

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

UKRAINE

30 June
2003

Appeal No. 01.85/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 930,961 (USD 684,000 / EUR 599,000)

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: January - May 2003

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: **18.5%**; (30 June, for live situation click on weblink be low)

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap018503.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 758,462 (USD 558,000 / EUR 488,000)

Operational developments

Over the past few years the number of people living with HIV/ AIDS has continued to increase dramatically. Nowadays the incidence rate in Ukraine is one of the highest in Europe. The Ukrainian Centre fighting AIDS confirms that there are over 52,000 people testing HIV-positive and about 4,000 people living with full-blown AIDS in Ukraine. At the beginning of 2003 the Ukrainian Red Cross Society met with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and other ministers and state committees to discuss development of the four year (2004-2008) National Programme on HIV prevention as well as assistance and treatment of HIV-infected people. The programme presupposes participation of Ukrainian Red Cross Society in implementation of the following HIV/AIDS related activities: information and education; prevention; reduction of risky behavior; rehabilitation and social support to people living with HIV/AIDS; providing vulnerable people with access to these programmes.

According to Ukraine Interfax agency and the Deputy State Secretary of Ministry of Emergencies, the accident rate in Ukraine is increasing. There were over 400 technological accidents registered during 2000 resulting in the deaths of over 440 people. On average the same number of technological accidents and at least 20 natural disasters occur every year. During the last 4 years these disasters severely affected the population and economy. More than 2,000 deaths have resulted and a material loss estimated at over USD 600 million. The Ukrainian Red Cross continues to

work towards reduction of impact of these disasters on vulnerable people through its Disaster Management programme.

During the reporting period, the following developments occurred:

- On April 1, 2003 an operational contract was signed between the International Federation and Ukrainian Red Cross Society.
- From August 2003 wages of visiting nurses will be increased by 30 % according to the Government decree.
- Ukraine is currently experiencing acute drought. There have been no rains since April 2003. The Prime Minister said that grain harvest is severely affected in the South, Centre and East of Ukraine. The humanitarian need remains unclear, and at present the Ukrainian government has pledged to assess the situation and react appropriately.

Health and care

Overall Goal:

Health status of the population is strengthened through an increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and TB, particularly among the elderly, the disabled, groups at risk of HIV and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Programme Objective: Operational capacity of visiting nurses service and youth of the Ukrainian Red Cross to deliver primary and preventative health care as well as social services in target areas is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Visiting Nurses Service

The project was not implemented due to lack of funds. Currently the service employs 3,200 visiting nurses (VNs). The government subsidises the salaries for VNs and local authorities support the Visiting Nurses Service by providing premises for medico-social centres/rooms.

TB/HIV/STDs programme

The project was not implemented due to lack of funds. However, during the reporting period Ukrainian Red Cross developed the "Social support of TB-patients under DOTS treatment" programme. Ukraine Ministry of Healthcare included this programme in an application to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The application is currently under consideration.

Red Cross youth against HIV/AIDS

In 2002, the Ukrainian Red Cross implemented the project "Youth Red Cross against HIV/AIDS", funded by the British Government/DFID (Department for International Development). Red Cross staff and volunteers learnt how to work effectively with at-risk groups, and carried out educational activities on HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. The Ukrainian Red Cross continues these activities in 2003 under DFID funding.

The following activities took place during the reporting period:

- Ukrainian Red Cross wrote a project implementation plan and budget for activities from 1 April to 31 December 2003. The plan outlines respective responsibilities of the Red Cross National Committee and regional Red Cross branches.
- Ukrainian Red Cross selected three regions for project implementation. The regions chosen are those with the highest incidence rate of HIV/AIDS within Ukraine: Mykolayiv, Odessa and Kherson Oblasts.

- In June, according to the project implementation plan, Ukrainian Red Cross established a working group within the National Committee to develop the programme and oversee its implementation.
- Ukrainian Red Cross interviewed and appointed coordinators and psychologists to work in the three Oblasts selected for project implementation. The new employees conduct training of peer educators working with HIV-positive people.
- Target groups for preventive and informational activities have been identified.
- Ukrainian Red Cross designed leaflets targeting youth on HIV/AIDS prevention. Publishing of leaflets will follow the tender procedures underway.
- Action plans of Ukrainian Red Cross local branches were agreed with local authorities, healthcare, educational and social institutions.
- Ukrainian Red Cross planned the meeting of programme coordinators scheduled in Kiev for June 2003.
- Preparation of three seminars on training for youth leaders is under way. The seminars were to be held in June 2003 in the three Oblasts selected for programme implementation.
- Ukrainian Red Cross developed methodological materials on peer education to assist staff to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention among target groups.

Impact

Ukrainian Red Cross focused on organization of activities for 2003. Project implementation will continue to provide opportunities to increase experience of Ukrainian Red Cross staff in HIV/AIDS prevention work and to develop a contact network among state and other organisations. By developing skills and sharing knowledge, Red Cross staff is able to carry out programme activities more effectively. Direct impact on beneficiaries and Ukrainian Red Cross staff and volunteers will become more apparent once activities are well underway.

Constraints

No major constraints were encountered during implementation. However, Ukrainian Red Cross continues to seek funding for the Visiting Nurses Service and TB/HIV/STIs projects.

Analysis and outlook

Ukrainian Red Cross will continue to focus on prevention of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. In 2002, the GFATM pledged a total of USD 92,152,744 to help the Ukrainian government in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Ukrainian Red Cross has submitted a request to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) - the coordinating body established in Ukraine according to GFATM requirements - requesting USD 3,271,000 over five years. If the application is successful, funds will be used to carry out informational/educational activities and provide medical-psychosocial support to youth in rural areas and to street children towards HIV/AIDS prevention. The Ukrainian Red Cross is also strengthening its activities on HIV/AIDS harm reduction. In particular the National Committee is going to submit an application for participation in the project "Care and Support" announced recently by the Ukrainian Government. This project includes establishment of hospices providing home care and psychosocial support to HIV-positive people. Ukrainian Red Cross is also considering development of needle exchange points for drug users. Zaporozhye Regional Red Cross branch currently runs a needle exchange programme and the National Society hopes to extend this programme to other regions.

Disaster Management

Overall Goal

The vulnerability level among the population most affected by socio-economic difficulties is reduced and their quality of life improved, while at the same time the negative effects of natural and technological disasters are reduced through an increased capacity in disaster preparedness.

Programme Objective

The organizational and management capacity of the Ukrainian Red Cross is strengthened in disaster management, through closer integration of First Aid activities, as well as disaster preparedness material and technical capacity.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**Disaster preparedness**

The following activities took place:

- Ukrainian Red Cross has selected a working group at National Committee level to develop the programme and oversee its implementation.
- National Committee of Ukrainian Red Cross has completed and adopted the project implementation.
- Ukrainian Red Cross has written a budget for supplying electricity to the Disaster Preparedness Warehouse. Electrification will enable Red Cross to use the building as a Disaster Preparedness centre for training rescue teams in addition to its use as a storage facility. The Ukrainian Red Cross National Committee is following tender and procurement procedures to select a construction firm to install the electricity supply at the Disaster Preparedness centre.
- Tender procedures are underway for procurement of sanitary-hygiene equipment. This equipment will be used in camps established by the Ukrainian Red Cross rescue team in times of emergency.
- Ukrainian Red Cross is planning regular theoretical and practical training for members of the voluntary rescue teams. A seminar for the leaders of voluntary rescue teams is planned for June 2003. Invitations to attend have been sent to the regional branches.

Impact

The focus was on organization of activities for the coming year. The plan for implementation is running as scheduled, and it is expected that by the end of 2003 Ukrainian Red Cross will have a fully equipped Disaster Preparedness warehouse to react effectively during times of disaster.

Constraints

No major constraints have been encountered. However, Ukrainian Red Cross continues to seek funding for the First Aid, Disaster Response and Youth Red Cross projects.

Analysis and outlook

Electrification of the Disaster Preparedness warehouse will enable Ukrainian Red Cross to use the building as a training centre, thus expanding the National Society's capacity. Ukrainian Red Cross hopes to access funding to complete the second phase of the programme - installation of a fire prevention system – to ensure safety of the warehouse.

First Aid

The project was not implemented due to lack of funds.

Disaster response

The project was not implemented due to lack of funds.

Organisational Development

Overall Goal

The National Society's capacity is strengthened at headquarters and branch level, contributing towards an increased role as a community-based humanitarian organisation in Ukraine, able to assist vulnerable groups in an effective way.

Programme Objective

The Ukrainian Red Cross organisational capacities are strengthened, increasing effectiveness of URCS programmes in providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**Enhancing the financial capacities of the National Society**

In 2002 Ukrainian Red Cross began creating an information network and modern technical base for its financial services. Last year this programme was funded by the Federation's Capacity Building Fund. 17 units of computer hardware (computers, printers, modems) and software were purchased and installed at National Society Headquarters and in 13 of the 26 Oblast Red Cross Committees. Ukrainian Red Cross intends to purchase a further 11 units of computer hardware and software for those Oblast Committees not covered by the programme in 2002. This activity is funded by the British Government/ DFID.

During the reporting period, the following activities took place:

- The National Society has prepared the project budget and detailed monthly expenditure forecasts.
- A working group (including programme coordinator, finance manager and network coordinator) has been established at National Committee level.
- Ukrainian Red Cross has appointed coordinators responsible for programme implementation at Oblast (Regional) Red Cross Committees.
- New accounting software has been purchased for the National Society finance team.
- Tender and procurement of computer equipment and software (including accounting packages) was completed.

Impact

New computer hardware and software will assist Ukrainian Red Cross to manage its finances effectively and provide an effective information network between most branches.

Constraints

No major constraints found in the implementation of this project. However, Ukrainian Red Cross continues to seek funding for the Youth Red Cross project.

Analysis and outlook

Regional committees in 25 Oblasts now have new computer equipment and software. However, due to a funding gap, two Oblasts remain without this new equipment. Ukrainian Red Cross seeks additional funds to complete the project objective of a countrywide computer-based information network providing easy exchange of information between the financial services at HQ and branch level.

Youth Red Cross

The project was not implemented due to lack of funds.

Coordination/ International Representation

Two locally recruited employees staff the Federation Representative Office in Kiev. Their role focuses on supporting the Chernobyl programme and assisting the Ukraine Red Cross in programme implementation.

The Delegation in Minsk and the Federation office in Kiev support the Ukrainian Red Cross in negotiating with the Government and coordinating with UN agencies, World Bank, TACIS and other international governmental and non-governmental organisations in Ukraine. In January – February 2003, the Head of Delegation together with the President of the Ukrainian Red Cross visited TACIS Office, EU Delegation, Austrian, German, British and Canadian Embassies in Ukraine and discussed potential support of the National Society.

Efforts were made to facilitate a dialogue with partner National Societies funding activities in Ukraine to ensure proper co-ordination between these National Societies and other donors. The Federation met with the leadership and senior management of the Ukraine Red Cross regularly to ensure guidance, information flow and better co-ordination between Ukrainian Red Cross, the Federation and other Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies.

The partner National Society donors meeting with the National Societies of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova in Minsk strengthened partnership relations between the Ukrainian Red Cross and its main donors: the Red Cross Societies of Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and United States of America. Ukrainian Red Cross negotiated with the German Red Cross to support its Mobile Technical Teams to assist Formerly Displaced People. Negotiations were also conducted with American Red Cross concerning the strengthening of disaster preparedness and disaster relief programme.

Finally, The Federation granted Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in response to the information bulletin no. 01/2003 to support the irregular influx of migrants in Western regions. Ukrainian Red Cross awaits receipt of these funds, which will be used to purchase humanitarian aid (food, hygiene items and disinfectants), to employ a physician and psychologist to provide migrants with medical and psycho-social support.

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