

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

UKRAINE: MINE EXPLOSION

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The International Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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

Global Agenda Goals:

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

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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

On the night of 18 November, a methane explosion occurred at the Zasyadko coal mine in the regional capital Donetsk in Ukraine. Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry reported that 357 miners were rescued, 79 miners have died and 30 are injured (29 lightly and one heavily). Rescue teams continue searching in the mineshaft for the 21 miners who remain missing.

Although a special government commission is still investigating the reason of the accident, Prime Minister Yanukovyc, during his visit to the mine, expressed that according to the first assessments miners were working in accordance with the norms. Victor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, will visit Donetsk today to monitor the rescue operation and provision of support to the victims.

The Ukrainian government has allocated USD 2,7 million to provide compensation to the workers and the families of the victims. The family of each miner who died in the accident will receive USD 20,000. 14 psychologists of the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies from Donetsk, Lugansk, Dnepropetrovsk are providing necessary support to the families of the victims.

This mine accident was the deadliest in Ukraine since an explosion at the Barakova mine in the eastern Luhansk region which killed 81 miners in March 2000. Since 1999, at the same mine, 138 people lost their lives in four major accidents. In total, since the breakdown of the Soviet Union, more than 4,700 miners in Ukraine have been killed (80 since the beginning of 2007). 19, 20, and 21 November were declared days of mourning.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Representatives of the National Society regularly take part in the meetings of the inter-departmental commission established by the state authorities. The nurses of the Donetsk branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) are providing psychological aid to the relatives of the victims in the office of the mine administration, the morgue during the identification of the bodies, and in the hospital. In addition, they are assisting in first aid activities. Food parcels including fruits, juices, and mineral water were purchased and distributed to the injured miners in the hospital.

Assessment done by the URCS showed the need to prepare a special team that would be ready to provide psychosocial support to the victims of mine explosions as these accidents happen regularly in the region. A proposal is being prepared based on the experience of the Russian Red Cross.

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