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# Annual report 2011

## Ukraine

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAUA002**  
**30/APR/2012**

**This report covers the  
period 01/01/2011 to  
31/12/2011.**

*CRIMEA: Psychologist of RC center ICC  
"Krokus" is counseling a client within HIV  
project funded by American RC.  
December 2011/Ukraine RC*



### In brief

#### Programme outcome

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

#### Programmes summary

In the reporting period the response to the Revised Plan 2011 for Ukraine has been limited. There was only one contribution from UK's Department for International Development (DfID), which was used by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society for developing Visiting Nurses System (VNS). Besides the joint IFRC/IOM two years project has started to work with victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova funded by European Commission. Other activities of Ukraine Red Cross envisaged in the Plan such as preventing HIV/AIDS and strengthening disaster preparedness could not be implemented due to lack of funding. However during the reporting period the Ukrainian Red Cross carried on bilateral activities of HIV programme funded by the American Red Cross. In addition, together with other partners the Ukrainian Red Cross started the anti-TB programme funded Global Funds to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria designed for five years.

#### Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 231,021, of which CHF 72,940, 32 per cent covered including the opening balance. The only donation received was the DFID Partnership grant for two years (2011- 2012). Besides, there were allocations for HIV programme funded bilaterally by American Red Cross earmarked for covering Kiev office costs in total amount of CHF 46,664. The overall expenditures against received funding constituted CHF 54,296, about 74 per cent.

**[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)**

## **No. of people we have reached**

During the reporting period about 37,600 people benefited directly from the interventions of HIV project funded by American Red Cross, and 254,600 have received indirect assistance through mass information campaigns. Besides, at end of the year, 3,200 visiting nurses have received medical kits, which will be used for servicing their clients.

## **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, Israeli National Society Magen David Adom, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Association of People Living with HIV, UNAIDS, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, PATH, WHO and IOM.

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.

Total number of partners is about 120 organisations (including administration and NGOs in regions)

## **Context**

In 2011, the Ukrainian economy started gradual recovering after global financial crises that had severely hit the country. Nevertheless the economical and social situation in the country remained still complicated due to the aftermath of this world finance and economic turmoil. In February housing tariffs increased by 4,6%, and fuel for transport by 4,3%. The government has raised costs of electricity for households by 15 percent. Natural gas tariffs have been increased by 26%, starting from 1 April 2011.

The crisis and rise in prices have negatively affected the social situation in the country. According to the State Statistics Committee, 12 million out of a population of 45 million have an average income below the minimum subsistence level of just over \$100 per month. The most affected by poverty and lack of adequate health and social care are elderly people living alone, multi-child families, street children, the disabled and marginalized people such as migrants and the homeless.

HIV and AIDS rates in Ukraine remain the highest in Europe with 1.6 per cent of the general population infected. It is estimated that there are up to 300,000 injecting drug users in Ukraine, and in major cities as much as a quarter of them are thought to be infected with HIV. 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 represent 80 per cent of the affected people.

Another issue is human trafficking which is getting out of control in Ukraine. Experts say more than 100,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked abroad and forced into indentured labour or prostitution since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is more than in any other Eastern European country. The most vulnerable group in the Ukrainian society today are kids currently living on the streets, and/or kids that are just coming out of the orphanages. 50%-60% of them end up in some sort of a trafficked situation.

Ukraine is prone to accidents and natural calamities. An outbreak of cholera took place in Mariupol (Donetsk region) a port city at Azov Sea. A total of 28 cases of cholera and 12 cases of vibrio carriers were registered in Mariupol in June-August. By September the patients and vibrio carriers were discharged from hospital. During the cholera outbreak swimming and fishing were banned along the Sea of Azov coastline.

In July, 27 workers were killed and dozens injured in a Sukhodilska-Skhidna coal mine in Luhansk Oblast because of methane gas explosion. Besides, 11 miners died in the accident at Bazhanov mine in Makiyivka in Donetsk region. In August two miners died after being hit by falling rock at the Stakhanov coal mine in the Donetsk region of Ukraine.

The humanitarian challenges define the activities of Ukraine Red Cross Society. The overall goal outlined in Ukraine Revised Plan 2011 is to ensure that the programmes and services of the Ukraine Red Cross 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

##### Outcome:

- Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively

##### Achievements

The disaster preparedness component within the framework of the current Revised Plan for 2011 did not receive any donor response.

However, in connection with the outbreak of cholera Ukraine Red Cross branches in Donetsk Region, in particular in Mariupol, distributed leaflets on main cholera symptoms and prevention at railway stations, beaches, and hospitals of the affected regions.

In Luhansk and Donetsk Regions the local Red Cross branch staff visited injured miners in hospitals and provided psychosocial support to families of miners who died in the accidents which had happened in July.

Besides, Ukrainian Red Cross has organised with support of German Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross and Armenian Red Cross training of trainers (ToT) courses on First Aid in Kiev, Kharkov, Donetsk, Lviv and some other cities. It was planned that these trained trainers would train volunteers and stewards on first aid for activities during football Championship 2012 to be held in Ukraine.

### Health and Care

#### Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

##### Outcome:

- Decreased spread of HIV in rural areas of Ukraine due to public awareness-raising and behaviour –changing activities of the Red Cross

##### Achievements

This health and care component within the framework of current Revised Plan for 2011 did not receive any donor response.

However, the Ukrainian Red Cross continued the implementation of HIV project bilaterally funded by the American Red Cross in four regions. These are: Volyn Region is mainly providing HIV prevention among youth in rural areas, Vinnitsa Region conducts voluntary counselling and testing in prisons, Crimea Autonomous Republic provides care and support to HIV infected people at home, Kiev region is conducting HIV prevention in secondary schools. More specifically the following activities were carried out.

### ***Volyn Region***

- Volyn Red Cross branch signed 15 new cooperation agreements with partner organizations.
- In all pilot districts wide range of HIV/AIDS prevention activities were held: different actions, lotteries were carried out, lectures, trainings, discussions and video-lectures were held, informational materials and condoms were distributed, the survey aimed to know the knowledge level of young people on HIV/AIDS problems was conducted.
- Four HIV awareness-raising events were organized in Kovel correctional colony and Tsuman correctional colony for young prisoners. Red Cross volunteers held meetings with prisoners, demonstrated video-shots, carried out the questionnaire, and distributed the informational materials. The events were attended by representatives of the Centre of Social Services for Children, Youth and Family, an infectiologist of District Hospital. Large-scale informational work was also held among the studying youth and in the colony of Novovolynsk.
- In May, few youth actions were organised dedicated to the World AIDS Day. In particular art competitions “HIV/AIDS – my life, my position” were held at central squares of Kivertsy, Kovel and Novovolynsk. The authors of the best pictures were awarded by the prizes of city NGOs. On May 16, 2011 the Candle March dedicated to World AIDS Memory Day took place in Lutsk.
- Round table meetings with partner organizations took place in Lutsk (September) and Ratno (November).
- On November 29, 2011 a press-conference took place in Lutsk where the representatives of Volyn State Administration, medical facilities and mass-media participated.
- Three training workshops were held, 18 peer trainers were prepared. In total 36,583 persons passed through peer sessions.
- In December actions dedicated to the World AIDS Day were held in all districts of Volyn Region. 4,300 persons took part in the actions.

### ***Vinnitsa Region***

- In the five communities involved in the project, informational trainings, lectures by infectiologist, expert in narcology, psychologist, were conducted among prisoners. 1,077 persons were examined, counselled considering pre and post-test counselling for HIV. 500 HIV-positive prisoners and prisoners who lost social bounds received hygienic kits. 162 HIV-positive prisoners are getting vitamins and juices. 22 HIV-positive inmates, who are receiving ARV-therapy, were supplied with food parcel (cereal and dry milk). HIV- positive inmates of the project are receiving vitamins and juices. Inmates receiving ARV-therapy were supplied with food parcel (cereal and dry milk). All HIV+ prisoners were provided with hygiene kits at a quarterly basis. HIV- positive inmates of the project are receiving vitamins and juices. The number of prisoners’ appeals is significantly reduced, which indicates improving their quality of life.
- On March 23, 2011 the information action “HIV and TB” dedicated to the World TB Day was conducted among the inmates of Colony no. 39. The lectures for inmates were carried out by physiatrician, infectiologist, representatives of Department and doctors from medical unit of the Colony. 60 inmates took part in the action. The informational materials were distributed.
- Groups of volunteers «positive leaders» were formed in each Colony. The volunteers were supplied with informational materials and working diaries.
- HIV-positive inmates have an opportunity to participate in self-support group meetings. The psychologist of the AIDS Centre carried out 105 individual counselling sessions.

### ***Crimea Autonomous Republic***

- At the base of ICC «Krokus» in Simferopol clients receive consultations of the psychologist and lawyer as well as medical and social services. The information counselling hot line is operating at the regional committee. During the reporting period 1,757 visits to ICC were registered, PLWH and caregivers received 474 consultations of psychologist and 69 consultations of lawyer. The self-support groups for PLWH are working in Simferopol, Yalta and Feodosiya
- All project staff members were trained at 8 seminars (project staff, Red Cross staff, PLWH and caregivers) in the framework of project and took part at the training carried out by Coalition of

HIV-services organisation and All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH. The seminars for project staff and caregivers were held during the reporting period.

- The volunteers of the project together with project staff carried out campaigns aimed to collect school supplies for HIV+ children.
- On December 1, in the cities of Simferopol, Feodosia, Yalta and Krasnogvardejskiy region the awareness activities dedicated to the World AIDS Day were carried out with the distribution of informational literature, condoms, and carrying out of Candle Marches. The events were widely covered in the media.
- All visiting nurses are supplied with nursing items, bandages and syringes to provide medico-social service at home base to the clients in terminal stage. During the reporting period the visiting nurses provided home-base care services to 266 clients; 16 of those clients died of AIDS, 2 of them taken off (were imprisoned). The social worker served 31 clients. Total 19,979 services at home were provided. 43 clients used the services of the clothing banks, located in the Red Cross centre in Yalta, Simferopol, Feodosia and Krasnogvardeyskoe. 195 project clients were provided with food parcels as a result they improved overall health condition and 75 project clients received hygienic kits.
- The percentage of community members who reported that they accept people with HIV is increased. This happens due to awareness raising campaigns in the cities and rural areas of the Crimea, as well as trailers HIV - infection concerning prevention of. It is important to mention that many trailers shows on television are about HIV prevention and transmission routes, but there are no trailers on the attitude towards patients with HIV infection.

### ***Kiev Region***

- In February 2011, HIV events dedicated to St. Valentine's day took place in the three pilot districts Bila Tserkva, Brovary and Borodyanka in cooperation with partner organizations and state authorities. All activities were aimed to promote healthy lifestyle, prevention of HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol addiction, smoking. Different quizzes, games, lottery were mixed with performances of art groups. Condoms, educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention were distributed. Similar events were conducted in the connection of Day of Youth and World AIDS Memorial Day.
- Five Seminar-trainings were held for the most active 88 volunteers among students. These trained volunteers-instructors later conducted 685 training sessions in the three pilot districts. Some 7,710 young people were covered by this "peer" program.
- During May, a brain-ring game "What do you know about HIV/AIDS?" was carried out in schools and colleges in Bila Tserkva district.
- On December 1, 2011, in connection with World Aids Day, the Bila Tserkva Red Cross branch together with members of the local urban radio-club held an event aimed to establish a link between radio amateurs of the CIS countries and Europe. More than 1,000 people who heard about the attitude of young people of Kiev region towards the HIV positive people were in contact during one night.
- In the framework of the project 3500 condoms were purchased, the printing materials were made in amount of 2000 booklets, 1000 stickers, 8000 leaflets, 1000 flyers, 500 badges, 50 T-shirt, 150 caps, 500 pens.

Besides, in 2011, Ukraine Red Cross together with other NGOs started the implementation of the project on combating TB, funded by Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Ukraine has received a grant of GF at end of 2010). The National Society is a sub-principal recipient covering the component on advocacy, communication, and social mobilization. The project is designed for 5 years. In particular in 2011, the project was implemented in six pilot regions covering 450 patients with ambulatory treatment. In the reporting period were conducted trainings of visiting nurses in Luhansk, Kherson, Kirovograd and Dnepropetrovsk Regions (30 participants at each training). The training was focused on providing treatment for TB patients in ambulatory phase. In October-November the Ukrainian Red Cross arranged procurement of food parcels for TB patients.

## Constraints or Challenges

At present one of major problems of people living with HIV is the intolerant attitude towards them by the community members. During the survey community members reported on their positive attitude towards PLWH, but as soon as encountered in real life with this problem, their attitude dramatically changed. Therefore in the course of implementation of HIV projects the Red Cross organisations pay special attention to providing anti-stigma activities.

## Organizational Development

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

#### Outcome:

- The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses services has been improved

#### Achievements

During the reporting period a four months project was implemented aiming at development of visiting nurses service funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DfID). The project was being implemented according to the operational contract between IFRC and Ukrainian Red Cross, plan of action and plan of monthly expenses. On the basis of a tender 125 units of medical kits were purchased. The medical kits were distributed to 27 Regional Red Cross branches for visiting nurses as well as for Red Cross medico-social centres, hospitals and hospices.

Besides, a round table meeting devoted to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service was held on 16 November in Kiev. Taking part in this event were visiting nurses, Red Cross workers, representatives from Administration of President, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Emergencies, Council of Veterans (100 participants altogether). The best RC visiting nurses were awarded with medals and other awards.

## Principles and Values

### Programme component 1: Anti-trafficking

#### Outcomes

- Capacity of Red Cross in countering human trafficking has been increased

#### Achievements

In April-June 2011, the joint IFRC/IOM project on work with victims of human trafficking (EUR 800,000, 24 months) funded by European Commission has been started in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In particular in Ukraine the operational contract with Ukraine Red Cross was signed. Project staff has been put in place and action plan was updated.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine by increasing the involvement of the National Red Cross Societies in victims of trafficking (VoT) identification, referral and assistance, to ensure sustainable access to services for the VoT. In Ukraine two pilot regions, Luhansk and Chernigov were selected based on situation analysis and consultations with IOM.

On 17-18 August, the National Society hosted a start-up management/planning meeting on the project. The meeting presented the first introduction into the topic to the Ukrainian Red Cross focal points of two pilot regions. Belarus Red Cross representative from Vitebsk region also attended the meeting to share experiences of Red Cross Helping Hand centres.

Ukraine Red Cross attended the annual European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network meeting in Croatia (31 August – 2 September) which enabled the National Society project coordinator to learn from experiences of Red Cross and civil society organizations in Europe. A number of issues and challenges

related to trafficking in minors were addressed at the meeting, including methods and best practices in reaching particularly vulnerable groups.

Training of Trainers on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking was held in Chernihov on 19-22 September and on 24-27 October in Lugansk. The trainings were attended by Red Cross regional coordinator, project staff of the project and 20 Red Cross staff members involved in the project in Chernihov and Lugansk. The trainings were facilitated by the staff of IOM Rehabilitation Centre and NGO 'Vozrozhdenije Natsii'.

Steering Committee meeting was held on 6 December with direct involvement of Ukraine Red Cross and IOM. Among other topics, the meeting addressed the issues of establishment of multidisciplinary reintegration teams (MRT), national coordination and referral mechanisms, as well as Red Cross role in combating trafficking in human beings. The meeting was attended by Red Cross, IOM, IFRC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Border guard service, OSCE and La Strada.

## **Working in partnership**

The Ukraine Red Cross works closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional, and local – in its auxiliary role in providing humanitarian relief. The National Society has good cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Emergencies, the Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs, and the State Penalty Committee. The Ukrainian Red Cross is a member of several commissions of the government and the president of Ukraine, such as the commission on humanitarian assistance, commission on citizenship etc. In April 2011, the National Society has concluded with Ministry of Emergency an agreement on cooperation in providing international humanitarian aid.

The National Society further develops relations with partner Red Cross societies. On 25 February the Ukrainian Red Cross Society leadership organised a meeting with delegation of German Red Cross headed by Vice-President Dr. Volkmar Schon. The parties discussed possibilities of spreading cooperation on volunteering. In particular at present a joint volunteer cooperation project is being implemented in Luhansk Region. The idea is to spread it to Donetsk, Vinnitsa and Odessa Regions.

Ukraine Red Cross and Israeli National Society Magen David Adom exchanged with high-level visits in June-July 2011. As a result, the two National Societies have signed an agreement on cooperation in such areas as medico-social service, assistance to vulnerable groups, providing FA trainings, remunerated blood donation.

The International Federation provides methodological and consultative support to the Ukrainian Red Cross aiming to strengthen the National Societies' capacity in implementing HIV and AIDS, TB, FA and other programmes, as well as in coordination relations with key operational agencies or organizations (UN, NGOs and others). In particular within the above mentioned joint IFRC/IOM project on work with victims of human trafficking a coordination meeting between IOM and IFRC was held in Kiev in June 2011.

On 8-10 November a workshop under assistance of IFRC Europe Zone Office on planning, monitoring and evaluation was conducted at the Headquarters of Ukrainian Red Cross. The participants of the PME workshop were leaders of Regional Committees from all Regions of Ukraine (27 people). The training was conducted at high educational and methodology level. The participants have obtained necessary knowledge and skills in programming, performing budgets, carrying out monitoring and evaluations, on logistics issues. The President of URCS sent a gratitude letter to Director of EZO thanking for the support to the National Society and expressing assurance that the PME workshop provided the participants with important theoretical and methodology tool for realisation of practical work of organisations of URCS.

## **Contributing to longer-term impact**

During the reporting period senior staff from the Ukrainian Red Cross head-quarters organised regular visits to the field to ensure sharing of experience and communication with the branches. In particular,

regular monitoring was conducted in the course of implementing HIV project funded by the American Red Cross in Vinnitsa, Volyn, Kiev regions and Autonomic Republic of Crimea.

Representative of IFRC reference centre on first aid, Khasan Paskal visited Ukraine Red Cross on 2-6 February with monitoring purpose. The National Society has received a First Aid certificate from the reference centre.

In September, representatives of American Red Cross and Ann Ray Foundation evaluated project implementation in Kiev Region and Crimea. During the visit the evaluation team met with key staff members, teachers of local schools and discussed the questions concerning training materials. Guests took part at the training carried out by trained volunteers-instructors.

The National Society takes into account the gender balance issue in all its projects and activities; particularly the participation of women in the decision-making process, project implementation, planning, international conferences/ workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities (HIV and AIDS, TB, harm reduction activities). The National Society gradually develops a system for to collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data on its membership, volunteers and staff and have relevant tools to assist staff and volunteers in translating existing policies into practice.

## Looking ahead

The Long Term Planning Framework for 2012-2015 envisages support to the Ukrainian Red Cross in key areas for making the Society a stronger organization. It directly corresponds to the Strategy 2020 aims to save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery, to enable healthy and safe living, and to promote social inclusion.

Taking into consideration that Ukraine has the most severe AIDS epidemic in Europe, the Ukraine Red Cross programme priorities in the coming period will include HIV prevention 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 framework of the HIV project funded by the American Red Cross. Operational contract was signed between Ukraine Red Cross and IFRC for continuation of HIV project funded by American Red Cross for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

In 2012, using the network of visiting nurses, medical-social centers and hospitals the Ukraine Red Cross will continue their anti-trafficking activities. Together with IFRC, Belarusian Red Cross, Moldova Red Cross and IOM, the National Society will provide implementation of the joint project aiming at strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking.

The Ukraine Red Cross will continue the work aimed at further modernization of the Visiting Nurses System. 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.

As Ukraine is prone to natural disasters and technology accidents, the other priority will be disaster management focused on improving disaster preparedness and response skills of the National Society 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.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to 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.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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