

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

BELARUS, MOLDOVA & UKRAINE

05 July 2004

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2004; Appeal coverage: 58.5%; ([click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 2,325,370 (USD 1,881,250 or EUR 1,531,550)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Appeal 2004 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf

CHARP Chernobyl Programme Update http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01810401.pdf

CHARP Chernobyl Programme Appeal http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018104.pdf

Ukraine Explosion Information Bulletins 1 and 2

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/ukraineexp04a1.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/ukraineexplosionib0204.pdf

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Health and care

Overall goal: To improve the health status of the communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine .

HIV/AIDS objective: The Red Cross National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have the capacity to contribute effectively to the regional and countrywide response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

HIV/AIDS affects 56.7 people per 100,000, according to official national statistics (May 2004). However, as is the case in both Moldova and Ukraine, the real incidence rate is estimated to be up to 5 times higher – 170 to 283 people per 100,000, affecting the population in 146 administrative territories.

Again, as in other countries in the region, young people aged 15-29 make up the biggest risk group (80% of all HIV infected people in Belarus). Belarus Red Cross considers peer education activities that target this high risk group to be one of the most effective ways of halting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Of these young people, the majority (over 70%) are injecting drug users (IDUs). With an estimated IDU population of between 50,000 – 55,000, Belarus Red Cross is also focusing on harm reduction programmes that aim to contain and control the epidemic. The number of people living with full blown AIDS alone is expected to increase five fold over the next year.

Peer education

During the reporting period, new teams of volunteer peer educators were trained in Minsk (20 people), Molodechno (20 people) and Brest (20 people). Educational sessions for the target group are taking place in 7 areas: Minsk, Bobruisk, Lida, Baranovichy, Vitebsk, Molodechno and Brest, covering 2900 teenagers. Volunteers from all the towns involved in peer education took part in experience exchange visits, providing the opportunity to share results and outline new methods and plans.

12,000 leaflets, 15,000 posters and 140 manuals for volunteers were published within the current reporting period.

Harm reduction

3 new needle exchange centres were opened in Minsk, Svetlogorsk (Gomel region) and Rogachev (Gomel region). Needle exchange activities are now taking place in 6 needle exchange centres. 11,700 needles and 1,440 condoms have been purchased for distribution. Experience exchange for the staff of the needle exchange centres was conducted in Minsk with participation of the Positive Movement (a national NGO) and the AIDS prevention Department of the Republican Centre for hygiene, epidemiology and public health.

Impact:

The project is a continuation of the previous work of the Belarus Red Cross in the field of HIV prevention and is regarded as one of the National Societies' key activities. It 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 and in reduction of stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV. A harm reduction component introduced into the programme adds to fighting the spread of HIV in Belarus.

Constraints:

No major constraints were experienced during the project, except for delays in funding transfers.

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination.

Please refer to the Humanitarian Values section of this update for details on harm reduction and peer education activities in Moldova

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination.

Operational Development:

In January 2004, the Ukrainian Red Cross National Committee received an official letter from the Ukrainian AIDS Control Centre containing the latest national HIV/AIDS statistics and suggestions to expand the current Ukrainian Red Cross project in the southern and eastern oblasts, which form a continuous belt of high HIV/AIDS prevalence. These regions include Odessa, Mykolayiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kherson oblasts, and the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City. In Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk oblasts Ukrainian Red Cross is running a 2-year bilateral programme “Youth against HIV/AIDS” with Netherlands Red Cross; Odessa and Kherson Oblasts were pilot regions for an International Federation /DFID (British Department for International Development) project implemented in 2003. In 2004, Ukrainian Red Cross will implement the project in the following regions: Mykolayiv Oblast, the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and Sevastopol City. Kherson and Odessa oblasts will receive funds to hold an additional 100 peer sessions per oblast.

In March 2004, Ukraine received funding from the Global Fund¹ to fight HIV/AIDS epidemics in Ukraine. While the main recipients of this funding are Ministry of Health and HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, the majority of the funds will be used for treatment of HIV-positive people and AIDS patients. The large number of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine indicates the necessity to continue prevention activities, especially among the youth population, who is most prone to risky behavior and HIV infection.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- During the reporting period, Ukrainian Red Cross prepared the project implementation plan and purchased informational materials for distribution amongst the target population. In total, **53,300 leaflets, 44,000 stickers and 60,000 posters** of two types were purchased and distributed to the participating local Red Cross branches. These materials will be handed out during the course of the project to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and related issues.

- The number of peer education sessions held in the participating regions is as follows:

Table 1. Peer education sessions conducted in Ukraine in April 2004

Region	volunteer peer educators	peer education sessions conducted	participants	Location of peer education sessions
Odessa	10	40	600	Schools, colleges, universities
Kherson	15	30	450	Naval college, medical college, schools

Table 2. No. of sessions for training peer educators held in April/ May 2004

Region	volunteers trained	Participants
Mykolayiv	23	School children, students, volunteers
Crimea	38	
Kherson	28	

¹ The Global Fund – <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/> – was created to finance a dramatic turn-around in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. These three diseases kill more than six million people each year. The Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities and is governed as such.

Participants in the training sessions included schoolchildren and students. Volunteers trained during the reporting period (see table 2 above) are expected to begin conducting peer to peer HIV/AIDS education sessions in summer camps in June 2004. All training sessions and related HIV/AIDS issues enjoyed good coverage in the local mass media (TV, radio, newspapers). In Crimea, the workshop was recognized by local government and non government organizations and as part of the workshop UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) representatives held the first screening in Crimea of “A Closer Walk”², the first feature-length film to document the global AIDS pandemic.

Impact

Although programme organization issues took priority during the reporting period, this did not restrict the impact of the programme on the target population. Printed information materials were distributed in public places in Kherson, Odessa and Mykolayiv Oblasts, Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and Sevastopol City to raise awareness of the general population, in particular youth, of the threat of AIDS and the Red Cross role in fighting the spread of the epidemic. Also, a total of **89** highly motivated and dedicated volunteers were trained in the peer education method. New and existing volunteers play a vital role in informing the most at risk population (the youth) about HIV/AIDS prevention.

In Kherson and Odessa Oblasts where a similar project was implemented in 2003, trained volunteers continued to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and related issues in peer to peer education sessions. Participants received comprehensive information on HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, condom use; learnt how to avoid risky behavior and were encouraged to choose a healthy life style. Furthermore, the volunteers encouraged tolerance towards HIV-positive people and AIDS patients. In the case exercises offered by the Red Cross volunteers the beneficiaries were able to discuss their own attitude to people living with HIV/AIDS. These exercises were followed up by sessions with HIV+ people, providing the opportunity to meet and listen to people directly affected by the virus talk about their life and problems.

Constraints

There were no significant constraints during the reporting period. However, volunteers and Red Cross staff still have difficulty in promoting tolerance of people living with HIV/AIDS. While the majority of the target audience feels compassion for people living with HIV/AIDS, they would not agree to study or befriend an HIV-positive person. Ukrainian Red Cross is inviting people living with HIV/AIDS to participate in peer education meetings to bridge the gap between classroom discussion and the reality of HIV/AIDS, and plans to establish closer links with the All – Ukrainian Network of people living with HIV/AIDS to improve this situation. A representative of this Network gave a presentation at the recent partnership meeting in Kiev on the problem of HIV/AIDS and this organisation’s role in the fight against it. (please refer to the coordination section of this update for more information)

Another issue worth noting is that volunteers don’t receive any highly visible Red Cross emblems, except for small badges. The Ukrainian Red Cross suggests using money remaining from the budget to produce T-shirts and badges marked with the Red Cross emblem for 114 volunteers working within the project.

Analysis and outlook

The Ukrainian Red Cross has decided to take advantage of the approaching three month school holidays and plans to hold upcoming HIV/AIDS awareness sessions at summer camps in the South of Ukraine. These sessions will reach a wider population than usual and provide on the spot advice for children attending the camps, with the aim of reducing risky behaviour.

² <http://www.acloserwalk.com>



Workshop for Ukrainian Red Cross Volunteers on HIV/ AIDS prevention (Mykolayiv)

In July-August the Ukrainian Red Cross National Committee coordinator plans to carry out monitoring in pilot regions.

Ukrainian Red Cross plans to hold a general “refresher” workshop for the most active volunteers in September-October in order to strengthen their knowledge, develop new skills, encourage and give them a chance to share experience and exchange ideas.

Coordination



Peer-to peer session on tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS (Simferopol, AR Crimea)

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is one of the humanitarian actors contributing towards the National Programme to Fight HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. On the local level Ukrainian Red Cross representatives have established good working relations with various HIV-related NGOs, mainly the All-Ukrainian Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Project coordinators in Mykolayiv Oblast, the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and Sevastopol City are members of the local coordination committees on HIV/AIDS which unite both governmental institutions

(Health Care Department, Education Department, AIDS Control Centre, Health Centre, Department for Family and Youth Affairs, narcological dispensary) and NGOs and international organizations (UNDP, UNAIDS). This cooperation facilitates smooth running of Red Cross programmes with the support and understanding of Governmental establishments and local authorities, and enables coordination of Red Cross prevention activities with other actors working in the same field.

Furthermore, such cooperation ensures that Red Cross is able to clearly define target audiences and avoid repeating work of other organizations. In Crimea, Ukrainian Red Cross cooperated with UNDP peer to peer programme, and with support from this programme organized two parallel training sessions for AIDS activists and trained 38 peer educators, a large increase from the originally planned 20.

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively contributes to HIV/TB prevention among young inmates in prisons

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)



Handing out hygienic kits to young detainees (detention facility for the under-aged, Kovel)

Ukraine Red Cross, in cooperation with the local administration in Melitopol and Kovel, is working to contribute to the health status of young inmates through preventive activities and provision of vitamins, minerals and hygiene kits. In addition, the programme addresses the stigmatisation of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. During the reporting period, Ukraine Red Cross staff identified the necessary quantity and range of hygienic items with regard to the particular needs of every prison. Hygienic items and vitamins were purchased and delivered to warehouses at the prisons, as detailed in table 3 below.

Table 3. Procurements for Melitopol and Kovel prisons

Relief items	Melitopol	Kovel
Hygienic kits*		
	250	430
Vitamins		
Vitrum #100	500	-
Imunsil #60	250	-
Multitabs Classical #80	-	215
Immunal, 50 ml	-	430
Brewer's yeast	-	1075

* *Hygienic kits for imprisoned youth in Melitopol contained:* toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, laundry soap, toilet soap, shampoo, hygiene parcels for women, bandages.

Hygienic kits for imprisoned youth in Kovel contained: toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, laundry soap, toilet soap, shampoo, hairbrush, towel.

Information brochures on HIV/AIDS and related issues were published for distribution during educational seminars for imprisoned youth. In total **4150 brochures** were published - twice the original number estimated - due to lower costs than expected.



Awareness workshop for young detainees on HIV/ AIDS prevention led by Red Cross visiting nurses (detention facility for the under-aged, Melitopol)

In Melitopol: the local Red Cross branch staff and visiting nurses organized **5 educational seminars for 5 groups (25-30 people)** of imprisoned teenage girls. The girls completed a questionnaire to assess their existing knowledge of HIV/AIDS and received information materials on HIV/AIDS and related topics. Finally, a second questionnaire was completed to assess the seminar's impact on HIV/AIDS awareness levels of the participants. On the whole, awareness levels increased. Photos and a video of the seminars are available and will be included in the final report (*please contact the Kiev representative office for further information, contact details available on page 1 of this update*). Teachers and tutors received

information materials on the subject for future use and distribution.

In Kovel: Volyn branch is planning lectures for Kovel detention centre to be conducted in the coming weeks.

Monitoring of the programme will be carried out at the end of May and beginning of June.

Impact

Melitopol and Kovel detention centres face considerable problems in keeping detainees healthy. The Head doctor at Melitopol detention centre reports that malnutrition and a lack of physical activity is causing residents to become overweight. Inadequate sanitary conditions and in particular lack of hygienic items is another significant problem. Thanks to the Red Cross programme, detainees have received hygienic items and been offered the chance to improve their personal hygiene skills. Red Cross staff selected hygiene items in consultation with detention centre medical staff to ensure that needs of the detainees were met effectively.

Information activities were welcomed by detainees, as a local Red Cross coordinator from Zaporozhye branch reported. Participants showed more interest in HIV/AIDS related topics during and post seminar, and increased their awareness levels.

Constraints

The target group is imprisoned young people aged 13 - 20. Most of these young people are orphans, have only one parents, street children or children from socially vulnerable families. Before detention, many of these youth were drug and alcohol abusers, some suffer from mental illness or suffer from psychiatric disorders. Red Cross staff are under pressure to address the special needs and psychological problems of the target group to ensure they remain interested and involved in educational sessions.

Analysis and outlook

In recent years Ukraine has become the epicentre of the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe. While the epidemic has been officially recognized in Southern regions of Ukraine, official statistics of the number of HIV cases remain much lower than unofficial estimates. Currently the majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and those most at risk are injecting drug users (IDUs). Red Cross recognizes the urgency to address this

problem, and is contributing to the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS by educating youth at detention centres, often IDUs, about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and how to prevent its spread.

Coordination

The participating Red Cross branches are working in close cooperation and with the support of the State Legal department and local civil and penal administrations. The head of State Legal Department has appointed coordinators responsible for coordination and cooperation with Ukrainian Red Cross headquarters and branches.

Zaporozhye Red Cross branch initiated a meeting for local State departments, AIDS centres and local mass media to broadcast information on its programme activities.

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation facilitates an effective mechanism for cross country information sharing and joint skills development in the areas of youth peer education and harm reduction and anti-discrimination work

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The first sub-regional workshop on youth peer education and harm reduction was organised for Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia Red Cross National Societies in December 2003. The workshop took place in Minsk and was facilitated by the Federation Delegation and two trainers from the Bulgarian Youth Red Cross. The participants included National Society headquarters and branch staff with experience in these fields of work, and Minsk delegation representatives.

The next sub-regional workshop on youth peer education and harm reduction will be held in the second part of the year. Furthermore, the last quarter of 2004 will see the exchange visits of Ukrainian Red Cross and Moldovan Red Cross to Belarus for the Belarus youth programme. These activities will be supported by DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain.)

Impact:

The workshop in December provided a framework for a common understanding on strategies, approaches and issues for effective programming in HIV/AIDS prevention among young people, with a focus on capacity building in peer education and harm reduction. The participants shared regional experiences and lessons learned in youth peer education and harm reduction, as well as suggested directions for strengthening of Red Cross youth peer education and harm reduction programmes in 2004. The National Societies' work in 2004 reflects improved project designs of youth peer education and harm reduction components.

Constraints:

No major constraints were experienced.

Home based care objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are able to provide quality home based care through a sustainable and efficient Visiting Nurses Service/ medical-social centre programme

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively provides home based care through its visiting nurses service

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The home based care programme has two elements- training of nurses and provision of these nurses' home based care services to AIDS patients, disabled and chronically ill patients and providing families of those patients with the necessary skills to care for their relatives. The programme outlined in the appeal focuses on support of 10 visiting nurses providing support in ten regions to 100 vulnerable patients and their families, and is funded by the Norwegian Red Cross. The Visiting Nurses Service continues to function outside of this programme on a larger scale with support from the Moldovan Government and other organisations.

To support and strengthen the visiting nurses service, Moldova Red Cross held two coordination meetings for nurses, staff and volunteers: in Balti in April – on providing nursing care to chronically ill, disabled and AIDS patients; and in Benderi in May - on nursing care to AIDS patients. During these meetings participants shared experiences and learnt new skills on how to deal with their patients in an effective, efficient and sympathetic manner. In addition, a number of round meetings were held for nurses and volunteers, during which selection of beneficiaries was discussed – volunteers play an active role in this part of the programme, visiting families and conducting interviews to assess their needs and current situation.

Throughout the reporting period, the visiting nurses and volunteers continued to provide home care services and psychological support to chronically ill, disabled and TB and AIDS patients. Families of chronically ill patients received training on how to provide basic care to their sick family members.

Analysis and outlook

The implementation plan also provides for development and publication of education materials which will take place in July-August, procurement of nursing kits (September), training of nurses (September and November), as well as for ongoing nursing services and regular coordination meetings.

Constraints

No constraints

Impact

Staff and volunteers working on the programme are receiving regular support from Moldova Red Cross headquarters and branches, in the form of seminars and workshops and opportunities for experience exchange. As a result of experience exchange and training, nurses and volunteers increase their skills base and are able to provide more effective care to their patients. Moldova Red Cross ensures that the most vulnerable people receive their support through a system of research, interview, and assessment, conducted with assistance of local authorities.

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively provides care for the most vulnerable through the Pinsk Charity house

This programme received funding from the Austrian Red Cross in May. Programme implementation is due to start in the near future.

TB objective: The incidence rate of HIV/AIDS and TB among young inmates is reduced

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross is effectively implementing a TB prevention programme for 500 young inmates

Ukrainian Red Cross is implementing limited activities to meet this objective. *Please refer to the programme on providing HIV/TB information to young inmates on pages 5-6 of this update for further information.*

Disaster Management

Overall goal: To mitigate the impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis, on communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Disaster Management objective: The National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have strengthened their capacity to prepare for and respond quickly and efficiently to disaster situations

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus**Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes****Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Although Belarus is not generally prone to major devastating natural calamities, the economic constraints the country has been facing since early 1990s continue to affect the most vulnerable populations, in particular, lonely elderly, disabled persons, large families and one-parent families, TB/HIV/AIDS sufferers, ex-prisoners, etc. Belarus Red Cross continues to fundraise both domestically and internationally to meet the needs of these vulnerable people.

Swiss Red Cross has over the years been one of the few countries committed to providing every kind of assistance possible to the most underprivileged and socially disadvantaged populations in Belarus. In 2004, Swiss Red Cross donated 90,000 CHF, earmarked to relieve the plight of lonely elderly and/or disabled people in Belarus. Belarus Red Cross will use these funds to enable food parcel distribution to the target beneficiary group in 4 target regions: Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev and Vitebsk. In total, 4,540 food parcels (10 kg each) will be distributed (1,135 parcels per region).

Tender and procurement procedures are underway at Belarus Red Cross headquarters and Red Cross branches in the four participating regions. The contents of food parcels for distribution has been negotiated with health authorities and meets recognised minimum nutrition requirements. Once tender is approved, Belarus Red Cross project staff will ensure procurement and delivery of the food parcels. Beneficiary lists have been reviewed together with representatives of local social welfare departments to ensure selection of the most appropriate population groups.

Impact:

Red Cross interventions traditionally benefit from good media coverage. A close co-operative relationship with the press and good co-ordination with the local authorities and social welfare sector helps emphasise the importance and relevance of Belarus Red Cross initiatives to alleviate suffering and raises the image of the Red Cross among the beneficiaries, local communities and population as a whole.

In addition, international logistics expertise shared with the National Society on an annual basis has substantially contributed to the National Society's experience in conducting relief operations. This increased skills base and use of approved programme standards are applied when launching Belarus Red Cross campaigns and activities at the grass-roots level.

Constraints:

As has happened in the past, in 2004 donor funding was not received in time to ensure support and food distribution during the winter months, which are hardest for the majority of the target beneficiaries. However, the nutritional support will still have a substantial positive impact on the beneficiary population in the spring/ summer season.

The delay in receipt of funds was largely due to the recent Presidential decree to requiring registration of all imports, even donor subsidies received as humanitarian aid, a process which requires 2-3 weeks.

In addition, DFID funded a half-year project titled "Belarus – Disaster Management/Disaster Response Team". Please refer to the First Aid section below for further details.

Moldova**Expected result: Moldova Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes****Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross started implementation of part of the Disaster preparedness and management programme outlined in the appeal 2004 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf - with a focus on addressing the immediate needs of the most vulnerable.

A soup kitchen providing 100 hot meals for vulnerable people (elderly, multi-children families and disabled) daily (except Sunday) was opened in Balti, the second largest city in Moldova, on 1st May. Beneficiaries were selected together with local authorities, and are the most vulnerable people - lonely elderly, large families, disabled people.

Provision of hot meals will continue until the end of September, when external funding ceases. In addition, in line with the programme plan, Moldova Red Cross intends to purchase food parcels and hygiene kits and footwear for distribution to vulnerable residents of Balti in the summer months. The activities are currently supported by the Norwegian Red Cross, and Moldova Red Cross continues to seek funding to continue to assist these needy beneficiaries.

Impact

Beneficiaries themselves have expressed gratitude to the Red Cross for their support. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with over 80 % of the people living below the poverty line. By implementing this programme Moldova Red Cross is providing simple yet invaluable support to some of the most vulnerable population.

Constraints:

Programme implementation started later than originally planned due to a delay in receiving funds. As a result, the soup kitchen did not open during the coldest months of the year, when the target population is especially vulnerable. However, the needs of the beneficiaries are still being met despite this delay.

Funding for the soup kitchen ceases in September. Moldova Red Cross continues to seek additional support to continue to assist vulnerable populations in Balti and elsewhere.



The soup kitchen in Balti, Moldova, is often the only source of hot food for lonely elderly people in a country where over 80% of people live below the poverty line

Analysis and Outlook

If fundraising is successful, Moldova Red Cross intends to open a second soup kitchen in Soroca.

In July, with funding from DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain), Moldova Red Cross intends to initiate a capacity building component of the disaster management programme. The National Society will adopt a disaster preparedness/disaster response plan based on a completed Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and hazard risk data available from the government, and re-train and equip a total of 30 disaster response staff and volunteers. Supported by the Federation's regional Disaster Management Officer, the National Society will also continue its public education efforts and networking with governmental agencies in order to ensure that emergency preparedness is given a high priority with local government and the community at large.

In September, Moldova Red Cross staff will assess the feasibility of implementing a street children's support project. At present the National Society does not have sufficient funding to contract an external evaluator. However, Norwegian Red Cross has expressed interest in the street children project and has visited Moldova to explore possibilities of future cooperation.

Coordination

Moldova Red Cross is working in cooperation with local social welfare authorities to implement the programme. The authorities provided data on the most vulnerable people living in Balti to ensure Red Cross target the neediest population.

In the coming months, Moldova Red Cross will work in close cooperation with the Children and Youth Surveillance Centre, Chisinau, and with UNICEF, to assess the feasibility of a future Street Children programme and how it can be most effectively implemented to have maximum impact.

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross is effectively implementing a disaster management programme

Operational Developments

During the reporting period Ukrainian Red Cross responded to two major disasters: the detonation of an ammunition depot in Melitopol district, Zaporozhye region, (for more information please refer to the information bulletins at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=1>); and a train and bus crash in Izmail district, Odessa oblast. The National Society responded with humanitarian aid and psychological support to the affected populations in operations which further strengthened its disaster preparedness and response skills base.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- During the reporting period Ukrainian Red Cross started work on construction of the disaster preparedness centre, with a focus on including fire-extinguishing facilities.
- The Ukrainian Red Cross disaster team prepared lists of necessary equipment for rescue teams and started tender and procurement procedures for the items required (sleeping bags, water-bottles, vacuum bottles, knives, pocket flashlights, rucksacks, waterproof jackets)
- Practical and theoretical training sessions for rescue team members were conducted on a regular basis.
- A brochure about disaster centre activities was prepared and is due to be published in the near future.

Impact

At the moment the National Society's disaster preparedness capacity is as follows: emergency store warehouses; voluntary rescue teams (in 6 oblast branches and at the National Committee); First Aid teams (instructors and trained volunteers); emergency tent camps. The planned distribution of brochures detailing the activities of the disaster preparedness centre will raise awareness among the population of the Ukrainian Red Cross role in disaster response, particularly among people living in disaster prone areas.

The National Society is in a position to respond quickly and efficiently at times of disaster throughout Ukraine. For example, when the explosions happened at the munitions dump in Southern Ukraine, Red Cross was one of the first organisations on the scene, providing psychological support, organizing distribution of Red Cross relief stocks and locally donated relief goods and conducting a fundraising campaign. Financial support from the Federation's disaster emergency relief fund (DREF) was later provided. Full details are available in the information bulletins <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=1>. Large scale involvement in emergency situations reflects the National Society's capacity and further strengthens its experience and skills base.

Constraints

No constraints were experienced during the reporting period.

Analysis and outlook

The programme is expanding the National Society's capacity, enabling more effective preparation and equipping of Red Cross rescue teams for their further active participation in activities to support people affected by disasters, as well as additional equipping of the disaster preparedness centre.

Coordination

The programme is implemented in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, oblast Red Cross branches, Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations, Youth Club "Compas".

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation has supported installation of a cross country response mechanism involving all three National Societies and facilitated regional skills-building in international standards

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Continuation of the dialogue on regional disaster response capacity and updating the National Societies' knowledge on international procedures and standards will be intensified from June 2004 with the arrival to Minsk of a regional Disaster Management Officer. A questionnaire was prepared and agreed with Belarus Red Cross which will enable to assess disaster preparedness and response capacities of local branches. A sub-regional workshop on disaster management and vulnerability and capacity assessment will take place in the second half of the year. This cross-country program is supported by DFID.

Impact:

Impact will be assessed at a later stage

Constraints:

No constraints

First Aid objective: National Societies of Belarus and Ukraine have the capacity to effectively implement first aid programmes.

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively implements first aid programmes

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During the reporting period, Belarus Red Cross created a disaster management/ disaster response team who started liaising with the mass media to launch a campaign for volunteer recruitment. Volunteers were encouraged to join Red Cross through adverts placed in newspapers and on internet sites, and information broadcast on radio and television. A short film on First Aid training was broadcast during a television news programme.

Potential volunteers were interviewed on an individual basis, to clarify their role within the disaster management/ disaster response team within the Red Cross National Society. Two volunteer groups of 20 people each were set up, and First aid training was held for all participants (37 participated in total), during which volunteers received First Aid manuals.

A disaster response workshop was organised for one of the groups (19 people participated). Further workshops are planned, including on disaster response and psychological support, and Belarus Red Cross has purchased the necessary administrative and informational materials. Belarus Red Cross also met with the Belarus Ministry of Emergencies, which provided the opportunity for information exchange and planning of future cooperation.

Impact:

Volunteer participation in the training workshops is increasing the capacity of the National Society disaster management and response base. In general, volunteers are very receptive to information and training provided, and are eager to participate further in Red Cross activities.

Constraints:

Funding was received on 3rd March 2004, three months later than expected. As a result, programme implementation was delayed and the programme schedule has had to be squeezed into a shorter timeframe than originally expected. Belarus Red Cross also made some revisions to the budget to ensure successful programme implementation.

Population Movement objective: The National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine effectively address issues related to population movement.

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing refugee programmes

No funding has been received. The Minsk delegation and Belarus Red Cross continue to seek financial support for implementation of this programme. *For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf*

*Ukraine***Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross is effectively implementing programmes for undocumented migrants**

The programme supporting undocumented migrants in Western Ukraine came to end in 2003. However, relief items continued to be distributed to detained migrants throughout the winter months of 2004. For full details please refer to the final report, available from the Kiev representative office (contact details on page 1 of this update). The Ukraine Red Cross seeks funding to continue this programme, especially in light of the new EU borders (areas in Western Ukraine now border three EU countries) which are expected to lead to increasing numbers of transit migrants.

*Regional***Expected result: the Federation delegation has facilitated cross country experience exchange and assessment of possibilities to address the issue of human trafficking****Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A regional workshop on the issue of trafficking for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine took place in Kiev on 4 May 2004. The workshop was facilitated by a Federation's expert on trafficking Zholt Dudas and funded by DFID. A generic project proposal on Human Trafficking was developed by the Delegation and presented to the workshop participants.

Impact:

Through this workshop, the Federation delegation has facilitated cross-country experience exchange and assessment of possibilities to address the issue of human trafficking. The project proposal on trafficking will become the basis for a trafficking programme to be included in next year's appeal.

Constraints:

No constraints

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings is increased in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine by a greater dissemination of humanitarian values and fundamental principles.

Objective: Red Cross/ Red Crescent humanitarian values and fundamental principles are promoted within the National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, its volunteers and partners, and disseminated to the general public.

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Regional

Expected result: The general public in targeted regions of Russian, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are equipped with the necessary knowledge to change their perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS and all from of discrimination

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In addition to expanding youth peer education, the focus in 2004 is on harm reduction and advocacy campaigns against stigma and discrimination. The Federation assisted the National Societies in providing technical expertise, developing effective communication with public authorities and communities to influence reduction of discrimination in the community, and establishing partnerships with people living with HIV/AIDS. A regional anti-stigma and anti-discrimination campaign plans for organisation of mass public/media events to promote World AIDS Day on 1st December (e.g. a concert for youth with dissemination of anti-stigma message), as well as printing postcards based on the design of the International Red Cross Red Crescent campaign "You cannot get AIDS by..." and their dissemination in Chisinau, Moscow, Minsk and Kiev through "Fly Cards" service. These postcards and related posters were printed and distributed in December 2003 and proved extremely popular among young people, according to a survey conducted by the distribution company. With DFID support, the Federation and National Societies hope to experience similar success in 2004.

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively implements a humanitarian values and fundamental principles programme targeting youth and women on both banks of Nistru

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**A) HUMANITARIAN VALUES**

The promotion of humanitarian values is an integral part of key National Society programmes, such as youth peer education, disaster management and home based nursing care. Moldova also receives support from ICRC for dissemination and tracing activities, and Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL), in which fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian values are key components.

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross conducted the following activities to raise awareness of these principles and values among the youth of Moldova:

- Moldova Red Cross volunteers were actively involved in conducting activities to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on March 8th. The volunteers used the opportunity to disseminate information about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, Humanitarian Values and health lifestyles, thus raising the profile of the Moldova Red Cross and increasing awareness of both Red Cross and its role in society.
- In Transnistria Red Cross volunteers launched a spring charity week. They visited many large families, disabled and old people and handed out presents and sweets. The volunteers used the opportunity to talk about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and distribute information about Moldova Red Cross. Local mass media broadcast information on these activities, contributing to raising the profile of the Red Cross in the region.
- Students involved in the ICRC EHL programme participated in various seminars, festivals, and quizzes to promote awareness of humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement.
- 210 vulnerable children participated in a youth camp supported by Moldova Red Cross, where they were exposed to information about humanitarian values and Red Cross principles and took part in drawing competitions and quizzes.

Impact

The programme is successfully targeting the youth of Moldova. Through the combined efforts of the ICRC- funded EHL programme and implementation of related activities funded by the Norwegian Red Cross, the Moldova Red Cross is both raising the profile of the National Society and the Movement, and increasing awareness of international humanitarian standards. The activities conducted are designed not only to attract youth volunteers to the Movement but also to encourage youth to act as agents of positive change and promote humanity, tolerance and charity within society as a whole. In addition, the round table meetings and education sessions offer young people the opportunity to express their own opinions and develop public speaking skills.

Analysis and Outlook

Over the next few months, Moldova Red Cross will develop and publish educational materials relating to international humanitarian law and humanitarian values, conduct public events against discrimination and violence, hold round table meetings for media to promote its activities. In addition, students will participate in drawing competitions and Red Cross staff and volunteers will attend seminars and experience exchange/ coordination meetings.

B) STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION***Moldova*****Peer education**

Moldova Red Cross attracted and trained volunteers to start conducting peer education sessions among the youth population in Benderi, a city with one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in Moldova, primarily among injecting drug users. Volunteers were recruited and trained in early June. Moldova Red Cross is in the process of developing a plan of action and a schedule for peer education sessions on schools and other educational establishments. The volunteers are expected to start active involvement in the programme in the coming weeks. Peer education and harm reduction work in Benderi is supported multilaterally by the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross. In addition, peer education activities in Balti are supported bilaterally by the Netherlands Red Cross.



Increasing awareness of humanitarian values is a fundamental role of the Red Cross. Here, young Moldovans design posters as part of a Red Cross programme to promote humanity, tolerance and charity.

Harm reduction

Moldovan Red Cross is actively participating in harm reduction activities through running its needle exchange centre in Benderi, Transdnistria, which has been operational since January 2004 and as of June 2004 has had 602 visits. The centre is run by a Red Cross team, including a narcologist, a psychologist, a legal adviser and two nurses. The staff participated in a training session on HIV/AIDS and related drugs issues prior to opening of the centre.

During the reporting period, the following activities took place:

- brochures for injecting drug users (IDUs) containing information and advice on HIV/AIDS and related issues were published and are being distributed to the target population at the needle exchange centre, narcological and epidemiological centres.
- All visitors to the needle exchange centre are asked to complete a questionnaire to assess their knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
 - Condoms are being distributed to IDUs and young people participating in peer education activities.
 - Moldova Red Cross has developed a registration system in cooperation with local authorities, whereby users of the centre receive a membership card bearing Red Cross and Ministry of Internal Affairs stamps. This is particularly important step in encouraging IDUs to visit the centre – police arrest of IDUs attending needle exchange centres has been known in other harm reduction programmes in the region, but such a card guarantees IDUs' security.
 - Counselling services are provided at the needle exchange centre by narcologists, epidemiologists, psychologists and lawyers. So far a total of 28 individual meetings have taken place at the centre.
 - Moldova Red Cross organised a wide scale information campaign to increase awareness of the National Society and its role in harm reduction and promoting healthy living. Press conferences were conducted and mass media invited to public events. TV, radio and press broadcast information on the opening of the needle exchange centre, and its aim. These programmes/ articles were also designed to encourage tolerance towards IDUs and people living with HIV/AIDS.



HIV/AIDS is sweeping across Eastem Europe. Needle exchange centres work with the most at risk groups, providing good quality needles and condoms and psychological support to injecting drug users.

- A seminar for school psychiatrists was conducted in March. The psychiatrists were trained in how to address the issue of drugs when dealing with children and teenagers, using the principles of the peer education method.
- Youth organisations working on harm reduction projects in Belarus and Ukraine visited the Red Cross harm reduction centre for experience exchange and knowledge sharing.
- During the reporting period, various activities were organized to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among the youth. These included discos, competitions, concerts, roundtable meetings and, in April, a visit by youth volunteers to prisoners and distribution of humanitarian aid and information on HIV/AIDS.

- A round table meeting was held for staff of the needle exchange centre, IDUs and Red Cross volunteers. These meetings are designed to provide a friendly and informal environment in which IDUs can discuss problems and receive understanding and support without fear of stigma or discrimination.
- The delay is in part due to the initial reluctance of the authorities to endorse harm reduction programmes, and the related stigma preventing beneficiaries from coming forward for support.

Coordination

Local authorities are actively supporting Moldova Red Cross in its harm reduction programme, thanks to the creation of an Interdepartmental Council under the State Administration which includes representatives from all the City Departments - cultural, health, information and internal affairs – and which made HIV/AIDS prophylaxis measures among IDUs compulsory.

Impact

Although the project has only been running for 6 months, Moldova Red Cross has successfully gained beneficiaries' confidence. IDUs are willing to talk about their experiences and problems with needle exchange centre staff, and receive impartial, professional social, legal and psychological advice and support. Such advice has already had concrete results – rather than serving a prison sentence, one IDU received a suspended sentence.

Cooperation with local authorities has had a significant effect on the success of the programme. Thanks to the membership card that is authorized by local Ministry of Internal affairs and Red Cross, IDUs are able to visit the centre freely and without risk of arrest.

Pre and post seminar questionnaires indicate the impact of peer education sessions and seminars. Results recorded clearly indicate an increased awareness of HIV/AIDS after participation in seminars.

Constraints

Insufficient understanding of the concept of harm reduction in the initial stages - Moldova Red Cross struggled to explain the concept behind harm reduction programmes to health experts and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who tend to regard needle exchange programmes as a means of promotion and condoning of drug use. Harm reduction has never been tried before in this region, and the National Society demonstrated the success of similar programmes internationally using statistics and success stories from USA, Europe and Australia to convince local authorities of the benefits of such a programme. The eventual support from local authorities has had a substantial impact on the programme, in particular its safeguarding of the needle exchange centre visitors.

Moldova Red Cross was also faced with the question “Why are free syringes given to drug users rather than to more vulnerable and needy old people and children?” The National Society reacted by ensuring extensive coverage in local mass media on drug use, HIV/AIDS and infection through IDUs, focusing on the benefits of such a programme not only to the IDUs themselves but to the wider community.

Insufficient information about HIV/AIDS and related issues - Moldova Red Cross is combating this major concern by organizing wide scale media campaigns and making information on HIV/AIDS freely available.

Lack of trust among IDUs at initial stages of the programme - Cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs has ensured project beneficiaries will not jeopardize their security by attending the needle exchange centre. At the initial stages of the programme, IDUs were reluctant to visit the centre for fear that police would use it as a target base for arresting people in possession of illegal drugs. The membership cards provided to all users of the centre’s services guarantee their safety from police harassment and arrest at the centre.

In addition, trust and confidence between IDUs and the centre staff is built up through informal meetings and seminars where IDUs are able to discuss problems openly and without fear of recriminations.

Difficulties of working with IDUs - Staff experience problems working with IDUs in areas of cooperation, consideration and so on. Staff members must be constantly aware of the individual’s needs and adapt working methodologies to best suit that individual.

Analysis and Outlook

The number of visitors to the centre continues to increase, indicating the success of the programme and the willingness of IDUs to take advantage of the services on offer. Moldova Red Cross is looking at ways to involve IDUs themselves in the work of the centre and in HIV/AIDS information dissemination to their peers.

The programme is having a clear impact in changing attitudes towards IDUs and people living with HIV/AIDS (in particular among local authorities). It is reaching its objective of increasing access of high risk groups to good quality syringes, condoms and counseling services and as a result reduced risk behaviour among IDUs.

Coordination

Moldova Red Cross is working in close cooperation with the state AIDS centre which also runs needle exchange projects and has been invaluable in providing advice and recommendations on how to run a well functioning high impact programme. The National Society is also sharing its experiences and knowledge with regional youth organizations from neighbouring Ukraine and Belarus involved in the same sphere of work.

Moldova Red Cross welcomes external and international expertise and advice to ensure effective and efficient programme development and implementation. It has participated in meetings with an independent analytical centre in Moldova and international specialists who supported assessment of questionnaires completed by beneficiaries and used to monitor programme implementation. Red Cross volunteers have also developed relations with and are employees of NGOs (Non Government Organisations) working in drug related fields.

Organisational Development

Goal: the needs of the most vulnerable people are effectively met by National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through their strengthened capacities

Financial management objective: National Societies in Belarus and Ukraine have improved their financial management and accountability to stakeholders

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross has an appropriate finance system connecting headquarters and oblast branches

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- Belarus Red Cross, with support from the International Federation and DFID funding, has contracted a design company to create its own website. At the moment, Red Cross staff are working to collate information for the website, which will be reviewed and edited by an external expert.
- Following external professional analysis of offers in response to tender procedures, Belarus Red Cross has also contracted an accounting firm to develop an automated accounting system (1C: Enterprise 7.7).
- A national workshop for the Belarus Red Cross accountants and IT-technician is expected to be held in June. The workshop aims to train IT-technicians in specific computer maintenance skills as well as to coach regional accountants on managing 1C: Enterprise 7.7 software component that has been recently installed at Belarus Red Cross headquarters.

Impact:

During the process of collecting and analysing data for the new National Society website, Red Cross staff had the opportunity to revise strategies in several spheres of activity, and updated data information bases.

In addition, development and use of new communication technologies has contributed to the development of an effective, modern information exchange that will facilitate improved performance in programming, reporting and monitoring.

Constraints:

- The Federation delegation in Minsk planned to share IT resources with the Russia delegation and invited the IT officer based in Moscow to assess the existing communications network in Belarus. Results of the assessment have been delayed due to time constraints.
- All accountants working at Belarus Red Cross headquarters have not yet received full training in the new software (1C: Enterprise). As a result, the National Society is not yet experiencing the full benefits of the new software.
- Due to underspending, Belarus Red Cross is requesting reallocation of budget lines to cover finance officer salaries, an expense that is not currently included into the budget.

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukraine has an appropriate finance system connecting headquarters and oblast branches

The National Society strategy 2010 envisages regular improvement of its finance management and computerization of its finance service. This vision was first realised in 1997 - 1999, with financial support of the Netherlands Red Cross. Evaluation of the existing financial service was conducted by a staff member of Netherlands Red Cross and needs and recommendations recorded for further action. 5 computers were purchased, software installed and Red Cross financial services staff were trained in how to use PCs and the new software. The Head of the Ukrainian Red Cross department and a delegate from the Netherlands Red Cross visited the Russian

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

Red Cross finance department to study their methods and experience of using the accounting software new to Ukrainian Red Cross.

Since then, despite a setback in 1999 – 2000 when the programme was stalled due to lack of financial support, Ukrainian Red Cross has installed 30 sets of computers and licensed software at headquarters and local branch level, with relevant training provided for chief accountants.

In 2004, financial support from DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain) will be used to purchase a further 3 computer sets, to update existing accounting software and to continue basic computer and software training for relevant staff members.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During the reporting period, Ukrainian Red Cross purchased and installed the three additional computer sets and licensed software. A company was contracted to update existing software.

Analysis and outlook

During the next reporting period, Ukrainian Red Cross will organize two workshops for financial service staff: on developing existing skills among regional staff to include use of the accountancy software; and for Heads of Red Cross branches to evaluate the programme implementation

Impact

Programme implementation has facilitated improved reporting by National Society financial staff and enabled speedy and efficient email communication between headquarters and the branches.

Constraints

No major constraints were encountered during implementation of the project.

Regional**The Federation delegation facilitates an effective system of information sharing and skills building in financial management and systems**

A mid-term review was planned in both National societies (Ukraine and Belarus) covering areas of data management, soft and hardware and future feasibility to extend these programmes, to be followed by a joint workshop to enable the National societies to share and jointly analyze the findings of the two reviews and to learn from each others' success story. These plans however could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

Fundraising objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have improved their capacity to attract financial resources and mobilise the community to support Red Cross activities

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Ukraine**Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross adopts and successfully implements a long term internet fundraising strategy****Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

During the reporting period, Ukrainian Red Cross completed a feasibility assessment to evaluate whether internet based fundraising is appropriate to the local context, technically possible and cost effective. The feasibility study was conducted by the International Business Centre of Ukraine (Kiev). This company was selected on the basis of tender.

The assessment included a review of the National Society's current funding plan, their traditional funding sources and their own activities and resources, as well as those of the Red Cross movement in the region. Long-term and short-term fundraising needs were studied and revenue generating techniques identified. The existing Ukrainian Red Cross website was evaluated.

The feasibility study also assessed issues related to Ukrainian law to ensure the legality of online fundraising and the establishment of adequate systems to provide security for the donors themselves and the funds received.

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

Furthermore, in addition to assessing ways to increase its financial resource base, the National Society also focused on methods to ensure the greatest impact at the minimum cost.

A strong Public Relations base is a prerequisite of effective fundraising. During the feasibility study the image of the National Society and how to sustain and strengthen this positive profile was discussed. Market analysis was conducted and marketing strategies were identified to attract donors and demonstrate the role of the National Society as both part of an international organization and the largest humanitarian organisation in Ukraine and its effective, efficient use of funds raised. The study was not limited to Ukrainian Red Cross but also investigated key internet fundraising mechanisms used by other NGOs and their related challenges and opportunities.

Results of the study recommended that Ukrainian Red Cross form a local branch committee to provide practical and theoretical support to fundraisers at the local level, at the same time as taking advantage of its existing strong relations with the media, in particular Radio Ukraine International.

Ukrainian Red Cross has used online fundraising campaigns in the past to support its activities. Although these have not been overwhelmingly successful, the conclusions of the feasibility assessment and the related rapid expansion of internet use in Ukraine (also reviewed) indicate that online fundraising will make a substantial contribution to the Ukrainian Red Cross financial resource base in the long term. The National Society is ready to embrace a well defined and realistic on line fundraising strategy and has a clear understanding of how to maximize the potential of such a strategy.

Constraints:

The short project time span (3 months) limited the amount of primary research conducted. The study largely depended on secondary research and interviews. There is limited information available on existing online fundraising campaigns in Ukraine, and the feasibility team struggled to assess the effectiveness of these fundraising campaigns. When quantitative data was finally collected specifically from NGOs that have automated credit card fundraising facilities, results showed that such facilities are very few in number and have been installed so recently that evaluation of their effectiveness would not produce accurate indicators. In general, external IT specialists supported and managed online fundraising campaigns/ websites.

Impact:

Results of the feasibility study indicate that Ukrainian Red Cross is sufficiently prepared to launch an effective new online fundraising campaign. The study and its conclusions, based on solid research of the National Society and NGOs working throughout Ukraine, provided recommendations that will increase the capacity of Ukrainian Red Cross at all levels and support a well functioning fundraising programme. Implementation of these recommendations and development of such a programme will increase the self sufficiency of the National Society, provide a modern, up to date channel for promotion of the Ukrainian Red Cross and increase its capacity to assist the most vulnerable populations in Ukraine.

Analysis and outlook:

It is crucial for Ukrainian Red Cross to build on the recommendations of the feasibility study and create an online fundraising strategy that attracts new donors to support the National Society's ongoing activities and maintain its website to ensure continuing online support. An updated website will enable Ukrainian Red Cross to ensure that donors and the international community get accurate, first hand and up-to-date information on the activities and beneficiaries, local needs and achievements in both English and Ukrainian languages.

The online fundraising strategy includes analysis of donors and will lead to creation of an easy accessible donor database, to facilitate effective, well targeted future fundraising campaigns at the local and international level. The expected increased revenues will also be used to fund the website itself, which will act as a donor recruitment point, a key news site, a means of attracting volunteers and a general information exchange base.

In order to ensure proper implementation of the programme, Ukrainian Red Cross needs a dedicated expert staff base/ external technicians who will concentrate on maintaining and updating the website.

Coordination:

Ukrainian Red Cross developed its long-term Internet fundraising strategy with the assistance of experts from the International Business Centre of Ukraine. The National Society has worked with this organization in the past and hopes to continue this cooperation in the future. Ukrainian Red Cross are considering possible roles of the National Resource Development Committee of Ukrainian Red Cross in networking and contacts, advocacy, raising the public profile of the National Society and representation.

On 18 May 2004, Ken Philips, Head of Organizational Development Department of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies met with the leadership of the Ukraine Red Cross and discussed issues of developing management, coordination and fundraising. Mr. Philips arranged training for staff of the National Society headquarters on fundraising activities and relations with donors.

Regional**Expected result: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have developed appropriate skills in fundraising**

A programme proposal was submitted to Eurasia for possible funding. The Eurasia proposal was limited to Ukraine and Belarus due to a funding ceiling of Eurasia. The Federation sought financial support for co-funding of this programme in order to enable Moldovan Red Cross to participate in the programme and in order to add additional critical elements (best practice documentation; follow up workshops after one year; development of branch training modules and evaluation) to the existing proposal.

The project is divided into 5 main elements which includes assessment, manual development, training, practical application (coaching) and review of the results.

The main objective of the project is to develop a resource basis of the three Red Cross Societies through strengthening fundraising capacity for social protection programmes with a view to support the neediest people.

Constraints:

No activities were carried out to achieve this objective, as none of the project components in the three countries has received funding.

Project development objective: Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross Societies are providing better and more relevant services to the community through better planning

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus**Expected result: Belarus Red Cross has built up its own capacity in project planning (based on the Federation's Project Planning Process methodology) in combination with coaching of branches****Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Project planning process (PPP) training for Belarus Red Cross staff was limited in early 2004. The major objective set within the project "Belarus – OD Strengthening PPP" funded by DFID (Department for International Development) was to have a key group of 23 trained focal persons able to facilitate coaching of branches throughout the Red Cross Society and help them drafting relevant project proposals to donors. To meet this objective and according to the programme implementation plan, the necessary training for PPP co-facilitators was arranged in Minsk from 23 to 26 March 2004. The majority of the 12 participants were representatives of Belarus Red Cross headquarters and Minsk City branch and had already attended a PPP workshop delivered by the Minsk Federation delegation Programme Officer for Moldova in Summer 2003.

Both the National Society headquarters and the Minsk Federation Delegation have made significant efforts to sustain the process launched two years ago of separating governance and management at the Belarus Red Cross in order to meet the Federation's standards of a well functioning National Society. The Belarus Red Cross ad hoc XIXth Congress, suspended in 2003, was finally held in Minsk on 4 March 2004, where its delegates conceptually approved the revised draft of the new National Society's Statutes with two minor additions. The results of the conference are as follows:

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

- The commitment to clearly separate governance and management functions is now official.
- A new National Society chairperson (Mrs. Lyudmila Postoyalko, Minister of Health) and new Deputy chairman (Vitaly Kalugin, Deputy Minister of Justice) were elected.
- Dr. Anton Romanovsky left his title and position of President and was appointed as Secretary General of the National Society.
- The final wording of the new Statutes has been revised and approved by the Ministry of Justice in compliance with the country legislation.
- the revised Strategic Development Plan of the National Society for 2004-2007 (Strategy 2007) was discussed and eventually approved.

In the meantime, in a significant move the President of Belarus agreed to pay the long overdue National Society statutory contributions to the Federation, following repeated Belarus Red Cross appeals to the Council of Ministers and several ministries. The mentioned arrears (covering two years) have already reached the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. In addition, negotiations with various governmental authorities are ongoing to secure future funds for National Society statutory contributions to the International Federation.

Impact:

The National Society is expected to benefit greatly from increased inputs of the newly elected chair and deputy chair. Although the new Chairwoman is approaching retirement age, her long experience in the area of public health will make a significant contribution to the health related programmes implemented by the Belarus Red Cross; the Deputy Chairman is already experienced in Red Cross work, and well known for his relationship with the International Committee of the Red Cross and his work on International Humanitarian Law.

The Belarus Red Cross headquarters structure has also been revised to replicate the changes made at top management level and enable a better distribution of responsibilities and tasks on the national level, with a new organigram being developed.

The one-week workshop arranged in Minsk in late March 2004 and facilitated by the ICRC Regional Delegation in Kiev, Ukraine, introduced 20 recently recruited chairpersons to the International Movement's fundamental principles as well to international Humanitarian Law and financial, reporting and planning procedures accepted at the Belarus Red Cross. As a result, district branch chairpersons are from now on expected to be more efficient and successful when responding to local vulnerabilities.

It is also hoped that those who also attended both PPP training sessions (in 2004 and 2003) have significantly strengthened experience in planning and project drafting to enable an appropriate selection of the most suitable persons to train additional Belarus Red Cross staff. To increase the relevancy of the PPP training, the original English language PPP case study and information available in the Russian version of the PPP Manual is being reviewed by a project assistant (the Belarus Red Cross Deputy Secretary General on Fundraising and Capacity Building) and will be adapted to reflect local needs and circumstances. The adapted PPP will be used during training of staff at the district level.

Constraints:

Although some of the participants attending the training for PPP co-facilitators have a good understanding of and proved expertise in drafting successful projects prepared in accordance with the PPP methodology, they are still considered inappropriate PPP trainers. This is due partly to lack of experience and/ or unwillingness to perform in front of large audiences, and partly due to the scale of their existing workload.

Scheduled PPP trainings for branches had to be postponed since the International Federation trained facilitator was otherwise engaged with preparations for a partnership meeting held in Kiev, Ukraine from 5 to 7 May 2004. In future, it is recommended that an appropriate course facilitator is located within the National Society, since the Minsk Federation delegation specialist will continue to have other priorities outside Belarus, namely support of Moldova Red Cross.

Meanwhile, the Belarus Red Cross Statutes approved by the XIXth Congress and validated by the Ministry of Justice need however to be published and circulated among all regional/district branches as soon as possible to authorise and regulate legal procedures.

Regional

Expected result: the Federation delegation has facilitated a support system for project planning and joint PPP skills building in combination with coaching of branches

A regional mechanism on information exchange and joint PPP skills building was not established due to lack of funds.

Youth objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have strengthened their youth sections, enabling them to carry out effective services and programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable people

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is developing Youth Red Cross through youth activities e.g. youth peer education programme

Youth are actively involved in the peer education and disaster management programmes. For further information on meeting this objective, please refer to the **Health and Care** and **Disaster Management** section of this update.

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross is developing Youth Red Cross through youth activities e.g. youth peer education programme

Youth are actively involved in the peer education programmes. For further information on meeting this objective, please refer to the **Humanitarian values** section of this update.

National Society management objective: effective and relevant programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable people through strengthened management capacity of Moldova Red Cross

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross has an adequate and effective management

Although the programme is fully planned and funded, the delegation and Moldova Red Cross is still discussing the terms of its implementation. More information will be available in the next programme update.

Sustainability of medical-social centres objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are able to provide quality home based care through a sustainable and efficient Visiting nurses service/ medical-social centre programme

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/ medical social centres and increase sustainability

Belarus Red Cross will initiate activities in July with funding from DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain).

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/ medical social centres

Moldova Red Cross will initiate activities in July with funding from DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain).

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/ medical social centres and to provide home-based care through its visiting nurses service

Context and background

The Ukrainian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) was created in 1961. Since then, it has provided medical and social assistance to the lonely elderly and disabled people, and as a result has built up a strong skills and experience base. This experience is being put to good use as the number of VNS beneficiaries continues to increase as a direct result of the current tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS epidemics sweeping through Ukraine.

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

Presently, the VNS is made up of 3,200 visiting nurses, 98 medical and social centres, 372 medical and social rooms and 580 clothes distribution points. In addition, the VNS owns 5 hospitals, 5 in-patient departments (at medical and social centres) and 2 hospices which are being run in cooperation with State medical institutions.

In 1999 – 2001 the International Federation, British Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross with ECHO provided 70 medical kits for medical and social centres and rooms as well as 2530 kits for visiting nurses. Due to this project 35% of the medical and social centres and rooms were properly equipped. The Government of Ukraine supports the Social Assistance Programme and provides salaries to all VNS staff. Local authorities provide premises for VNS medical and social centres/rooms. The Ukrainian Red Cross covers expenses of transportation, equipment, professional education.

However, insufficient funding and the unstable economical situation in Ukraine are restricting efforts to strengthen activities of the VNS in accordance with existing demands. Ukrainian Red Cross seeks to refresh its VNS strategy and find ways to mobilise resources in order to ensure comprehensive fulfillment of the VNS responsibilities.

One possible strategy involves conducting a sociological survey, which will allow analysis of the current position of the VNS and identify both the most important factors influencing work of the VNS and the current and future VNS needs.

This project is targeted at analysis of the VNS activities and at development of its operational activities.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Ukrainian Red Cross identified a company to conduct the sociological survey, and selected 10 pilot regions for its implementation. Questionnaires were created for the sociological survey, and distributed to VNS beneficiaries in the pilot regions. In total the sociological survey was carried out among 200 bedridden people assisted by the VNS service, 200 regular visitors to medico-social centres and 376 visiting nurses. In May, the sociological study was completed and questionnaires analysed.

The results of the survey will be presented and discussed at the seminar scheduled for July and on the basis of this a strategy for further developing the VNS service will be elaborated.

Ukrainian Red Cross also defined contents of kits for visiting nurses and started tender and procurement procedures. Nurses in the selected 10 pilot regions have not previously received such kits due lack of funds.

VNS was also monitored in several regions.

Impact

Ukraine Red Cross intends to develop its VNS strategy based on the results of the sociological survey that has been conducted in the pilot regions. Implementation of the activities outlined in this strategy and distribution of nurses' kits will strengthen and improve the quality of the service offered to vulnerable people. Ukraine Red Cross hopes to expand the project and strategy based on the survey findings to other regions, subject to funding.

Regional

Expected result: improved quality of assistance to the targeted beneficiaries in selected regions of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through a strengthened visiting nurses service network, through exchange of experience and knowledge sharing between the three National Societies

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation Delegation facilitated and participated in the assessment undertaken by the consortium of the Austrian, Swiss and German Red Cross Societies. Two missions took place in April and June in Belarus and Moldova to assess the situation with regard to health and social care in general and specifically with regard to the existing structure and functions of the Visiting Nurses/Medico-Social centres. The mission report outlines how these issues could be addressed in a more sustainable way in the future and defines the input and participation of the Austrian, Swiss and German Red Cross Societies in a long-term perspective.

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

A sub-regional workshop on the approaches, findings of the recent assessments of the Visiting Nurses Service/Medico-Social centres, as well as the development of quality standards and consequently of capacity building plans, will take place in the second half of the year with DFID funding.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: well functioning National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine work effectively together with other partners within and outside the Movement and provide responsive, high quality and sustainable services to their vulnerable communities.

Objective: the delegation is providing efficient and cost effective coordination based on the available resources

(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Expected results:

- **The delegation provides services relevant and responsive to national societies' needs.**
- **The Federation delegation is facilitating and assisting national societies to plan and coordinate the capacity building programmes of all donors.**
- **The delegation provides effective support to national societies in developing quality programmes, in compliance with international standards, through provision of management and technical expertise (including the utilisation of local expertise and the promotion of sharing relevant cross-country expertise).**
- **The delegation has an efficient, cost effective management and shares resources and expertise with Moscow delegation.**

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Minsk delegation – Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine

Minsk Delegation represents the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and assists the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross Societies. The Delegation is as well responsible for the International Chernobyl programme for Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

For further details please refer to Chernobyl: Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018104.pdf

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In October 2003, the already challenging relationship between the international donor community and the Belarus government was stretched again by a decree stipulating taxation of all international technical assistance projects. Although this demand has since been revised, all such projects now have to pass a complicated registration procedure at the Ministry of Finance to ensure tax exemption. Belarus Red Cross has now completed these procedures in order to continue with implementation of programmes supported by the International Federation.

The Federation delegation continued to further intensify its co-ordination and management efforts. Regular individual meetings with the presidents of the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross were undertaken in order to ensure that the Federation services are relevant and responsive to national societies' needs. A quarterly meeting of the leadership of the three national societies, which took place in Kiev in May, provided a forum for the discussion of the delegation's mid-term plan for support to the region.

Ongoing contacts and information sharing were maintained with the partner Red Cross National Societies of Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, USA. The support for multilateral and bilateral partners also included facilitation of visits to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

The first edition of the Delegation sub-regional report, which gives a human face to some of the humanitarian challenges faced by the National Red Cross Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, was issued in May. For those National Red Cross Societies who are mainly dependant on private and public donations, the delegation will continue to provide this kind of informal feedback in terms of beneficiaries' stories and photo material which can be utilized by donor National Societies in their own fundraising context. The report aims to update, on a regular

basis, those who are interested and supportive to the three national societies and to provide information on key developments. It also aims to address donor needs by providing facts and beneficiaries' stories.



During the reporting period, several important delegations visited the region. A visit of the Austrian Red Cross General Secretary with a crew of mass-media correspondents took place in February 2004. In Belarus the delegation familiarised with the Chernobyl programme, Youth against HIV/AIDS, Visiting Nurses Service and programs to support vulnerable children. During the visit an agreement was reached between the Belarus and Austrian Red Cross societies to support Pinsk Charity House and Belarus Children Hospice. Implementation of both projects will start in July.

A beneficiary of the Visiting Nurses Service in Minsk (Austrian Red Cross visit, February)

In Ukraine the Austrian Red Cross delegation visited Chernobyl affected areas, Red Cross hospice, and a children's shelter. The crew of correspondents visited Zakarpattya Oblast and the Ukraine Red Cross project providing humanitarian assistance to undocumented migrants in detention camps.

In May 2004, the second partnership meeting was organised in Kiev in co-operation with the Russia delegation, which supported an intensive dialogue of Partner National Societies with Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine Red Cross Societies. The delegation had the opportunity to communicate directly with bilateral donors and to provide feedback on current programmes in the region. During the meeting, Minsk delegation also facilitated a speedy response from DREF to cover the needs of victims of the explosion of an ammunition depot in Melitopol district, Zaporozhye region, which happened on second day of the meeting.

To further promote sharing of relevant cross-country expertise and resources, from June 2004 the delegation will be utilising a disaster management officer from Kazakhstan Red Crescent with experience of work in the context of Moscow delegation.

Ukraine

The Representative Office in Kiev is a part of the Delegation and covers specifically the Ukraine programmes within the overall context of the Delegation.

Among the most important events in terms of co-ordination support of International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies was the **Partnership meeting** with National Societies of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova and donor National Societies held in Kiev on 5-7 May 2004. This meeting has positively influenced the strengthening of partnership relations of Ukraine Red Cross with its main donors. In particular successful negotiations have been conducted with Austrian Red Cross on developing the street children project, Ireland Red Cross on first aid activities and HIV/AIDS prevention, Danish Red Cross on developing the youth Red Cross,

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

Swedish Red Cross on providing assistance to the vulnerable, American Red Cross on strengthening disaster preparedness/disaster relief and anti-HIV/AIDS programmes.

On 20-23 May 2004, the Secretary General and desk officer of Netherlands Red Cross visited Ukraine Red Cross. The programme included a trip to Chernobyl affected areas and familiarisation with CHARP activities, visits to Red Cross medical social centres in Kiev Oblast and Kiev City.

Impact:

Programming of various partners is becoming more coherent, unified and complementary:

- Austrian, German and Swiss Red Cross Red Cross Societies start to plan together as a consortium and form long-term partnership with a clear strategic approach for Belarus.
- A bilateral Regional Youth Development programme will benefit from the delegation's international mission status. In July 2004 a Danish Red Cross delegate will be placed in Minsk delegation under a Support Service Agreement.

Constraints:

The Head of Delegation finished his mission May. The Federation is currently looking for a new Head of delegation.

International Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The work of the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the Federation and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement receives adequate recognition among the respective governments, international organisations and the international community.

Objective: The Federation delegation effectively represents and advocates on behalf of the national societies, the Federation and the Movement, obtaining programme support and raising its profile
(for more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Expected results:

- **The humanitarian agenda is influenced by increasing its profile of the Movement and through participation in carefully selected events that focus on the three core areas of disaster management, health and community care, and principles and values.**
- **National Societies are seen by relevant regional and global international organisations as local actors deserving programme support**
- **National societies programmes receive sufficient external funds in through effective fundraising and marketing of their programmes through the delegation**

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Funding opportunities were explored through the delegation's representation efforts especially in the areas of interagency contacts and the international community in the three countries. In addition, the delegation developed and started implementation of a local advocacy strategy based on the local advocacy issues and global advocacy goals, as well as a marketing/fundraising strategy for delegation-based marketing of the national society programmes.

During the period under review, regular contacts were maintained with major regional donors and representatives of the international community in Belarus and Ukraine, including TACIS, OSCE, UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation and embassies, in order to ensure proper Federation representation. The Delegation participated actively in the UN theme group on HIV/AIDS, established contacts to the HIV positive people representing the positive movement and participated in various donor meetings.

Visits to the international organisations were often conducted in close co-operation with the Belarus and Ukraine Red Cross. Close relationships were maintained with the regional delegation of the ICRC in Kiev. Possibilities for programme support for Moldova Red Cross were explored when visiting the regional offices for TACIS, Eurasia and embassies covering Moldova from Kiev.

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine; Appeal no. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 1

During the partnership meeting in Kiev, May 2004, the delegation was able to invite representatives of the international community and to profile the work of the National Societies.

The Federation is a prominent member of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN), a UN initiative with the objective to support the ongoing international, national and civil society efforts towards the sustainable development of the affected territories of Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine. Through its membership of the ICRIN Steering Committee, the Federation participates directly in governing of the Network's initiatives, its strategies, approving implementation plans and other related vital activities.

In mid-July, a new Federation Representative Joe Lowry, sponsored by the Irish Red Cross, will start his mission in Kiev. One of his main tasks will be marketing programmes in all three countries, as well as running the Federation's office in Kiev.

Impact:

Although the Delegation has experienced a negative funding trend in the past, this trend was reversed in 2003 and 2004.

National societies in the region are increasingly seen by relevant international organisations as local actors deserving programme support. TACIS offices in Belarus and Chisinau are very supportive towards efforts to apply for financial support under the budget line TACIS IBPP (Institution Building Partnership Programme) provided by the European Union. In April a TACIS application was submitted by the French and Moldova Red Cross and another TACIS application is being prepared by the consortium of Austrian, German, Swiss and Belarus Red Cross societies.

Constraints:

Although the delegation maintained good relationships with the embassies of the main donors in Minsk, which is the delegation base, funding opportunities as a result of these relations are limited due to the very difficult political context and the country's current relations with the EU and the US.

The Minsk office staff had much less opportunity to meet the diplomatic community and agencies in Kiev, simply due to the distance from Minsk delegation headquarters to Ukraine. The arrival of the new Federation Representative to Kiev will enable the Delegation to better follow up on such meetings and establish ongoing relationships.

In Moldova, there was only a limited opportunity to meet international organisations.

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