

ANNUAL REPORT



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

22 April 2004

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.81/2003;

Target: CHF 682,589 (USD 534,000 or EUR 439,000);

Coverage: 119.5% (*Click here to go directly to the Financial Report*)

Appeal 2004:

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine No. 01.80/2004 (click below)

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf

Chernobyl No.01.81/2004 (click below)

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018104.pdf

This document reports on and analyses achievements within the International Federation's 2003 annual appeal for Belarus. The activities supported by this appeal fell within the Federation's longer-term support strategy for Belarus. This is continuing in 2004 and is being supported by Appeal 01.80/2004 (see above).

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Overall analysis

In 2003 the Belarus Red Cross welcomed a turnaround in the negative funding trend that has afflicted programme implementation over the past several years. The Appeal 2003 was a successful tool for attracting financial support of the National Society's programmes, and in 2003 appeal coverage reached 75%, almost twice the coverage in 2002.

Throughout the year the majority of Belarus Red Cross projects were reviewed according to two interrelated indicators: 1) to what extent was Belarus Red Cross successful in ensuring the quality standard of its activities 2) which are designed to address the needs of the beneficiaries through ensuring/reaching programme sustainability.

Before initiating the Appeal 2004-2005 drafting process, the Minsk delegation of the International Federation undertook an analysis of the different programmes types implemented in the region in terms of their success and shortcomings. The analysis also included a study of global funding trends, conducted to identify future funding opportunities and continue the pattern of successful fundraising in 2003.

In general, 2003 was a year of introduction of modified approaches in programme implementation and planning both for the Belarus Red Cross and Minsk Federation Delegation. Through the Appeal 2003 the National Society

made significant progress in attracting more support to its programmes. At the same time, critical analysis of past and ongoing activities and addressing suggestions of donor communities led to constant adjusting and tuning of current programmes. As a result, the delegation and Belarus Red Cross developed a more realistic and relevant approach to future planning of activities which will be better aligned to the key strategies of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (Strategy 2010).

Health and Care

Goal: The health status of the population is strengthened through an increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, STIs (sexually transmitted infections) and TB and those infected and affected are better supported. In addition health emergencies and their consequences are reduced and the quality of life is improved.

Objective: The capacity of the Belarus Red Cross to participate effectively in health promotion and disease prevention is strengthened.

Project 1: Youth against HIV/AIDS

Expected results

By the end of 2003, up to 10,000 beneficiaries will have increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, STDs and TB, as well as of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS: the target population will be in the cities of Minsk, Bobruisk and Mozyr. This will be achieved by producing and disseminating information materials; workshops and events conducted by three working teams of youth peer educators on HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB prevention and other activities.

Actual results

In the year 2003 the project was funded by the British Government/DFID (Department for International Development), the Danish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross/ NORAD.

During the reporting period, **207** volunteers were trained as peer educators (towns: Minsk, Bobruisk, Vitebsk, Lida and Baranovichy). These volunteers conducted sessions on HIV prevention for **3,664** peers. Evaluation of the volunteers' work revealed that following education sessions the schoolchildren showed more interest in their own health and discussed the information they received with their friends and relatives. The educational sessions conducted by Belarus Red Cross volunteers changed the attitude of the youngsters towards HIV-positive people: initially 54% of the target group considered that people living with HIV/AIDS should be isolated from society, while after the training 83% of young people decided against this isolation. Thus by working directly within the school and educational institution environment, Belarus Red Cross attracted attention of the youth population and the general public to the HIV/AIDS problem and promoted healthy lifestyles and positive attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.

Regular experience exchange meetings enable the volunteers to solve the major problems faced during preparation and educational sessions at schools, to obtain additional information on HIV/AIDS and learn new methods of teaching, as well as develop leadership skills. The opportunities for youth peer educators to give feedback about their work are essential for maintaining the volunteers' interest and enthusiasm and thus the programme effectiveness.

Information materials

During the reporting period, **55,900** leaflets, **328** HIV/AIDS manuals and **6,100** posters were produced to support volunteers' work and branches' operations. Cooperation and information sharing with the National Centre for AIDS prevention, the Positive Movement (a local NGO) and UNAIDS enabled the Belarus Red Cross to implement best practice.

Harm reduction

In May 2003 a harm reduction component was incorporated within the programme: three Red Cross needle exchange centres in Molodechno (Minsk region), Kalinkovichy (Gomel region) and Mikashevichy (Brast region)

were opened to serve intravenous drug users (IDUs). **4,600** needles were exchanged and **1,440** condoms were distributed at the three centres. At the end of the year Belarus Red Cross procured **122,000** syringes and **8,088** condoms for distribution in the Red Cross needle exchange centres among intravenous drug users in 2004. A joint training for the needle exchange staff was carried out through the combined efforts of Belarus Red Cross and the Positive Movement.

To mark World AIDS Day on 1 December, Belarus Red Cross coordinated a week of events with a particular focus on anti-stigma discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. **8,900** information leaflets on HIV/AIDS were distributed throughout the country, and **200** “anti-discrimination” T-shirts handed out in Minsk, Baranovichi and Vitebsk. In addition, Red Cross staff and volunteers organised torch processions, competitions to identify best Red Cross volunteers, youth discos, HIV awareness and related stigma poster competitions, distribution of HIV/AIDS awareness questionnaires and leaflets, radio discussions and TV programmes. All events were highlighted in the mass media.

Co-ordination

- The Federation delegation supported Belarus Red Cross to develop the partnership with Danish Red Cross and establish a long-term branch-to-branch co-operation on HIV/AIDS/TB prevention. Selection of partner Red Cross branches in both Belarus and Denmark is expected to take place in the coming months.
- The Federation coordinated inputs from different donors (Danish Red Cross, DFID, Empress Shoken Fund) in order to ensure contributions were utilised in the most effective way.
- The Delegation organised a meeting with Positive Movement (a Belarus NGO working with people living with HIV/AIDS) to discuss cooperation with Belarus Red Cross and to share technical expertise in the harm reduction area. The Delegation’s advocacy work to include people living with HIV/AIDS into the Youth against HIV/AIDS project continued.
- As a member of the UN theme group on HIV/AIDS, the Delegation participated in several meetings organised by UNDP/UNAIDS to discuss joint actions for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Impact

The programme is built around a dedicated team of trained volunteers delivering education to their peers. This approach transfers knowledge and teaches life skills resulting in a change of behaviour among beneficiaries. Consequently stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS is reduced. In particular, evaluation of Red Cross work in this sphere demonstrates that schoolchildren show more interest in their own health and HIV/AIDS related issues following participation in peer education workshops. A harm reduction component introduced into the programme also contributes to fighting the spread of HIV in the country. Overall, this is regarded as one of the priority projects for Belarus Red Cross.

Constraints

No major constraints were experienced during the project, though some underfunding and delays in fund transfer occurred. However, need for access to anti retroviral drugs and to reduce HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination in Belarus remain significantly high. In 2004, the Belarus Red Cross is planning to scale up its involvement in response to these problem areas. In addition, the Delegation will facilitate the establishment of Belarus Red Cross as a significant player in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and related advocacy, and assist in defining a role for the National Society in care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Project 2: First Aid

Accidents, especially car accidents, are the main cause of death of people under the age of 45 in Belarus. According to information provided by Ministry of Health of Belarus, if current trends persist traumas as a result of accidents will become the second major cause of death (presently third) in Belarus. Road accidents recorded a death toll of more than 2000 people last year which is 5% more than in 2002. However no comprehensive First Aid (FA) education and training programme is provided by the State – whether in educational institutions or medical facilities. FA training offered by driving schools is lacking in practical application, effective methodology and modern equipment. Continuous under-financing of the public health system and rapid

deterioration of the health status of the Belarusian population is compelling local authorities to seek methods to improve the situation.

First Aid (FA) training thus remains a priority for the National Society as an integrated part of its health programme. It is included in the National Society's Strategic Plan 2001-2006, adopted by the Belarus Red Cross Congress in April 2001. Furthermore, a Red Cross Law adopted by the parliament in 2000 defines the National Society's role in providing FA education to the population and assisting governmental structures in times of disasters.

The Belarus Red Cross is committed to conveying the message that appropriate FA can alleviate suffering, prevent disability and improve the quality of life. As an integral part of health promotion, FA training includes information on how to prevent illnesses, develop a healthy lifestyle and prepare individuals and communities for emergency situations (e.g. natural and man-made disasters). This is particularly important in the current climate of growing HIV, STDs and TB epidemics.

According to Belarus Red Cross priorities, primary target groups for the present FA programme are rescue workers, social workers, Civil defence personnel, teachers and students of secondary schools.

Expected results:

The Belarus Red Cross will establish an effective first aid system, with increased branch capacity to target the general public in Grodno, Brest and Minsk regions.

Actual results:

During the reporting period, about **700** individuals from target groups and **40** first aid instructors were trained in basic FA and FA instruction in Minsk, Brest and Grodno regions, among them schoolchildren, disabled people, rescue workers, road police officers, members of industrial emergency teams, social workers, trade unions members and teachers. **1000** copies of the 130-page First Aid Instructors Manual were published and an essay contest "It is easy to save life...If you know how" was conducted among students who received FA training in target regions.

In September, the programme steering committee was formed and met to discuss the results, prospects and priorities of the programme. The steering committee includes regional coordinators, Belarus Red Cross management, FA instructors and volunteers.

Representatives of Belarus Red Cross participated in the conference organized by national Road Police Committee and made a presentation that described the impact of FA on survival and recovery of victims of traffic accidents worldwide, shared information about current Belarus Red Cross achievements in the field of FA training and stressed the importance of the obligatory FA training for drivers, an issue which is currently being lobbied by the National Society.

In December, Grodno regional Red Cross branch hosted a scientific and practical conference where it shared its experience in FA training with other regional Red Cross committees that joined this programme later. An educational video film that will be used in FA training was produced.

Impact

As a result of programme implementation, the expertise of the Red Cross branches in the field of FA training in Minsk, Grodno and Brest regions has been improved. Cooperation between local Red Cross committees and various governmental institutions and organizations, such as police departments, rescue departments, schools, and health institutions has been strengthened. Public awareness about the importance of FA training has been raised through various public events and involvement of volunteers in FA training.

Constraints

Short-term and unpredictable funding makes strategic planning rather difficult. Some essential parts of the FA programme (such as publishing of educational materials, extended cooperation plan) require time and at least some level of financial security. Another constraint that prevents Belarus Red Cross from extending this programme to the other regions of Belarus is an insufficient material base. The limited training equipment and materials owned by Belarus Red Cross are constantly in use by FA instructors and often loaned to district committees to cover their needs.

Thanks to the DFID Partnership, the development of the project will be supported for at least the next two years. Activities for strengthening the Belarus Red Cross material base are also planned. Sociological monitoring of the programme is scheduled for the first half of 2004 which will in particular focus on sustainability of the project.

Disaster Management

Goal: The Vulnerability level among the population most affected by socio-economic crisis is reduced and the quality of life improved.

Objective: The Belarus Red Cross effectively delivers aid to alleviate the plight of the country's most vulnerable population with a focus on victims of the socio-economical crisis, refugees and migrants.

Project 1: Humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable

Expected results:

Short-term nutritional support provided for 7,240 most vulnerable in all six regions of Belarus.

Actual results:

The operation was supported by the Swiss Red Cross: the CHF 90,000 pledge was announced on 6 February 2003. This donation enabled procurement of total 5,160 food parcels, which were distributed in three rounds to 1,720 most vulnerable elderly living alone in two target areas of Belarus. Elderly living alone are traditionally considered to be hardest hit by poor living conditions and substandard nutritional status. Target areas selected were Brest region, heavily affected by the Chernobyl disaster; and Minsk City, which has the highest concentration of elderly inhabitants in Belarus. The operation was implemented in February – August 2003.

Impact

Although the number of targeted beneficiaries was reduced due to poor donor response, the relief operation was successfully implemented and helped to reduce vulnerability in two areas of Belarus. The operation contributed to raising the image of Belarus Red Cross among both beneficiaries and the general public, and enabled its branches to mobilise local resources. Close co-operation with local authorities was maintained in order to confirm selection of the most vulnerable beneficiaries in the communities.

Logistics expertise within the Belarus Red Cross ensured an effective and timely operation. Throughout programme implementation the Belarus Red Cross adhered to internationally recognized standards outlined in the recommendations on tendering and procurement procedures provided by the Federation Secretariat's Logistics Department in Geneva and Minsk Delegation.

Finally, the programme further strengthened the Belarus Red Cross' disaster response capacities and was widely appreciated by beneficiaries.

Project 2: Medico-social centre for refugees in Minsk

Expected results:

At present assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Belarus is provided by the Belarus Red Cross, Leninsky rayon Red Cross organisation of Minsk, UNHCR and some other small organisations. Within the framework of the "Medico-social centre for refugees in Minsk" project, the immediate needs of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers (**150 families**) living in Minsk are met and their quality of life and welfare improved. Furthermore, the quality of medical and social services offered at the medico-social centre itself is improved.

Actual results

This project is funded by British Red Cross and was initiated in summer 2003. During the reporting period, a highly-qualified staff personnel was employed: Project Co-ordinator, Finance Officer, medical assistant, masseuse nurse and junior nurse. The family physician and the junior nurse (refugees from Afghanistan contracted by the UNHCR) continued to work at the medico-social centre.

Both the material state and living conditions of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers (150 families in total) were examined, and beneficiary lists were drawn up.

Tenders for purchase of goods for hygienic parcels and gift hygienic kits for children and adults, foodstuffs for food parcels and gift food parcels for children and adults, medical items for medical and first aid kits, TV set and video player, rehabilitation simulator for carrying out physiotherapy exercises and training sessions were prepared and carried out.

Thus, the following support was provided to members of those families:

- ✓ 150 packs of herbal tea were purchased and distributed to 150 families
- ✓ 257 packs of herbal tea were distributed to 257 individuals (150 families)
- ✓ 150 refugee families received 150 hygienic parcels
- ✓ 257 hygienic parcels were purchased and distributed to 257 individuals (both adults and children)
- ✓ Medicines were prescribed by the family physician to 176 refugees and asylum seekers (both children and adults)
- ✓ 257 medical kits were provided to 257 refugees and asylum seekers (both children and adults) as advised by the family physician
- ✓ 150 refugee families benefited from 300 food parcels (2 parcels per family)
- ✓ 100 gift food parcels were given to 100 children from the most needy refugee families
- ✓ Belarus Red Cross responded to 692 requests for therapeutic help
- ✓ Medical services at home were delivered to 38 disabled patients with restricted mobility
- ✓ 29 medical checks of cardiovascular system / ECGs were administered
- ✓ 264 medical check-ups were conducted at clinics and medical institutions in Minsk
- ✓ 150 families received prevention therapy in the form of herbal tea (a traditional remedy popular in Belarus)
- ✓ 83 patients attended the Red Cross "herbal" bar
- ✓ 176 clients received medicinal treatment
- ✓ 6 patients benefited from in-patient treatment
- ✓ 61 refugees were trained in home physiotherapy exercises
- ✓ 116 training sessions in physiotherapy exercises were facilitated at the Red Cross Refugee Centre
- ✓ 102 massage sessions were provided to refugees with chronic diseases in accordance with physician's prescription.
- ✓ 80 refugee families were provided with in-kind support: toys, footwear, clothing, bed linen, prams
- ✓ Red Cross staff conducted 27 discussion sessions and lectures.

Impact:

Joint activities with State health institutions and the UNHCR were carried out at the medico-social centre. The programme has improved awareness levels of refugees and asylum seekers regarding disease prevention and health protection. Primary medical checks, and preventive and medical treatment decreased disease prevalence and improved health status among the target population. Humanitarian assistance improved welfare of refugees and asylum seekers.

Constraints:

The objective of the programme is to increase health status and decrease social vulnerability of refugees and asylum seekers in the targeted regions. To achieve stable positive results in this respect, the programme can be only run on a long term basis and requires long term donor commitment.

Trafficking is becoming a critical phenomenon in Belarus. While Belarus Red Cross is willing and has the potential to respond to the trafficking problem, it lacks expertise and practical experience in this area.

In 2004 the Federation will further support strengthening the disaster management capacities of the Belarus Red Cross. With involvement of the Federation expertise and based on the Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), a new BRCS disaster management plan covering population movement will be developed.

A cross-country population movement programme run by Minsk delegation aims to enable the Belarus Red Cross (and two other Red Cross National Societies in the region) to analyse the different options of intervention and to assess the possibilities for future programmes. Suggested activities include prevention and repatriation, victims counselling and empowerment or self-help groups.

Organisational Development

Goal: The National Society assumes a greater role in humanitarian work in Belarus through organisational reforms and improved technical capacities.

Objective: The capacity of the Belarus Red Cross to effectively respond to the needs of the most vulnerable is increased through greatly improved governance, management, as well as use of financial and information systems.

Project 1: Capacity building

Expected Results

1. Management, governance and human resources in the headquarters and branches of the Belarus Red Cross are strengthened by the end of 2003, through a newly elected chairman and elimination of paid staff members from serving on the board. The new members will be selected on the basis of their ability to help the Belarus Red Cross in management, programming and fund-raising; and the board will be more able to assist the Belarus Red Cross in achieving its programme and revenue objectives and to assure its oversight of management and trustworthiness to donors. The oblasts and districts will carry out the same restructuring.
2. Strategic planning skills of the Belarus Red Cross will be greatly improved by the end of 2003, through focusing on a range of activities, including fund-raising, relations with the government and key donors, working with the board, leading organizational change, establishing management priorities, delegating responsibility to key managers, and encouraging and supporting staff in the change progress and their ongoing work. The management team of the Belarus Red Cross will demonstrate greater teamwork, responsibility, and a culture supporting the work of the National Society.

Actual Results

An important change process initiated within the Belarus Red Cross in February 2002 was facilitated by the allocation of the Federation's Capacity Building Fund. With help of an international consultant the National Society was able to concentrate on institutional development, development of fund-raising systems, strengthening legislative, human and material resources.

Within the training/coaching process facilitated by the international consultant 5 workshops/training sessions on governance, management, institutional culture and fund-raising were held throughout Belarus: in Grodno (February 2003), Mogilev (March 2003), Vitebsk and Gomel (July 2003), and in Baranovichy, Brest Region (November 2003). In total, 120-130 people from regional and district Red Cross branches benefited from this multi-fold and extensive training in 2003. This training has increased Red Cross staff's awareness of relevant international standards and compliance with those standards on a daily basis in all six regions of Belarus.

During the workshops, sharing of best practices and case studies of successful NGOs worldwide was particularly well received. Trainers underlined the necessity of diversification of funding sources and highlighted the revised approach to ranked Red Cross National Society membership fees. The meetings motivated newly elected regional/district chairpersons to draft new, successful proposals to attract both international and local donors.

Furthermore, district chairpersons participating in the workshops committed to finalising certain practical tasks based on strategic plans drafted during the training sessions. These tasks included the following specific steps:

- to complete a district-wide donor assessment;
- to complete a district-wide fund-raising assessment;
- to complete a fund-raising plan for selected objectives, and
- to formulate a plan to strengthen the district Presidium.

The international consultant's biannual training assignment at the Belarus Red Cross expired in November 2003. To follow up the process, a local expert was recruited according to suggestions of the international consultant and the Minsk delegation.

The draft new Statutes which separate National Society governance and management functions were discussed in all Belarus Red Cross branches. The draft was repeatedly sent to the joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes for legal advice, and respective corrections made to the document upon receipt of the Commission's feedback.

Following the elections of new voluntary Belarus Red Cross Board Chairpersons which took place in Grodno and Mogilev regions last year, in 2003, new Chairs of the Board were elected at Vitebsk, Gomel and Brest regional branches. Simultaneously, the recruitment process of new chief managers (paid staff members) took place at the majority of regional branches. Both the strengthened Boards and executive bodies at branch level are expected to boost fund-raising activities which will contribute to sustainability of the Red Cross programmes and ability to respond more efficiently to local vulnerabilities.

In 2003, a new national director for fund-raising joined the Belarus Red Cross headquarters management team. The international consultant conducted a separate coaching session for the new director to reflect on strategic responsibilities of a good fundraiser. The primary tasks for the new fundraiser are to ensure quality programming and results; elaborate a realistic and accurate fund-raising plan; increase trustworthiness and transparency of the organisation and so attracting new efficient and active members of the Belarus Red Cross Presidium.

Impact

The above-mentioned change process, announced by the National Society in 2002, has been steadily progressing at several levels within the Belarus Red Cross. Federation/DFID funds enabled training sessions and individual consultations for National Society staff facilitated by the international expert. The skills base of the National Society has thus been strengthened, and lessons learned and commitments made at the workshops facilitated closer national society involvement in preparation of the Federation Appeal 2004.

In addition, Belarus Red Cross has benefited in terms of the new recruits to the national/regional/district boards as well as to branches themselves. As a result, the Belarus Red Cross at all levels is better placed to accommodate the standards of a well-functioning National Society - planning, implementing and reporting on programmes to assist the most vulnerable communities in the country.

Co-ordination

The Delegation's programme officers guided by the Head of Delegation facilitated negotiations with the DFID/Federation Programme Advisor in order to secure funding for 2004. A proposal was submitted to DFID to enable project expansion.

The National Society's Strategic Development Plan for the years 2004-2007 has recently been revised and amended by the Delegation's Programme Officer for Belarus to be in best compliance with the Federation's current guidelines for the Belarus Red Cross.

Necessary steps were undertaken by the Delegation for enabling the local expert's resources to be introduced and further involved in supporting the ongoing change process.

Constraints

New chairpersons (Brest, Gomel, Mogilev and Vitebsk Regional branches) and executive directors (Brest Regional branch and Railway Committee) as well as unpaid voluntary chairs of the boards (Bobruisk district, Brest, Grodno, Mogilev and Vitebsk Regional branches) were recruited in 2003. However the impact of this recruitment at a country wide level will be a slow process. On the other hand, the present leadership of the Belarus Red Cross is very much in favour of spreading the wave of change throughout the National Society and seems to be enthusiastic enough to tackle new challenges.

The process of clarification and endorsement of the revised Statutes by legal advisers at the Ministry of Justice to ensure compliance with national and local legislation took more time than expected. This caused a delay in submission of the draft of revised Statutes to the Joint Commission (Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes). As a result, the ad hoc Congress meeting was postponed and is anticipated to be held in March 2004.

Although there was no documentation circulated between officials of the Republic of Belarus and the Federation Delegation with regard to the Presidential Decree no. 460 "On International Technical Assistance provided to the Republic of Belarus" dated 22 October 2003, the implications of the Decree, which might affect receipt of international assistance by Belarus Red Cross, are still unclear.

The Federation delegation will support the need for improvement of Belarus Red Cross management by the introduction of a special project aiming at upgrading the planning and marketing capabilities through training. After defining the strategy and outlining areas of intervention, the expertise within the Belarus Red Cross will contribute to strengthening of the project planning skills at Red Cross branch level.

Project 2: Organisational Development - Communication and financial network

Expected Results

Communication and financial information flow within and outside the Belarus Red Cross is improved by the end of 2003, with a computer network and other systems of communications, data management, financial records, and human resource management established.

Actual Results

This project is funded in 2003 by the British Government/ DFID. In 2003, basic computer software was purchased and installed at 8 regional branches of the Belarus Red Cross to expand upon the existing financial computer network established at Belarus Red Cross Headquarters Accounting Department in 2002. In addition, the design for a communication database to function as an information exchange between Belarus Red Cross branches was prepared for approval by the National Society General Secretary.

In addition, computer equipment was purchased to facilitate training workshops and collection of field reports not only on the project but also on the other programme activities conducted within the Belarus Red Cross.

The Fundraising Director who joined the Belarus Red Cross headquarters management team this year has been also provided with a new set of PC equipment. Other PC monitors were also purchased for the Belarus Red Cross headquarters within the budget to modernise the working environment.

The software "1C: Enterprise" has been purchased for all the 6 regional branches to be the standard starting point of all documentation circulation throughout the National Society.

Impact

A training session entitled “Aspects of External and Internal Information Exchange at the Belarus Red Cross” was held at the beginning of December 2003 for Red Cross chief accountants and regional co-ordinators. Based on the expertise and knowledge of the National Society’s regional staff, a “Standard Structure of the Belarus Red Cross” was developed and revised at this training. The structure will promote an efficient and competent automated exchange of documents through the computer network.

In the frame of this project, some regional branches managed to create their own e-mail boxes and get access to the Internet. Thus, a regular information / documentation exchange is now established between the regional branches and headquarters. The computerised databases will be available and maintained via connection of regional computers to their respective networks, thus facilitating efficient information flow and records -keeping and providing a basis for extension of the network at regional level.

Co-ordination

Belarus Red Cross experienced delays in locating qualified specialists to develop, install and maintain the computer network at local branches. The Federation Delegation has since recommended computer specialists working on a regular basis at the Federation office to oversee network installation.

Constraints

Due to a rather complicated technical adaptation of the supplied software and inadequately experienced accountants in the regions, uninterrupted operation of the software is only expected in early 2004.

Coordination and Management

Achievements

Belarus Red Cross is now in the middle of a change process which was initiated in 2002. Although the in- country profile of the National Society is high, the Belarus Red Cross faces difficulties in attracting local donors, lacks modern fund-raising strategies and tools and continues to be dependent on external support. There is also a need to better utilise experience and technical and methodological expertise of other sister societies and the Federation.

Federation/ Belarus Red Cross efforts have struggled to sustain the Visiting Nurses Service. One of the major challenges faced by Belarus Red Cross in 2002 was the severe reduction of its visiting nurses. This reduction was due to the unexpected withdrawal of government subsidies to Red Cross wages. The Federation Delegation immediately appealed to sister National Societies to bridge the funding gap: contributions from the Icelandic, Liechtenstein, Spanish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies (some CHF65,000 in total) prevented the crisis from escalating in 2003 and ensured the continuation of VNS services, if only, at a minimum level. At the same time, a Task Force has been created by the Belarus Red Cross and the Federation to prevent any repetition of the crisis.

The Delegation introduced a sustainability concept for the Visiting Nurses Service in March. The document outlines specific strategies to develop well functioning, well equipped and high quality medico-social centres and Visiting Nurses Service.

In 2003, the Delegation continued to support the Belarus Red Cross with technical advice and follow-up help. Regular contacts were maintained with embassies, and various national and international organisations working in the country such as TACIS, UNDP, UNAIDS, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the World Bank.

During 2003, the Delegation continued to be involved in the “International Chernobyl Research Information Network”, participating in the Board sittings of the Network for decision making on project development.

Through its Minsk Delegation, the Federation negotiated with the Chernobyl Committee - a special body of the Belarus Ministry of Emergencies dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster - on the Declaration of

Principles on “Co-operation for Rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl-affected areas in Belarus” and for the Federation to join this partnership.

A new Delegation management structure was implemented after a review of Federation work in the light of the Federation’s change strategy for Europe. This model includes the introduction of the budget holder concept, redefining of roles and a more effective placement of national staff, as well as sharing of resources and technical expertise with the delegation in Moscow. There is now one programme coordinator per region covered by the delegation (Moldova; Ukraine; Belarus). Minsk delegation is planning its internal strategy to support the National Society for the coming four years, with one detailed strategy per two years.

In addition, an analysis of the Federation’s annual Appeals over the last five years for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (including CHARP) was prepared by the Delegation and shared with the Red Cross National Societies in the region.

The partnership meeting for the Red Cross National Societies in the region, partner National Societies, the ICRC and Federation delegations took place in Minsk in April 2003. The National Red Cross Societies present were: Belarusian, Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian, American, Austrian, British, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss. Also present were representatives from the Minsk, Moscow and Budapest Federation delegations, the Federation Secretariat, and the ICRC Kiev delegation. The meeting was a unique opportunity for all partners to meet in a structured environment and to discuss working towards mutually agreed goals and enhancing common approaches and continuity in the interests of the National Societies and their programmes. The next regional Partnership Meeting will take place in Kiev. It is tentatively scheduled for 5-8 May 2004.

Impact

The Federation continues to concentrate on encouraging the Belarus Red Cross to become a well functioning institution with an increased capacity to independently design, manage and implement more focused and responsive programmes primarily based on internal funding.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is 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 programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
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Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.81/2003 Belarus

Period: year 2003

Project(s): PBY001, 160, 161, 401, 402, 502, 517, 580, 601

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	682,589				
less					
Cash brought forward	77,029				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	605,560				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Austrian Red Cross (DNAT)	3,098				3,098
British Red Cross (DNGB)	47,675				47,675
Danish Red Cross # 1 (DNDK01)	15,186				15,186
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	75,403				75,403
DFID 4- British Government (DFID04)	237,502				237,502
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	7,304				7,304
German Red Cross (DNDE)	4,246				4,246
Liechtenstein Red Cross (DNLI)	670				670
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	3,000				3,000
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	15,193				15,193
Swiss Red Cross (DNCH)	89,813				89,813
AUSTRIA				73,000	73,000
SWEDISH - RC			119,095		119,095
FINNISH - RC			81,606		81,606
TOTAL	499,091		200,701	73,000	772,792

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	77,029
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	499,091
CASH EXPENDITURE	(535,254)

CASH BALANCE	40,867

Appeal No & title: 01.81/2003 Belarus

Period: year 2003

Project(s): PBY001, 160, 161, 401, 402, 502, 517, 580, 601

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
SUPPLIES						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles			200,701		200,701	(200,701)
Food & Seeds	112,192	71,217			71,217	40,976
Water & sanitation						
Medical & First Aid	11,600	8,811			8,811	2,789
Teaching materials	33,541	842			842	32,699
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies	4,000	7,521			7,521	(3,521)
Sub-Total	161,333	88,391	200,701		289,092	(127,759)
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		2,819			2,819	(2,819)
Computers & Telecom equip.	28,610	68,546			68,546	(39,936)
Medical equipment	2,780	1,006			1,006	1,774
Other capital expenditures		7,635			7,635	(7,635)
Sub-Total	31,390	80,006			80,006	(48,616)
TRANSPORT & STORAGE						
Warehouse & distribution	8,236	2,867			2,867	5,369
Transport & vehicles	12,130	14,978			14,978	(2,848)
Sub-Total	20,366	17,845			17,845	2,521
PERSONNEL & TRAINING						
Personnel (delegates)	90,288	19,849		73,000	92,849	(2,561)
Personnel (regional, national staff)	96,047	92,909			92,909	3,138
Consultants	40,000	21,963			21,963	18,037
Workshops & training	48,946	42,040			42,040	6,906
Sub-Total	275,281	176,761		73,000	249,761	25,521
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION						
Travel & related expenses	38,830	15,240			15,240	23,590
Information expenses	37,273	38,842			38,842	(1,569)
Admin./general expenses	73,748	67,085			67,085	6,663
Sub-Total	149,851	121,167			121,167	28,684
PROGRAMME SUPPORT						
	44,368	51,480			51,480	(7,112)
Operational provisions		(395)			(395)	395
Transfers & contributions						
TOTAL BUDGET	682,589	535,254	200,701	73,000	808,955	(126,366)