

DREF 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

BELARUS, RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA: SEVERE WEATHER

*Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. MDR67001
4 August 2006*

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 over 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 3 February to 31 March, 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 200,000 allocated from the Federations DREF on 26 January, 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was expected to be implemented in 2 months, and completed by 31 March, 2006. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 June, 2006).

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet 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>

Background and Summary

Following the arrival of two waves of Arctic anticyclone cold fronts in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus during two weeks in January (13-29 January) and one week in February (4-9 February), the regional temperatures plummeted to averages of between -25°C and -38°C. Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation experienced temperatures as low as -57°C. On average, temperatures were lower than previous years by between 15-20°C. These extreme temperatures were registered in almost all territories of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

Over 200,000 people (more than 50% of them in Ukraine) in these territories were directly affected by the severe frosts, suffering hot-water pipe and electricity system breakdowns, heating interruptions, as well as homeless and street children's exposure to the cold. 2,045 children in Ukraine and about 200 hundred people in Russia were evacuated from their homes and moved to shelter accommodation. Local authorities focused efforts on the reinforcement of electricity and heating supplies, but in some places these took months to restore. For examples in the cities of Alchevsk (Luganskaya oblast) and Olexandria (Kirovograd oblast) in Ukraine, 67,000 people remained without heating in their homes until spring.

The news agencies reported that during from 13 January to 9 February a total of 135 people had died from cold in Moscow, 884 people in Ukraine, 13 people in Moldova and 5 people in Belarus. Hospitals in the region rendered support to over 20,000 frostbitten citizens.

In addition, severe frosts have destroyed about 30-40% of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova winter crops, 80% of vineyards (especially in Moldova and in South Ukraine), and 30% of fruit trees. The amount of damage caused by the severe frost this winter to Russia's agricultural sector alone is estimated at \$929 million USD.

Coordination

At the outset of the DREF operation, all four National Societies established task force groups at headquarters and branch level for coordination of activities and resources.

During the operation all four National Societies have reported regularly to the Federation delegations in Moscow, Minsk, and Kiev. The Federation delegations provided continuing technical support to the National Societies at all levels. In February 22 and 28, the Federation team held coordination meetings for Ukrainian and Russian Red Cross task force groups. The agenda of the meetings consisted of reinforcing information gathering and reporting systems and introducing standardized relief distribution formats.

As principal emergency response agencies operating in the field, the National Societies maintained close contacts with the Ministries/Department for Emergencies, Ministries/Departments for social protect of population, Health Ministries, Education Ministries, local administrations and media at local level. For example, some branches of the

Ukrainian and Russian Red Cross held round-table meetings with local stakeholders and discussed the effective mobilization of local capacities in disaster response.

Analysis of the operation

CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate needs of about 14,000 beneficiaries.

This operation was expected to cover a two-month period during which the National Societies of BRUM region would directly assist 14,000 affected beneficiaries: in Belarus – 3,000 people, in Russia – 3,000 people, in Ukraine – 6,500 and in Moldova – 1,500 people. In order to organize proper response, the National Societies, through their local branches, identified the most vulnerable of the affected population. The relief operation aimed to cover basic needs such as warm clothes, footwear, blankets, food, soap and supplies for Red Cross homeless shelters, in 45 settlements of 22 regions of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, as well as the capitals of Belarus and Ukraine.

Goal: For the most vulnerable, the consequences of severe cold winter are reduced.

During the course of the emergency response to extreme severe weather in winter, the four National Societies (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova) assisted 26,827 people in coping with consequences of the extreme weather.

Number of beneficiaries in each country

Country		Belarus	Russia	Ukraine	Moldova	Total
Area		7 regions	5 regions	5 regions	5 regions	22 regions
Total number of beneficiaries		3,305	8,406	12,627	2,489	26,827
Categories of beneficiaries	Homeless	90	2,508	770	-	3,368
	Street Children	-	1,275	181	-	1,456
	Lonely Elderly or Disabled people	1,443	1,583	6,054	427	9,507
	Multi-Child Families	1,009	3,040 (combined)	3,294	1,594	11,635 (combined)
	Single-Parent Families	370		2,328	-	
	Other*	393	-	-	468	861

*Includes Low-Income Families, Orphans, and Families Affected by Fire or Disaster

Thus, as the table above shows, operations were carried out in all planned regions. All of the national societies drew on their own resources and received donations from the public, enabling them to expand the number of beneficiaries significantly over the planned 14,000. Each national society was able to exceed its target number of beneficiaries.

Food and non-food relief distribution

Objective 1: The homeless people and street children affected by frost have received food and non-food aid and their coping mechanism have improved

Result 1: Access to minimum energy/dietary requirements is secured for some 2,300 homeless people and street children affected by the disaster in Russia and Ukraine.

A total of 5,708 ready-to-eat meals were distributed in the streets and through homeless shelters during the period from 16 January till 31 March by the Ukrainian and Russian Red Cross National Societies. In total, 1,613 homeless people and street children, as well as 281 other beneficiaries, received hot meals as lunch (about 1,000 kcal per person, once per day) in three regions of the Russian Federation and four regions of Ukraine.

Distribution of Hot Meals

Country	Area		Number of Beneficiaries					Distributed meals
	Planned	Actual as of 31 March	Planned		Actual as of 31 March			
			Homeless	Street Children	Homeless	Street Children	Other*	
Russia	3 regions	3 regions	700	600	678	55	217	1,284
Ukraine	4 regions	4 regions	700	300	770	110	64	4,424
TOTAL			1,400	900	1,448	165	281	5,708

*Other beneficiaries include lonely elderly and disabled people, multi-child families, and single women with children.

The distribution was organized as follows:

Russia:

The Red Cross branches of Kaliningradskaya (8 settlements) and Moscovskaya (4 settlements) arranged several separate one-time hot meals for 558 homeless people and 55 street children through their medico-social centres. Moscovskaya branch also distributed food kits to elderly people, families with many children and single-parent families in Red Cross Centers of assistance or at home. The Red Cross branch of Bashkortostan Republic provided hot meals for 120 homeless people and 8 elderly persons during a period of 2 to 5 days through their medico-social centre in Upha city (total – 413 meals)



Ukrainian Red Cross providing hot meals for homeless people

Ukraine:

The Zaporozhskaya Red Cross branch provided hot meals for 60 street children twice per week and for 450 homeless people once per week from 16 January to 31 March through this relief operation and using private and local government donations (total 3,990 meals). In Lugansk and Zakarpatya regions, hot meals were distributed to homeless people and street children on a one-time basis (total 370 meals). In Kiev, an additional 64 meals were distributed to elderly persons and multi-child families.

In addition, outside of this programme, the Belarus Red Cross distributed 66 food parcels (each for 1 month) for 22 homeless people within frame of relief distribution programme “Food parcels for vulnerable people in Belarus”, financed by the Swiss Red Cross.

Result 2 Access to minimum hygiene requirements is secured and opportunities to survive in severe winter weather are improved for some 1,390 homeless people and street children in Russia, Moldova and Belarus.

The National Societies distributed warm clothes and winter footwear among homeless people and street children: woollen hats, woollen socks, wool gloves, comforters (woollen scarves), jumpers, winter sport suits, winter underwear for men, and winter footwear for men and children. The content of the clothing sets was different for different regions depending on weather conditions.

Distribution of warm clothes was as follows

Country	Number of beneficiaries	
	homeless	street children
Belarus	81	-
Russia	737	787
Moldova	-	-
TOTAL	818	787

This activity covered:

- 9 settlements in 5 regions (Moscovskaya, Kaliningradskaya, Tverskaya oblasts, Krasnodarskiy krai, Bashkortostan) of Russia;
- 4 settlements in 4 regions (Minskaya, Mogilevskaya, Brestskaya, Grodnenskaya oblasts) of Belarus

Moldova Red Cross did not distribute clothes to homeless people or street children, but distributed 6 winter sport suits among orphans.

In addition to newly purchased clothing, all National Societies provided vulnerable people with clothes from their own reserves that had been previously donated by the public. The Russian Red Cross also distributed soap (1-2 bars per person) among 1,093 homeless people and 433 street children (total 2,600 bars, 125gr).

Objective 2: The lonely elderly people, single -mother with young children and multi-children families directly affected by frost have received food and non-food aid and their living conditions have improved

Result 1: Access to minimum energy/dietary requirements is secured for some 3,070 vulnerable families (5,500 people) affected by the disaster in Ukraine.

Due to breakdowns of electricity and heating supplies, many of the most vulnerable people had difficulty receiving necessary food items. To alleviate this, the Ukrainian Red Cross provided food support to heavily affected multi-child families, single-parent families, and elderly people in seven regions of the country. Food kits provided nutrition in the amount of 2,100 kcal per person per day and contained the following items:

- Oil - 1 L;
- Buckwheat / Rice - 1 kg;
- Sugar - 1 kg;
- Macaroni - 1 kg;
- Oat flakes - 0,5 kg;
- Condensed milk - 1 can;
- Flour - 1 kg;
- Tea, 50g - 1 pack;
- Canned food, 160 g - 1-2 cans

Distribution of the food kits

	Areas/settlements	Vulnerable Categories								
		Elderly			Multi-child families			Single-Parent Families		
		Food kits	People	Families	Food kits	People	Families	Food kits	People	Families
1	Lugansk region	3,143	3,143	3,143	685	3,386	685	562	1,210	562
2	Donetsk region	244	289	244	123	317	77	38	84	38
3	Kharkiv region	171	218	171	75	409	67	53	132	53
4	Kirovograd region	184	210	184	173	877	172	598	1,582	517
5	Kyiv	87	127	87	121	509	121	92	206	92
6	Lviv region	239	353	239	34	179	34	27	56	27
7	Zakarpattia region	50	50							
TOTAL:		4,118	4,390	4,068	1,211	5,677	1,156	1,370	3,270	1,289
TOTAL (Across All Categories)		6,699	13,337	6,513						

In addition to this programme, the Belarus Red Cross distributed 378 food parcels (each for 1 month) for 291 elderly and disabled people, and 87 multi-child families in 6 districts of 2 regions of Belarus, within the framework of the relief distribution programme "Food parcels for vulnerable people in Belarus", financed by the Swiss Red Cross.



Like the other three National Societies, the Ukrainian Red Cross assisted people by distributing non-food items such as wool blankets, warm clothes, heaters and thermos flasks

Result 2: Access to minimum hygiene requirements is secured and living standards improved for some 3,000 vulnerable families affected by the disaster in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.

To respond to the crisis, all National Societies (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova) purchased and distributed non-food items such as wool blankets, warm clothes, heaters and thermos flasks.

The National Societies distributed non-food aid among 18,834 of the most affected lonely elderly people, families with many children or single parents, and families with disabled members. Due to the use of the national societies own resources and donations from the public in response to media exposure, all national societies were able to surpass the distribution target numbers.

The number of beneficiaries is as follows:

Country	Number of Beneficiaries, Non-Food Aid				TOTAL
	Elderly	From Multi-Child Family	From Single-Parent Family	Disabled	
Belarus	448	612	346	141	1,547
Russia	1,296	2,864 (combined)			4,160
Ukraine	7,698	2,199	750		10,647
Moldova	335	1,594	459	92	2,480

The table below indicates the distribution of non-food items to beneficiaries.

Country	Non-food items distributed			
	Blankets (unit)	Warm clothes (unit)	Heaters (unit)	Thermos flasks (unit)
Belarus	1,619	3,150		
Russia		7,118*		
Ukraine	10,396	3,036**	1,919	160
Moldova	302	294**		
TOTAL	12,317	13,598	1,919	160
Planned	2,150	5,000	400	150

* Approximate, including second-hand clothing. The RRC distributed 9,725 clothing items (primarily new) to 5,684 beneficiaries including homeless people and street children (see Objective 1).

** In addition to the listed amounts, the URC distributed 1,500 kg of second-hand warm clothing and the MRC distributed 1,694 kg of second-hand warm clothing.

Shelter

Objective 1: Capacity of Red Cross shelters to provide services for homeless people and street children are improved

Result 1: 16 shelters of the Ukrainian Red Cross and 3 of the Russian Red Cross were provided by supplies in order to serve homeless people and street children

By the end of the project, the Ukrainian Red Cross had distributed among 32 shelters in Donetskaya, Kharkiv, and Kiev 150 blankets, 97 heaters and 80 vacuum flasks. Due to this, 3,335 persons (from 2005 families) have been served.

In the Russian Federation, Kaliningrad, Moscow and Bashkir RRC regional branches equipped their center with 6 electric thermos-teapots, 4 first-aid kits, 7 kits of disinfectants and 1,050 kits of disposable plates. This completes the intended improvements.

Communication – Advocacy and Public Information

The national societies of the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian Red Cross are liaising with local media on their respective National Society responses. The distributions, which took place from the beginning of the extreme frosts in the middle of January 2006, received regular coverage from local media (including radio and television channels) in 4 regions (Zaporozhskaya, Luganskaya, Donetskaya, Kharkovskaya oblasts) of Ukraine, in 5 regions (Kaliningradskaya, Moscovskaya, Tverskaya oblasts, Krasnodar territory and Bashkortostan Republic) of Russia and in 2 regions (Minsk and Vitebskaya oblasts) in Belarus resulting in private and government donations and enhancing the image and profile of the National Societies. For example Zaporozhskaya branch of the Ukrainian RC received donation of about USD 6,000.00 from private person and local government for nutrition of the street children and homeless people. The other recognized branches of the Red Cross have got in kind contributions from population, commercial and governmental structures. In the Russian Federation, daily contacts with the Vice-governor on response activities led to an article on the Red Cross response being published on the government's website. Due to the extensive media coverage in Russia—once every two days at the response's peak—the population continues to donate their belongings which are used for rendering of assistance to the homeless people and other needy categories of population.

Financial Information

In total, CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the assistance. However, as the amount of CHF 200,140 was spent to implement the planned activities, the additional CHF 140 is requested from DREF.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR67001 - BRUM SEVERE WINTER

Financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2006/06
Appeal	MDR67001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		200'000				200'000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		200'000				200'000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		200'000				200'000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		200'000				200'000
D. Total Funding = B + C		200'000				200'000

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		200'000				200'000
E. Expenditure		-200'140				-200'140
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		-140				-140

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Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/06
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		200'000					200'000	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	115'924		106'868				106'868	9'055
Food	34'915		45'229				45'229	-10'314
Medical & First Aid	365		330				330	35
Utensils & Tools	3'490		4'164				4'164	-674
Other Supplies & Services	15'713		16'184				16'184	-471
Total Supplies	170'406		172'775				172'775	-2'369
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment			4'340				4'340	-4'340
Total Land, vehicles & equipment			4'340				4'340	-4'340
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3'069		3'897				3'897	-828
Total Transport & Storage	3'069		3'897				3'897	-828
Personnel Expenditures								
National Staff	1'480		299				299	1'181
National Society Staff	2'478		1'967				1'967	511
Total Personnel Expenditures	3'958		2'266				2'266	1'692
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	800		677				677	123
Total Workshops & Training	800		677				677	123
General Expenditure								
Travel	3'200		4'186				4'186	-986
Information & Public Relation	747		623				623	124
Office Costs	1'990		5'581				5'581	-3'591
Communications	2'830		2'263				2'263	567
Financial Charges			-9'477				-9'477	9'477
Total General Expenditure	8'767		3'176				3'176	5'591
Program Support								
Program Support	13'000		13'009				13'009	-9
Total Program Support	13'000		13'009				13'009	-9
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	200'000		200'140				200'140	-140
VARIANCE (C - D)			-140				-140	