator will contribute to strengthening the capacity of the NS. Thirty Red Cross workers will be trained in issues pertinent to population displacement. Continued reference to the fundamental principles will improve the activities and image of the Movement and promote credibility and interest in reports to donors which may be used in a national or local news story.

Indicators

Emergency relief assistance

Immediate relief needs of vulnerable refugees, internally displaced persons and forced migrants met and their dignity protected. Well trained and experienced NS staff at headquarters and branch levels having improved

partnerships with sister National Societies. Increased ability of the NS to raise local funds and manage sustainable activities.

Population Movement

Access to medical assistance ensured for most vulnerable IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers. Increased ability of the vulnerable, including their children, to cope with stress and future vulnerability. Programmes implemented are guided by the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Emergency relief assistance

Programme monitoring will be a joint multi-party exercise, including the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva, the donor National Society, the RCS of Moldova and the delegation in Chisinau. Monitoring will concentrate on the programme inputs and outputs, checking on work progress against earlier identified indicators, and examining reasons for any differences between actual and planned results. During the entire implementation period actual expenses will be regularly compared with those budgeted for. The monitoring and ongoing evaluations will review the programme objectives themselves, verifying if they are still valid for achieving the ultimate programme goal. This will be done during field trips, through discussions and consultations with all parties involved in identifying problems and looking together for solutions. Any changes to the programme needs will be agreed to by all parties.

Monitoring will include visits to the beneficiaries and checking the lists of beneficiaries and the use of assistance distributed. The monitors will have full authority to check all components of programme implementation and have full access to all kinds of documentation. Interim evaluations will be carried out for adjusting the plan of action for subsequent phases. At the end of the programme, an impact assessment will be carried out on a double sample. The Red Cross teams will visit households living in similar conditions of poverty or social exclusion, chosen among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the relief items distribution.

Population Movement

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out by the programme coordinator and the Federation's delegate during field trips, through discussions and consultations with all parties involved, primarily aimed at identifying problems and looking together for solutions. Throughout the entire implementation period, financial monitoring will be done to compare actual expenses with those budgeted for. The monitoring will be focused on project inputs and outputs and examining reasons for any differences between actual and planned results.

Close co-operation and co-ordination meetings with key players, such as UNHCR, IOM and local government representatives will allow the National Society's PM section activists to measure input and output of their activities continuously with set objectives and responses by other organizations.

Critical assumptions

Emergency relief assistance

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.
- Experienced and trained staff of the RCS of Moldova continue working on a permanent basis.
- New staff is recruited at the headquarters of the NS to share the extra workload related to the programme.

Population Movement

- Implementation is delayed due to attention given to other large-scale projects being implemented by the RCS of Moldova (such as the TB/VNS/HIV/AIDS prevention programme).
- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.

Ukraine

- **Emergency relief**
- **Population Movement**

Background and progress to date

Emergency relief

The need to provide support to the most vulnerable when state welfare systems break down was emphasized at the conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1997. Since then the Ukrainian Red Cross and the International Federation have been developing appropriate strategies for identifying and assisting the most vulnerable.

A relief programme during winter time was implemented in Ukraine for the past three years and due to continuous economical decline and current lack of improvement, remains a priority area for international assistance. The activities of this programme are in accordance with the country assistance strategy 2000-2001 for Ukraine. The services provided through the winter programme are focused on decreasing the suffering of victims of socio-economic collapse. In the past, international support for this vital programme was mobilized through the Federation coordinated Winter Emergency Appeals.

The last winter appeal targeted 144,800 of the most vulnerable people in Ukraine. These are people who, for various reasons, do not receive governmental support or fall outside the welfare system. They include large families, elderly living alone, handicapped and bedridden persons, homeless, refugees, youth in custody and street children. This countrywide programme is implemented through the network of 655 Red Cross branches, including the visiting nurses and volunteers.

Responding to the humanitarian disaster provoked by harsh climatic, social and economic conditions, the British Red Cross, through the Federation, provided funds to procure food parcels for some 100,000 destitute people and hot meals for over 8,000 beneficiaries. The Canadian Red Cross/CIDA financed provision of 20,440 food parcels, 3,600 sandwiches for street children and hot meals for 3,755 people. The Swedish Red Cross supplied 11 trucks (170.5 tons) of used clothes and shoes. Part of the winter programme was implemented by the funds allocated from the Netherlands Red Cross (bilateral project).

Over the past three years there was little improvement in social conditions in the country, although there is hope for effect of the current economic reforms. In the meantime, the activities of the Ukrainian Red Cross mitigated individual emergencies. Thanks to the last three years' experience in implementing large programmes the capacity and competence levels of the National Society (NS) increased both at the headquarters and local levels. Also, its image improved markedly to enable its branches to mobilize local resources through a productive fundraising campaign.

Population Movement

Since the dissolution of the former Soviet, migratory movements and the occurrence of various conflicts gave rise to large-scale population displacement in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with a significant impact on Ukraine. As a result, it has become an asylum country for refugees and transit for other migrants, caused the need to solve a set of new social problems associated with these groups.

According to the information of the Kiev State Administration Department of Nationalities and Migration about 1,400 refugees from some 50 countries are registered with it. About 85 per cent originate from Afghanistan. The majority of refugees and asylum seekers live in two (Vatutinskiy and Leningradskiy) districts on different ends of Kiev city. According to the preliminary data of the State Committee on Nationalities and Migration, more than 80 per cent of migrants require social aid. The women and children are those who suffer most.

In 1999, Ukrainian border guards of Mukachevo/Uzgorod border point apprehended 7,688 illegal migrants, and 1,389 between January and March 2000 – one-third of whom were women and children. After interrogation, the illegal migrants are concentrated in the detention centres where they are kept for 10 days.

In mid-April 2000, a joint assessment mission of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Ukrainian Red Cross was conducted in Lviv and Trans-Zakarpattia regions. They observed that the sanitary and epidemiological conditions of the detention centre are appalling, since the financial means and know-how for this purpose is lacking from the border authorities. There is lack of basic medicines, vaccines and disinfecting agents. The centres has potential to become the source of dangerous infectious diseases, and if the regions announce a quarantine, the local and national will suffer. The average number of people passing through the centres is 700-800 people monthly, 10-20 percent of whom are women and children.

Unemployment, housing problems, social isolation, language barriers, police persecution and other constraints cause grave suffering for refugees and asylum seekers. The Ukrainian Red Cross, supported by the Netherlands Red Cross in 1997, provided hot meals to some 500 refugees and 210 refugees in 1998. In 1999, medical assistance was provided by the NS to refugees in the Mukachevo and Lviv reception centres (Zakarpattya) as well as individual hygiene parcels (containing soap, tooth paste and tooth brush, toilet paper, sanitary pads, and supplies for children), disinfecting materials, medicines, disposal dishes, and sleeping bags for 240 beneficiaries.

Mobile technical teams (MTTs) were organized for the Crimea region to carry out minor repairs on temporary accommodations, hostels and settlements housing the most vulnerable displaced people, refugees and local population from 1 November 1999. Contracts were made with suppliers of vehicles and computers and other basic equipment and materials needed for programme implementation were purchased. The programme targeted the Simpheropol, Krasnogvardeysk, and Lenin *rayons*. In 2000, the programme continued with close links to the Visiting Nurses Service. From the beginning of this year, more than 1,300 beneficiaries were provided assistance by the three MTTs.

Funds provided for the medical screening of refugees and formerly displaced people in Crimea in 1999 were used to implement a soup kitchen project in Kiev, as the screening was already completed by UNHCR. The soup kitchen, opened in December after a proposal was prepared by the Ukrainian Red Cross, provided warm meals to 80 refugees for a period of six months. According to feedback from the beneficiaries, it was decided that in 2001-2002 the assistance will be rendered in the form of food parcels instead of hot meals. It is planned to provide refugees and asylum seekers with 400 food parcels monthly.

Also, a Red Cross summer camp was organized for 48 children from displaced families in Crimea focusing on tolerance and promotion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles and human values.

Six regional Population Movement workshops for branches were held in Uzhgorod, Kyiv and Sipheropol in the first half of 1999 and in Lviv, Vinnitsa and Odessa during the last half of 1999 and early 2000. Approximately 40-45 people participated in each workshop. The *oblast*-level Red Cross branches in Uzhgorod, Mukachevo, Lviv, Kyiv and the Crimea were trained in issues pertinent to population displacement and began implementing projects within the framework of the PM programme. In February and March 2000, two grass-root PM seminars for Vinnitsa and Odessa *oblast*-level branches were held and attended by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), competent local authorities and some NGOs. The seminars aimed to establish more solid working relationships with respective partners dealing with refugees and strengthen Red Cross capacities to assist the unstable population, with a special focus on legal issues and other protection-related activities.

The PM unit is an integral part of the international department at the Ukrainian Red Cross. It is functioning in close cooperation with other units, including: the humanitarian department, tracing service, the finance and information departments, and the TB/HIV task force.

In 1999, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ukrainian Red Cross and the State Committee on Nationalities and Migration. This year, the agreement will be expanded with a newly formed Department of the Ukrainian Government recognizing the auxiliary role of the Ukrainian Red Cross.

Goal(s)

- ***Emergency Relief*** - The programme aims to alleviate the impact of continuous poverty, malnutrition, disease and stress, and to protect the dignity of the targeted population.
- ***Population Movement*** - To alleviate the suffering of the illegal migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Ukraine by addressing their basic assistance needs. Also, to raise the image of the Ukrainian Red Cross as a reliable organization, providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

Objectives and Activities Planned

Emergency Relief

Objective 1 to provide short-term assistance to lonely elderly, disabled, large and single parent families, orphans, street children and children from socially disadvantaged families by the end of 2002. The target beneficiaries will

receive relief assistance during the harsh months of winter. In August 2001 the lists of beneficiaries will be checked and updated for the next phase of the programme. Tendering, selection of suppliers, procurement and transport to the operational area of food items will be carried out, cleared through customs, warehoused and transported to the operational area as required. Donations from local communities and collection of used clothing, books, toys and other items will be encouraged.

Soup kitchens will be established to provide hot meals to 620 youths in custody for 92 days and to 3,000 elderly, multi-child families, and the disabled for 21 days over three winter months (December-March), as will posts for distribution of 36,000 sandwiches targeting street children in Kiev City (1,000 children will be targeted three times a week for a three-month period).

Objective 2 to strengthen local capacities, as a development element in the relief programme, by providing training to the national headquarters and branches of the NS. To achieve this objective, seminars will be organized to enhance the capacity of the Ukrainian Red Cross in conducting vulnerability and needs assessments, leadership training, project management, fund raising and youth work. Thus the experience gained over the previous winter programmes will be maintained and shared with those local branches of the NS which do not have the same experience in various aspects of administrating and monitoring of large relief operations.

Objective 3 to boost the use of local community resources (human resources, goods and services). The Ukrainian Red Cross will mobilize local resources through publications, mass media, press-conferences and other Red Cross events. Posters, booklets and a video will be produced to boost fundraising activities. The NS will transmit the collective concerns of the most vulnerable to the government and advocate for ensuring their dignity, utilising the Red Cross' network of branches and volunteers.

Population Movement

Objective 1 to provide social assistance to refugees and asylum seekers by setting up a medical-social centre for refugees and asylum seekers in Kiev City. The NS plans to organize a medico-social centre for refugees and asylum seekers in Leningradsky district of Kiev city, repair the premises and provide the centre with necessary equipment, essential drugs and supplies. A social worker, doctor, legal consultant and other staff will be employed and receive special skills training (language/computer/sewing courses). Various sport and cultural events will be organized and supported to contribute to the psychological rehabilitation and social adaptation of refugees and asylum seekers. Project activities (legal advice and social counselling) will be coordinated with the UNHCR, other relevant organizations and the state's Department on Nationalities and Migration. Efforts will be undertaken to attract additional funds from international humanitarian organizations, the general public and external donors. Health support will be provided to refugees and asylum seekers in emergency cases.

Objective 2 to improve living conditions at the detention centres for illegal migrants in Mukachevo, Chop and Lviv and to enlarge the role of the Red Cross in stabilizing the epidemiological situation in the region. In order to achieve this objective, migrants in detention centres will be supplied with personal hygiene items, medicines, disinfectants and vaccines. Disease prevention efforts will include distribution of informational materials. Regular assistance to the most vulnerable groups of detained migrants will be maintained in cooperation with local authorities and other relief organizations (e.g. UNHCR, IOM, ADRA, churches and relevant NGOs). Assessment of migrants' needs will be carried out through joint missions with other competent organizations. Advocacy activities and spreading information about the National Society's work in the detention centres in Mukachevo, Chop and Lviv will be done through the mass media.

Objective 3 to improve food assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Kiev City. A list of 400 beneficiaries will be made for receipt of monthly food parcels, rather than hot meals previously provided. A strong partnership will be formed between the NS, the local Kiev city authorities, the Department of Social Protection of the Population and the UNHCR to seek additional funding to increase the number of beneficiaries.

Objective 4 to continue supporting the activities of mobile technical teams, making them more effective in improving living conditions of the most vulnerable. The NS will assist the most vulnerable formerly displaced and local population, notably the isolated elderly in remote communities, with roof and floor repairs, restoration of furnaces and cutting firewood for heating. All MTTs will be equipped with all additional necessary tools and materials. The teams will distribute humanitarian aid at the request of the local branch, conduct a needs assessment and collect updated information on target beneficiaries and pass this information to relevant local authorities. The

branch will join the disaster response unit of the NS in the area and perform additional duties in times of emergency.

These tasks will be carried out in close coordination with the local authorities to create conditions for the continuation of the work of the MTTs in the future through joint efforts with other parties in the region (including the UNCHR and local authorities). Efforts will also be made to attract additional funds in order to increase the number of programme beneficiaries.

Objective 5 to improve the psychological condition and nutritional status of the most vulnerable formerly displaced children.

In order to achieve this objective, the Red Cross will:

- draw up a list of the most vulnerable, formerly displaced children for participation in the summer camp;
- employ the necessary staff and develop appropriate teaching materials;
- organize supplementary feeding to children providing essential vitamins and minerals;
- organize and support various sport activities, role playing and discussions two hours each day;
- combine recreational activities with dissemination and lectures on subjects such as first aid, history of the Movement, the fundamental principles, also aiming to achieve tolerance between the local population and the children from the Crimean Tatar returnee communities.

Objective 6 to make dissemination of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values an integral part of the disaster response programme, explaining that these principles guide Red Cross activities and ensure protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. This will be achieved by undertaking, wherever possible, the principles and humanitarian values of the Movement as a determining factor in the way the Red Cross is organized and carries out its work. Also, by taking opportunities within the structure of the programme to disseminate the Red Cross/Red Crescent message, such as: to make visible the labelling of the relief supplies in transportation and distribution; to include messages in the food parcels; to display posters at distribution points; to provide clear and concise information on the nature of the operation to local officials and the local population through active external relations.

Expected results

Emergency relief

Some 150,000 kilograms of clothes and footwear, 108,000 food parcels, 246,040 hot meals and 36,000 sandwiches will be procured and distributed, per year for 2001-2002. The programme is planned to be implemented over a three-month period each year, during the worst winter month (December to March) and target 40,620 beneficiaries (elderly, disabled, large and single-parent families, orphans, street children and children from socially disadvantaged families) each year. Partnership between the NS, other NGOs and sister Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be promoted. Staff members at the headquarters and branch levels will be trained in conducting vulnerability and needs assessment, leadership skills, project management, fund raising and youth work by the end of 2002. The capacity and competence level of the Ukrainian Red Cross to implement large relief programmes and run sustainable activities, also at the grassroots level, will further increase. By the end of 2001, local contributions to complement international relief efforts will increase by 25 per cent. Dignity of the targeted population will be better protected.

Population Movement

Medical-social centre will be created and equipped to deal with immediate health care needs as well as basic and specific psycho social needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Kiev. Special training courses will develop new skills and enhance self-reliance of refugee communities and facilitate their integration into society. Social activities will help restore a sense of community and will support targeted beneficiaries to re-establish their cultural patterns and traditional coping mechanisms. The image of the Ukrainian Red Cross will be strengthened among the state bodies, local and international NGOs. Living conditions of illegal migrants in Mukachevo, Chop and Lviv detention centres will be significantly improved. The epidemiological situation at the centres will be stabilized. Cooperation between the NS, local authorities and other partners working in the area will be enhanced.

The image of the NS as an active and reliable organization and a strong partner in the field of assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, will be strengthened. Good working relations will be established

with partner organizations and appropriate authorities. Living conditions of formerly displaced persons in Crimea will be improved. Strong cooperation between the local Red Cross organization, local authorities and NGOs operating in Crimea will be established. Psychological and nutritional conditions of formerly displaced children will be improved. Social and recreational activities will enhance self-esteem, generate a sense of community and communication and provide opportunity for social exchanges and to learn new skills. Continued reference to the fundamental principles will improve the activities and image of the Movement and promote credibility and interest in reports to donors which may be used in a national or local news story.

Indicators

Emergency relief

Reduced vulnerability of some 40,000 vulnerable (lonely elderly, disabled, homeless, ex-prisoners, TB patients and children from single-parent and socially disadvantaged families) in Ukraine. Better trained staff at headquarters and branch levels of the Ukrainian Red Cross with increased capacity for programme management and self-sustaining activities. Increased contributions from local sources.

Population Movement

Improvement in the status, protection and living conditions of asylum seekers and refugees in Ukraine. Adaptation and integration of refugees into society. Much improved sanitary and hygiene conditions at the detention centres for illegal migrants. Increased knowledge and awareness of refugee issues among Red Cross staff and volunteers. Programmes implemented guided by the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Emergency Relief

Programme monitoring will be a multi-party exercise, including the Federation's Secretariat, the donor National Society, the Ukrainian Red Cross and the delegation in Kiev.. Monitoring will concentrate on the programme inputs and outputs, checking on work progress against earlier identified indicators, and examining reasons for any differences between actual and planned results. The monitoring and ongoing evaluations will review the programme objectives themselves, verifying if they are still valid for achieving the ultimate programme goal. This will be done during field trips, through discussions and consultations with all parties involved, identifying problems and looking together for solutions. Any changes to the programme needs will be agreed to by all parties.

During the entire implementation period actual expenses will be regularly compared with those budgeted for. The headquarters of the NS, in close cooperation with the Federation's delegation, will control the use of financial resources in accordance with the established procedures. Monitoring will include visits to the beneficiaries and checking the lists of beneficiaries, the quality and the use of assistance distributed. The monitors will have full authority to check all components of programme implementation and have full access to all kinds of documentation.

The Ukrainian Red Cross will make an interim evaluation after each implementation. Based on this, it will be possible to adjust the plan for subsequent phases or establish further need for Red Cross intervention. At the end of the programme an impact assessment will be carried out on a double sample. The Red Cross teams will visit households living in similar conditions of poverty or social exclusion, chosen among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the relief items distribution.

Population Movement

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out by the Ukrainian Red Cross through analyzing of regular narrative and financial reports. At the same time, the Federation reserves the right to look into all the financial documents and monitor the operational part of the project at any time. The reports from the respective mobile technical teams are prepared by the team leader of each who is also responsible for presenting daily assistance sheets, log book for the vehicle and weekly/monthly reports (including monthly financial journals). All activities and field trips have to be coordinated by the programme coordinator based in Simferopol and reported to PM coordinator at the headquarters in Kiev.

It is envisaged that a joint evaluation will be conducted after the initial three-month period by the Federation and the NS. Another evaluation is planned after six months, preferably with presence of external observers. Evaluation

of the summer camp project activities will be carried out by the National Society's PM coordinator through visits to the camp (at least once during a shift) and through analysis of reports.

Critical assumptions

Emergency relief

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme without delay.
- Natural and technological disasters in Ukraine do not impede the programme's implementation by distracting human and financial resources.
- New staff is recruited and trained by the NS to share the extra workload with the permanent staff.
- The necessary authority and responsibility are delegated by the National Society's leadership to its programme officers.
- Fluctuating prices for food items may make in-country purchases difficult.

Population Movement

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.
- Unfavourable changes may occur in the migration law.
- Well coordinated platform of activities among the National Societies of the Baltics and Commonwealth of Independent States in refugee and asylum matters.

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2. Disaster Preparedness

Belarus

Background and progress to date

Taking into account the threat of technical disasters and natural emergencies in the Republic of Belarus during the last two to three years (severe storms and floods), the Belarusian Red Cross considers further development and strengthening of its disaster preparedness (DP) and response activities to be a priority. DP is also one of the core areas for this region as outlined in the declaration from the Almaty conference in 1996.

The National Society (NS) plays a complementary role to the government in disaster preparedness. Close contacts were established with the relevant authorities. The Belarusian Red Cross regularly takes part in meetings of governmental bodies dealing with emergency situations and the civil defence. It is planned that the DP services of the Belarusian Red Cross be included in the state's plan of action for emergency situations. Agreements on joint activities are being discussed with civil defence authorities, and the ministries of Emergency Situations, Public Health and Defence.

The DP service of the Belarusian Red Cross owns a small warehouse, parking lots, a truck and a mobile kitchen, as well as tents and other facilities to set up a camp for 300 persons. With financial support from the International Federation, the Belarusian Red Cross took an active role in providing assistance to the victims of severe storms in 1998, and floods in 1998 and 1999 through distribution of food, clothes, footwear, and hygiene items to those affected in the Mogilev, Gomel, and Brest *oblasts*. In the past, financial support provided by the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies helped to strengthen the material and technical base of the DP service.

The community based first aid (CBFA) programme began in 1998. Some 10,000 copies of the first aid manual were published by the NS for the general public, as were 10,000 first aid certificates. Some 420 first aid kits were procured through the German Red Cross with regular programme funds. Training courses for the general public and instructor training courses were held and first aid courses were incorporated into the activities of summer youth camps.

Regular training sessions for volunteers help to have in constant reserve adequate human resources for emergency situations, in order to alleviate the suffering of those affected by disasters by rendering social assistance, food, clothing, transport and other facilities, and administering first aid.

Goal to strengthen the National Society's disaster preparedness and response capacities, including increased awareness and support from the community at the national and regional levels.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to define the role of the Belarusian Red Cross in nationwide and local disaster preparedness as a partner of governmental DP authorities. Activities will include:

- elaborating the National Society's DP plan;
- training of staff and volunteers in conducting risk, vulnerability and capacity assessment;
- conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments in disaster-prone areas to help develop a community-based DP programme in the future.

Objective 2 to establish disaster response voluntary teams in each *oblast*-level Red Cross organization.

Activities will include:

- selection of volunteers and grouping them into teams, the priority being the Brest and Gomel *oblasts*, where natural disasters occur most often;
- training volunteers in DP and response on the national and regional levels, some of which will act as trainers for the wider population;
- providing the disaster response teams with the necessary uniforms and equipment;
- organizing annual competitions between the rescue units.

Objective 3 to strengthen the existing material and technical base of the disaster preparedness and response service. Activities will include:

- repairs and technical maintenance of vehicles used by the DP and response service;
- reconstruction and repairs of rooms, warehouses, parking lots used by the service;
- procurement of foodstuffs for emergencies and their replenishment;
- procurement of missing equipment and outfits for voluntary rescuers.

Objective 4 to further develop the community based first aid programme. To achieve this objective, first aid training will be organized in the *oblast*-level Red Cross organizations.

Expected results

The NS will have a clearly defined and formulated role among other agencies involved in disaster response and will prepare itself for this role. The elaborated and approved DP plan will serve as a tool guiding the activities. Three DP workshops will be held every year (approximately 25 participants each). The number of volunteers attracted will total 160.

Indicators

The disaster response unit of the Belarusian Red Cross and its volunteers properly trained, equipped and prepared to provide accommodation and emergency food relief to 500 disaster victims.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Regular reports will be made according to the Federation's reporting standards. Monitoring will be done in the field (field trips, consultations with the parties involved, meetings with beneficiaries), based on the indicators and expected results. The monitoring teams will be made up from representatives of the NS, the Federation and local authorities.

Critical assumptions

- Commitment of the National Society to elaborate a disaster preparedness plan.
- Weakness of the material base of the Belarusian Red Cross' DP service (poor condition of the vehicles, absence of means for their repairs and maintenance, lack of mobile communication).

Moldova

Background and progress to date

Nearly all of Moldova's territory is prone to disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, hailstorms, droughts, heavy snowfall, various epidemics and radioactive and chemical contamination. According to development guidelines of the Red Cross Society of Moldova for 2000-2004, further development and strengthening of its disaster preparedness (DP) and response activities are priorities.

The National Society (NS) in Moldova receives assistance from the International Federation, donor National Societies, governmental and non-governmental organizations in development of its DP programme. The society's DP plan will be produced based on a vulnerability assessment and will define its role in the national DP structure. Based on activities already initiated during 1999, the RCS of Moldova places priority on further development of its community based first aid (FA) programme through training of instructors and volunteers. The first aid manual was already translated into the national language and readied for printing.

To improve its immediate response capacity, the National Society seeks to reinforce its human, material and technical resources, to ensure constant readiness of Red Cross staff and volunteer to rescue or assist those affected by natural disasters and accidents. The Visiting Nurse Service supports the National Society's DP activities. The RCS of Moldova cooperates with the civil protection department, with the Ministries of Labour and Health and with local public authorities.

Between 1997 and 1999, the NS provided assistance to victims of local natural disasters (landslides, floods, storms) thanks to the financial support from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund as well as the Dutch, Belgium, British, Canadian and French National Societies. Food parcels, hygiene items, clothes and footwear were distributed to the affected population. In 2001, the RCS of Moldova intends to preposition shelter and relief supplies to assist 500 people in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.

Goal To develop and strengthen the National Society's potential for providing full-scale assistance to victims of natural and manmade disasters, as well as obtaining a recognized role and integrating the Society's capacities into the state's disaster preparedness system.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1: to obtain a recognized role in nationwide and local disaster preparedness efforts as a partner of DP authorities;

The following activities will be undertaken to achieve this objective: (1) negotiating and making agreements with governmental bodies and NGOs working in the sphere of disaster preparedness on the tasks to be carried out by the RCS of Moldova in disaster situations (the National Society's role explained in a DP plan, which is approved by the state's Department for Civil Defense and Emergencies); (2) establishing partnership links with donor NSs to facilitate working conditions.

Objective 2 to enhance the DP capacities of the RCS of Moldova and to ensure a community-based approach to DP, with wide participation of volunteers. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- creating, training and equipping volunteer intervention units for activation in cases of disasters;
- organizing and equipping two units of rescuers in municipal committees and one rescue team in every *judet*-level RC committee;
- assisting 500 potential disaster victims through provision of shelter (family-sized tents) and procurement of relief items (blankets, bed linen sets, kitchen sets, hygiene parcels, towels, second hand clothing and shoes).

Objective 3 to continue developing the community based first aid programme.

To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- instruction of NS staff and volunteers and the general population about first aid and how to behave in cases of disasters;
- publishing the National Society's first aid manuals and procuring further textbooks;
- holding two training seminars for FA instructor training and training leaders and volunteers how to react and intervene operatively in cases of disasters;
- organizing annual national or *judet*-level competitions between the rescue teams.

Expected Results

Better coordination of efforts by the NS with all partners involved in disaster relief operations, achieving a better quality of assistance to victims. Coordination for preparedness will be organized more effectively for disaster victims, which will also promote the positive image of the RCS of Moldova and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Increased efficiency of assistance rendered by the National Society's staff and volunteers in response to disasters. A higher professional level of the personnel involved in this activity will be reached. The staff and volunteers of the RCS of Moldova and members of the general population will be trained to provide first aid assistance in disaster situations.

Indicators

A defined mandate and role of the disaster preparedness programme of the RCS of Moldova within the national framework. The disaster response staff and volunteers of the NS properly trained, equipped and prepared to provide accommodation, first aid and emergency relief assistance to 500 disaster victims.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Monitoring will primarily be done in cooperation with the Federation and donor NSs through the different activity phases and according to the Federation reporting standards. Monitoring will be done on the spot (field trips, consultations with the parties involved, meetings with beneficiaries), based on the indicators and expected results. The monitoring teams will be made up of representatives from the RCS of Moldova, the Federation, the state's Civil Defense Department and local authorities. Mass media will also be informed systematically about relief operations undertaken.

Critical assumptions

- Local fundraising initiatives are unsuccessful due to the continuous social-economic decline over the past 10 years which worsened the living standard of Moldova's population.
- It is necessary to find the correct definition and evaluation criteria for poverty taking into consideration the specific situation in the Republic of Moldova.

Ukraine

Background and progress to date

In a country beset by a growing number of natural and technological disasters (e.g. Chernobyl accident, explosions in mines, severe storms, landslides, river floods), the disaster preparedness (DP) programme of the Ukrainian Red Cross is an essential activity. The National Society approved plans of action in case of emergencies (on the national, *oblast*, district and primary levels) and a list of relief items which are to be reserved for emergency situations.

Presently, the Ukrainian Red Cross is the main auxiliary partner of the state among other public organizations assisting victims of emergencies. To perform this function effectively, the National Society strives to provide rescue teams with equipment, train staff, develop the logistics capacity and improve the management of its disaster preparedness service. The Ukrainian Red Cross is included in the country's list of 'first response' non-governmental voluntary rescue organizations. A cooperation agreement exists between the National Society and the Ministry of Emergencies. About 600 permanent staff members, more than 3,000 Red Cross nurses, more than 160 members of eight voluntary rescue units and Red Cross volunteers are ready to assist victims of potential disasters. The German Red Cross provided financial support to construct facilities for the first DP base near Kiev.

In 1998, the Ukrainian Red Cross with the support of the International Federation, started a community based first aid (CBFA) programme. Basic training materials such as first aid mannequins were acquired, 53 instructors and nine instructor-trainers were trained, 1,000 instructor manuals and 5,000 manuals for the general population were issued. These manuals were approved and highly appreciated by the Ministry of Health. The trained instructors currently carry out 12-hour first aid training courses for schoolchildren, college students and members of the military. Unfortunately, the training mannequins are not available in all *oblast*-level organizations, therefore, they have to share and adjust the training schedule between them. Close contacts were established with the Ministry of Health and the Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Emergency and Disaster Medicine through implementation of this programme.

Goal To provide help to people affected by emergencies and further integrate the National Society's potential in the national disaster preparedness plan, raising its image in the process.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to continue the CBFA programme. To achieve this objective the Ukrainian Red Cross will:

- provide the necessary First Aid manuals and training equipment to the regional Red Cross organizations;
- organize four seminars for first aid instructors;
- organize Red Cross volunteer training (12-hour courses) to improve their knowledge of first aid skills; (4)
- assist state authorities in organizing first aid training for the general public;
- attract public attention to the importance of first aid knowledge and training;

- elaborate and publish a pocket-sized first aid manual for the general population and a series of postcards with the first aid theme.

Objective 2 to create four voluntary Red Cross rescue units. Activities will include selection (by interviews and testing) the Red Cross volunteers for participation in the rescue units and holding a meeting to identify responsibilities of the rescue team members.

Objective 3 to carry out training for members of the voluntary rescue units. To achieve this objective, the National Society will:

- carry out exercises, with theoretical and practical training, for four rescue units (in the Kiev city, Lviv, Zakarpatye and Chernigiv regions) on assessing risks and the situation after a disaster, setting up a camp, medical-social aid and psychological support to the injured;
- carry out joint exercises with the state department on emergency situations and civil defence.

Objective 4 to provide the rescue teams in the Zakarpatye, Lviv and Chernigiv regions and in Kiev with the necessary equipment and communication means. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- studying the communications systems used by the state structures, including the Ministry of Emergencies;
- collecting offers from different companies and selecting a supplier;
- purchasing communications facilities (15 pieces) and equipment/tools for 4 Red Cross rescue units, with initial delivery to the Kiev rescue unit.

Objective 5 to create a stock of food items to cover the needs of 500 disaster victims for a two-week period. To achieve this objective the Ukrainian Red Cross will:

- analyze the market of factories and companies producing long-term storage food;
- study bids and choose factories or companies as suppliers of the food;
- purchase food and organize its storage, providing a system of food replacement after expiry dates have passed.

Objective 6 to create a stock of relief items. As with the stock of food items, the local market will be researched to find factories and companies producing relief items. Bids will be studied, suppliers selected, goods purchased and their storage organized.

Expected results

A total of 80 first aid instructors among Red Cross staff and volunteers will be trained. Each regional Red Cross branch will have trained instructors and complete sets of necessary first aid training equipment and manuals. A total of 160 Red Cross volunteers will be trained in assisting people after disasters. The trained volunteers will train others. Four rescue units will have at their disposal the needed equipment/tools to act quickly in emergency situations, as well as food/relief items for victims of possible disasters. The rescue unit in Kiev will be able to organize, if necessary, hot meals for the victims of disasters for a one to two week period.

Indicators

Further expansion of the community based first aid programme. Increased public awareness on prevention activities and first aid. Increased number of volunteers trained in first aid. Well equipped and trained rescue units able to provide timely assistance to victims of disasters and emergency situations.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

In case of an emergency, the necessary human, technical and material resources will be identified in each region. The preparation and organisation of help to victims of emergencies will be done in co-operation with state authorities. The evaluation of the project will be carried out based on the objectives versus results and other indicators.

Critical assumptions

- It is difficult to maintain the permanent members of voluntary rescue units as people leave for various reasons (sickness, change of job, moving to another place, etc.).
- Lack of first aid training equipment.

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3. Health and Care

Belarus

- **Psychological assistance for the vulnerable in Belarus**
- **Combating tuberculosis through the strengthened Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service**

Background and progress to date

Psycho-social assistance

Disasters, natural or man-made, appear more frequently, are more intense and more devastating. The consequences of disasters are becoming increasingly long term as they strike countries with economic problems, weakening already fragile social support networks and inadequate health services. Belarus is prone to natural disasters such as floods and severe storms, and will for years to come have to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Catastrophes produce a drastic psycho-social impact on the population, with the Chernobyl disaster and its negative effects being in the first place among them. Traumatic stress and psychosomatic responses are widespread among the affected populations but such consequences are recognized neither by the local professionals nor by the victims themselves. So far, national relief programmes have been in no condition to ensure sustainable rehabilitation of the affected people and prevent deterioration of the conditions of vulnerable populations. Contribution of these programmes to overcome psycho-social effects of crisis situations remains insufficient.

The Belarusian Red Cross Society's experience showed that rendering material assistance to those affected is more effective if accompanied by psycho-social support. In order to return to habitual vital activity levels, experience less anxiety and be able to cope with stress, the affected population needs adequate information on the impact of disasters on their health and well-being. Affected people not only need psychological assistance but training on methods of coping with stress as well.

Among the Red Cross' staff, the visiting nurses are the main force in providing the services of the National Society's programmes. The aid provided by the RC visiting nurses is particularly important for the stigmatized and remote groups which are not covered by the state's health service. The visiting nurses carry out both medical first aid and social work in the community. They are involved in providing the vulnerable groups with food parcels, clothes and basic medicines. In cooperation with other social services at the community level, they participate in sanitary education for the population. Usually, the visiting nurses motivate a lot of volunteers among members of the community.

Since 1997, the BRCS has participated in implementation of a psycho-social support (PSS) programme, supported by the International Federation, for the population affected by the Chernobyl accident. During this period, the National Society (NS) staff, visiting nurses mainly and volunteers from the contaminated territories were trained to provide psycho-social assistance to dozens of thousands of people affected by the accident. Red Cross staff and volunteers provided the affected people in the communities with psychological assistance helping patients to express their emotions, share thoughts, and make decisions in order to solve their problems. Active listening and emotional support were the main tools used. Also, the Red Cross provided the affected population with information on the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, methods of coping with stress and how to reduce the risk of radiation.

In 2000, vulnerable members of the population were supported with psycho-social assistance by trained staff within the winter emergency operation and via the VNS, TB, HIV/AIDS programme. A positive impact of the programme was observed with regard to the National Society's image among the population, local authorities and

humanitarian aid organizations. The PSS programme is implemented together with the Federation's Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) as well as other NS activities.

TB/Visiting Nurses

The Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) of the Belarusian Red Cross became operational in 1964, providing comprehensive medical and social services to complement the government's efforts in public health. In accordance with the Red Cross mandate, the VNS focuses on rendering services to the most vulnerable groups, with the emphasis on home care. A total of 460 nurses, attached to some 117 medico-social centres and backed by over 4,200 volunteers, are involved in the programme.

Until 1989, when the problem of tuberculosis (TB) in the former Soviet Union seemed to be solved, the visiting nurses (VNs) in Belarus assisted in the prevention and treatment of the disease in the country. The Federation's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) 2000-2001 for Belarus re-confirmed its focus on support to the VNS linked with the TB prevention and treatment initiative. With a nation-wide network of nurses, the VNS is the most appropriate structure through which to implement this programme of medical, social and educational support to TB patients.

With standards of living dropping, it comes as no surprise that most of the TB patients are either on very low incomes or are unemployed and unable to feed themselves properly. The Red Cross programme is bringing vital hope and assistance to these most vulnerable, sick people who are very often turned away even by their relatives. Frequently, visiting nurses become their only contact with the outside world. The material and nutritional support provided by the programme is focused on a core group of TB patients and their families, and the three most affected regions of the country (Gomel, Mogilev and Minsk City) were targeted for prevention and treatment of TB activities. Although material and nutritional support is focused in the three pilot regions, the support to the VNS and the information campaign covers all six regions in the country.

Home care services provided include: cooking, cleaning, shopping, treatment of bedsores, medical care, and company to bed-ridden and terminally ill patients. A total of 4,675 persons are serviced at home daily, including 1,466 fully bedridden patients.

The Red Cross' network of medical-social centres is being expanded as part of the programme. For the most vulnerable, these centres are the only alternative to the state poly-clinics which are geographically out of reach and overcrowded. The medical services provided at the centres include: injections, massage, blood pressure tests, bandaging, physiotherapy, distribution of drugs and compliance with medical treatment. Some 468,000 medical interventions were provided annually to approximately 85,000 people. Social activities (clubs, health education, legal advice, libraries, TV, holiday and birthday celebrations) are also organized. Clothing, food, hygiene and other humanitarian assistance is provided through the centres as well.

In 1999-2000, all nurses were provided with teaching materials (TB manuals), logbooks, registration books for the medical-social and registration cards for beneficiaries, and 198 nurses in the target regions received further training. All nurses were supported either with bicycles (271 distributed) or with transport allowances (an average of 180 nurses per month). Also, equipment sets were provided for 18 medical-social centres, as was repair work on 40 of them and detergents and disinfectants for all of them.

In addition, development of Red Cross outpatient treatment services (to complement existing intensive-phase hospital treatments) promoted decentralization of the state TB sector. Some 83 drug distribution points were established and continue to function, 62 are located in polyclinics/health posts and 21 in the Red Cross centres. Furthermore, the Red Cross' work contributed to the reform of the TB sector by providing access to, and encouraging the adaptation of, relevant international experiences. In the next phase of the programme this will remain an important part of the Red Cross advocacy process.

An estimated 10-15 per cent increase in the awareness of the population was observed by the National Society. The information campaign also contributed to the promotion of human rights and dignity. Throughout the programme, active relations were maintained with the government and, in particular, with the Ministry of Health. A long-term agreement on co-operation in combating the spread of TB, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) was signed between the ministry and the NS. Under this agreement, the ministry commits itself to providing TB drugs, free training for RC nurses, and promoting outpatient treatment services.

Programme constraints include: lack of and resistance to integration of TB care into the primary care system; in-country resistance to recognition of internationally recommended treatment strategies for TB; drug supply problems due to poor economic situation in the country; and, lack of psychological support for and stigmatization of TB patients. Some of these constraints are easily adjusted but others will require more time, advocacy, training financial support, programme support and good international collaboration. However, despite the difficulties, it is clear that the future direction of TB care in Belarus will become more aligned to the internationally approved approach.

The VNS must further define and develop its complementary role and functions in TB work towards the authorities so that the intended focus of the project is maintained. Red Cross activities related to TB should only be implemented in regions where the authorities assume full responsibility for drug supplies and there is a definite development towards internationally recognised treatment strategy. Also, efforts to advocate internal reallocation of resources for more effective TB control should be intensified particularly since the long term sustainability of RC involvement in this work is reliant on it.

Goal

- **Psycho-social assistance** - The goal is to alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable population through recovering of ability to overcome the psycho-social effects of disasters and providing those most affected with psycho-social assistance. The ultimate goal is to promote health and decrease social tension among the population.
- **TB/VNS** - The programme aims to improve the health of the population with particular focus being given to prevention and treatment of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs.

Objectives and Activities planned

Psycho-social assistance

Objective 1 to ensure capacity of the NS in the field of psychological support by training 360 personnel and volunteers on psychological assistance methods, including regular supervision and methodical support on PSS by the end of 2001. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- training of instructors;
- holding primary preparedness and follow-up workshops;
- hiring of a psychologist;
- organizing and supervising six self-assistance groups;
- production of training materials on psycho-social assistance methods;
- holding a series of workshops in 2001, and doubling their number in the following year.

Objective 2 to establish a basic network of four counselling centres at the NS on psychological assistance, with a hot-line being installed by the end of 2001. This objective will be achieved by establishment of reference centres, elaboration of technical documentation, preparation of methodology materials and purchase of necessary equipment.

Objective 3 to ensure psychological relief to 20,000 beneficiaries annually. To achieve this objective it is necessary to organize psychological support for the affected and vulnerable populations through counselling and information sessions. Trained NS staff will support their clients at the Red Cross' medico-social centres and through home visits.

Objective 4 to train more than 1,500 affected people on methods of prevention of traumatic stress and psycho-somatic reactions. The most affected groups to be trained on prevention methods of traumatic stress and psychosomatic reactions will be identified and workshops for up to 1,680 affected people will be held by the end of 2002.

Objective 5 to distribute adequate and comprehensible information on the effects of crises and disasters for 6,000 people annually. Information materials on the effects of crises and catastrophes will be published and distributed, and lectures on traumatic stress prevention and self-help will be held in communities most at risk.

Objective 6 to organize liaison with governmental emergency services and non-governmental agencies on psychological assistance to populations. The Belarusian Red Cross will explore the activities of other institutions

in this field and establish agreements with state institutions and NGOs on exchanging experiences and sharing of training resources.

TB/VNS

Objective 1 to enhance the capacity and sustainability of the Visiting Nurses Service. The NS will further develop training modules and methodologies on basic home care and health education to prevent TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs which will be applied in 14 two-week training seminars. Following these, 100 VN instructors will be selected among the trained nurses and provided further training on nursing care and in psychological support seven three-day workshops.

A total of 5,000 manuals for VN volunteers will be published, covering the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, volunteering and youth, and volunteer services in health and relief programmes. Some 150 VN volunteers will be selected and trained through seven seminars. In addition, improved regional and cross-border collaboration between VNS programmes of other societies will enable sharing of knowledge and experiences.

In addition, the NS will: procure and deliver 10 equipment sets for the medical-social centres; deliver 460 nursing kits; provide nurses with transport allowances; further expand the network of medical-social centres to include work with TB patients; strengthen nursing as a profession and as a service through collaboration with the national Nursing Association; network with the WHO's country office and the Ministry of Health; advocate for re-certification of the nurses to the government; and, enhance sustainability of the VNS through local fund-raising, advocacy for health insurance of the beneficiaries, as well as negotiation of funding for the VNS from the government.

Objective 2 to improve the treatment and care of TB patients. The Red Cross will endeavour to ensure compliance to TB therapy for 1,150 patients through directly observed treatment by trained Red Cross visiting nurses. The target beneficiaries will vary as they are covered by the programme only for the period of ambulatory treatment which normally lasts between four and six months. The visiting nurses will also provide social and nutritional support as incentives to ensure compliance to TB treatment including: 9,600 bus tickets for patients to the nearest health facility; 13,000 hot meals; 6,600 food parcels and 3,300 hygiene kits for TB patients and their families.

A more consumer-friendly system will be promoted through delivery of services, whenever possible, in convenient, familiar sites readily accessible to households and individuals, including schools, homes, places of work, and other community facilities, while an information strategy will be further developed to target the most difficult, and at the same time, most epidemiologically dangerous groups, such as ex-prisoners, alcoholics and the homeless. Technical advice will be sought on how to develop ways of reaching marginalized social groups. New approaches will probably be required and those with experience in these areas, such as psychologists who have worked with ex-prisoners or alcoholics, will be consulted.

Objective 3 to increase the awareness of the population regarding prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs and to promote human rights and dignity in order to prevent stigmatization and discrimination against TB patients and their families. The following activities will be undertaken to achieve this objective: community health education on TB prevention; detection and treatment through core groups of trained nurses and Red Cross youth and volunteers; promotion of healthy lifestyles to encourage individuals and families to assume more responsibility for their own health;

The programme aims to increase public awareness of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs through national media and distribution of educational leaflets, pamphlets and videos. It is also planned to use the publications for development of local fund-raising to help build a sustainable service, to advocate for development of appropriate health policies for TB control and for full respect of human rights and the dignity of TB patients.

Expected Results

Psycho-social assistance

360 BRCS workers and volunteers will be able to render psychological assistance to the affected population by the end of 2002. The National Society's network of reference centres providing psychological support will be established. In 2001, four such centres will be opened. The affected population will be provided with psychological support. Annually, about 14,000 people will benefit from psychological support provided at either

the medico-social centres, the counselling centres or at their place of residence, including those provided by telephone. The affected persons will be able to use methods of coping with stress. In 2001, approximately 400 affected people will be trained, and, starting from 2002, about 1,200 people will be educated through workshops, lectures, meetings and discussions annually. Basic revised and comprehensible information on the effects of disasters and crisis events will be prepared and distributed. Every year 6,000 people will be informed on the methods of self-assistance via leaflets, lectures and articles. Local experts will be trained in modern approaches and methods of psychological support. Knowledge in this field will be disseminated among pedagogues, medical and social workers and emergency services staff. Volunteers from NGOs will also be involved.

TB/VNS

The capacity of the National Society's VNS will be improved through the intended training, publication of manuals and provision of nursing kits and sets of equipment. Some 460 visiting nurses will be trained in home care, TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs prevention and psychological support by the end of 2002. One hundred VN instructors will be selected and trained by the end of 2002. The effort to strengthen the VNS will enhance the development of nursing in general and towards recognition by the authorities and the public of the VN as an independent profession and a service. A manual for VN volunteers will be developed and published and 150 VN volunteers from seven regional branches trained. The Red Cross' volunteer base will be further developed, with VNs acting as co-ordinators, and with volunteers providing non-medical assistance to patients: counselling, peer support, information, shopping, food and hygiene kit distributions. The strengthened VNS will assist some 180,000 people by the end of 2002. Improved care of TB patients and their families through the VNS. Some 4,600 patients will complete TB therapy by the end of 2002. Nutritional support and other material assistance will be provided to encourage treatment compliance and/or recovery from tuberculosis amongst targeted patient groups. More effective ways of reaching TB patients within marginalized social groups - homeless, ex-prisoners, alcoholics, etc. - will be identified and put into practice. Decentralization of the state's health care system will be further promoted through development of alternative outpatient treatment services (to complement existing intensive-phase hospital treatments). Awareness within the wider population regarding the prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs will increase and lead to early detection of TB. Human rights and dignity and of persons living with TB, HIV/AIDS and their families will be promoted. Reform of the TB sector, and indirectly, the wider reform of the health sector as a whole will be encouraged through advocacy by the Red Cross.

Indicators

Psycho-social assistance

Trained NS staff and volunteers throughout Belarus. Improved psychological well-being of targeted beneficiaries. Increased awareness and use of coping skills to reduce stress from disaster events. Improved recognition and image of the Belarusian Red Cross in local communities.

TB/VNS

Well trained and equipped network of Visiting Nurses, familiar with new methodologies in nursing care, prevention of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS and psychological support. Increased compliance with TB treatment courses by patients, particularly from socially marginalized groups. Improved public awareness of prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS. Decreased discrimination and stigmatization of TB and HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Psycho-social assistance

The PSS will be monitored by the National Society's task force on psychological assistance. Necessary information about the project implementation will be registered and submitted in reports by the Red Cross *oblast*-level committees. Co-ordinators at the delegation in Minsk and the Belarusian Red Cross will ensure monitoring by participating in the sessions organized by the instructors (workshops, groups of self-assistance, meetings with populations in communities). The Federation's Reference Centre for Psychological Support and representatives of donors will be invited for evaluation in 2002. The parties will meet the beneficiaries, NS staff, and local experts involved. In order to assess the project, implementation reports and other related documents will be reviewed.

TB/VNS

Monitoring visits by the donor National Society, the Federation's technical experts in Geneva and the Movement partners at the field level will assess both the progress and quality of implementation according to the above

indicators, action plan, schedule, policies, rules and regulations and in terms of strengthening the capacity of the Belarusian Red Cross. The Geneva-based Senior Nurse Advisor will assess the development of the programme through at least two monitoring visits per year. Regular monitoring by regional health delegates based in Minsk and Kiev will also review progress.

As previously indicated, responsibility for implementing the programme falls to local NS branches through their VNS. These Red Cross branches liaise with local health authorities in determining which TB patients receive assistance. Thus, at the field level, the VNS will undertake routine monitoring work before reporting their findings to the Red Cross headquarters in Minsk. This information will in turn be assimilated and filtered to Geneva. The results will be compared in the region with pilot programmes in Ukraine and Moldova.

An evaluation of the programme will take place in 2002. The Federation will invite all parties concerned to participate in the evaluation and to provide their expertise.

Critical assumptions

- The psycho-social support programme is based on the VNS activities, therefore continuity of this service is a precondition for implementation of the PSS.
- Sufficient and long-term funding from international donors is available without delay to ensure the continuity of the programme.
- The government is committed to a sustainable national TB programme.
- Regular supply of medicine is guaranteed for those who started acceptable treatment regimens.
- The Ministry of Health is committed to introducing directly observed therapy, both during the intensive phase (hospital care) and during the ambulatory care phase.
- The government continues to support the VNS of the Belarusian Red Cross.
- The good relationship between the leadership and operational personnel of the NS and their counterparts in the Federation and sister Societies will continue.

Moldova

Background and progress to date

The Red Cross Society of Moldova has a history of active involvement in health programmes. With regard to tuberculosis (TB), this involvement ended when the problem seemed to be under control in the 1980s, but the alarming resurgence of the disease now warrants renewed action of the NS.

The basic aim of the National Society's visiting nurses service (VNS) is to 'fill the gaps' in state health care and social welfare for elderly, disabled and invalids, ensuring that these vulnerable groups benefit from proper medico-social assistance, particularly TB and cancer patients and disabled invalids without relatives. Currently, 42 visiting nurses (VNs) provide home-based medical and social care for over 800 invalids and elderly persons, most of whom are completely bedridden. The VNs are all certified nurses by the national system and receive further training according to national norms. The re-certification takes place every fourth year, to achieve a higher category of nursing speciality.

In order to perform tasks in the welfare services and to take over new responsibilities in areas like the TB campaign, the enhancement of the VNS structure becomes increasingly relevant. A renewal process of the VNS work force was already initiated with the employment of 25 young nurses to replace those that are retiring. Within the framework of this project, the nurses were heavily involved in patient/family education, disease prevention and health promotion.

The EU-funded operation, supporting the programme of humanitarian assistance to elderly living alone, disabled, homeless, orphans and patients with TB, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), first started in September 1999. The main focus of the Red Cross programme has been on:

- awareness raising among the general public about the extent of the diseases and what must be done to contain them;
- training Red Cross staff, VNs and others for their role in care and prevention; and,
- social and nutritional support to the most vulnerable.

The first European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) contract ended on 30 April 2000 and thereafter the RCS of Moldova, in close co-operation with the Belgian Red Cross and the International Federation, applied for continuation of the programme for a period of eight months. The new ECHO operation in Moldova started on 1 September 2000. In the second phase, the relief and social components of this programme are being implemented in the northern part of Moldova, in Edinet and Balti *judets* (regions). Chisinau is the focal point for training of nurses. The whole operation is targeted on a group of 1,250 families (or some 7,500 beneficiaries). A mass information campaign targets the entire country.

The negative evolution of the VNS of the National Society (NS), resulting in a declining level of services rendered, was halted, and new impetus was given towards restructuring and upgrading of their services. Achievements include: supplying of urgently needed material (nursing kits, wheelchairs, crutches and walking frames) to enable the medico-social rooms to expand their services; assistance provided to 21,760 most vulnerable, including TB and HIV/AIDS patients, lonely elderly, disabled and orphans; training of VNs with updated information and guidelines about prevention of TB, HIV/AIDS and other STDs, and about how to work with the patients and their family members; improvement of logistics and reporting skills of staff at the headquarters of the NS; strengthened status of the RCS of Moldova in relation to the government and governmental TB institutions leading to existing good cooperation.

The establishment of medical-social centres (MSCs) is a relatively new development within the VNS of the RCS of Moldova. Since 1998, a total of nine MSCs were established throughout the country, and five new centres were set up recently with the support of the Netherlands Red Cross. There are one to two VNs attached to each MSC. Some nurses work part-time in the MSC and part-time visiting clients at home. Some concentrate in MSCs and others are doing home visits only.

The MSCs are not only medical and social centres but also serve as Red Cross branch offices. The MSCs are now evenly distributed in the country and provide a good possibility for the NS to strengthen and expand its service. A process began for the NS to gradually develop a more independent identity vis-à-vis governmental services. The government's structure is centred in big institutions with no outreach to the local level. In addition to the VNS, the NS now has structures in the local communities, which makes it easy for clients to visit the Red Cross giving it a comparative advantages in relation to the growing number of NGOs.

The constraints to the introduction of the internationally approved approach to tuberculosis care in Moldova can be summarized as follows:

- there is no clear national TB control strategy yet;
- the fragmented TB control services follows the old Soviet model;
- severe lack of anti-TB drugs all over the country except for at the National TB Institute, resulting in inadequate treatment regimens and possibly of increasing incidence of drug-resistant TB;
- excessive periods of hospitalisation (also, the nutrition in TB hospitals is poor and does not correspond to physiological norms);
- direct observation of treatment is not performed in hospitals or during the outpatient phase of treatment;
- laboratory equipment is outdated and diagnosis is based on X-ray rather than on sputum smear microscopy;
- the TB recording and reporting system does not follow internationally recommended standards; and,
- the primary health care system does not fulfil its role in TB control such as early detection of patients and facilitation of ambulatory treatment.

More positively, following the World Health Organization (WHO)/Ministry of Health assessment mission that took place in May 2000, a programme was successfully developed with a time table and providing strong commitment to Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) at the ministerial level and at all sectors involved in TB control. It requires time to set up treatment systems properly but according to the implementation time frame the first patients should be released into ambulatory care in early spring of 2001. Secondly, several donors expressed an interest and commitment to supporting the introduction of DOTS in Moldova, including WHO and Caritas-Luxembourg. The Red Cross has the potential to provide the WHO pilot initiative with social support to TB patients and supervision of their treatment in the outpatient phase through the VNS.

The VNS must further define and develop its complementary role and functions in TB work towards the authorities so that the intended focus of the project is maintained. Red Cross activities related to TB should only be implemented in regions where the authorities assume full responsibility for drug supplies and there is a definite

development towards internationally recognised treatment strategy. Efforts to advocate internal reallocation of resources for more effective TB control should be intensified as well as advocacy for integration of TB into reformed governmental health insurance policies.

Goal(s) To improve the health of the population with particular focus being given to the most vulnerable suffering from tuberculosis. It is important to note that the ultimate goal of improved health is not achievable exclusively within the confines of the health sector. Social failures also have serious health consequences. Improvements in the broader environment have a major impact on health status and health care costs. While the focus of this project is on TB care and VNS, its long-term implications are much broader and involve the interrelationships between health and such factors as education, behaviour, human rights, social support networks and attitudes about health.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to enhance the capacity of the Visiting Nurses Service.

In order to achieve this objective, the NS aims to:

- recruit up to three new nurses (between the ages of 25 and 45) for each regional Red Cross branch;
- train the visiting nurses in new methodologies of basic home care and TB control (such as the WHO-recommended DOTS strategy);
- strengthen the VNS through established collaboration with the national Nursing Association as well as networking with the WHO and the Ministry of Health;
- further support the VNS through advocacy, networking and through negotiations with the Ministry of Health for possible inclusion into the national health insurance system as part of the health reform policies;
- procure and deliver 60 nursing kits and 20 bicycles.

Objective 2 to increase awareness of the population regarding the prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs and to promote human rights and dignity in order to prevent stigmatization and discrimination against persons living with TB and their families.

In order to achieve this objective the RCS of Moldova will:

- conduct community health education on prevention, detection and treatment of TB through core groups of trained nurses, Red Cross youth and volunteers;
- promote healthy life styles and encourage individuals and families to assume more responsibility for their own health;
- increase public awareness of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs through national media and distribution of educational pamphlets, booklets and videos;
- advocate for development of appropriate health policies for TB control (DOTS) and for full respect of human rights and assurance that TB patients are treated with dignity.

Objective 3 to provide social assistance through nutritional and hygiene support to the most vulnerable families who have been exposed to and are at risk of developing TB. Activities which will be undertaken to achieve this objective will include:

- establishing lists of beneficiaries;
- organizing tender procedures, selection of suppliers and procurement of relief items;
- establishing soup kitchens for provision of hot meals;
- distributing 53,000 hot meals, 10,000 food parcels, 7,000 hygiene kits and 10,000 bottles of vitamins.

Objective 4 to support diagnostic facilities. The NS will procure and distribute five sets of binocular microscopes and stains for the diagnostic facilities, which are essential for disease control

Expected results

The professional level and capacity of the VNS will be improved through planned training courses. The average age of the visiting nurses will be widened through the recruitment of additional young nurses. All visiting nurses will be equipped with nursing kits and bicycles and provide nutritional and hygiene assistance to some 10,000 people by the end of 2002. Logistics and procurement systems of the NS will be further adapted and improved. Educational pamphlets, booklets and videos will be produced to support public information campaigns. Advocacy

efforts of the NS will intensify on behalf of TB patients. Diagnosis of TB will be improved through correct analysis of tests.

Indicators

Expanded, well-trained and equipped network of Visiting Nurses, familiar with new methodologies in nursing care and prevention of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS. Increased compliance with TB treatment courses by patients, particularly from socially marginalized groups. Improved nutritional and hygiene situation of programme beneficiaries. Increased public awareness of prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS. Decreased discrimination and stigmatization of TB and HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Programme monitoring will be a joint multi-party exercise, including the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva, the donor National Society, the RCS of Moldova and the delegation in Chisinau. Annually, 21 combined or separate monitoring trips are planned, including visits to the beneficiaries and checking the lists of beneficiaries and the use of assistance distributed. Red Cross health personnel (based in Geneva and Minsk) will, together with strategic partners such as the WHO, visit target regions over the course of the programme.

Monitoring will focus on progress and quality of implementation according to the indicators, plan of action, mass media campaign plan, policies and how they served to strengthen the capacity of the RCS of Moldova. Monitors will have full authority to check all components of programme implementation and have full access to all documentation.

An evaluation will take place in 2002. The Federation will invite all parties concerned to participate in the evaluation and to provide their expertise.

Critical assumptions

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.
- The leadership of the RCS of Moldova supports the programme.
- Relief operations as a result of disasters do not impede implementation of this programme.

Ukraine

- **Psycho-social assistance for the vulnerable in Ukraine**
- **Combating tuberculosis through the strengthened Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service**

Background and progress to date

Psycho-social assistance

The consequences of disasters are becoming increasingly long-term as they strike countries with economic problems, weakening already fragile social support networks and inadequate health services. A series of natural and technological disasters - including floods, landslides and mining accidents - have hit Ukraine hard since the start of 1998. The psychological stress associated from the Chernobyl catastrophe combined with extreme poverty negatively impact the health of the affected population.

The experience of the Ukrainian Red Cross in relief operations has proven that victims of disasters are in great need of psychological support. Some 300,000 victims including families affected by mining accidents and more than 45,000 floods victims are in need of psychological assistance.

In order to overcome traumatic stress and prevent social degradation, the affected population needs emergency and rehabilitation psychological assistance, truthful information about consequences and scope of the emergency situation, its impact on people's health, possibilities of its recurrence, etc. To reduce the effects of emergency or disaster situation, the affected population must be provided with high-quality psychological assistance and be trained on the methods of stress-management.

To achieve this, the Ukrainian Red Cross should have trained staff and volunteers who will be able to provide psychological assistance to people in need.

TB/VNS

The regional strategy stipulated in the *Almaty Declaration* (1996), which identified the visiting nurses service (VNS), capacity building, disaster preparedness and population movement as priority activities, was thereafter reflected and linked with the objectives of the country assistance strategy for Ukraine and is in line with the Federation's *Strategy 2010*. The core health care programme integrated in the anti-TB campaign implemented through the VNS is in accordance with the vision of all strategies and will not only develop the VNS structure and standing of the National Society towards the authorities, but also increase its effectiveness in responding to civic needs.

The VNS of the Ukrainian Red Cross has provided medical and social outreach since 1961 and today it comprises a workforce of 3,200 visiting nurses (VNs), 406 medical-social centres (MSCs) and 525 clothes banks. The VNs ensure social and medical care to about 200,000 of the country's most vulnerable people.

The VNs are heavily involved in activities for prevention of contagious diseases, informing the population of safe health practices, helping their patients maintain hygiene, cultivating the needs and skills of personal hygiene and healthy way of life. They also play an important role in national immunization campaigns. The Red Cross is an ideal partner to the authorities in rational TB work due to its decentralized structure and ability to mobilize additional local and human and financial resources.

A network of MSCs was established since 1991 in partnership with the German Red Cross and further extended with additional support from the International Federation. The Netherlands Red Cross has been supporting the VNS structure through a bilateral programme since 1999.

The MSCs help to cover a greater number of lonely elderly and to provide them with most medical-social services. Usually such centres are the only places where the lonely elderly can receive assistance free of charge, in a situation when hospitals and other health facilities are beyond their reach, financially and geographically.

The Red Cross programme has a dual focus: that of assisting the health services to combat the spread of tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) but also in strengthening the VNS. This is achieved through: raising public awareness of TB; training Red Cross staff, VNs and others of their role in care and prevention; social and nutritional support to the most vulnerable.

Four regions (Cherkassy, Chernigov, Zhitomir and Kiev) were supported through the first European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) contract. The new ECHO operation started on 1 September 2000 and will be implemented for an eight-month period. This time Kiev City is chosen as the most effective pilot area for continuation of the programme.

Availability of a developed system in Kiev, trained medical and Red Cross personnel as well as the Kiev city's administrative support and commitment to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended Directly Observed Treatment Short (DOTS) programme strategy, all contribute to a solid platform to efficiently continue the programme. The strategy to focus on one pilot area is based on the need to streamline the activities in a controlled setting, where the input from all partners is guaranteed to provide evidence of the effectiveness of the VNS services to the beneficiary group. It is anticipated that the successfully accomplished programme will be replicated in other pilot areas.

The development of partnerships with all stakeholders is crucial to the success of any control programme. At the national level, the Federation and the National Society (NS) already built strong links with the Ministry of Health and seek to contribute to the process of forming a national TB policy. At the local level, the NS works through its network of branches which closely collaborate with the authorities to implement the TB programme through the VNS.

Although, the capacity of the VNS was greatly enhanced in the previous programme phase, there remains a need for continuity of the programme activities to further equip the VNs and MSCs. Training of VN instructors and further training of nurses is also essential in view of preparing the ground for the future planned expansion of TB,

HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention programmes based on international standards which are to be applied nationwide.

Programme constraints include: drug supplies are inadequate and many patients are required to buy their own medicines; TB services are centralized to district and regional dispensaries, which reduces access to care, results in late presentation with extensive disease, and contributes to the high default rate; although there are specific guidelines for treatment, these are frequently not followed; excessive periods of hospitalization; active case finding persists despite severe resource constraints. Although laboratories are well staffed, the laboratory equipment is obsolete, reagents are falling short and culture tubes are often reused. The TB recording and reporting system does not follow internationally recommended standards. Logistics constraints posed by the geographical and transport situation make ambulatory care and outpatient follow-up difficult to track. The primary health care system does not fulfill its role in TB control, such as early detection of TB cases and facilitation of ambulatory treatment. Many patients do not comply with treatment programmes, and are not usually followed-up. .

At the same time, there is a number of positive aspects that could facilitate implementation of the WHO recommended DOTS strategy for treatment of TB in the country and stimulate the international collaboration. Firstly, there is clear commitment to DOTS at all levels and by different health care providers, including the Ministry of Health, academic institutions and the state department of prisons. However, successful implementation of DOTS will require radical changes to the financing of TB control services and to the current policies for diagnosis, treatment and monitoring. Secondly, several donors expressed an interest and commitment to supporting the introduction of DOTS in Ukraine, including USAID, Rotary International and TACIS.

The VNS must further define and develop its complementary role and functions in TB work towards the authorities so that the intended focus of the project is maintained. Red Cross activities related to TB should only be implemented in regions where the authorities assume full responsibility for drug supplies and there is a definite development towards internationally recognized treatment strategy. Development of compulsory basic training of the VNs should continue with a view to strengthen the professional basis and identity of the nurses. Also, efforts to advocate internal reallocation of resources for more effective TB control should be intensified.

Goal(s)

- **Psycho-social assistance** - To alleviate traumatic stress and grief in the areas affected by the consequences of disasters in Donetsk, Zakarpatie and other regions. The overall aim of the project is to reduce stress-related diseases and social devastation.
- **TB/VNS** - The programme aims to improve the health of the population with particular focus being given to the most vulnerable to TB, HIV/AIDS. The ultimate goal of improved health is not achievable exclusively within the confines of the health sector. Social failures also have serious health consequences. Improvements in the broader environment have a major impact on health status and health care costs. While the focus of this project is on TB care and VNS, its long-term implications are much broader and involve the interrelationships between health and such factors as education, behaviour, human rights, social support networks and attitudes about health.

Objectives and Activities planned

Psycho-social assistance

Objective 1 to train trainers/instructors and staff of the Red Cross in providing psycho-social assistance.

This objective will be achieved by:

- organization of four workshops on psycho-social assistance, working out training of trainers programmes as well as of Red Cross staff and volunteers;
- selecting candidates for training as trainers;
- holding workshops for the staff and activists of Red Cross with the help of trained instructors in order to spread the skills among other staff and volunteers involved.

Objective 2 to create four information/counselling centres to provide psycho-social services. The NS aims to create four centres of psychological assistance on the basis of Red Cross medical-social centres. The main directions of activities at the centres are: individual and group psychological support for victims and their families; informing communities on consequences of disasters; training the population on coping with catastrophe in communities; follow up training on psychological support for the trained RC staff and volunteers.

Objective 3: to provide psycho-social support to the affected communities. Assistance will be provided to the communities by the National Society's visiting nurses at both the medical-social centres and at people's homes. During contacts with affected persons, the Red Cross staff will employ active listening techniques and encourage emotional support to clients to express their emotions, share their thoughts, and make decisions.

TB/VNS

Objective 1 to enhance the capacity of the Visiting Nurses Service.

To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- provision of 6,400 VNS kits and 20 MSC equipment sets which will enable improved services to be provided to the population, especially in the rural and remote areas;
- developing training modules, methodologies and manuals (some 9,600 copies) on basic home care and health education in TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention;
- establishing and equipping four regional training centres for the VNS to improve training and make it less expensive, and to facilitate exchanges of inter-regional communications and experiences;
- training will be made available to the VNs in new methodologies of basic home care and health education in TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention through one introductory seminar for heads of VNS and relevant training materials produced;
- cooperating with WHO, TACIS, UNAIDS, UNICEF and those agencies concerned with prevention and treatment of TB/HIV/AIDS and STDs; (6) exploring the possibility of providing the VNS with medical insurance.

Objective 2 to increase awareness of the population regarding the prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs, and to promote human rights and dignity of patients and their families;

To achieve this objective the National Society will:

- conduct community health education in TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention through core groups of trained nurses, youth and volunteers based in 655 Red Cross district branches;
- promote healthy lifestyles and encourage individuals and families to assume more responsibility for their own health;
- distribute 655,000 educational leaflets for the general population and 9,600 leaflets for TB-patients;
- advocate for development of appropriate health policies for TB control (DOTS), for full respect of human rights and for the assurance that TB patients are treated with dignity.

Objective 3 to provide social support to most vulnerable families at risk of developing TB, (those exposed to TB, multi-children families, elderly) and for the members of their families to increase effective treatment and prevention of TB.

This objective will be achieved by:

- establishing criteria and lists of beneficiaries selected from the most vulnerable concerning the risk of developing TB/HIV/AIDS;
- organizing tendering, selection of suppliers and procurement of food parcels and hygiene kits;
- establishing soup kitchens for the provision of hot meals;
- distributing and monitoring 38,400 hot meals, 2,400 food parcels and 2,400 hygiene kits to selected beneficiaries.

Expected results

Psycho-social assistance

Some 28 instructors for further training of Red Cross staff and providing psycho-social assistance to the population will be trained. In addition, some 250 visiting nurses will be trained. The number of volunteers able to train on rendering psychological assistance will increase constantly. By 2002, the NS will be able to provide psychological assistance to people in need in the Donetsk and Zakarpatie regions. Two centres for psychological assistance will be established in 2001 and two in 2002. By the end 2001, more than 6,000 will have been provided psychological assistance. By 2002 about 18,000 persons affected by major disasters will be provided psycho-social support annually.

TB/VNS

The capacity of the VNS will be improved through the intended training, publication of manuals and provision of nursing kits and sets of equipment. Four regional training centres will be established. A total of 14 seminars and two summer training courses will be conducted. The strengthened VNS will provide quality assistance to some 400,000 people by the end of 2002. Logistics and procurement systems of the NS will be further adapted and improved. Reform of the TB sector, and indirectly, the wider reform of the health sector as a whole will be encouraged through advocacy by the Red Cross. Nutritional and hygiene support will be provided to some 4,800 vulnerable by the end of 2002.

Indicators

Psycho-social assistance

Increased capacity of the NS to provide psychological assistance in two regions of Ukraine (Donetsk and Zakarpacie). Increased volume of psycho-social assistance provided. Potential for developing this programme in other regions of Ukraine. Psychological suffering alleviated and knowledge of coping mechanisms increased among inhabitants of two large regions of Ukraine.

TB/VNS

Well trained and equipped network of Visiting Nurses, familiar with new methodologies in nursing care, prevention of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS and psychological support. Increased compliance with TB treatment courses by patients, particularly from socially marginalized groups. Improved hygiene and nutritional situation of the most vulnerable. Improved public awareness of prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS, and STDS. Decreased discrimination and stigmatization of TB and HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Psycho-social assistance

Monitoring will be done by the Federation's delegation in Minsk, the Federation's Reference Centre for Psychological Support in Denmark, donor representatives and the Ukrainian Red Cross. The monitors will assess the project implementation by conducting briefings and surveys of Red Cross staff involved. Meeting with the beneficiaries and local authorities will be organized also. An evaluation will be conducted in 2002. The Federation's Reference Centre for Psychological Support will be invited to participate, as will all involved parties.

TB/VNS

Programme monitoring will be a multi-party exercise, including the Federation's Secretariat, the donor National Society, the Ukrainian Red Cross and the delegation in Kiev. A total of eight monitoring visits are envisaged (one per quarter). Monitoring visits will assess the progress and quality of implementation according to the indicators, action plan, policies and regulations as well as in terms of strengthening the capacity of the NS. Distribution and logistical controls will be carried out jointly by the Federation and the field teams of the NS. The monitoring team will be authorized to control the implementation of the programme at all stages and will have access to all necessary documents.

The following will be used to perform monitoring: assessment of quality and quantity of goods; assessment of vulnerability of the target group; number of beneficiaries; work schedule; administrative and financial documents. Monitoring will also include visits to the homes of beneficiaries and the cross-checking of beneficiary lists. The results of the seminars will be evaluated by testing VNs at the training centres.

Evaluation of the programme will take place in 2002. The Federation will invite all parties concerned to participate in the evaluation and to provide their expertise.

Critical assumptions

Psycho-social assistance

- Funding is available for the programme.
- Trained staff will continue working with the Ukrainian Red Cross on a permanent basis.

TB/VNS

- Programme funding is sufficient and not delayed.
- There is common understanding between all partners of the programme.

- Governmental agencies will consider the Ukrainian Red Cross as their principal independent humanitarian auxiliary.
- Natural and technological disasters in the regions where the programme is implemented do not impede the accomplishment of planned activities.

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4. Humanitarian Values

Belarus

Background and progress to date

Based on the resolutions of the XXVth and XXVIth International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, a dissemination department was established in the Belarusian Red Cross, with considerable support and in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It aims to promote knowledge and understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's principles, historical background, structures and activities of all its components among the main target groups: government circles, universities, schools, medical circles, the mass media, and the general public. Promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values has great impact in changing behaviour in the community, and contributing to building civil society.

Over the past years, a number of training workshops for the representatives of all regional Red Cross organizations were held and many youth volunteers were involved in the activities related to dissemination of humanitarian values and regulations of IHL. In the year 2000, a youth Red Cross camp-seminar *Together – to the New Millennium* was organized with support from the ICRC and the International Federation. Volunteer students discussed the fundamental principles of the Movement, IHL, voluntary service, and the youth Red Cross structure. In May 2000, the National Society (NS) organized a seminar for district and *oblast*-level Red Cross committees and school teachers involved in promoting the Red Cross' programmes. The Belarusian Red Cross continues to run courses for law students acquainting them with the activities of the Movement. A booklet, entitled *The Belarusian Red Cross* with information on the National Society's activities, the fundamental principles and IHL, was published.

The National Society's activities on integration of IHL into the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus were approved and strongly supported by the corresponding ministries and departments. On 12 May, the *Law on Usage and Protection of the Emblem of Red Cross and Red Crescent* was signed by the country's president, registered in the National Legal Acts Register and came into force.

This programme will promote knowledge about the fundamental principles and IHL to various target population groups particularly young people, the military, teachers, government officials, physicians and the media. The Red Cross youth being agents of change both in the civil society (in their communities and families) and in the National Society, is a great target for the capacity building of the Belarusian Red Cross Society. In cooperation with the ICRC, the programme aims to strengthen the capacities of the National Society's document production centre which will centralize printed materials on IHL and the Movement in one location and also provide a place for students to study. It will organize publicity campaigns to promote the Movement and its activities, give advice on the lawful use of the emblems by different organizations, and produce a series of publicity materials focusing on Red Cross/Red Crescent ideals.

Goal to promote awareness and understanding of IHL, the Movement's fundamental principles, activities and its humanitarian values among the public to influence people's behaviour in the community.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to enhance and develop understanding of fundamental importance of humanitarian values internally (within the Belarusian RC) and to train instructors on dissemination activities. To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- organizing a five-day workshop for 40 young volunteers-instructors to spread knowledge of IHL, the Movement's principles, historical background, structures and activities;
- profiling the NS via these information/communication tools as an opportunity to recruit new members;

- promoting volunteer work as an important civic duty throughout the UN International Year of Volunteers (12 December 2000 - 12 December 2001) by organizing volunteer actions complementary to the formal service delivery system;
- holding coordination meetings for 15 representatives of the Belarusian Red Cross' regional organizations on dissemination of humanitarian values;
- organizing a five-day workshop for newly elected chairpersons of the National Society's regional organizations.

Objective 2 to implement a project on *Studying IHL* via the system of secondary school education, providing methodical assistance to teachers involved in this project.

Activities will include:

- organizing a five-day workshop for 40 youth volunteers taking part in the *Studying IHL* project;
- organizing a five-day workshop for 35 teachers of secondary pilot schools included in the project;
- arranging consultations in pilot districts (23 schools throughout the country) with teachers involved in the implementation of the training *Studying IHL* programme.

Objective 3 to provide the public with a wide range of publications and printed materials highlighting humanitarian activities and values of the Movement and its components. To achieve this objective the local Red Cross committee will establish and equip an information centre for producing and centralizing informational and methodological printed, video/audio materials on IHL and Movement issues. Specific activities will include: rental of a location; installation of a computer, fax machine and copy machine; publicizing the existence of this information centre/library; and organizing an apprenticeship in the National Society's information/documentation centre for 25 law students.

Objective 4 to control over usage of the Red Cross emblem as a protective or distinctive sign by different organizations within its competence as set out in the law on usage and protection of the emblem;

Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- organizing a round table for representatives of the parliament of the Republic of Belarus;
- organizing a round table meeting for representatives of various ministries and departments on the issues related to the appropriate use and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems;
- consultations with representatives of the Belarusian Red Cross' regional organizations on corresponding issues.

Objective 5 to strengthen the identity and image of the Belarusian Red Cross Society.

To achieve this objective it is necessary to:

- include dissemination into all community-oriented activities carried out by the NS;
- hold a press-conference on 8 May - World Red Cross Red Crescent Day;
- organize a round table discussion dedicated to this event;
- carry out publicity campaigns within the 8 May celebrations to promote the activities of the Belarusian Red Cross (including essay and best drawing competitions on the respect of humanitarian values in the world, as well as best publication in the press on RC issues);
- produce two video clips on the activities of the National Society, the humanitarian values and the Movement's fundamental principles;
- produce publicity materials including 5,000 wall calendars, 5,000 pocket calendars and 10,000 copies of the National Society's magazine.

Expected results

Volunteers and staff of the Belarusian Red Cross will understand and act on the basis of the fundamental principles in their everyday work with vulnerable people. New volunteers will join the Belarusian Red Cross, with about 250 volunteers a year trained and actively involved in the delivery of services. A training system will be established for new staff members and volunteers on further dissemination of humanitarian values by May 2001.

A new special course to study the norms of IHL, approved by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, will be included in the curriculum of 23 secondary schools. Some 35 teachers-instructors will be trained on the methods of work with the teaching materials on the *Studying IHL* project. The information/documentation centre will be fully operational and opened for all interested, offering about 1,000 titles of books and publications

on IHL, on the Movement and on activities of the Belarusian Red Cross by February 2001. The information/documentation centre will serve about 200 people a year. Some 25 students of law faculties will serve their apprenticeship in the National Society's information/documentation centre in March and July of 2001 and 2002.

The use of the RC emblem in Belarus will be in accordance with the country's *Law on Usage and Protection of the Emblem of Red Cross and Red Crescent*. The NS will adjust its communication programme so that it is based on the promotion of humanitarian values and is focused on advocacy for, and services to, the most vulnerable people in the community. The identity and image of the Belarusian Red Cross will be strengthened among various target groups for dissemination. Local fundraising campaigns will be more successful.

Indicators

Better awareness and understanding of IHL, the Movement's fundamental principles, activities and humanitarian values by staff and volunteers of the Belarusian Red Cross. Increased number of volunteers actively involved in delivery of NS services. Greater awareness of humanitarian values among public and private authorities and members of the communities where the NS works. Stronger support of local authorities to respond better to needs in the community and to disasters. More positive image of the Belarusian Red Cross and fostering of respect for humanitarian values in civil society.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out by the project coordinator (staff member of the Belarusian Red Cross) together with representatives of its regional organizations. Field visits will be undertaken to the regions by the project coordinator and an assistant every two months to verify information from monthly reports submitted and to have discussions and consultations with all parties involved, identifying problems and looking for solutions together. Every three months, the regional Red Cross organizations will prepare reports analyzing the progress on the dissemination activities and indicating figures on: number of new volunteers, number of presentations/press conferences/round tables and other meetings focused on the humanitarian values and IHL.

Evaluation of the programme will be carried out internally and will take place in April-May 2002. The project coordinator and an assistant will undertake a final mission to the regions to establish the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme implementation in relation to its goal and objectives. They will use the information gathered during the monitoring activities and will hold discussions with teachers, schoolchildren, and university students involved in the programme. The results of social polls carried out in the regions will be evaluated too. The project coordinator will create an evaluation report, analyzing reasons for success or failure and will draw lessons for the future.

Critical assumptions

- Chairpersons of regional and town Red Cross organizations are committed to the programme.
- Availability of information and printed materials highlighting and promoting the Movement's humanitarian values.
- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.

Moldova

Background and progress to date

The Red Cross Society of Moldova is undertaking efforts to spread knowledge of the humanitarian values guiding the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with the aim of having greater impact in changing behaviour in the community, and contributing to building civil society. These activities will create understanding for the role of the Red Cross and international humanitarian standards. They also serve as a tool to facilitate humanitarian work and seek for support from public and various state bodies for the benefit of vulnerable people in Moldova.

In December 1999, the *Law on Usage and Protection of the Emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent* came into force in Moldova. The President of the National Society (NS) is taking part in the work of the Moldovan national committee on implementation of international humanitarian law as its vice-president.

In 1999, four training workshops for 860 representatives of the local Red Cross organizations, local authorities and volunteers were held on the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Movement's fundamental principles. Some 2,000 postcards and 5,000 bookmarks for schoolchildren highlighting the RC principles and ideals were produced and distributed in the framework of the anti-TB/HIV/AIDS information and education campaign. In the first half of 2000, the National Society, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), held two seminars promoting IHL and the fundamental principles. During the joint meetings (RCS of Moldova/ICRC/Federation), the mission of the Red Cross, the principles and relevance of humanitarian law were elaborated.

The RCS of Moldova will disseminate knowledge about the Movement's ideals and International Humanitarian Law among its members and the population, as well as maintain a positive Red Cross profile, involving the youth, with the publication of literature about the National Society and its activities. The Red Cross youth, being agents of change both in the civil society (in their communities and families) and in the National Society, is a target for the capacity building efforts of the Red Cross Society of Moldova. Advocacy functions are an important part of, for example, the TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs programme. Protection forms a key element of the Population Movement programme.

Goal to promote knowledge of the International Humanitarian Law and of the Movement's fundamental principles and ideals among various population groups and to facilitate better the humanitarian activities carried out by the Red Cross.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to develop better understanding of humanitarian values and IHL among the NS staff and volunteers and ensure that they apply these principles and values in their work with vulnerable people in the community. To achieve this objective it is necessary to organize four training seminars for the NS staff at all levels and volunteers to spread knowledge of IHL, the Movement's principles, historical background, structures and activities to develop better understanding of fundamental importance of these values and principles as a basis for action. Also, co-ordination meetings will be arranged for the representatives of local RC organizations on dissemination activities.

Objective 2 to spread further the knowledge of the Movement's principles, historical background, structures and activities to various population groups. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- elaborating a comprehensive plan to promote knowledge on the IHL and humanitarian values to the main target groups (government circles, universities, schools, medical circles, the mass media and the general public);
- including dissemination into all programme activities of the NS;
- producing and distributing informational materials focusing on IHL and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ideals and activities;
- establishing good working relations with the mass media and involving them (printed media, TV and radio representatives) actively in the dissemination activities of the NS, promoting tolerance and non-violence in the community;
- organizing information seminars on the Movement for educational institutions;
- organizing and carrying out regular contests and quizzes for university students and schoolchildren and using these activities as an opportunity to recruit new members.

Objective 3 to intensify the cooperation with private and public authorities to ensure understanding and respect of IHL and humanitarian values.

The following activities will be undertaken to achieve this objective:

- arranging meetings with various governmental bodies to raise awareness and develop better understanding of IHL, humanitarian values and the activities of the RCS of Moldova;
- undertaking efforts to urge the appropriate authorities to introduce IHL in the curriculum of secondary schools and other educational institutions;
- informing partner organizations on a regular basis about the humanitarian work of the NS, including dissemination activities.

Objective 4 to strengthen the identity and image of the National Society and the Movement in Moldova.

To achieve this objective, the RCS of Moldova will:

- produce and distribute publicity materials highlighting its activities and its participation in international humanitarian programmes;
- organize two press conferences to contribute to the creation of positive public opinion regarding necessity of preventing and alleviating people's suffering, encouraging respect for other human beings and a willingness to work together to find common solutions to growing humanitarian problems in the local communities;
- recruit new members through profiling of its activities.

Objective 5 to prevent misuse of the emblem as a protective or distinctive sign by different organizations within the authority established by the national *Law on Usage and Protection of the Emblem*. In order to achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- organizing coverage of this issue in the national media through several articles;
- organizing co-ordination meetings with representatives of various ministries and departments on the issues related to the appropriate use and protection of the RC/RC emblems;
- informing partner organizations about operational procedures, drafting of the law on the role of the NS and the need to respect the emblem.

Expected results

RC staff and volunteers will understand and apply the fundamental principles in their day-to-day work with vulnerable people. Target groups will better understand how the Red Cross and Red Crescent works and will have greater knowledge of IHL. About 50 new volunteers a year will be mobilized to join the RCS of Moldova and participate in service delivery to those most in need, starting from January 2001. Information materials will be developed to foster understanding of the fundamental principles and IHL. The NS will be more successful in its efforts to conduct effective and efficient communication programmes focused on advocacy for, and services to, the most vulnerable people in the community. Public and private authorities will understand and value the role of the Movement and will make greater use of the National Society's capacities and facilitate its access to vulnerable people. Strong support of the authorities will enable introduction of a course on IHL in three secondary schools (in Chisinau, Balti and Bender) and Chisinau State University, starting from September 2001. The identity and image of the RCS of Moldova will be strengthened and a more positive attitude will be created among various target groups for dissemination. Profiling the Moldovan RC, via events and activities with youth, will also provide opportunity to recruit new members (about 50 new members a year). The general public will be more aware of the National Society's activities throughout the country. The use of the RC emblem on the territory of Moldova will be exercised in accordance with the *Law on Usage and Protection of the Emblem of Red Cross and Red Crescent*.

Indicators

Knowledge of fundamental principles and humanitarian values applied in the daily work of NS staff and volunteers. Greater awareness of humanitarian values by public and private authorities and the communities where the National Society implements programmes. Stronger support of the local authorities and better co-ordinated actions to respond effectively to humanitarian needs in the community and to disasters. Increased number of volunteers (more than 55 per cent) for the NS. Enhanced image of the RCS of Moldova. Growing support and respect for its work in the provision of services to the most vulnerable and promotion of mutual understanding, dignity, tolerance and non-violence in the community.

Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out by the programme co-ordinator through analysis of reports on dissemination activities of the NS. Field visits will be undertaken to monitor efficiency of programme implementation and to consult with staff and all involved parties.

After 12 months implementation work there will be a joint evaluation conducted by the NS, the Federation and the ICRC.

Critical assumptions

- Sufficient funding is available for the programme.
- The capacity of the NS capacity in terms of staff needs to be improved urgently.
- The unstable political situation in Moldova and the frequent turnover of government could influence proper running of the programme.

Ukraine

Background and progress to date

The dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is carried out by the Ukrainian Red Cross in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs and Defence ministries and with strong support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The programme targets diverse population groups and is comprised of publishing articles and other informational and methodological materials, organizing charity events, conferences, round tables and competitions, and training high school students. The Ukrainian Red Cross Magazine, issued regularly during the past four years, is very popular among the general public, Red Cross workers and activists. Since 1996, 24 regional seminars were organized for 1,200 Red Cross workers and volunteers, local authority representatives, journalists, military men, students, doctors and partners from other non-governmental organizations. A manual on dissemination of knowledge about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Ukraine was issued (1,000 copies), with 50 sets of slides. All major Ukrainian TV companies were familiarized with protection of the emblem.

The Ukrainian Red Cross initiated discussions on setting up a state inter-departmental commission on implementation of IHL to coordinate activities of various state bodies and NGOs operating in this sphere. The National Society (NS) also carries out advocacy functions under the TB/HIV/AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Diseases initiative as well as protection issues under the Population Movement programme.

Over the past years, the national headquarters and regional Red Cross organizations, in close collaboration with mass media, gained valuable experience in forming public opinion on the necessity of providing targeted medical and social support to single elderly people, the disabled, refugees, street children and orphans. The Red Cross youth, being "agents of change" both in the civil society (in their communities and families) and in the National Society, is a great target for the capacity building of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

At the same time, a new stage of the National Society's development demands a new approach to the information service and public relations functions, its modernization on the basis of long-range planning to ensure that the IHL and the Movement's fundamental principles are understood, accepted and respected among the public. Promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values is of great impact in "changing behaviour" in the community, and contributing to building the civil society.

Goal To promote and facilitate the humanitarian work based on IHL and on the fundamental principles and ideals of the Movement by implementing a new information policy of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and creating an up-to-date material and technical information base.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to strengthen the Movement's and especially the Ukrainian Red Cross' identity and image, and to enhance its unity by promoting knowledge and understanding of its principles, historical background, structures and activities. To achieve this objective it is necessary to include dissemination in all community-oriented activities carried out by the NS by providing relevant information on a constant basis to the main target groups (government circles, universities, schools, medical circles, the mass media, and the general public) on: IHL; the fundamental principles together with the Movement's ideals, history and current activities; implementation and necessity of the National Society's programmes (such as providing assistance to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, training of population to provide first aid in case of disaster, Red Cross youth, health and fund raising activities).

Events, such as competitions, will be organized in cooperation with national creative and artistic figures (e.g. journalists, artists, cinematographers, theatre actors) on the best publication in the press about the Red Cross activities as well as the best photo and TV programme. The Ukrainian Red Cross will be profiled through these activities and use them as an opportunity to recruit new members. The Ukrainian Red Cross will also promote the volunteer work as an important civil duty throughout the UN International Year of Volunteers (between 12

December 2000 and 12 December 2001) by organizing volunteer actions complimentary to the formal service delivery system. Partner organizations and all sectors of governmental authorities will be informed about operational procedures, the law on the NS and its status, and the need to respect the emblem.

Objective 2 to strengthen public and corporate information and public relations activities with regard to and within Ukrainian Red Cross operations.

A publishing office will be created for producing:

- information materials (Ukrainian Red Cross magazine, brochures, posters, booklets, leaflets, calendars and bookmarks for schoolchildren), video and radio-clips, video films and 3,000 copies of each quarterly edition of the Ukrainian Red Cross magazine;
- a bulletin with the official reports of the NS, six issues per year (1,000 copies);
- 500 copies of the monthly Red Cross leaflet, *Chervonokhrestny noviny* (Red Cross news);
- from three to five films and five-seven TV and radio clips annually with copies for 27 regional Red Cross organizations.

A computer data base will be created, including information about ongoing activities of the Ukrainian Red Cross and of other components of the Movement, list of the mass media and institutional press centres, Ukrainian Red Cross publications and video materials and programme descriptions. The National Society's web site will be set up. Training will be provided for Red Cross workers at all levels on issues related to information and public relations, as well as on making greater use of modern information technologies, computer and other technical equipment tools. Also, regular exchanges of experience and effective methods of communicating externally will take place.

Objective 3 to develop a better understanding of the fundamental importance of the Movement's humanitarian values within the NS. To achieve this objective it is necessary to conduct training for the Red Cross workers and volunteers to ensure that they understand and act on the basis of the fundamental principles in their work, including the legal and ideological basis of the Movement, decision-making processes and mandates, and programmes and operations. Also, discussions will be organized with *oblast* and district-level management on the National Society's present development in terms of information, medical and social aspects, financial activities and work with youth.

Objective 4 to study and contribute to formation of public opinion regarding necessity of preventing and alleviating people's suffering, encouraging respect for other human beings and a willingness to work together to find common solutions to community problems.

Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- holding topical and training seminars with mass media representatives (including correspondents of information agencies and institutional press centres, journalists of the local printed media, TV and radio stations);
- developing a network of press clubs at the National Society's headquarters level to discuss systematically the current challenges and policies of the Movement with journalists, parliament members, representatives of public authorities, public unions, youth groups, religious leaders, commercial structures, charity funds, scientists and artists;
- applying humanitarian principles and values in the ongoing programmes of the NS and its everyday situations and work with communities and vulnerable groups;
- motivating and training people to work within the Red Cross organizations in their local communities, to assist people in need and find solutions for community-level humanitarian problems.

Objective 5 to reduce discrimination and violence in the community through strengthening external relations and establishing strategic partnerships.

To achieve this objective the Ukrainian Red Cross will:

- continue providing and advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable for improved health and social services for those most in need;
- increase coordination and cooperation with appropriate national bodies for promotion and provision of primary health care, prevention of communicable diseases (especially tuberculosis), HIV/AIDS and other STDs;

- build good working partnerships with relevant humanitarian and development organizations which share a common concern for those most in need, and which recognize the need to work together to achieve common solutions in the initiatives to promote tolerance and nonviolence in the community.

Expected results

The NS will review and adjust its service delivery and communication programme so that they fully represent the application of the fundamental principles, with particular reference to advocacy for, and services to, the most vulnerable people in the community by mid-2001. Some 700 new volunteers will join the Ukrainian Red Cross by the end of 2001 and some 800 new members by the end of 2002 (each of the 25 *oblast*, 655 city and district Red Cross organizations should recruit one to two active volunteers a year). The identity and image of the Movement and the Ukrainian Red Cross, in particular, will be strengthened among various target groups for dissemination. Public authorities will better understand the role of the Movement/Ukrainian Red Cross, value and protect its emblem and will rely on the National Society's capacities and facilitate its access to vulnerable people by the end of 2001.

The NS will have communication and teaching materials which foster understanding of the fundamental principles and IHL. Some 5,000 pieces of these materials will be printed in 2001 and 10,000 in 2002. The Ukrainian Red Cross will be more effective and efficient in its communication (internally and externally) efforts. Red Cross volunteers and staff will understand and act on the basis of the fundamental principles in their day-to-day work. The Ukrainian Red Cross will have made a difference in the way people behave towards each other in conflict resolutions: with mutual respect and dignity. Ukrainian Red Cross initiatives to oppose discrimination (e.g. against asylum seekers, immigrants, people affected by tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and the disabled) will find greater support and understanding among authorities and the general population by mid-2001. The Ukrainian Red Cross will mobilize people and influence decisions through active advocacy and through delivery of its services.

Indicators

Better understanding of public and private authorities and the community in general about the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values. More positive image of the Ukrainian Red Cross and new fundraising opportunities. An increased number of volunteers involved in the National Society's activities throughout the country and greater understanding of their contribution. Improved quality of the information and other materials published by the Ukrainian Red Cross. Stronger communications/advocacy capacity at all levels of the NS. Better coordinated actions with partner organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out by the regional programme coordinator through analyzing regular (three-six months) reports reflecting the efficiency and progress of programme implementation. Field visits will be undertaken to the regions to check what is going on directly from implementing staff and beneficiaries and to arrange consultations with all parties involved.

After 12 months implementation work there will be a joint evaluation undertaken by the NS, the Federation and the ICRC.

Critical assumptions

Due to decline of the economic situation in Ukraine, the National Society's fundraising efforts may not achieve expected results. The programme will therefore rely on external support.

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5. Institutional Development

Belarus

• Establishing a youth section at the Belarusian Red Cross

Background and progress to date

Young people, as agents of change, have a key role to play in the Belarusian Red Cross' delivery of services and in disseminating information, knowledge and know-how among their families and communities. As volunteers they represent the core foundation in the implementation of the International Federation's *Strategy 2010*.

Young people are in an ideal position to identify the needs of the youth within the community and to see the best means of reaching other young people in need. Youth already make up a substantial part of the National Society's membership and volunteer force. Putting the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles into action, young people have participated in relief operations and development programmes run by the National Society.

Unfortunately, overall involvement of volunteers from the younger generations did not occur on any regular basis up to now. At present there is a group of 25 young people at the National Society, who are ready to take initiative and responsibility for developing its youth section further.

Goal to improve the life of vulnerable young people through the active involvement of youth in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects by the Belarusian Red Cross.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to identify the needs of young people in micro-communities such as universities and colleges, and to involve them in finding the solution to their problems; as a consequence, to establish youth organizations in the universities and colleges;

In order to achieve this objective, universities and colleges will be approached and informed of the youth section's activities within the Belarusian Red Cross Youth. Lessons and presentations on the Movement will be organized at schools and universities.

Objective 2 to involve more actively youth volunteers in the design, implementation and evaluation of the National Society's programmes. The following activities will be undertaken to achieve this objective:

- design and production of the manual *Presentation of the Red Cross* in February 2001 based on existing materials available from the Federation and from other NSs;
- holding an essay competition among schoolchildren on the topic "The Movement and Youth" in May 2001 and May 2002;
- increasing the number of youth volunteers by 500 per cent;
- carrying out leadership training for 20 per cent of newly-recruited volunteers to encourage them to present youth members' needs and interests on the local and national levels and to be partners of the Belarusian Red Cross leadership in management and decision-making process.

Objective 3 to increase skills and knowledge of youth. Activities to achieve this objective will include carrying out a number of training sessions to provide youth with skills and knowledge related to current Red Cross programmes, including: tuberculosis control, Visiting Nurses Service, population movement, and disaster preparedness. Existing materials available from the Federation and from other NSs will be used for the training sessions which will also cover youth policy and strategy, leadership, project design and evaluation, and promotion of humanitarian values according to identified local needs;

Objective 4 to promote humanitarian values among schoolchildren in 23 pilot regions defined by the existing agreement with Ministry of Education. To achieve this objective, the Belarusian RC will:

- arrange a council on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Movement issues for Red Cross volunteers and staff members in May 2001;
- hold a workshop, *Dissemination of IHL, Humanitarian Values and the Movement* for 20 volunteers in January 2001;
- arrange lessons and presentations on IHL at schools and universities between February and May 2001.

Objective 5 to promote healthy lifestyles, blood donorship, first aid knowledge and disaster prevention among schoolchildren. To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- organizing a first aid workshop for 40 volunteers in July 2001;
- producing a manual on conducting first aid competitions by April 2001;
- arranging first aid school lessons for children in major cities of Belarus once a week, between October and April 2001 and between October and April 2002;
- holding regional first aid competitions;
- holding presentations on *Blood Donation and Youth* at major universities of Belarus between January and May 2001, and September and December 2002;
- producing leaflets such as *Safe Blood Donation* (in May 2001) and *I am a Blood Donor – Questions and Answers* (December 2001);
- holding meetings for first-time blood donors in March 2001 and March 2002;
- holding a workshop *AIDS and Drug Prevention Among Youth* for 20 volunteers in March 2001;
- producing printed materials related to sexual education and prevention including a leaflet and a calendar by May 2001;
- holding a Youth Red Cross Disco *Together against AIDS* event in December 2001 and December 2002;
- organizing a Red Cross recreation camp for 100 children in June 2002.

Objective 6 to increase the number of beneficiaries receiving services from the youth section of the Belarusian Red Cross Society. Firstly, a workshop will be organized for 15 volunteers to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to work with disadvantaged children in May 2001. Youth will regularly assist orphanages, organizing training sessions and art competitions for mentally and physically challenged children and arranging humanitarian donations to these facilities.

Objective 7 to establish a youth structure at the Belarusian Red Cross by the end of 2002. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- elaborating, in consultation with the Federation's Secretariat, and adopting the youth policy and strategy of the NS;
- making amendments to the National Society's statutes, introducing articles on the youth section for approval at next general assembly of the NS in April 2001;
- designating (by contract) two NS staff members to be responsible for youth RC work;
- organizing a round-table on the pros and cons of the Belarusian Red Cross and youth in February 2001;
- holding an annual forum for youth leaders in May 2001 and May 2002;
- arranging a youth debate club in Minsk;
- purchasing office equipment for the youth department;
- producing youth RC leaflets, logo and emblems;
- designing outfits and symbols to identify youth rescue teams;
- participation in international camps and training sessions to learn from one another and to establish friendly contacts in the spirit of Movement.

Expected results

By May 2001, all educational institutions will be made aware of the opportunity of their students to become volunteers of the Belarusian Red Cross. RC youth organizations will be operating in every major university and college by September 2002. The number of youth volunteers will increase to 200-250, with two to three youth leaders in every region acting as links between youth members and BRCS management on every level of the Movement. Youth will work hand-in-hand with NS leadership in the process of management and decision-making. A system of information and training programmes on humanitarian values, the fundamental principles, ideals and values of the Movement, and leadership will be designed and organized to motivate effective participation of youth in Red Cross programmes for the vulnerable. Volunteers of the NS will provide regular courses to schoolchildren

in every major city on protection of lives and health, first aid, prevention of AIDS and drug abuse and disaster preparedness. Their training activities will cover four to six schools in every *oblast* city. Youth will contribute significantly to alleviating the suffering of people in need (orphans, invalids, other categories) and will deliver services to at least one or two orphanages or other institutions in every major city in Belarus. The youth's well-developed structure will make it a full-scale partner of the Belarusian RC, verified by the society's statutes. It will have enough resources to carry out youth projects on its own.

Indicators

Increased involvement of youth in the design, implementation and evaluation of programme activities of the National Society in Belarus as Red Cross members and volunteers, as partners in management, as workers and as beneficiaries.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

The project coordinator at the Belarusian Red Cross headquarters, together with representatives of regional organizations will monitor and advise the youth. Once every three months, the project coordinator will conduct field visits to observe regional youth Red Cross activities. Regional RC organizations will provide monthly reports to headquarters on activities of the youth sections. Annually, the project coordinator will prepare an evaluation report on these activities.

Critical assumptions

- Lack of professional knowledge of the *rayon*- and town-level Red Cross chairpersons on how to integrate youth activities.
- A weak communication system between the structural subdivisions of the National Society may slow down the programme's implementation.
- High competition from youth-oriented NGOs, involved in similar activities.

Moldova

Background and progress to date

The Red Cross Society of Moldova, as a national relief organization, has among its priorities the strengthening of its capacities and available human resources, facilities, equipment and local fundraising efforts in order to fulfill its mission. In order to better organize and deliver services to the vulnerable, an integrated institutional development (ID) segment must be part of each relief and welfare programme of the National Society (NS). The RCS of Moldova faces many challenges due to difficult social and economic conditions in the country, including: the struggle to cope with the growing number of vulnerable; redefining its place and role in society; and, developing a response capacity.

The new administrative division of the country, completed in June 1999, required a subsequently large internal reorganization of the National Society's structure. Instead of former *rayon*-level RC committees, the NS now has two municipal committees, the Gagauzia Territorial administrative unit, 10 regional (or *judets*) committees and the branches of these committees. Newly elected Red Cross staff and new volunteers need to be trained in project planning, reporting procedures, financial management and management in general for senior managers at the NS.

The International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assisted the National Society in improving its legal base by supporting drafting of a Red Cross Law. The congress of the RCS of Moldova convened in June 2000 and adopted new statutes. An ID delegate from the Federation worked with the NS to promote the organizational reform process.

The RCS of Moldova is not yet a recognized member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is working towards this goal with support from both the Federation and the ICRC.

The loss of many trained volunteers over the last few years made the recruitment of volunteers, especially youth, a high priority in the strategy to improve the human resource capacities of the RCS of Moldova.

The Federation assisted the NS in implementing its relief-related programmes through the delegation in Minsk and the office in Kiev. The winter emergency programmes of 1997-99 helped the National Society staff and volunteers to obtain new skills and knowledge, such as better selection of beneficiaries, distribution of humanitarian aid and more effective reporting procedures. Needed computers and office equipment were procured thanks to financial support received for the winter emergency programmes.

Goal Improving the capacity of the RCS of Moldova to deliver services to the vulnerable, in line with the Federation's 'characteristics of a well-functioning National Society' criteria, with particular focus on training.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to improve the legal base of the NS in Moldova. To achieve this objective the RCS of Moldova needs passage of the Red Cross Law to regulate its relationship and recognize its tasks and responsibilities with the government. The draft was completed with support from the Federation and the ICRC and is being considered by a parliamentary commission which will then submit it to the Parliament.

Objective 2 to complete the structural reorganization of the Red Cross Society of Moldova at all operational levels. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- putting into practice the provisions of the statutes related to the revised structure and territorial subdivisions of the NS;
- setting up regulations and guidelines for well-functioning Red Cross committees and branches which will confirm the basic aspects of their activities;
- elaborating job descriptions for the staff of the National Society's headquarters and branches.

Objective 3 to improve the capacities of the RCS of Moldova through training of newly selected staff and volunteers. To achieve this objective it is necessary to conduct training programmes for the newly established local Red Cross committees and for staff and volunteers. Locally trained management and finance trainers will be selected from the personnel pool of the UN's Development Programme, the US Agency for International Development or from other international organizations working in Moldova. The curricula of training seminars will be created in cooperation with the Red Cross staff at all management levels according to the real needs. Training will cover such issues as project planning and management, reporting procedures, logistics, communications and financial management.

Objective 4 to widen the volunteer base of the National Society and participation of youth in Red Cross programmes. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- reforming the system of attracting volunteers by granting some facilities and privileges for their support and assistance in NS programs and activities;
- increasing the number of NS volunteers to 1,000 persons; (3) creating a database on volunteers.

Objective 5 to reorient activities towards raising own resources. To achieve this objective the NS will:

- carry out training in fundraising;
- apply and diversify the way it collects donations from individuals and enterprises;
- design and initiate new forms of commercial activities;
- organize different types of lotteries, philanthropic auctions and other fundraising events.

Expected results

The cooperation and responsibilities of the government and the RCS of Moldova in the fields of medico-social services, disaster preparedness and population movement will be clearly recognized in the Red Cross Law: This will also help to improve coordination of activities. By the end of 2002, RCS of Moldova will have the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society and be officially recognized by the Movement. The staff and volunteers of the NS will enhance their capacity and capability to serve better the most vulnerable in Moldova. Wider involvement of volunteers in programme implementation. A youth section will be created within the RCS of Moldova at the headquarters and branch levels. The NS will have more diversified and stable financial resources, which will contribute to developing new programmes for the vulnerable. Red Cross programmes will be at least partially funded from fundraising efforts.

Indicators

Recognition of the National Society's roles and responsibilities with passage of the national law on the Red Cross. Increased number of youth volunteers involved in programmes, providing services to a larger number of beneficiaries. Increased number of funding sources. More flexible and self-sustainable NS with increased impact of its programmes on the communities it serves.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this project will be undertaken at the national and local level through field visits. Regular reporting on a quarterly basis will help to observe programme progress. The Minsk delegation will continue to provide technical back-up, general monitoring and coordination of the programme.

Evaluation of this project will be made at the end of 2002. The NS will invite all parties concerned (Federation, donor National Societies, local authorities, volunteers, beneficiaries) to participate in the evaluation and to provide their input.

Critical assumptions

- The National Society's capacity in terms of competent staff and financial resources urgently needs to be improved to enhance delivery of services to the vulnerable.
- Without external support the programme's implementation will not be possible.

Ukraine

Background and progress to date

The Ukrainian Red Cross is the largest non-governmental organization in the country, with a well-developed network of branches. During the last year, the National Society's membership grew by 24.1 per cent. However, the number of the vulnerable is much more, and it will only be possible to help them by mobilizing the public and involving new volunteers in delivery of the Red Cross' programmes.

Changes in the political, economic and legal situation created new tasks for the National Society (NS) which now requires new skills, knowledge and technical know-how.

The revival of the volunteer movement has been gaining more and more momentum all over the world. To attract young volunteers is a challenge for the Ukrainian Red Cross due to strong competition. For example, there are 80 public youth organizations in Ukraine today, while the number of young Red Cross volunteers is falling.

In 1997-99 the Netherlands Red Cross provided considerable support in improving the work of the National Society's finance department. The general financial management structure was updated, special bookkeeping software was purchased and installed, allowing a reporting system to be developed for tracking Red Cross programmes. Several workshops on fundraising, marketing and bookkeeping were conducted in cooperation with the Federation.

Some regional-level Red Cross organizations benefited from training and technical support provided by the Federation. Cooperation with local donors was developed as well.

Goal The strengthening and development of the Ukrainian Red Cross' capacity in responding to the needs of the population and rendering assistance in emergency situations.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to strengthen the capacities of financial and informational services of the Ukrainian Red Cross at all levels. To achieve this objective, the Ukrainian Red Cross will:

- purchase and install computer equipment for financial services;
- create an information computer network to connect the financial department of the headquarters with regional branch finance departments;

- carry out computer training courses, with a focus on bookkeeping software, for all accountants.

Objective 2 to set up a training centre for Ukrainian Red Cross staff. Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- renting and repairing premises at Kiev's Medical Post-Graduate Academy;
- recruiting trainers;
- elaborating the curricula;
- organizing the training process;
- carrying out training for the Ukrainian Red Cross staff;
- introducing in the training centre an attestation of heads of departments of the NS;
- elaborating a programme to establish direct links with foreign and international partners and embassies.

Objective 3 to organize a seminar on enhancing voluntary work and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). To achieve this objective the following activities will be undertaken:

- preparation of methodical recommendations on the volunteers' movement and principles of IHL dissemination during the preliminary period;
- direct exchange of experiences regarding youth actions during the seminar;
- inviting some youth workers from partner National Societies to share their experiences;
- discuss current youth problems and develop new approaches to attract volunteers during the seminar.

Objective 4 to engage Red Cross Youth in support of the National Society's activities.

Activities to achieve this objective will include:

- conducting educational seminars on volunteering for the chairpersons of regional and district Red Cross organizations;
- including leadership components into the training process;
- preparing press releases and materials on various Red Cross issues for newspapers, TV and radio;
- producing advertising video materials;
- producing printed materials (posters, notes, cards, bookmarks, methodical recommendations, newsletters, leaflets, calendars) promoting the Red Cross values and activities;
- promoting humanitarian values through the strengthened network of volunteers.

Expected results

The staff of the National Society's finance department will become more efficient due to their instruction in PC courses and utilization of up-to-date methods of accounting. A standard reporting system will be adopted according to the requirements of the western standards. Information exchanges with the regions will become easier. The information network will make it possible to control funds expenditure and accounting in the field. Quicker reaction from the headquarters to the initiatives of the regional branches. Regular bilateral contacts with the heads of the regional branch organizations will be established.

The Ukrainian Red Cross chief staff skills and knowledge will be improved. The training centre will allowed the NS to continue staff education in the future. The cooperation between departments will be improved. Improved level of professionalism of the heads of regional NS organizations. The NS staff's capabilities in dealing with representatives of foreign and international organizations will be improved.

Due to training received, the regional and district committees will be able to create their youth programmes and conduct them on their own, relying on their highly qualified specialists. The number of NS volunteers will increase at least by 50 per cent. IHL will be disseminated among the population. Targeted information and dissemination activities will be carried out. Cooperation with foreign partners and exchange of experiences with them on volunteers' work will be improved. Relations with mass media will be intensified.

Indicators

Improved quality of financial documentation prepared by properly trained NS finance staff. More professional coordination and implementation of humanitarian programmes. Development of management skills and abilities to level of international requirements. Growing number of Red Cross volunteers. Increased public awareness of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles and IHL. An increased amount of successful youth programmes on the regional and district levels. Information materials available and covering main activities of the NS. Increased cooperation with mass media and youth organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

An analysis of financial and narrative documentation will be presented monthly. Monitoring trips will be undertaken by headquarters' staff to the local branches for inspection of programme implementation. Professional testing will be provided at the training centre. Monitoring will take place of the professional execution of day-to-day operations, the specifics and details. An analysis of the IHL seminars and classes will be done. Monitoring of the implementation of youth programmes on the regional and district levels. An analysis will be undertaken of cooperation achieved with mass media and the means used by the NS to disseminate information to the general population.

Based on financial and narrative documentation, the effectiveness of the programme's implementation will be assessed, weak points revealed and corrected at the headquarters level of the Ukrainian Red Cross. The assessment will be carried out by responsible persons at the regional and headquarters levels.

Critical assumptions

The major threat to the implementation of the project is inflation which can cause a drop in value of funds lodged. In this case it will be impossible to finish the project because of the lack of funds.

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6. Regional Co-operation (Kiev Conference)

Ukraine

Background and progress to date

The 15 National Societies of the NIS (Newly Independent States) and the Baltics - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russian Federation, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan - in close cooperation with the International Federation's Secretariat are preparing for a regional conference in Kiev in June 2001. This conference follows the Almaty conference (in December 1996) which contributed to the shaping of activities in population movement, disaster preparedness, visiting nurses service (VNS) and capacity building. It also deals with recommendations of the regional Conference in Copenhagen, held in 1997.

The 15 NSs are also inviting more than 20 sister Societies from western and eastern European countries (as well as the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies) as observers. The Federation's heads of delegations from this region and selected colleagues from the Secretariat will also attend.

During the Conference, the Almaty process will be analyzed in close connection with the aims of the Copenhagen Declaration (1997), as well as the General Assembly and the 27th International Conference in Geneva. Essentials for elaborating prospects for the NIS countries are the plan of action, the *Strategy 2010* and the pledges made by governments and National Societies, as well as the country assistance strategies of the 15 National Societies concerned. This framework will then have to look outward to the next regional European Conference in Berlin in May 2002.

Goal to help the National Societies of the region obtain the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society, to find a common platform for the years to come and give competent orientation for Red Cross programmes.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to analyze the progress made, current position and future projection on key areas of the Almaty Declaration, namely: reform, disaster preparedness, population movement and the VNS;

Objective 2 to discuss the legal base and the progress made in obtaining passage of Red Cross laws, agreements with governments, etc., as this leads to the issue of sustainability and self-reliance;

Objective 3 to discuss partnership and integration processes with international Red Cross standards.

The 15 National Societies formed a coordination committee (members include the NSs of Belarus, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Latvia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the head of delegation in Minsk and the head of office in Kiev), which began its preparatory work (invitations to presentations, preparing material, elaborating the agenda, etc.).

The Ukrainian Red Cross sent out a questionnaire to the 15 NSs as a follow-up to Almaty, the results of which are being analyzed and readied for presentation in Kiev.

During the conference, there will be plenary discussions and working group sessions. It is planned to form a monitoring committee which will follow up further developments related to the discussions and resolutions after the conference.

Expected results

The strategic directions for achieving self-sustainability of the National Societies of the region will be elaborated and agreed upon. The reform process will be evaluated and guidelines for the future development will be elaborated. A declaration adopted by the conference will serve as a tool for action comparing the development of the 15 National Societies and their policies with the outcome of the discussions in Kiev.

Indicators

Well functioning National Societies in the region, with a common platform for future programme activities. Also, the provisions of the Kiev Declaration will be used as indicators comparing the further development of the 15 National Societies and their policies with the outcome of the discussions in Kiev.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

A monitoring committee will follow up the implementation of the decisions taken by the NSs participating in the conference.

Critical assumptions

- Funds must be raised in order to conduct the conference.
- Changes in the internal situation of some NIS countries may hamper their participation in the conference.
- The differences between the legal bases of National Societies and their obligations within existing bilateral agreements with donor NSs should be taken into account when drafting/discussing provisions of the Kiev Declaration.

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7. Co-ordination and Management Minsk Delegation

Belarus

Background and progress to date

Minsk Country Delegation was established in April 1996, when the Delegation moved from Kiev where it had been functioning since 1991. Minsk Delegation assists three national societies (NS) in the region, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross, in planning and implementing programmes. This included also the Chernobyl Humanitarian assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP), where the composition of the National Societies differs (Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine). There is a Representative Office in Kiev in Ukraine and a Liaison Office in Chisinau in Moldova.

In accordance with the general aims of the National Societies and based on the Country Assistance Strategies for Belarusian, Moldovan and Ukrainian Red Crosses, the core activities in the field of Disaster Response / Disaster Preparedness, health and social work and the CHARP Programme will continue. Attention is also given to Institutional Development and promotion of humanitarian values.

The Delegation has facilitated the creation of Red Cross Law for the Republic of Belarus. The law was adopted by the parliament in October 2000 as the first national Red Cross Law in all 15 CIS countries. During last two years the three National Societies are trained to follow the tendering and reporting procedures of Federation and donors.

The three NS are hesitant to start their change process to separate governance and management. Lack of income generating base in the three NS, and as a result continued dependency on external funding.

Goal The main goal of the Delegation is, as a part of the Secretariat, to co-ordinate and direct activities of the NS in the region. The Delegation aims to build more efficient National Societies that have increased capability and capacity to independently design, manage and implement more focused and responsive programs based on internal or external funding.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 to promote and represent the International Federation in the region. Activities will include: participation in meetings with international organisations and authorities of the three countries; advocacy of Federation initiatives, e.g. TB.

Objective 2 to ensure the effective management of the Delegation. To achieve this objective the Belarus RC/Minsk Delegation will hold weekly Delegation meetings and strategic regional meeting on a quarterly basis; establish a plan of action for all programmes and conduct monthly reviews, including financial matters; ensure that systems and procedures are in place for the efficient running of the Delegation; and utilise all training possibilities for national staff.

Objective 3 to provide competent support and assistance to the management of the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine National Societies, especially with regard to the strategic directions of the Strategy 2010. This objective will be achieved by holding meetings with the leadership of National Societies and quarterly Delegation/NS senior management meetings; provision of technical input to the NS programs; and ensuring delegates suitability and competence.

Objective 4 to ensure proper co-ordination of PNS and other donor support to the three National Societies in the region. Activities will include: support to NS in the region in the preparation of Development Plan and individual

program proposals and budgets; ensuring information flow concerning funding requirements of the different partners and donors; ensuring proper information to potential partners and donors on the strategic priorities of the NS in the region; ensuring the accurate and timely information flow between the different donors and partners on activities supported by them.

Objective 5 to provide better financial and budget management support to the National Societies in the region. Activities will include: support to NS in the region in their regular reporting on program activities and expenditure; support in procedures connected to the development of budgets and budget control; providing guidance and training in budget and financial procedures to the NS staff including senior management.

Expected results

The image of the Federation among the NS, international organisations and authorities in the region will have been heightened. Well functioning Delegation with competent delegates and national staff able to provide the needed support to the three NS of the region will have been established. Senior management of the NSs in the region will have acknowledged the Delegation's role as technical adviser and co-ordinator, able to support the NS in positioning themselves as an effective organisation in designing and carrying out focused programs following the strategic directions of the Strategy 2010. NSs in the region will have been fully informed about the requirements and ways of working with different partners and donors. Partners will have been aware of the NS capacities. NSs in the region will have been able to plan, budget and implement programs following proper financial procedures.

Indicators

- Increased number of contacts with other NGOs, UN agencies, governmental organisations, like Ministries and Embassies.
- Better visibility in local media.
- Daily updated finance situation of the programmes.
- Delegation systems in place including monthly and quarterly working plans.
- Improved quality of programme proposals, budgets and reports.
- Increased understanding of Federation Policies.
- Increased independency of NS to design programs and budgets.
- Framework of assistance agreed and understood by the NS in the region.
- Increased donor response.
- Design of new programmes.
- Regular narrative and financial reports submitted timely to donors.
- Increased transparency to the donors and local public.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Each programme and project will have inbuilt evaluation and assessment procedure. Upon request, all donors will have access all written programme reports produced by the Delegation. All monthly, quarterly and annual reports are available for the donors. In some cases also Delegate's field trip reports including beneficiary interviews will be produced. When needed, also external evaluations will be arranged and donors and other partners are invited to participate.

Programme evaluation will have always a high priority in the agenda of meetings between the Delegation and NS management.

Critical assumptions

- The dimension and composition of the Delegation will depend on the number and magnitude of the programmes. Therefore the number of delegates and national staff in Minsk, Kiev and Chisinau can be decided later.
- The Federation has signed the Status Agreements with the Governments of Belarus and Ukraine. The process in Moldova has been started as well.
- The Republic of Belarus has adopted the national Red Cross Law. Also the Republic of Moldova may soon adopt the national Red Cross Law.

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DELEGATION: BELARUS						
PROGRAMME	Disaster response	DP	Health & services	Human. values	Coord. & mgt	TOTAL
Shelter & construction	7,500	0	0	0	0	7,500
Clothing & textiles	1,750	17,500	0	0	0	19,250
Food & seeds	753,365	0	125,106	8,400	0	886,871
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	15,808	0	531,290	10,824	0	557,922
Teaching materials	2,000	16,395	52,998	15,160	0	86,553
Utensils & tools	6,560	24,600	0	0	0	31,160
Other relief supplies	35,000	0	29,700	0	0	64,700
Sub total supplies	821,983	58,495	739,094	34,384	0	1,653,956
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	3,300	2,788	5,209	4,920	1,500	17,717
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital expenses	3,000	984	6,384	1,148	2,000	13,516
Sub total capital	6,300	3,772	11,593	6,068	3,500	31,233
Programme management	75,316	8,222	113,304	16,844	28,736	242,421
Technical services	22,546	2,461	33,917	5,042	8,602	72,568
Professional services	25,003	2,729	37,614	5,592	9,539	80,477
Sub total programme support	122,865	13,412	184,835	27,478	46,877	395,467
Transport & storage	45,000	13,776	97,116	200	9,120	165,212
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	0	0	94,200	0	112,200	206,400
Personnel (local staff)	74,965	6,396	437,567	57,669	138,318	714,915
Sub total personnel	74,965	6,396	531,767	57,669	250,518	921,315
Travel & related expenses	0	0	48,391	4,182	19,200	71,773
Information expenses	13,280	0	9,027	82,992	9,000	114,299
Expert fees	0	0	19,000	0	16,320	35,320
Admin. - general expenses	22,560	3,116	37,496	6,322	69,620	139,114
Training workshops / seminars	10,000	22,960	2,000	30,504	2,000	67,464
Sub total travel, training, general exp.	45,840	26,076	115,914	124,000	116,140	427,970
Total budget	1,116,952	121,927	1,680,319	249,799	426,155	3,595,152

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DELEGATION: MOLDOVA							
PROGRAMME	Disaster response	DP	Health & services	Human values	IDRD	Coord. & mgt	TOTAL
Shelter & construction	0	12,500	825	0	0	0	13,325
Clothing & textiles	75,000	14,875	0	0	0	0	89,875
Food & seeds	478,000	0	252,020	0	0	0	730,020
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	1,967	50,229	0	0	0	52,196
Teaching materials	25,018	1,066	1,500	1,869	0	0	29,453
Utensils & tools	0	13,935	0	0	0	0	13,935
Other relief supplies	150,000	6,560	57,400	0	0	0	213,960
Sub total supplies	728,018	50,903	361,974	1,869	0	0	1,142,763
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	9,951	0	0	0	9,951
Computers & telecom	0	0	5,895	0	0	0	5,895
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital expenses	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
Sub total capital	0	0	18,346	0	0	0	18,346
Programme management	59,476	5,646	38,065	2,635	2,354	2,043	110,218
Technical services	17,804	1,690	11,395	789	705	611	32,994
Professional services	19,744	1,874	12,637	875	781	678	36,590
Sub total programme support	97,024	9,210	62,096	4,299	3,840	3,332	179,802
Transport & storage	12,483	2,664	13,477	2,220	0	3,200	34,044
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	0	0	0	0	0	3,600	3,600
Personnel (local staff)	29,266	3,867	91,341	9,515	6,445	6,600	147,033
Sub total personnel	29,266	3,867	91,341	9,515	6,445	10,200	150,633
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information expenses	3,484	0	2,510	4,383	0	0	10,377
Expert fees	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Admin. - general expenses	3,955	620	5,568	403	492	13,560	24,598
Training workshops / seminars	7,810	16,466	8,198	16,392	24,132	0	72,998
Sub total travel, training, general exp.	15,249	17,086	17,276	21,178	24,624	13,560	108,973
Total budget	882,040	83,730	564,509	39,081	34,909	30,292	1,634,561

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DELEGATION: UKRAINE								
PROGRAMME	Disaster response	DP	Health & services	Human values	IDRD	Coord. & mgt	Regional coop.	TOTAL
Shelter & construction	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000
Clothing & textiles	2,000	13,200	0	0	0	0	0	15,200
Food & seeds	1,502,784	1,000	492,000	0	0	0	0	1,995,784
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	11,600	38,430	1,042,000	0	0	0	0	1,092,030
Teaching materials	1,000	35,000	159,907	0	0	0	0	195,907
Utensils & tools	8,005	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,005
Other relief supplies	40,380	4,000	60,000	0	0	0	0	104,380
Sub total supplies	1,590,769	91,630	1,753,907	0	0	0	0	3,436,306
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	5,200	1,980	0	0	50,728	0	0	57,908
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital expenses	12,630	4,000	8,000	0	4,616	0	0	29,246
Sub total capital	17,830	5,980	8,000	0	55,344	0	0	87,154
Programme management	148,819	11,945	146,289	2,962	14,709	14,324	13,576	352,624
Technical services	44,549	3,576	43,791	887	4,403	4,288	4,064	105,557
Professional services	49,404	3,965	48,564	983	4,883	4,755	4,507	117,062
Sub total programme support	242,771	19,486	238,644	4,833	23,995	23,367	22,148	575,243
Transport & storage	142,450	6,450	32,200	2,500	5,100	12,300	0	201,000
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	0	0	0	0	0	50,860	0	50,860
Personnel (local staff)	118,370	53,600	96,440	27,600	103,362	79,500	65,000	543,872
Sub total personnel	118,370	53,600	96,440	27,600	103,362	130,360	65,000	594,732
Travel & related expenses	1,325	0	0	0	0	3,260	67,158	71,743
Information expenses	67,250	0	40,297	9,000	26,775	640	30,254	174,216
Expert fees	3,000	0	0	0	1,200	800	0	5,000
Admin. - general expenses	23,245	0	0	0	2,360	41,700	16,782	84,087
Training workshops / seminars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total travel, training, general exp.	94,820	0	40,297	9,000	30,335	46,400	114,194	335,046
Total budget	2,207,010	177,146	2,169,488	43,933	218,135	212,427	201,342	5,229,480