

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***BELARUS, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE***

18 July 2001

*Appeal No. 01.61/2001*

*Appeal Target: CHF 10,459,193*

*Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January - 31 May 2001*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 22.9%*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 8,059,534*

*Update: Economic and social conditions in the three countries continue to be difficult but efforts were made to improve the effectiveness of assistance as well as to maintain the institutional development of the national societies. One of the outstanding successes from the region has been the Visiting Nurse Service, which has proved to be a well functioning and sustainable structure. However, a lack of donor response has meant programme adjustments have had to be made.*

### ***Operational Developments:***

#### *Belarus*

On 12 March, the Belarusian president signed a decree declaring that all foreign aid must be registered with the presidential Humanitarian Activity Department (HAD). The ruling also said that aid must be declared to customs if cash is carried across the border and that all money must be kept in bank accounts. Belarusian-based foreign and international groups and agencies that violate regulations would be temporarily banned and that foreigners working for these organizations deported. The rules do not apply to funds brought in from Customs Alliance member states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. The decree permits the use of foreign aid for emergency relief, scientific research, assistance in protecting historical and cultural valuables, and medical and social assistance. The HAD needs to approve the use of foreign money for any other purposes and any misuse will lead to penalties, including aid confiscation.

#### *Ukraine*

Ukraine's mines continue to be among the world's most dangerous. They lack sufficient funding and safety rules and about 90 miners have been killed this year. Last year, there were 318 deaths, up from 297 in 1999.

#### *Moldova*

The last sitting of the governmental commission on the distribution of humanitarian assistance has concentrated on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Since the beginning of the year, Moldova received more than USD 20 million in aid. However, according to the commission, distribution of funds to the regions has been inefficient. Another problem has been the delivery of unclean second-hand clothes that caused an increased number of cases of skin diseases. To improve the overall situation, the commission said that all humanitarian assistance should be distributed by only one institution, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

## ***Disaster Response***

### ***Emergency Relief***

#### *Belarus*

Some 2,700 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries (including 422 refugees) in Grodno and Vitebsk *oblasts* were given 5,416 food parcels in two rounds through Swiss Red Cross support. From the same donation, 3,330 lonely elderly received hot meals. The operation finished in May.

The Swedish Red Cross intends to supply 300 tons of second-hand clothes to the three countries. According to the request from the local national societies, the clothes will be distributed in July by local Red Cross branches: 150 tonnes in Ukraine; 100 in Belarus; and 50 in Moldova.

#### *Ukraine*

The Ukrainian Red Cross helped support the victims of a mining accident which killed 10 and injured 35 people in Makeyevka, Donetsk *oblast*, on 5 May by providing emergency food and medicinal relief.

On 9 March, the Federation's Emergency Appeal was launched in reaction to the serious floods in Central Europe in early March. The Federation released CHF 50,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society is now procuring 6,200 hygiene parcels (washing powder, soap, shampoo, disinfectants, toothbrushes and paste) and 3,000 well disinfecting cartridges. Support to the appeal has allowed procurement to begin, and 25 tonnes of clothes and shoes from the Danish Red Cross were distributed. The Swiss Red Cross provided 2,000 sleeping bags, 9,500 blankets, clothes and hygiene items which are being transported to target areas.

An application for EUR 200,000 was submitted to the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) on 20 April, mainly to fund the restocking of disaster preparedness items such as blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, tents and bed linen. The URCS has received credit from local authorities partly because of the speed with which it disbursed disaster preparedness stocks collected after the 1998 floods.

More details are available from the separate reports on the '*Hungary, Romania, Ukraine: Floods*' appeal (No. 13/01).

#### *Moldova*

In 2001, the Moldovan Red Cross continued emergency assistance to people still suffering in the wake of the ice storm in northern Moldova, at the end of last year. The national society distributed 1,000 food parcels, 2,000 bed linen sets and blankets, and 826 pairs of winter shoes to 3,862 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries. USD 35,454 released by the Federation from its DREF enabled the Moldovan Red Cross to provide this support.

Thanks to a Swiss Government donation, some 1,030 of the most affected received 30,900 hot meals over four months. The same donation provided another 3,750 victims of the ice storm with 2,000 food parcels and 1,750 pairs of winter footwear.

Some 630 food and the same number of hygiene parcels were bought with a Canadian Government donation and distributed to 1,260 people, including the lonely, elderly, large families and bedridden patients.

## ***Population Movement***

Belarus

The Belarusian Red Cross, together with the Federation and UNHCR, continued to support the most vulnerable refugees and explored the possibility of settling them. On 12 February, a Cooperation Agreement on Population Movement - valid until 31 December 2001 - was signed between the Belarusian Red Cross and the Federation's delegation in Minsk on population movement.

A project of health rehabilitation for refugees in Pinsk Charity House (Brest *oblast*) provided medical assistance to five refugees from Afghanistan. In total, 374 refugees received second-hand clothes donated by the Finish Red Cross. Four hundred soft toys were supplied by the Swiss Red Cross and distributed among 145 refugee children.

In February, 48 Afghan women living in Minsk and Gomel began their first semester of Russian language studies; thirty Afghan women are also enrolled in additional basic computer courses. Seventy-two refugees in Minsk received dental assistance. Both projects are funded by UNHCR.

Ukraine

The worsening economic and social situation has badly affected the most vulnerable, including refugees and asylum seekers. In response, the Ukrainian Red Cross continues to provide emergency assistance through the implementation of a population movement programme.

The Red Cross mobile technical teams (MTTs) programme aims to provide assistance to people in the Crimea region who had been deported. The programme included roof and floor repairs, restoration of furnaces and cutting firewood for heating. During the first four months of the year 1,000 beneficiaries were assisted by the three MTTs. Since November 1999, more than 5,000 have been helped. However, the programme has been suspended since May until additional funding is available.

Between January and April, 1,600 food parcels were distributed under the food assistance for refugees and asylum seekers programme in Kiev to lonely, elderly, and disabled people, as well as large families.

Since January, 770 illegal migrants in detention centres in Chop, Lvov and Mukachevo were given elementary hygiene items, medicines and blankets. The social centre for refugees in the city of Odessa was repaired and equipped to become operational. The Odessa Regional Red Cross organization is procuring other equipment, including machinery for the knitting/sewing courses. Preliminary classes on language and PC courses, each for 12 participants, were conducted. Staff recruitment for project implementation as well as a semi-annual curriculum for the teachers have been completed.

Moldova

Dissemination of knowledge to national society branches on how to respond to displacement emergencies remains a main objectives for the Moldovan RC. No specific activities were carried out.

Assistance to victims of the enduring Chernobyl disaster in Belarus and Ukraine was also a priority for international support covered by a separate rehabilitation programme (*see 'Chernobyl: Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia', Appeal No. 01.60/2001.*)

**Disaster Preparedness**Belarus

During the Month of the Red Cross from 8 May to 8 June under the motto "Well-timed aid staves off misadventure", the national society organized a series of events:

- fifty-two "youth rescuers" took part in regional and national competitions on disaster preparedness;
- sixty-four "youth traffic inspectors" participated in a countrywide competition to prevent road casualties; and,
- a roundtable discussion took place with the Ministries of Health and Internal Affairs on joint actions to reduce everyday injuries.

In accordance with an agreement between the Belarus Red Cross and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a plan to train 16 state motor vehicle inspectors in first aid was made.

### Ukraine

The national society has set up warehouse stocks of relief items in *oblasts* all over the country. Two joint meetings between the president of the Ukrainian Red Cross and the government commission on emergencies and industrial and environmental safety were held to discuss cooperation during emergencies.

### Moldova

No specific activities were carried out.

## **Humanitarian Values**

### Belarus

To promote awareness and understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, humanitarian values and activities, the following activities were undertaken:

- a five-day workshop for 40 youth volunteers-instructors to spread knowledge of IHL, the Movement's fundamental principles, historical background, structures and activities;
- a five-day workshop for 40 youth volunteers taking part in the *Studying IHL* project;
- a series of consultations in 23 schools throughout the country with teachers involved in the implementation of training in the *Studying IHL* programme;
- equipping the information centre to produce materials on IHL and Movement issues;
- organization of 25 law student apprenticeships in the information centre;
- regular consultations with representatives of the Belarus Red Cross regional branches to control use of the Red Cross emblem as a protective or distinctive sign;
- a press conference and roundtable discussion dedicated to the World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day;
- a drawing competition in respect of humanitarian values;
- a competition on best press coverage of Red Cross issues; and
- publication of 5,000 Belarus Red Cross wall calendars.

The Month of the Red Cross is aimed at the dissemination of the ideas of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent and at drawing public attention to the programmes of the national society. The terms, order and conditions of the Month of the Red Cross are established by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

### Ukraine

Between January and April, five presentations on IHL and the fundamental principles were set up for 115 Red Cross staff and 100 representatives of the national society's partner organizations.

### Moldova

The national society was unable to carry out the programme because of a lack of an income generating base in the Moldovan Red Cross, as well as continued dependency on external funding.

## **Health and Care**

### Belarus

The TB/Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) programme is ongoing in three pilot areas: Gomel and Mogilev regions and Minsk city. A total of 117 visiting nurses (VNs) ensured direct observation of treatment to an average of 1,101 TB-patients per month. The nurses provided TB services during home visits and at drug distribution points. A total of 16 drug distribution points functioned at clinics and 22 at Red Cross medico-social centres (10 in Gomel *oblast*, 10 in Mogilev *oblast*, and two in Minsk City). These 22 medico-social centres (MSCs) covered 277 TB patients out of the total beneficiary group.

Since the beginning of the year, under ECHO funds, the following occurred:

- 2,200 food parcels procured locally and distributed in the three target regions;
- 5,182 hot meals distributed through four soup kitchens set up for 50 TB patients in Gomel, Mogilev, Minsk and Bobruisk. Simultaneously, 955 albumen kits were procured and distributed in Gomel;
- 1,150 hygiene kits procured locally and distributed in Gomel, Mogilev Oblast, and Minsk City;
- 200 enhanced medical kits for VNs procured internationally and distributed to Red Cross branches throughout Belarus;
- 1,200 kg of detergent distributed to all 117 MSCs in the country;
- monthly travel allowance support for all visiting nurses involved in the TB programme;
- 20 visiting nurses (out of 120 trained in basic home care last year) completed the VN instructor course; and,
- a training of trainers workshop for youth RC volunteers on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Ten binocular microscopes and 10 sets of stains were procured in Russia and distributed to TB institutions in Belarus to support health institutions with diagnostic facilities.

In November 2000, the Swiss Red Cross allocated funds to provide monthly top-ups to the Belarus Red Cross VNs salaries as well as to supply medical kits to the MSCs.

With support from the Swiss Red Cross, 419 visiting nurses benefited from the salary top-ups during the first two months of the year. During the reporting period, 49 out of 117 medical kits (syringes and dressing materials) procured last year were supplied to the MSCs in Gomel and Mogilyov *oblasts*.

To complement this co-funded programme, the Danish Red Cross contribution allowed the following:

- co-financing of the publication of home care manuals;
- completion of repair works at three MSCs in Gomel and Minsk;
- provision of furniture and equipment for the MSC in Krichev (*Mogilyov oblast*);
- completion of repair works and equipping of the Red Cross training and methodological centre in Minsk;
- dubbing into Russian of an educational film on nursing care (part of the American Red Cross' methodology);
- provision of eight portable overhead projectors for trained VN instructors;
- provision of training aids and expendable materials for trained VN instructors to run the Basic Home Care training course (according to the Russian-American methodology); and
- provision of a one-month travel allowance and salary top-up of VNs involved in the TB programme.

Information and education campaigns on TB, HIV/AIDS prevention and control continued through the mass media. Over the past five months, more than 50 items were published in newspapers and aired on radio. Additionally, 20,000 calendars, 10,000 leaflets and 10,000 brochures were distributed by the national society, in cooperation with the Federation. A total of 1,000 home care manuals for VNs were published, and 100 VN instructor manuals were donated by the Russian Red Cross. The campaign reached approximately 1.5 million people.

### ***Constraints and steps taken***

Long-term funding still needs to be ensured and all long-term health care programmes implemented by the VNS require continuity. International procurement of 200 nursing kits took longer than planned.

A poor food market, inflation and an unstable Euro made in-country procurements troublesome. Although the above difficulties have been overcome, market supply for future local procurements remains difficult.

Knowledge of the procurement procedures in the Belarusian Red Cross has been insufficient. Logistics expertise was strengthened through the regional logistics workshop in Moscow in January 2001, organized by the Federation's Secretariat.

There was a lack of Belarusian publishers able to print high-quality home care manuals at a reasonable price. High printing costs were compounded by the limited number of copies and absence of the electronic version of the Russian manual. This has been resolved through attracting additional money.

The national society encountered difficulties when setting up soup kitchens at public canteens because of excessive sanitary requirements and stigmatization of TB patients. Based on experiences during the contract period, a financing request to ECHO for the next six months provides for setting up soup kitchens in Minsk and Bobruisk. Distribution of hot meals in Gomel and Mogilev will not continue.

### Ukraine

In 2001, the Ukrainian Red Cross continued the implementation of the ECHO-funded TB/VNS programme composed of two basic elements: providing psycho-social and relief support to TB, HIV/AIDS patients ensuring the compliance of Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) strategy; and secondly, strengthening the capacity of VNS through methodological training and provision of standard equipment complemented by organizing a nationwide public awareness campaign. A total of 157 visiting nurses in 14 Kiev City RC organizations were involved in the programme, which finished in April 2001.

During the reporting period the following were carried out:

- 1,800 food parcels distributed to TB patients by visiting nurses through home visits in Kiev;
- between January and March, six soup kitchens provided 40,000 hot meals for 600 TB patients receiving DOTS in Kiev;
- two workshops trained 40 VNs in basic home care;
- 38 VNs (out of 84 trained in 2000-2001) completed the VN instructor course;
- 3,300 manuals for VNs published;
- 1,100 home care manuals for VN instructors published; and
- 32 new MSCs and rooms opened.

Over the five months, a total of 141,000 beneficiaries were assisted by Ukrainian Red Cross' visiting nurses.

### Moldova

The Moldovan Red Cross has 61 VNs at 14 MSCs. ECHO financial support made it possible for 37 of them to be involved in the TB/VNS programme. Implementation of its relief and social (in Edinet and Balti districts) and VN training components (in Chisinau) finished on 30 April 2001.

Within the programme, in 2001:

- 7,500 food and 6,250 hygiene parcels were procured locally and distributed to 1,250 non-TB affected beneficiary families;
- the number of Red Cross VNs increased 21 per cent;
- two workshops trained 37 VNs in basic home care;
- eight nurses were trained as VN instructors;
- several items were published in newspapers and aired on radio and TV; and
- a series of briefings was organized for media representatives.

### ***Constraints and steps taken***

Prices of food and hygiene products rose considerably compared with budget estimates. As a result, the allocated sum was insufficient to procure the initial quantity of relief items. The contents of food parcels were reduced in order to reach the target number of beneficiaries.

The selection of the targeted 1,250 most vulnerable families was difficult because of a high general level of vulnerability. Although the beneficiaries were reached, it was a big challenge for all staff involved, both the Federation and the national society.

## ***Institutional and Resource Development***

### Belarus

On 1 April, the first constitutive meeting of the Youth Red Cross, with participation of the national headquarters and representatives of primary organizations, took place in Minsk. The decision was taken to establish the Belarus Youth Red Cross and introduce appropriate amendments to the statutes.

On 17 April, the XVIII Congress of the Belarus Red Cross was held. The president made a report on the society's activities from 1996 to 2001. New statutes were approved, though they have not yet been shared with the Joint Commission. The main changes are: a clear separation between governance and management; introduction of the position of executive director; and establishment of the legal base for the Youth Red Cross. In consultation with the Federation, Youth Red Cross policy was reshaped.

Since the beginning of the year, the following occurred within the Youth Red Cross programme:

- an essay competition among schoolchildren on the topic “Movement and Youth” in May;
- a first aid workshop for 40 volunteers;
- a series of lectures on the Youth Red Cross programme and activities for university and college students in Belarus’ four major cities; and
- a two-fold increase in the number of Belarus Red Cross volunteers this year to more than 1,000.

### Ukraine

A new draft of the Ukrainian Red Cross' statutes was submitted to the Joint Commission. On 30 March, comments and recommendations were received from Geneva. On 4 April, the Congress of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society was held in Kiev. The Congress considered the recommendations and revised the draft statutes. This new version of the statutes introducing governance and management structure was adopted. The Congress empowered the board, in case of further remarks from the Joint Commission, to make changes to the statutes accordingly.

### Moldova

On 11 May, the law of the Republic of Moldova on the Moldovan Red Cross was adopted by the national parliament and came into force.

The overall strategy of the Moldovan Red Cross' development was consolidated and strengthened through the implementation of the TB, HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention programme. The VNS continued to be the cornerstone in the process of restructuring the national society.

## **Regional Cooperation**

### **Kiev Conference, Ukraine**

On 5-8 June 2001, the 15 National Societies of the Newly Independent States and the Baltics - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russian Federation, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan - met together at the regional conference in Kiev. The meeting followed the Almaty conference (in December 1996) which helped shape activities in population movement, disaster preparedness, visiting nurses service (VNS) and capacity building. It also dealt with recommendations of the regional conference in Copenhagen, in 1997.

Representatives from a number of participating national societies, as well as the ICRC and the World Health Organization (WHO), participated in the conference as observers. The Federation's heads of delegations from the region and selected colleagues from the Secretariat also attended.

The Almaty process was analyzed in connection with the aims of the *Copenhagen Declaration*, as well as the General Assembly and the 27th International Conference in Geneva. How to improve the prospects of NIS countries was a central theme. The conference also discussed *Strategy 2010* as well as pledges made by governments and national societies and the country assistance strategies of the 15 national societies. Participants then looked ahead to the regional European Conference, to be held in Berlin, in May 2002. The participants acknowledged results achieved in the implementation of the *Almaty Declaration*. They also confirmed full adherence to the declaration's spirit and reiterated their intention to continue cooperating to achieve the goals outlined in *Strategy 2010*.

During the conference, there was a series of plenary discussions and working group sessions. A monitoring committee was formed, which will follow-up developments after the conference.

The strategic directions for achieving self-sustainability of the national societies were agreed. The reform process was evaluated and guidelines for future development were laid down. 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.

## ***Coordination and Management***

### **Minsk Delegation**

In 2001, the delegation's main goal continued to be the coordination and direction of national society activities in the region. The delegation aims to build more efficient national societies that have an increased capacity to independently design, manage and implement more focused and responsive programmes based on internal or external funding.

In accordance with the general aims of the national societies and based on the Country Assistance Strategies for the Belarusian, Moldovan and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies, the core activities in the field of disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and social work and the CHARP programmes continued.

The Federation's delegation held regular regional meetings with leadership and senior management of the three national societies to ensure proper programme management, information flow and better coordination. The delegation facilitated the creation of the Red Cross Law of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the drafting of new statutes for the Belarus and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies. Considerable effort was also undertaken to support the national societies to begin their change process to separate governance and management. Such a separation is in the new Belarus and Ukrainian Societies' statutes and was approved by their last congresses, which were both held in April 2001.

To improve relations with donors, the delegation suggested that all the three national societies change appeal practices and start planning for 2002 in early 2001. During January and February, three seminars on the logistical framework approach were held with the national society programme officers. The following issues were discussed: reasons for low donor interest; how to attract more donors; and how to continue the appeal process. Counterparts for each of the four core areas of *Strategy 2010* were nominated in the delegation and the national societies.

The Minsk delegation managed all Federation programmes dealing with displaced populations. It also supported three national societies through technical advice and follow-up help. Regular contacts were maintained with authorities and various national and international organizations working in the three countries, especially TACIS, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Bank and WHO.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The inadequate donor response to this appeal has necessitated programme adjustments, and scaled-down activities have been implemented in disaster preparedness and disaster response. Continuing support to the anti-TB programme in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova made it possible to form the VNS as one of the best functioning and most sustainable structures in the three national societies.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website*

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Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.61/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				16.07.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>10'459'193</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 22.9%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				396'117		
CANADA - RC		5'000	CAD	5'413	03.04.01	ALMATY CONFERENCE
DANISH - RC		211'723	DKK	42'705	02.01.01	HEALTH/CARE, TB PROGRAMME
ECHO (2000/09014)		200'000	EUR	307'680	21.12.00	MOLDOVA, STRENGTHENING OF MRC VISTING NURSES SERVICE
ECHO (2001/09003)		350'000	EUR	536'165	11.06.2001	TB/HIV/AIDS/STD & VNS
FINNISH - RC		3'364	EUR	5'175	17.04.01	KIEV CONFERENCE
FRANCE - RC		45'000	FRF	10'422	16.05.2001	KIEV CONFERENCE
GREAT BRITAIN - RC		10'000	GBP	24'600	29.05.2001	KIEV CONFERENCE
NORWEGIAN - RC				20'000	25.04.01	KIEV CONFERENCE
SPANISH - RC				6'881	10.05.2001	KIEV CONFERENCE
SWEDISH - RC		250'000	SEK	42'125	09.04.01	KIEV CONFERENCE
SWEDISH - RC				300'000	26.04.2001	300 MT SECOND HAND CLOTHING
SWISS - RC				149'295	30.11.00	WINTER ASSISTANCE 00-01
SWISS - RC				170'454	28.06.2001	BELARUS VISITING NURSES PROGRAM PURCHASE 117 MEDICAL KITS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'017'032	CHF	19.3%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Denmark	Delegate(s)			29'897		
Finland	Delegate(s)			19'712		
Belgium	Delegate(s)			19'712		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			13'306		
SWEDISH - GOVT				300'000	26.04.2001	300 MT SECOND HAND CLOTHING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				382'627	CHF	3.7%