

# Mid-Year report



## Ukraine

MAAUA002

31 August 2010

This report covers the period  
1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010.



Vinnitsa: Red Cross nurse is providing HIV testing for an inmate of the penalty system. Photo: Ukraine Red Cross

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The Federation programme activities in Ukraine contributed to the Strategy 2020 aiming to save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; to enable healthy and safe living and to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

**Programme(s) summary:** The only response to the Ukraine country plan 2010-2011 was provided for implementing H2P project activities. The project was launched in July 2009 in ten oblasts (regions) in four pilot areas of Ukraine, and was later extended to the remaining 17 regions of Ukraine. Totally 300,000 posters, 1,1 million leaflets, 100,000 calendars and 200,000 liners for schoolchildren were distributed. The video *"Your Best Defence is You"* was adapted to be broadcasted on TV and was approved by the Ministry of Health and by the special broadcasting commission. This material was broadcasted in the regions on local TV channels and on the national channel. During 280,000 home visits, totally 3,200 Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses detected 11,200 sick persons and provided them with medical assistance. Totally 400,000 masks were distributed. Trainings provided for the 3,200 Red Cross visiting nurses on providing assistance to people in an environment characterized by the fast spread of the virus strengthened capacity of the National Society in human pandemic preparedness and response.

Besides the H2P activities first aid kits was purchased and a film about the visiting nurses was produced. The Ukrainian Red Cross also implemented bilaterally supported HIV activities within the framework of the USAID funded anti-TB programme. Activities such as HIV and AIDS prevention, disaster preparedness and humanitarian principles and values were not implemented due to limited funds.

**Financial situation:** The total 2010 budget is CHF 333,793 (USD 321,703 or EUR 254,375) of

which 59 per cent covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The budget was increased slightly from initially CHF 325,000. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 179,994. Expenditure against budget was 54 per cent and expenditure against funding was 92 per cent. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also: [Ukraine country plan for 2010-2011](#)

**No. of people we help:** Through H2P activities more than 420,000 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programme interventions and about 6,000,000 people received indirect assistance through mass information campaigns. It is expected that the implementation of the Ukrainian Red Cross programmes in the second half of 2010 will directly target 27,400 people.

**Our partners:** The Ukrainian Red Cross and the IFRC are working together with a number of partners including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, American Red Cross, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Lars Amundsen Foundation, the Association of People Living with HIV, UNAIDS, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, PATH, WHO and IOM<sup>1</sup>.

Over many years the National Society has built strong partnerships with the different ministries in the country, including the ministries of health, youth and sport, emergencies, justice and internal affairs, as well as with the State Penalty Committee.

## Context

The political, economical and social situation in Ukraine remained complicated due to the consequences of the world finance and economic crises. Ukraine has been among the hardest hit countries by the turmoil. However, being a very open economy, Ukraine has benefited from the ongoing recovery of the world economy and driven by export-oriented industries and their related sectors, real GDP was estimated to grow by 3.7 per cent in 2010<sup>2</sup>. Nevertheless, while the economic crisis seems to be passing away social needs remain acute. The increase in utility tariffs by 50 per cent and consumer price growth will put an extra strain on vulnerable groups of which 20 per cent is living under the national poverty line.

February elections resulted in the opposition leader and former president Victor Yanukovich becoming president of Ukraine. It is expected that he will turn the policy to more close ties with Russia after years of pro-Western policy.

Ukraine has the highest HIV and AIDS rates in Europe with 1.6 per cent of the general population infected. Annually Ukraine has reported more deaths caused by AIDS than any other European country. According to experts, injection drug use is still driving the spread of HIV but the disease is now being increasingly transmitted by mothers passing it on to their babies and through unsafe sexual behaviour among youth. Young people now make up 80 per cent of the affected people. Thus, the epidemic poses a major threat to Ukraine's youth and to the country's future. Stigma, discrimination and prejudice are still practised towards people living with HIV when it comes to employment and access to state services despite good legislation to counter this.<sup>3</sup>

In the beginning of 2010 1,005 deaths were caused by flu and acute respiratory viral infections (ARVI). About 4.5 million people were registered to have contracted flu and acute respiratory viral infections.

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<sup>1</sup> All listed partners provide support on a bilateral basis, except for USAID, Lars Amundsen Foundation and Japanese Red Cross.

<sup>2</sup> International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook for April 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Sources: UN, USAID and Global Alliance.

Natural and man-made disasters occur in Ukraine with increasing frequency. In January an explosion partly demolished a hospital in Lugansk in eastern Ukraine, killing 16 people and injuring many others. Because of heavy rains at the end of June, and the consequent rise in river levels, more than 1,000 houses were flooded in Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regions affecting some 65,000 people.

These humanitarian challenges prioritise activities of Ukraine Red Cross Society. The overall goal outlined in Ukraine Plan 2010-2011 is to ensure that the programmes and services of the URCS are focused on the needs of vulnerable people, and that these activities are responsive, sustainable and of acceptable standards in performance, accountability and integrity. The Society's mission is to: protect lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering during natural disasters and technical accidents, as well as assist the health authorities and the medical services.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

#### **Programme component 1: Community-based preparedness**

**Component 1:** Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively.

No support was received for the disaster management programme the first six months in 2010. Hence no progress as achieved towards raised awareness on hazards and strengthened disaster preparedness and response skills to effectively respond to disasters.

### Health and Care

#### **Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS**

**Component 1:** Decreased spread of HIV in rural areas of Ukraine due to public awareness-raising and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross.

**Achievements:** Although no support was received for HIV and AIDS programme activities through IFRC, the Ukrainian Red Cross managed to build upon the support received during earlier years and the capacity built, and subsequently continued vital activities through bilateral support.

Supported by the American Red Cross bilaterally about 184,100 people were reached through HIV prevention, care and support activities in three regions:

- In Vinnitsa region the target group were people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the penalty system. Totally 397 HIV pre-testing consultations were conducted in three prisons and 30 staff members of colonies were trained in HIV prevention;
- In Volyn region the activities focused on reducing HIV prevalence among youth and college students from small towns and villages in five pilot districts. Totally 15,524 persons aged 14 to 24 were covered by peer education sessions and completed the entire training course;
- In the Crimea Autonomous Republic Red Cross nurses provided home care and support for 70 people living with HIV. In addition psychosocial support and legal advice were provided to 1,814 people at international consultation centre "Krokus".

#### **Programme component 2: Human pandemic preparedness**

**Component outcome 1:** Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas for human pandemic preparedness is conducted

**Component outcome 2:** A National Society contingency plan for human pandemic response based on the National Society's disaster management plan has been developed and recognized by the government.

**Component 3:** Strengthened capacity of the National Society in human pandemic preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers, effective mechanisms for response in four target regions of Ukraine.

#### **Component 4: Strengthened financial and technical resources for human pandemic response.**

**Achievements:** The Ukraine Red Cross continued implementing H2P project activities funded by USAID through IFRC. The project was launched in July 2009 in ten oblasts (regions) in four pilot areas of Ukraine, and was later extended to the remaining 17 regions of Ukraine.

In 2010 information materials including 300,000 posters, 1,1 million leaflets, 100,000 calendars and 200,000 liners for schoolchildren were distributed among people at factories, schools, universities and during information campaigns. The video *“Your Best Defence is You”* has been adapted to be broadcasted on TV. The video was approved by the Ministry of Health and by the special broadcasting commission. This material was broadcasted in the regions on local TV channels and on the national channel.

During 280,000 home visits, totally 3,200 Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses detected 11,200 sick persons and provided them with medical assistance. Totally 400,000 masks have been distributed among the population. One third of these masks have been sewed by URCS workers and volunteers. Personal protective equipment (medical gloves, masks), medicines and disinfectants have been purchased and distributed.

Trainings provided for the 3,200 Red Cross visiting nurses on providing assistance to people in an environment characterized by the fast spread of the virus has strengthened capacity of the National Society of Ukraine in human pandemic preparedness and response. Large scale involvement in human pandemic reflects the National Society’s capacity and further strengthens its experience and skills base.

## Organizational Development

#### **Programme component 1: Visiting nurses services capacity development**

**Component 1:** The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses service has been improved.

**Achievements:** The organisational development component was not supported so far in 2010. However the National Society continued some activities utilizing funds received in 2009. In January the National Society completed the distribution of 100 first-aid kits for visiting nurses purchased with funds from the Lars Amundsen Foundation. Moreover through the same funds a film about the visiting nurse service was produced in June. The movie profiles the services offered by visiting nurses to people living with HIV and other services such as HIV prevention and treatment, harm reduction and anti-stigma as well as describing the extend of HIV and AIDS in Ukraine.<sup>4</sup>

Remaining funds from a contribution from the Japanese Red Cross in 2009 allowed the purchase of 208 bicycles for visiting nurses which will allow them to visit patients more easily. The contribution from the Japanese Red Cross came as a result of the Partnership meeting “Beyond borders” held in Kiev in September 2009.

## Working in partnership

In March, the Ukrainian Red Cross organized a round-table meeting devoted to World Tuberculosis Day, attended by Red Cross workers, representatives of the Ministry of Health, NGOs and the mass media. The main topic discussed was further integration of Ukraine into the international partnership “Stop TB”. This meeting was also a kick-off ceremony for 30 days of Red Cross action on combating TB which took place in March and April 2010.

As response to the partnership meeting “Beyond borders” held in Kiev in September 2009, the Estonian Red Cross organised a first-aid training of trainers in April hosting first aid trainers from six regional organisations of Ukrainian Red Cross.

<sup>4</sup> The film is available at <http://dustandscratchesfilms.com/people-like-us/>.

The National Society works very closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional and local – in its auxiliary role in providing humanitarian relief and support for development. To promote a coherent and unified response, the International Federation facilitates coordination activities for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement including the host National Society, Partner National Societies including National Societies of the region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and externally with key operational agencies or organizations such as UN and NGOs.

The National Society has built up a fruitful cooperation with the Charity Fund “Development of Ukraine” to serve the needs of vulnerable people. Also Ukraine Red Cross has a cooperation agreement with the Coca-Cola Company, which provides free of charge transportation of relief items to regions affected by disasters and makes in-kind donations including drinking water for people affected by disasters.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

During the reporting period senior staff from the National Society headquarters organised regular field visits to ensure sharing of experiences and proper communication with the branches. In particular, in the course of implementing the project on human pandemic preparedness the monitoring trips were conducted in the seven regional branches.

As mentioned above a film has been produced about the Ukraine Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service which shows the best practices of cooperation with local authorities and provision of assistance to the clients, in particular to HIV positive people at home. The film was successfully screened during the XVIII International AIDS conference in Vienna. It is planned that this film will be used internationally, possibly for fundraising, and within the Commonwealth of Independent States CIS, sharing an experience obtained by the visiting nurse service. The application of the VNS best practices in Ukraine and other CIS countries will facilitate strengthening the infrastructure in service provision, improving the process of rendering assistance to the most vulnerable groups of population, upgrading the conditions of work, and enlarging the sphere of services as well as their quality.

## Looking ahead

Due to the fact that Ukraine has the most severe AIDS epidemic in Europe the Ukraine Red Cross programme priorities include HIV/AIDS prevention activities anti-AIDS activities with an aim to inform target groups of young people in order to change their attitude and behavior regarding safe sex, discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as implementation of harm reduction projects. In particular this will be done within the the framework of the HIV project funded by the American Red Cross which will be continued in the second half of the current year and will be focused on promoting the care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Using the network of visiting nurses, medical-social centers and hospitals the Ukraine Red Cross will expand their anti-trafficking activities. The National Society is a part of the national referral mechanism for support of victims of trafficking which will ensure that the latter are timely identified and have access to the available national support mechanisms. Together with IFRC, Belarusian and Moldovan Red Cross Societies, IOM the Ukraine RC has submitted an application to EU seeking a grant for a joint project aiming at strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Ukraine is prone to natural calamities and technology accidents. Therefore another priority program will be disaster management focused on improving disaster preparedness and response skills of Red Cross staff and volunteers through training, competitions and first aid education, as well as further development of Red Cross infrastructure, including creation of a disaster preparedness centre. The Federation and Ukraine Red Cross will seek necessary funding for these important projects.

The Ukraine Red Cross will continue the work aimed at further modernization of the Visiting Nurses Service. The main activities will be focused on further improving standards of services provision and increasing the qualification of the visiting nurses to meet all the needs of people receiving assistance on the permanent base.

| <b>How we work</b>   |  |
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| <p><b>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</b></p>   |  |
| <p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>   | <p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol> |
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