

ANNUAL REPORT



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

BELARUS, MOLDOVA & UKRAINE

12 July 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA071; Period covered: January - December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 2,487,338 (USD 2,012,481 or EUR 1,592,571); Appeal coverage: 114.4 % (*Please [click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report](#)*).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no. 1. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07101.pdf

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no. 2. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07102.pdf

Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA072.pdf

Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no. 1. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07201.pdf

Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no. 2. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07202.pdf

Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) Annual Appeal 2005 – Annual Report. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA072annual.pdf

Moldova Floods Emergency Appeal. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.pdf

Annual Appeals 2005 for Europe and Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2006-2007. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA67001.pdf

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For further information please contact:

- *Belarus Red Cross: Pavel Kohavets, Deputy Secretary General, email: belarus.redcross@tut.by, phone/fax: +375 17 227 26 20*
- *Moldova Red Cross: Larisa Byrka, President, email: crucearosie@moldnet.md phone: +373 22 72 96 44*
- *Ukrainian Red Cross: Ivan Usichenko, President, email: international@redcross.org.ua, phone: +380 44 235 01 57*
- *Delegation for Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine: Miro Modrusan, Acting Head of Delegation; Phone 41 22 730 43 24; Fax 41 22 733 03 95; email: Miro.Modrusan@ifrc.org*
- *Federation Secretariat: Miro Modrusan, Regional Desk Officer; Phone 41 22 730 43 24; Fax 41 22 733 03 95; email: Miro.Modrusan@ifrc.org*

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project. Please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

With support from the international community and in cooperation with various partners, the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine continue to respond to the complex needs of the most vulnerable in three countries. The main focus is on developing the national societies' capacities and providing high quality services to the vulnerable, namely:

- Improving the health status of communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (health and care programmes),
- Mitigating the impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis, on communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (disaster management),
- Increasing the level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through promotion of humanitarian values and better understanding of the fundamental principles (humanitarian values), and
- Effectively responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people through strengthened capacities of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (organizational development).

A highlight of the year was World AIDS Day on 1 December, a special event widely celebrated by the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In Belarus the event, celebrated for the first time in the history of Belarus Red Cross, has ultimately raised the national society's profile and served as a platform to promote various programmes of the national society (NS), ranging from youth against HIV/AIDS to humanitarian values.

With support from Minsk sub-regional delegation, the British government/Department for International Development (DFID), and the national Red Cross societies of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy¹, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand all programmes have received good funding and have made progress. The appeal coverage to date is CHF 2,846,102 (114.4 per cent). All programmes have been implemented directly by the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through their country-wide network of regional branches and volunteers. The Federation through its sub-regional delegation in Minsk has provided technical support and monitoring to ensure the resources have been deployed as planned.

¹ The Italian Red Cross supported projects in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through the global project.

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The table below shows the appeal coverage and expenditure for 2005.

Programme/Project	Appeal budget in CHF	Total income in CHF ²	Appeal coverage (%)	Expenditure		
				In CHF	% of income	% of budget
Belarus	930,573	1,499,808	161	1,120,274	75	120
Moldova	493,402	427,501	87	200,341	47	41
Ukraine	687,764	573,163	83	526,669	92	77
Cross-Country	375,598	345,629	92	237,332	69	63

Most programmes have been implemented as planned and no major constraints were encountered. Though, in Moldova the anti trafficking programme has not started yet (funds are available from Swedish Red Cross since June 2005) due to absence of a full-time project coordinator in Moldova Red Cross (MRC). However, with the support of the Minsk delegation's counter-trafficking officer the necessary preparatory work, including signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between MRC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has been done.

Belarus Red Cross (BRC) is undergoing a comprehensive change process. Its vision is to become a strong and well functioning national society with qualified staff and motivated volunteers who are capable of assisting and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable communities. At the same time, change of leadership and appointment of new programme managers took a long time and caused some delays in programme implementation. Throughout 2005, the national society continued activities in HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion of positive behavioural change, disaster management capacity building and counter-trafficking, organisational development and first aid.

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross has been actively involved in disaster response. As a result of heavy rains and storms, which hit Moldova in August, 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) and 15 districts in the north and central parts of Moldova have been affected. Since the very beginning MRC has been involved in relief operations. During the first days of the disaster the national society assisted 162 families of flood victims, using the entire emergency stock available in its warehouse in Chisinau (*for more information please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.pdf*).

This year, the launch of the World Disasters Report (WDR) 2005 was hosted by Ukrainian Red Cross. In October, the national society jointly with Minsk delegation and Kiev representative office organized a round table meeting to promote the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the first launch of the Federation's WDR in Ukraine. In addition to the presentation of the WDR, the Chernobyl and Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance Programme (CHARP) topics have been intensively highlighted and discussed. The Head of Minsk Delegation presented the Federation's Appeal programmes including CHARP Appeal 2006-2007.

During the reporting period, most of cross-country programmes have made significant progress. Thus, the regional disaster management programme supported the national societies – mainly in disaster response capacity building, HIV/AIDS and counter-trafficking – through a cross country workshop. The workshop facilitated experience and information exchange between the three national societies. In parallel, joint regional activities have strengthened cooperation between the National Societies' youth-related, humanitarian values and health and care programmes. This approach creates an opportunity for the RC programmes to benefit from each other. For instance, youth trained under the youth programme also operate as trainers in other youth related programmes (i.e. HIV/AIDS programme in Moldova).

² Total income includes opening balance as of January 2005, plus the income and pledges received in 2005.

1. 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 project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination. (*Donor: DFID, the Danish and Italian Red Cross societies*)

There are 7,014 registered HIV cases in Belarus (71.6 per 100,000 people) across 168 administrative territories, and the actual number of HIV cases is estimated to be five times higher. HIV infection is especially prevalent in youth, as 76.6% of reported infections occur in youth between 15-29 years old. The official statistics show that over 66.8% of HIV-positive people in Belarus are injecting drug users (IDUs), although 57.2% of new cases reported in 2005 resulted from sexual transmission.

The 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. The 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

Due to the importance of peer education in addressing HIV/AIDS among the targeted high-risk group and the role of volunteers as the driving force behind this type of intervention, the Belarus Red Cross has paid significant attention to the training, motivation and management of volunteers in 2005. A volunteer management session held in July, involved training branch leaders and regional coordinators in volunteer selection, motivation and management. Throughout the year, motivational activities were carried out to attract volunteers from across Belarus. These include experience exchange visits to the nearby regions, nature trips and the distribution of clothing and materials with the Belarus Red Cross logo. An experience exchange meeting for volunteers from all six project regions (Brest, Minsk, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk and Mogilev) was held in Minsk in August.

During the reporting period, new teams of 25 volunteer peer educators were selected and trained in each of Bobruisk, Borisov, Pinsk, Brest, Minsk, Grodno, and Novopolotsk. Thus Belarus Red Cross has a total of 175 new youth peer educators delivering knowledge and skills to their peers. These peer educators were trained by two professional trainers who regularly work with the Belarus Red Cross' "Youth against AIDS" program. In addition to the regional trainings, an advanced training on peer education for volunteers and regional coordinators involved in the project took place in Minsk in October. At this training, new topics such as drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were covered. Throughout the year, volunteer peer educators led a total of 588 educational sessions in 14 cities of 6 regions, covering 11,200 teenagers.

Fighting stigma and discrimination

As in previous years, in 2005 the Belarus Red Cross continued its work in fighting stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). A social theatre show was organized by the volunteer team of Baranovichy branch. Social theatre was organized by the volunteer team of Baranovichy branch. A scenario for the anti-stigma and HIV prevention performance was developed by the volunteers with the involvement of professionals (including a consultant on health and HIV issues, a sound director, a script writer and a theatre producer). The first performance was on December 7th.

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Other forms of media were also used to promote and reflect project activities as well as raise public awareness on the issues of stigma and discrimination towards PLWHA. In April 2005, a two-week information campaign was launched on the most popular youth radio station, "UniStar". In May 2005, information about the project was broadcast on the central republican TV channel "STV".

Harm reduction

Needle exchange activities now take place in nine needle exchange centres (Brest, Mykashevichi, two in Minsk, Novopolotsk, Molodechno, Kalinkovichy, Rechitsa, and Svetlogorsk). 10,786 needles and 3,955 condoms were purchased for distribution in 2005. Experience exchange for the staff of the needle exchange centres was carried out in Minsk with the participation of the Positive Movement (a local NGO) and the AIDS Prevention Department of the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health. 2,335 IDUs visited needle exchange centres during 2005.

World AIDS Day

This year marked a big step for the Belarus Red Cross as 1 December 2005 marked the first celebration of World AIDS Day in the history of the national society. This public declaration of the BRC as a national player in the fight against HIV/AIDS has ultimately raised its profile and served as a platform to promote various RC programmes, ranging from youth against HIV/AIDS to humanitarian values. A Candle Light March in the capital of Belarus was part of the celebrations held in six regions of Belarus and attracted more than 1,500 volunteers. The celebrations continued with a big concert where Belarus celebrities performed, working together with the BRC and Federation representatives, to put across the Red Cross message to Belarusian youth.

Impact

Monitoring was carried out by the Belarus Red Cross programme coordinator through the use of field visits and questionnaires. Evaluation of the questionnaire results shows that the Red Cross educational sessions significantly raised the level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues for participants. After the educational sessions, the target group showed good knowledge of the ways of HIV transmission and higher level of concern for their personal health. Attitudes expressed towards PLWHA have also improved. Before the educational sessions, approximately 50% of the schoolchildren expressed discriminatory or negative attitudes towards PLWHA. After the sessions conducted by Red Cross trainers, 93% of the target group representatives expressed positive or accepting attitudes towards PLWHA.

This year the programme team also developed a concept and Terms of Reference for a baseline study on attitudes and behavioural practices among youth. According to the implementation plan, the study will be conducted in 2006 and will serve to guide future programme work and assist in assessing impact in the future.

Constraints

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

Expected results:

- Moldova Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education, harm reduction and HIV/AIDS related discrimination.
- Moldova Red Cross effectively prevents high-risk behaviour and school drop out among children from socially disadvantaged families through youth peer education and psychological counselling.

(Donor: Norwegian Red Cross - harm reduction and peer education activities in Bendery; Italian Red Cross - harm reduction in Bendery; Swedish Red Cross - harm reduction in Rezina; British Red Cross provides support on bilateral basis to the harm reduction activities in Soroca and peer education in Balti)

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The HIV/AIDS incidence rate in Moldova is rising to alarming levels. Currently, HIV infection is found in all regions of the country, with a national prevalence rate of 51.46 per 100,000. The prevalence rate is much higher in some regions of the country, such as Balti region (503.3 per 100,000), with the highest level of HIV/AIDS incidence in Europe.

Moldova Red Cross society (MRCS) is a member of the national network of NGOs working on HIV/AIDS and TB prevention. From July 2005 it is also a member of the Country Coordination Mechanism on HIV/AIDS and TB.

Peer education



Participants pose after a peer education session in Bendery. Peer education sessions organized by the MRC reached 2,200 beneficiaries in 2005

The Moldova Red Cross Society has been active in the field of peer education since **2004**. Taking into consideration the increasing tendency of HIV/AIDS infection to be spread through heterosexual contact (**2005 - 55.5%**), one of the Moldova Red Cross' priorities is to promote information about safe behavior through peer education. Youth enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to become involved in activities performed in Bender, Ungheni, Soroca and Balti.

With financial support from Norwegian Red Cross Society, two peer education workshops were organized in Bender in October and December 2005. A total of 22 teachers

representing all educational institutions in the city participated in the workshop in October. Thus, thanks to continuous trainings run by Moldova Red Cross, each school has a trained teacher who is able to provide professional support to young peer educators. A total of 41 young people are trained to work as peer educators. Throughout the year, **75** peer to peer sessions were organized within local schools, lyceums, and summer camps reaching over **2,200** beneficiaries.

The Moldova Red Cross held a composition contest among upper class pupils on the topic «AIDS- A Challenge for Humanity» where **19** local educational institutions were actively involved. In the framework of the «Youth against HIV/AIDS» project, the MRC also edited and published the booklet «Sexually Transmissible Diseases» with a circulation of **10,000** copies.

Within bilateral programmes, financially supported by the British Red Cross Society, the MRC implements the project «Stop AIDS! Choose life!» in Balti. In the framework of this project the MRC has performed **2** peer education seminars and trained **30** youth, among them **5** military that we intend to involve in an information campaign among their peers in the military unit. Throughout the year, there have been **90** informative sessions for **1,150** beneficiaries through this bilateral programme.

Harm Reduction

IDUs continue to have regular access to good quality syringes, disinfectants and condoms through the harm reduction centre in Bendery. Presently, there are 68 permanent beneficiaries with 544 monthly visits on average, some 600 syringes and 100 condoms are distributed monthly. The centre is run by a Red Cross team,

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including a narcologist, a psychologist, a legal adviser and two nurses. From January to July 2005, the centre continued to operate with the financial support of the Italian Red Cross Society. The programme is now being financed by the Norwegian Red Cross Society. Most of beneficiaries are men of at least 25 years of age who realize the risk of their behavior. Unfortunately, there are very few IDUs between 16-18 years of age who visit the centre. There are 5 active outreach workers who are actively involved in the performed activities.

The harm reduction and peer education activities are well accepted by the target groups. Local and national authorities recognize that the Moldovan Red Cross plays an important role in fighting HIV/AIDS and actively support the Red Cross work. The MRC 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. Brochures containing information and advice on HIV/AIDS and related issues were published in cooperation with the state AIDS centre and are distributed to the target population at the needle exchange centre, narcological and epidemiological centres.

In addition to the centre in Bender, there are two other active harm reduction centres run by the MRC. A Counseling and Needle Exchange Centre became operational in August 2005 in Rezina, with the financial support of the Swedish Red Cross Society. So far, there are 14 permanent beneficiaries registered and some 40 visits per month. The Centre organized a coordination meeting for staff and volunteers and one training session for staff entitled "How to work with IDUs?" Another harm reduction project financed by the British Red Cross is implemented in Soroca. The Needle Exchange Centre distributes needles and syringes, condoms and informative materials. Counseling services are offered by a psychologist, narcologist and a legal adviser. At the moment there are 18 permanent beneficiaries.

Impact and Plans for 2006

Peer activities throughout 2005 have seen the MRC train **71** youth as Peer Educators and perform **165** informative sessions for **3,350** beneficiaries. As a result, the level of youth awareness on HIV/AIDS spreading has considerably increased. According to a survey conducted on December 1 at the Cultural Club Tcacenco among **700** upper class pupils, a higher level of awareness currently exists in comparison with last year. Also, youth interest in receiving peer education trainings has increased with many people willing to participate, therefore the selection was performed on contest basis. These activities enhanced the image of the MRC and were highly appreciated by local authorities. From July 2005, the president of the Moldova Red Cross Society was accepted in Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM).

Although the MRC works on maintaining high motivation among trainers, upon finishing school they leave and new trainers are required. Related to this, in October 2005, it was decided to organize a seminar for young pedagogues-trainers in order to have educators that will help perform similar activities in every school. For 2006, the MRC has planned to have **2** peer education seminars in Bender where **30** youth will get trained, another **2** seminars in Balti and **2** seminars "Training of Trainers" (one in Balti and one in Bender) in order to form our own team of trainers.

In 2005, the number of outreach workers who participate in HIV harm reduction activities and seminars has increased. Surveys determined that IDUs are aware of the danger of risky behavior and have increased confidence in the activities performed by the MRC. In Bender, HIV/AIDS transmission among drug users has decreased twice in a period of two years. Surveys show that public opinion towards harm reduction programs and drug users became more tolerant. Local authorities fully support the efforts, moreover, they offer help in realizing programs at a higher level.

Difficulties are still faced in involving young drug users. Mostly, the beneficiaries are people over 20 years old who already realize the risk of their behavior. Still, there are many pupils who use drugs without understanding their negative impact. To address this, the Federation tries to attract attention and efforts to schools and professional colleges where the most difficult youth can be found. After a survey in cadet school, it was discovered that there is only superficial knowledge about HIV/AIDS infection and drug usage. In

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addition to increased outreach work to at-risk youth, the MRC plans to organize a theatrical play based on Bulgachov's "Morphinist" in 2006.

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination. (*Donor: DFID and Italian Red Cross societies*)

Achievements

The target group of the Project is comprised mainly of the general youth population: schoolchildren, students of colleges and high schools, children in orphanages. The target group of the Project has been selected according to the current progress of HIV epidemics in Ukraine which shows that HIV infection affects not only traditional youth risk groups (unemployed youth, orphaned children, unaccompanied and street children) but proves to be spreading rapidly among the general young population. Sociological research reports growing numbers of teenagers from average-income Ukrainian families using different types of drugs including the most dangerous intravenous drugs. Another factor is early sexual experience among teenagers. In the majority of Ukrainian oblasts, statistics report an increased percentage of heterosexual HIV-transmission. This makes it essential that the efforts of the Red Cross as well as of the Government, local administrations and numerous NGOs are focused on stronger and more effective preventive activities among the youth population between 13-24 years of age.

The URCS performed the following activities in 2005:

- Held four seminars on peer education and 1,600 peer sessions among young people in the pilot regions.
- Produced and distributed 10,000 leaflets for youth on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Produced 5,500 posters and 5,500 memo-stickers and distributed in public places and transportation.
- Actively involved local mass media and provided them with materials on HIV/AIDS problems to attract public attention.
- Held various youth events aimed at dissemination of the vital information about HIV/AIDS as well as attracting new volunteers.
- Carried out a midterm evaluation (in the first half of 2005) of HIV/AIDS DFID projects run by the URCS in 2003/2004.
- Held a total of 10 workshops, trainings and seminars for its staff and volunteers involved in the Project. This was expanded from the originally planned 4 seminars due to the effective use of allocated funds.

During April-December youth peer educators held a total of 1,444 peer sessions on HIV/AIDS in the pilot regions for 21,734 young people.

Impact

Printed materials were distributed in public places in Poltava, Kharkiv, Kirovograd, Cherkassy, Zaporizha, Odessa oblasts (regions) and the Crimean Republic. The message contained in URCS posters "You've learnt about AIDS from this poster" and "Make a choice - Time is going" should have attracted the attention of teenagers and youth visiting public places, as well as make a broader audience aware of the HIV/AIDS threat and of the Project being implemented by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Within workshops organized during the reporting period the URCS gave essential tools to at least 80 newly recruited Red Cross volunteers who are well-aware of their mission and highly motivated to spread the received knowledge and information on HIV/AIDS among their peers. Two Oblasts where a similar Project was implemented last year have been continuing their work on HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. The beneficiaries received comprehensive information on HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, and condom use; learnt how to avoid risky behavior; and were encouraged to choose a healthy life style. One more aspect covered in the peer HIV/AIDS sessions is tolerant behavior towards HIV-positive people and AIDS patients. In the case exercises offered by the Red Cross volunteers the beneficiaries could discuss their own attitude towards PLWHA while during meetings where HIV-positive people were invited they could hear about their life and problems.

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URCS HIV/AIDS education and prevention campaign in 2004 has yielded positive results which should be mentioned in the following achievements:

- Commitment of the youth peer educators to fight HIV/AIDS epidemics in the country and their communities.
- Systematic exposure to appropriate messages for behavioral changes through media publications and broadcasting.
- Capability of young people to make responsible choices to protect themselves, their friends and associates has been demonstrated.
- Young people/project beneficiaries are encouraged to assume more responsibility for their own health.
- A significant positive impact on changing attitude towards PLWHA.

Constraints

Lack of incentives for the volunteers

The economical and social situation in Ukraine makes the phenomenon of volunteering rather a problem. While there are many people willing to assist Red Cross in case of disasters, the involvement of the volunteers in every day humanitarian activities, including those of Red Cross is more difficult. Most of the population in Ukraine lives below the poverty line in comparison to European standards. Many young people either have to seek part-time jobs to assist their families or to study very hard to get the possibility of free of charge education at high schools. This explains the relatively low interest of youth in conducting humanitarian activities in their free time. Therefore, significant attention should be paid to volunteer recruitment and especially motivating and retaining existing volunteers. The questionnaire conducted among the Project volunteers revealed that the best motivation could be experience-exchange trips to other regions and meetings with their peers involved in the same HIV/AIDS activities in other pilot oblasts. This wish was taken into account and since autumn the most active volunteers had the possibility to participate in workshops in other regions. This practice should be followed in the future as well.

Visibility

This issue has been a serious gap for the Ukrainian Red Cross – the lack of Red Cross banners and uniforms with the Red Cross emblem for the volunteers and staff members makes it impossible to present image of the organization in the communities. However, in 2005, the amount saved printing the information products—posters, leaflets and stickers—(due to the design developed by Red Cross employees at the URCS HQs) enabled the production of T-shirts with Red Cross emblems which were highly appreciated by young Red Cross volunteers.

Quality of mass media coverage

There has been a low willingness of private media to highlight Project activities and problems related to HIV/AIDS.

Lessons learned

Overlapping and 'competition'

While the Ukrainian Red Cross Society is not a purely HIV-related humanitarian organization and is not the key player in the field of HIV/AIDS activities, it is the biggest NGO and does have the broadest representation throughout Ukraine with most branches paying a lot of attention to AIDS prevention activities. However, the numerous NGOs aiming to work in the field of HIV/AIDS and emerging rapidly within the last years make the process of dissemination of information somewhat complicated. This situation results in over-information of some target groups or institutions and lack of attention to the others. The main issue is absence of strong coordination mechanisms at both national and local levels. Attempts to formulate and implement such a mechanism so far exist only on paper and in discussions.

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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, harm reduction and anti discrimination work. (*Donor: DFID*)

This regional programme aims to facilitate the development of a regional mechanism for sharing information and joint skills development on Youth peer education and harm reduction. To achieve this, the following training sessions and workshops were organised during the reporting period:

- A sub-regional three-day workshop on Harm Reduction/Peer Education was held in the end of March in Bendery, Moldova. 32 people from Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian National Societies participated in the workshop. Participants discussed achievements and problems faced by the National Societies in 2004. The concepts of outreach as the most effective ways of halting HIV transmission through sharing injecting equipment and behavioral change were discussed. Participants also visited the needle exchange centre and peer-to-peer workshop in Bendery.
- A 6-day cross-country training of trainers (ToT) in peer education on Healthy Life Style and Safe Behaviour Promotion was held in July in Kiev, Ukraine. 32 Red Cross volunteers and staff from all three national societies were present at the training. The training's objectives were: to train trainers in knowledge and skills required for peer education in healthy life style and promotion of safe behaviour; and to build a team of trainers (in each NS) who will be responsible for developing effective training programmes in their communities. During this meeting the participants also shared experiences and lessons learned in youth peer education, and established cooperation with peer educators from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The agenda and methodology for ToT were designed in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP), whose trainers facilitated the course. The training has shown that though all participants have experience in teaching and peer education, many of them lack knowledge on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and substance abuse. Some participants have misconceptions of HIV/AIDS transmission and stigma toward people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as well. These topics were studied and discussed in greater details. In parallel, particular attention was paid to elaboration of a strategy of knowledge and skills dissemination to peers after completing the ToT.
- Cross-country seminar "Red Cross response to HIV/AIDS" was organised in Odessa, Ukraine, from 22 to 24 November 2005 to accommodate 27 persons. This region has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rate in Ukraine, and thus this city could serve as a good teaching base for HIV/AIDS prevention, from which Red Cross staff and volunteers can learn and reflect on their achievements and problems. The Federation health advisor's opening presentation was based on ERNA³ materials. The discussion on "Actual situation of HIV expansion" followed, with further presentations on harm reduction projects from three national societies. Visits to syringe exchange center, community center and substitution therapy project were part of the seminar agenda and were of high interest to participants. Besides, there was a round-table discussion aimed at finding ways to consolidate efforts for effective response to HIV attended by various NGOs. The overall strategy developed at the workshop highlighted the necessity to continue with prevention activities focusing on education and training (peer education) , opening new syringe exchange points, outreach work, extension of the range of services for intravenous drug users (IDUs), transfer for substitute therapy, palliative care, building partnerships and cooperation with key stakeholders, work at community level etc. The participants also agreed that harm reduction activities should be further developed, with improved coordination between all partners concerned at all levels. The workshop was a good opportunity to raise awareness of the Red Cross efforts in the region towards harm reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention. It also followed up issues raised at the previous harm reduction workshop in Bendery earlier this year.

³ ERNA – The European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS.

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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 (VNS)/Medical Social Centre (MSC) programme.

In Belarus:

Belarus Red Cross is focusing on improving services offered to vulnerable people at the Pinsk Charity house. This unique establishment ensures medico-social and psychological rehabilitation of single and destitute people suffering from chronic, difficult-to-treat diseases. Pinsk Charity House nurses systematically participate in trainings and re-trainings organized by the Belarus Red Cross and Federation.

Within the year, 118 patients became the patients of the Charity House. The average duration of stay in the Charity House is from 1-3 months. Patients and elderly people were provided with glasses, dentures, go-carts, surgical beds, bandaging materials. Planting of trees and gardens on the territory of the Charity house was carried out. Vegetables were harvested for winter for the nutrition of the patients. The permanent reception of patients, consultative, psychological and welfare were carried out. Second hand clothes were collected and distributed among those in need.

In 2005, 7 concerts were arranged and shown to the patients and performed by the students of musical schools, art colleges and secondary schools. Charity parties devoted to Victory Day and Red Cross day (May, 8), New Year and Christmas were arranged. Free film showings and visits of circus and New Year parties, were organized for young patients and volunteers.

Funding from the Austrian Red Cross secured salaries for 6 nurses of the charity house until the end of 2005. The Minsk Delegation of Federation is continuing to seek funds for the Pinsk Charity House throughout the year. Funds allocated by Brest regional branch of the Belarusian Peace fund allowed the reconstruction of the Charity House premises to be carried out from 16 August to 20 October 2005: painting of the floors, doors, and bedside table, disinfection of premises and soft inventory; repairing of washing room, canteen and toilette and bathroom; essential household equipment and kitchen utensils were purchased.

In Moldova:

During the reporting period two roundtable discussions on "Home based care for chronically ill patients" were organised in the cities of Balti and Glodiany. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the issues of home based care for patients with limited mobility and training of volunteers and patients' relatives in home based care skills. To provide expert advice a psychologist, cardiologist and family doctor were invited to the meeting. These meetings provided a platform for collaborative thinking, gain/exchange of experience and skills.

With financial support from Norwegian Red Cross, 19 nurses continued to provide home care and counselling services to the disabled and chronic ally ill patients in various localities. Presently, the total number of nurses in the Moldovan Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service is 25.

In January-February 2006 the national society plans to supply 19 nursing kits and to conduct two workshops for nurses and volunteers on home based care, as well as on marketing and fundraising.

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

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

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Progress/Achievements:

Supplies of relief items

URCS, in cooperation with the local administrations in Mykolajiv juvenile detention facility and the trade school of social rehabilitation for teenagers in the village Jakushnytzi (Vinnytsya oblast), identified the necessary quantity and range of hygienic items with regard to the particular needs of every correctional institution. Tender procedures were finalized and contracts on procurement of hygienic items, vitamins, disinfectants and detergents were signed and orders performed. Listed items were purchased and delivered to warehouses at the correctional institutions, as detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Procurements by Mykolajiv and Vinnytska branches

Relief items	Mykolajiv	Vinnytsya
Hygienic kits*	100 kits	200 kits
Vitamins	1,100 packings	2,000 packings
Disinfectants	7 sets (2,100 items)	various**
Detergents	336 items	30 bottles of washing liquid (5 l each)
Additional supplies (vitamins)***	134 packings	-

* *Hygienic kits for the youth in Mykolajiv contained:* toilet paper (12 items), toothbrush (1 item), toothpaste (3 items), laundry soap (5 items), toilet soap (5 items), shampoo (2 items), shaving-set (5 items).

Hygienic kits for the youth in Jakushnytzi (Vinnytska oblast) contained: toilet paper (10 items), toothbrush (1 item), toothpaste (6 items), laundry soap (6 items), toilet soap (6 items), shampoo (2 items), bath sponge (1 item).

** Bleaching powder, Chloratoine, Bacillocide Rassant, Sterilization Indicator Vinar (1,000 tests), Biomij Powder (25 kg).

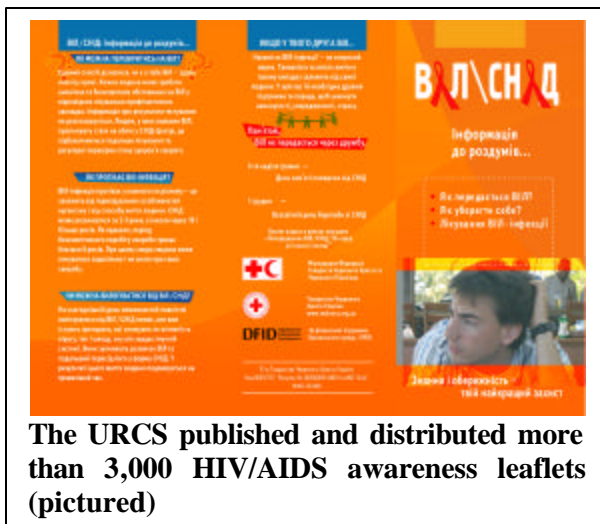
*** *Additional supplies* were purchased with the funds remained after major expenditures under the program were finalized. Choice of the pilot branch was made according to the results of monitoring trip and needs assessment.

All the procurements were conducted in due time; distribution of procured commodities met the requirements of transparency and accountability. Hygienic kits have been distributed among the imprisoned teenagers. At this date, 104 beneficiaries from Mykolajiv juvenile detention facility received various hygiene items. In Jakushnytzi school of social rehabilitation, parcels with hygienic items were handed out to 211 teenagers. The remainder of the items will be further distributed among the teenagers according to their needs.

Beneficiaries have been regularly taking vitamins during a meal time under the supervision of the medical staff since the end of May. The Chief Doctor of Jakushnytzi school informed that the supply of vitamins procured by URCS is enough to provide vitamin therapy for the beneficiaries until the end of the next year, while the leadership of Mykolajiv juvenile detention facility asked for additional supplies of vitamins for the teenagers temporarily staying at the hospital at the juvenile detention center (therefore additional supplies were undertaken).

Information about distribution of all the items is recorded in register-book which was regularly revised by the representatives of the pilot branches during the program implementation period.

Detergents and disinfectants were delivered to the storehouses of correctional institutions. Due to these supplies, the conditions of stay in correctional institutions sufficiently improved and satisfy the existing sanitary regulations.



HIV/AIDS awareness education

Leaflets

In total, 3,000 leaflets were published, which is 1.5 times more than originally budgeted. All the hand-outs were passed to pilot branches for further distribution among the young detainees in order to facilitate the learning process during the lectures aimed at HIV/AIDS awareness-raising. Design and content of the leaflets were carefully considered in order to provide the target group with essential information in a readable form and to ensure increases in their knowledge of the threats of STDs and preventive measures.

Awareness activities run by Vinnytzka branch were conducted in cooperation with the regional AIDS Center. During the implementation period, more than 200 teenagers aged 12-17 stayed in the Yakushyntzi school of social rehabilitation. All of them attended preventive sessions organized by RC volunteers and two health officers from AIDS Center.

Lectures were organized in a well-considered and creative way, taking into account the psychological and behavioral peculiarities of the target group. Among the techniques used to facilitate the educational process were interactive games, quizzes and contests in order to attract and keep the attention of teenagers. Before starting the lectures, all the beneficiaries filled in the multiple-choice questionnaires in order to estimate their basic knowledge of HIV-related matters. Though one-half of pupils managed to give many correct answers, the questionnaire also indicated that many teenagers are confused regarding methods of HIV transmission and self-protection; still, the majority expressed their willingness to support HIV-positive peers. Lectures also included viewing an excerpt from the film dedicated to the HIV problem. Teenagers were encouraged to ask questions to their lecturers (in oral or written form), and to take part in the contests where they had to choose the correct behavioral pattern and explain their choice. Such games produced enthusiasm in the participating youth; the most active participants were rewarded with small prizes. All the educational awareness activities were delivered in an entertaining way that ensured the interest and active participation of the target group. In general, there were 4 lectures for a large audience, these were followed by work in small groups of 20 people in each.

The final questionnaires indicated that most of the teenagers were able to give correct answers regarding STDs, its causes and measures of prevention; it also indicated the absence of stigmatization towards PLWHA. On the basis of analysis of all the questionnaires given to the beneficiaries, the AIDS Center is planning to prepare a general case-study report on HIV awareness among the detained teenagers with their recommendations.

During the program implementation, representatives of mass media were invited to have a look at the life of detained youth and learn about the program run by the Red Cross. In total, there were 3 publications in local newspapers, two video reports and reports on the radio.



A volunteer from the Mykolajiv branch of the URCS runs an AIDS awareness lecture for young detainees

Mykolajiv branch organized 12 peer-education sessions for the teenagers aged 12-18; these were conducted by youth leaders from the Red Cross youth club “Astreya” and the staff of Mykolajiv branch. Teenagers were divided into groups of 6-26 people. In addition to lectures and leaflets on HIV, Mykolajiv branch suggested broadcasting a 15-minute radio program for the detainees giving brief information regarding HIV history, preventive measures, methods of transmission and development of the disease. This radio program on HIV issues was prepared by RC volunteers. This method proved to be rather effective as many of the target

teenagers have learning difficulties and require repetition of the most essential information many times before it can be learned.

Apart from that, Mykolajiv branch initiated publishing of 6 articles in the local press and have 8 radio-broadcasts, including a radio report on the national radio channel. At the midpoint of program implementation, a press-conference was organized where the Manager in the field introduced the programme to the mass media. This event was intended for the visit of IFRC delegation headed by Mr. Warwick Inder.

Impact

Both correctional institutions have considerable difficulties in providing the youth with wholesome nutrition, therefore it was highly important that Red Cross provided beneficiaries with multivitamins supplements. Another serious problem is absence of appropriate sanitary conditions in the correctional institution, in particular, the lack of hygienic items. Therefore, for every correctional institution the content of hygienic kits were chosen with regard to the needs of the target group and upon consulting medical staff of the respective institution. The nutrition and personal hygiene of imprisoned youth has improved as a result of these vitamins and kits. General physical state of beneficiaries, who are especially vulnerable to colds and infectious diseases, including TB, was also improved.

HIV awareness activities of Red Cross were highly necessary as many beneficiaries had unclear notions of the problem and needed clarification and additional training. Though young detainees can learn about HIV/AIDS from the stand dedicated to this problem, lectures and peer-education sessions turn out to be more effective and complement the activities of the prison medical staff and teachers and representatives of state social service for youth.

Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the implementation period since programme activities were approved by the state authorities and the leadership of respective correctional schools tightly cooperated and held consultations with regional branches of Red Cross regarding conducting the needs assessment and planning educational activities directed at HIV prevention.

Analysis and outlook

The danger of HIV spreading among the underprivileged youth, street children and children with alcohol-addicted and drug-addicted parents is very high due to numerous reasons. These children do not receive

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proper parental attention and guidance, and as a result are biased to risky sexual behavior and violence. In some cases teenagers who get into detention have low levels of physical and mental development, cannot read or write and need serious correctional work; at the same time questionnaires indicate that many of them have sexual experience early in life. According to the statistics given by Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA), only 30% of Ukrainian youth understand the meaning of the word HIV and only 50% understand the word AIDS. Only 54% of young respondents think that the HIV/AIDS poses risk to them and their families. These facts emphasize the need for wide awareness campaign among the people of reproductive age.

According to the statistics of the AIDS Center, there are more than 3,200 HIV-positive people registered in Mykolajiv last year (compared with only 100 cases registered in 1995). Many of the detainees were drug-users or had drug-addicted parents or friends, therefore they are particularly vulnerable in this respect. In reference to the AIDS situation in Vinnytska oblast, though HIV morbidity rates remain rather low in comparison with other regions (the highest rates of AIDS epidemics are registered in Kiev, Lugansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, Kirovograd, Zhytomyr, Lutsk, and Khmelnytskyi oblasts), this problem and risk of AIDS inception among the youth requires constant attention from civil society. TB morbidity in Vinnytska oblast increased during the last few years in spite of numerous preventive activities. Among the problems is late diagnosis of TB and malnutrition as cause of TB. However, rates of TB morbidity among children and teenagers are low due to heightened attention of Ukrainian medical institution to this problem. In the penal institutions where the program was executed, only a few TB cases were registered; children diagnosed with TB were immediately referred to respective medical institutions.

2. Disaster Management

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

For more project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.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 project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

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. (*Donor: DFID*)

In response to the growing complexity of humanitarian disasters, the Federation is actively developing and upgrading a number of systems, tools and training strategies to ensure relevant and timely international disaster relief services. Thus, the Federation has developed and successfully tested systems such as Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), and it has implemented a new field logistics support services. Additional tools such as the Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS) were developed making available information for disaster preparedness and response. In addition, new rules and procedures were developed to effectively improve the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), field security, resource mobilization and appeal methodologies. The information kit of the Federation's standard procedures for International Disaster Response has been shared with all three National Societies in the region.

During the first half of the year, Minsk Delegation initiated the process of creating the regional Disaster Management network. The process started with a 2-day planning meeting of Disaster Management officers from three countries held in Minsk in June. Participants discussed the achievements of the programme implementation, as well as revised Disaster Management programmes for the Annual Appeal 2006-2007. The

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main achievement of the DM programme in the first half of 2005 was the start up of the community based disaster preparedness activities in three regional branches of the Ukrainian Red Cross and in two branches of the Moldovan Red Cross. In addition to that, these National Societies initiated the development of the DP/DR plan. In June, the DM officers of the three National Societies participated in the International Conference "Emergencies: prevention and elimination", organized by the Ministry of Emergencies in the Republic of Belarus. At the conference, Minsk delegation's regional DM officer made a presentation on the Disaster Management activities of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement.

Minsk delegation continued the process of creating the regional disaster management network in the second half of 2005. The second planning meeting of DM officers from three countries was held in Minsk in November. The participants discussed the achievements and problems of DM programme implementation in 2005, as well as planned DM activities for 2006. The Minsk delegation disaster management (DM) officer also continued the dialogue on regional disaster response capacity by visiting all three national societies to facilitate national and oblasts DM workshops, to assist in production of informational materials for population, to monitor and evaluate community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) of local communities.

A 3-day regional workshop on disaster management, including logistics standard procedures, was organized in Minsk in November for 23 participants from all three national societies. The majority of the participants were heads of Red Cross branches and representatives of the Headquarters. At this meeting DM officers reported on the problems faced by the national societies during the reporting period, namely: lack of DM educational materials for Red Cross personnel and standard DM educational course for the NS Headquarters' staff in Russian language, poor understanding within the local communities of CBDP approach, and difficulties in planning and reporting.

Impact

All activities implemented by three national societies within the reporting period have been a baseline for creating a regional disaster management network. The Federation delegation has supported installation of a cross country response mechanism involving all three national societies and facilitated regional skills and capacity –building process.

Knowledge and skills acquired during the DM regional workshop allowed the DM officers from Moldova and Ukraine to replenish emergency stocks in accordance with the Federation's standards and requirements.

The Federation's information kit on standard procedures of the International Disaster Response, which was shared with all three national societies in June, facilitated Moldova Red Cross to respond to flooding and prepare an application for the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund's allocation with little assistance from the Minsk delegation DM officer.

Constraints

Unfortunately about 60-70 per cent of the 3-day regional workshop's participants will not further disseminate knowledge and skills acquired at the training. This can be explained by the fact that very often national societies nominate participants who are not directly involved in DM work or lack skills necessary for training other people. To overcome this problem, in 2006 it is planned to organise an educational course for DM trainers.

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes.

Capacity Building

During the reporting period Belarus Red Cross continued development of a capacity building component of the disaster management (DM) programme. One of the main tasks in this process is to design a Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) plan. To accomplish this task the following activities were carried out:

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- In November 2005 Belarus Red Cross analysed disaster risks and statistics on emergencies occurred over the past several years. This allowed to identify the most typical hazards for Belarus and to discover 13 most disaster prone districts in three oblasts. The types of identified disasters are as follows:
 - three types of natural disasters (meteorological, hydrological and forest fires);
 - three types of man-made disasters (domestic and industrial fires, traffic accidents, outbreaks of chemical, radioactive and poisonous substances).

This work was carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies and based on disaster risks data available from the government. During the reporting period, Belarus Red Cross also completed the risk mapping analysis at a national level.

- During the national DM workshop, held in November, an internal evaluation of the BRC DM programme was conducted. This evaluation was based on the characteristics of a “well prepared national society” and helped to reveal the areas of the DM programme which need to be improved. This work was facilitated by representatives from the health and emergencies ministries. Also, the national DM workshop gave the opportunity to continue the dialog between the national society and the Ministry of Emergencies regarding the role of Belarus Red Cross in the National DP/DR plans, as well as to revise the Collaboration Agreement.

Establishment of National/Branch Disaster Response teams

In November, with the support of the Federation’s DM officer and the newly employed DM officer in the Belarus Red Cross Headquarters, the national society conducted a 3-day DM workshop. 23 representatives from all seven BRCS branches, as well as from the emergency and health ministries participated in the workshop. The participants were trained in standard procedures of the Federation for international emergency relief and the RC main disaster response activities. The Federation Guidelines for involving international response mechanisms were disseminated.

To disseminate the knowledge and skills acquired at national level, two oblast workshops were organised by the most active participants of the above mentioned DM workshop. 35 NS staff and volunteers from the most disaster prone districts of Belarus were present. These workshops included theoretical sessions, group discussions and practical exercises. As a result of these educational activities, a group of DM trainers has been established that will continue to educate RC volunteers and staff at oblast level.

Strengthening capacities of local communities

In December the most vulnerable settlements (1-2 in each district) will be identified within 13 disaster prone districts in three oblasts. This will be based on a deep statistical analysis. After that BRC will conduct a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) at community level.

In November the NS staff, volunteers and representatives of the emergency ministry (17 participants in total) from the above mentioned oblasts were trained in community based disaster preparedness (CDBP). The main outcome of the workshop was the elaboration of a detailed Plan of Action for CDBP for all three regions for the next six months.

Coordination

Belarus Red Cross works in close cooperation with the Ministry for Emergencies and local authorities.

Impact

Belarus Red Cross started building a nation wide DP/DR structure of Red Cross staff and volunteers. Workshops held during the reporting period helped the national society to strengthen its cooperation with local authorities and the Ministry for Emergency at all levels.

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Knowledge and skills acquired at the workshops already enabled Gomel and Minsk Red Cross branches to respond to some 100 small scale disasters, such as domestic fires and floods.

During the reporting period, BRC started to use new approaches to widen the scope of DM activities. These include community based DP, informing population about disasters specific to certain areas, mitigation projects and participatory community development.

Constraints

Organisational changes in the BRC Headquarters make it difficult to ensure an effective project implementation and continuity of the programme. The DM officer hired in the beginning of the year left his post and a new one was appointed only at the end of August. Such staff turnover hampers programme implementation since DM programme requires highly qualified specialists.

Food Parcels Distribution

Over the last six years Swiss Red Cross has provided Belarus Red Cross with funds to purchase food parcels to alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable in Belarus. In 2005, the Swiss Red Cross contributed of CHF 143,847 for food parcels to be distributed to the lonely elderly in eight regions of the country (Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, Vitebsk and three regions in Minsk city and oblast) in three rounds till the end of December 2005.



The Belarus Red Cross distributed 13,920 food parcels in eight regions of the country in 2005

The operational contract and budget have been agreed upon and signed. This was followed by tender and procurement procedures, which were held in accordance with the Federation's requirements. Based on tender results and comparative bids analysis, the supply agreement on procurement of 12,100 pre-assembled food parcels was signed. Moreover, the Value Added Tax (VAT) refund allowed for procurement of another lot of food parcels (approximately 1,820). Thus, the total number of parcels procured in 2005 consequently increased from 12,100 to 13,920 food parcels.

The content of food parcels for distribution has been negotiated with the health authorities and meets recognised minimum nutrition requirements. The beneficiary lists have been reviewed together with representatives of the local social welfare departments to ensure selection of the most appropriate population groups. The target groups include lonely elderly, homeless persons, former prisoners, persons with disabilities and multi children families.

Food parcels were distributed during September – December 2005. To ensure proper food parcels distribution several trips took place to monitor: unloading and storage in the warehouse in Gomel regional organisation, and distributing food parcels among the beneficiaries in Oshmiany district organization.

In addition, each regional organisation involved in the programme was asked to fill in a distribution report.

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Impact

During the reporting period, all food parcels that are much needed source of nutrition before a long and harsh winter were distributed to the target group. Moreover, a close and fruitful cooperation with the local authorities and social welfare sector increased the profile of the Red Cross among the beneficiaries, local communities and population as a whole.

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes. (*Donor: DFID*)

Capacity Building

Moldova is prone to more than 30 different types of natural and man-made disasters. High population density and landscape characteristics combined with limited economic resources make population even more vulnerable to disasters. That is why disaster management (DM) capacity building programme is a priority programme for Moldova Red Cross society. In 2005, the number of emergency situations has increased over previous years. According to the Department of Emergency Situations (a part of Ministry of Domestic Affairs), 150 emergency situations were registered in the Republic in 2005, which is with 18 more than in 2004. These caused the death of 56 persons, and damage is estimated at 96 million lei. Most of the damages were produced by natural disasters: frosts, drought and floods, with 32.5 million lei of damages resulting from torrential rains occurring in August alone.

In the framework of this programme, two seminars for RC branch directors were held in 2005. The first seminar, held in May, had the topic "Basic management in case of emergency situations" and the second, organized in December, had the topic of situation evaluation after natural disaster, necessity assessment, appeal of urgent support and distribution of humanitarian aid. The seminars took into consideration experience accumulated during reaction to floods occurring in August. 28 (out of 33) Red Cross branch directors took part in these two seminars. Moreover, one regional seminar for Transnistria region on training teams reacting to emergency situations with participation of 15 persons including 5 branch directors was organized. Three seminars planned for the last months of the year were not performed due to the floods and the fact that all efforts were directed to the addressing the consequences of the flood. These seminars were postponed to the beginning of 2006.

Impact

The Moldova Red Cross Society increased its capacity to react in emergency situations. The newly acquired knowledge and skills permitted branch directors from Chisinau, Briceni and Criuleni to successfully evaluate the situation after torrential rains led to floods in August 2005.

Development of Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) plan

After performed the "Determining vulnerability of Moldova districts to natural and technical emergency situations" analysis in 2004, the MRC continued its efforts in reducing population vulnerability.

After the 2004 analysis and determination of Red Cross branch capacity, the plan on preparedness and reaction to emergency situations started to be worked out in consultation with experts from the Department of Emergency Situations. The general part of the plan including Moldova Red Cross strategy regarding preparedness and reaction to emergency situations has been worked out.

For a better coordination and exchange of information with Department of Emergency Situations, the MRC has started work directed at ensuring the inclusion of MRC branch directors within district commissions for emergency situations. Due to the reorganization of the Department of Emergency Situations and its incorporation into the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, the negotiations were left unfinished. However, the MRC's cooperation with the Department of Emergency Situations continues.

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Maintenance of adequate and appropriate stocks of basic relief supplies

To improve the Moldova Red Cross material capacity for disaster response, the emergency stock of basic relief supplies has been replenished as follows: 200 jerry cans, 529 family hygiene parcels, 22 water purification filters were procured in accordance with the Federation's logistic procedures. In addition, the procurement of bed linen for emergency stock started. Annual revision of inventory of emergency stock was accomplished in October and appropriate logistics documents have been prepared in accordance with the Federation's standards.

Community based disaster preparedness

In order to increase efficiency in reacting in case of emergency situations, the Moldova Red Cross Society directed its efforts to enhance population preparedness in participating in emergency reaction and to increase the level of public information. Red Cross branches from Telenesti (one region), Orhei (one region) and Hincesti (two regions) have been selected as pilot regions due to their regional tendencies of being prone to natural disasters. Calarasi Red Cross branch, due to objective reasons, did not join the project.

In Telenesti, the project began in the village Bogzesti, which is most prone to natural disasters. From a total of 287 houses (around 900 people), 223 houses are located in the risk zone. In Hincesti, the project began in Leuseni, where from 804 houses (around 2600 people), 110 houses are situated in risk zone, and in the village of Calmatui, where from 560 houses (1800 people), 106 houses are under flood risk. In Orhei the project began in the village of Mitoc that has been affected numerous times by floods. Out of 761 houses (2,700 people) about 300 are in the risk zone.

In order to train teams aiming to react in case of emergency situations, in all **4** populated regions organizational committees have been created including directors of respective regional Red Cross branches, mayors of local villages who at the same time are responsible for emergency situations in the region, representatives of district administrations and **2** Red Cross volunteers. These committees worked out plans of action on preparedness and reaction to emergency situations in villages and charters of risk zones.

According to these charters, villages have been divided into **5** sectors and in each sector leaders of working groups were appointed to lead trainings in:

- Communication, information
- Situation assessment and reaction to emergency situations
- First aid
- Population evacuation
- Humanitarian aid

These sector leaders have created groups of **6** people who were trained within seminars organized by Red Cross Society. A total of **15** groups of 6 people (90 people total) underwent the above mentioned training. Those who have received training continue to inform and train other people located in the risk zone.

The Orhei Red Cross branch, in cooperation with district emergency situation administration and local authorities, organized a demonstrative training in December 2005. 35 village mayors participated in the demonstrative trainings. In the course of these trainings, participants practiced population evacuation and first aid. Taking into consideration the serious epidemiological threat of bird flu in neighboring countries, the village Mitoc from Orhei practiced an exercise to prevent the spread of infection in case of its arrival. Some 60 people were involved in these practices.

22,500 booklets containing information on earthquake preparedness were designed and printed by the MRC and have been distributed in all districts.

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Impact

The local authorities and community have come to see the Moldova Red Cross Society not only as an organization that provides assistance following natural disasters, but as a partner whose efforts to prepare for emergency situations in advance reduces the consequences of catastrophes. The communities of the target regions have learned how to react in case of natural disasters, and learned the places where they can be placed during natural disasters; Red Cross volunteers learned which families have the highest support needs in emergency situations and how to assist them.

Constraints

Unfortunately there is still a lack of video materials and informative materials in Romanian. Moreover, from 4 planned populated regions only 3 took part in project implementation. All participants of the seminars expressed their wish to have not only training seminars, but some other activities that would contribute to reduce the risk of emergency situations.

Response to floods

As a result of heavy rains accompanied by severe storm winds and regional hail that hit Moldova on 18-20 August 2005, 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) and 15 districts in the north and central parts of Moldova – with a population of over one million people – have been affected. Since the very beginning, the Moldova Red Cross was involved in the relief operation. During the first days of the disaster, the MRC assisted 162 flood victim families, using the entire emergency stock available in its warehouse in Chisinau. For technical support, the Delegation has made available its regional disaster management officer. On 21 August, two emergency response teams comprised of the Moldova Red Cross branch and headquarters (HQ) staff conducted an assessment in the affected area. The Federation disaster management officer also joined the team in the field. An amount of CHF 50,000 was allocated by Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate needs.

During the course of the relief operation, the MRC, with the support of the Federation and in close cooperation with local authorities, completed the programme of distributing humanitarian aid to 541 families (1,046 people) affected by the August floods in Chisinau (including 2 settlements in suburbs) and 2 districts (6 settlements). During the disaster, this programme included the distribution of food parcels, hygienic kits, bed linen sets, and blankets; in addition to these, kitchen sets and mattresses were distributed during the recovery period. After the disaster response activities, the National Society revised their plan of action—which was outlined in the Minor Emergency Appeal launched on September 9th—and redirected efforts from relief to rehabilitation. As a result of these efforts, more than 2,000 people were able to access sanitary drinking water. (For more information, go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.pdf)

Soup kitchens

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross also provided invaluable support to the most vulnerable people through distribution of food parcels and provision of hot meals in three soup kitchens in Balti, Soroca and Bendery. One meal costs 12 Lei (about 1 US Dollar) and includes a starter, first and second course, juice or another soft drink. The total number of hot meals provided in all three cities was 17,160. On average, each beneficiary attended a soup kitchen for a period of one month. Thus, as shown in the table below, the total number of people who received assistance during the reporting period amounted to 780.

Table 1. Number of individuals benefiting from soup kitchens : July-December 2005

Location	Number of people assisted per month	Duration of soup kitchen	Number of hot meals distributed	Total number of people assisted
Balti	60	6 months (July – December)	7,920	360
Bendery	30	6 months (July – December)	3,960	180
Soroca	40	6 months (July – December)	5,280	240
Total			17,160	780



Children enjoy hot meals at a Red Cross soup kitchen in Soroca. The MRC has provided 17,160 hot meals since opening three soup kitchens in July

Beneficiaries were selected together with local authorities, and are the most vulnerable people – lonely elderly, multi-children families, and disabled people. This year, Bendery Red Cross regional branch also included children from disadvantaged families into the programme’s target group.

In addition, from 15 November the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has been supporting 16 soup kitchens all over the country. Moldova Red Cross continues to seek additional funding to continue assistance to these needy beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, in accordance with the programme implementation plan, Moldova Red Cross purchased 1,000 food parcels including buckwheat, rice, oil, tinned fish, sugar, and pasta and 2,500 hygienic kits including shampoo, washing powder, toilet and

household soap. These food parcels and hygienic kits were distributed to sick or disabled people or solitary retired people who cannot attend soup kitchens. In 2005, Moldova Red Cross branches distributed **959** food parcels and **1,688** hygienic kits in to the most vulnerable people.

Impact

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Red Cross society for their support. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with a huge proportion of the population living below the poverty line. Through implementing this programme Moldova Red Cross provides simple yet invaluable support to the most vulnerable population, distributing relief items and also providing a meeting place for vulnerable, often lonely people, to share their experiences.

Coordination

Moldova Red Cross works together with local social welfare authorities to provide support to the most vulnerable populations in target areas.

Street children

The Bendery Red Cross regional branch organized a summer health-improving camp for children from disadvantaged families and street children. Activities of Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers included

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health education, various competitions, games, parties and raising awareness of local surroundings (walking tours, discussion about flora and fauna etc.).

This type of intervention with children is needed throughout the year. Therefore, taking into consideration the social and psychological support experience accumulated in Bendery involving children from socio-vulnerable families it would be appropriate to start implementing a “Street children” project. One particular proposal is to found a Centre for children with risky behavior so that children can continue to build on and benefit from their summer camp experiences throughout the school year.

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes. (*Donor: DFID*)

This year the main focus of Disaster Management (DM) activities in Ukraine is on a disaster management approach and this programme includes elements of disaster preparedness for response, response support, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation. During the reporting period these have been achieved through the following activities:

Updating DP/DR plans

- Ukrainian Red Cross Presidium has established a DM working group comprising five focal persons from Headquarters and heads of five regional Red Cross branches.
- An algorithm of response in case of emergency situation (for phases of disaster alert and occurrence) has been developed at national and branch levels. In addition, an internal early warning system has been established in the National Society.
- Detailed characteristics of typical disasters for the most disaster prone districts of all oblasts have been distributed to all 25 oblast Red Cross branches.
- 12 Red Cross branches re-signed collaboration agreements with 14 volunteers rescue search teams for joint disaster response.

One of the main achievements of the reporting period was the update of the National Society DP/DR plans and to date all Red Cross regional branches are covered by risk mapping.

Also, within the period under review the cooperation on joint Disaster Preparedness activities between URC and Emergency Ministry, ICRC, and UNDP has been strengthened.

One of main events that can illustrate this cooperation is a round table meeting to promote the Federation’s World Disaster Report 2005. The Minsk Delegation/Kiev Representative Office together with Ukraine Red Cross organized this round table meeting devoted to the presentation of the World Disasters Report 2005 and to CHARP as a forgotten disaster. The event was held on 5 October 2005 in Kiev and hosted representatives from the UN, Ministry of Emergency Situations, other governmental and nongovernmental organisations, and mass-media – 77 participants in total.

Improving the skill and professionalism of members of Red Cross workers and voluntary rescue team (VRT)

During the reporting period Ukrainian Red Cross Society has continued to increase its disaster management capacity through training of its staff and volunteers. As a good tradition, a 3-day field training for 30 VRT members from Kiev city, Luganskaya, Lvivskaya and Zakarpatskaya oblasts was organized in August. This year educational agenda included new topics such as organization of international humanitarian emergency relief and SPHERE minimum standards of humanitarian aid. Theoretical sessions followed by a refreshment exercise in camp deployment.

Moreover in November 2005, the Ukrainian Red Cross staff was trained in Logistics (IFRC standards), Coordination and Disaster Response at the cross-country DM workshop held in Minsk.

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Increasing awareness and capacity of the most vulnerable communities in disaster preparedness

During the reporting period, activities within DM programme have been focused more on community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation. This has been achieved through:

1. Dissemination of disaster preparedness information materials among the population. URCS has designed, printed and distributed 33,000 disaster preparedness information posters (general instructions for population) combined with a calendar for 2006. These were distributed among the population of the most disaster-prone districts of all 25 oblasts and Kiev city. The distribution of posters was carried out during different information campaigns, implementation of the CBDP activities and also through visiting who are involved in this work. Information for population explaining what actions need to be undertaken in case of disaster regularly appeared in mass media.
2. Further training of personnel and volunteers in population education. During the reporting period, Zakarpatskaya, Lvivskaya and Luganskaya Red Cross regional organizations organized three regional community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) workshops for staff and volunteers. As these workshops, 112 people for working with population in 14 districts of Zakarpatskaya oblast, nine of Lvivskaya oblast and two of Luganskaya oblast were trained. The results of CBDP workshops described above are as follows:
 - i. Zakarpatskaya Red Cross organization conducted an awareness campaign about typical hazards and rules of behaviour in these disasters. This campaign covered more than 300 people (children, school and medical personal, persons with disabilities and elderly). This was followed by a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) of three communities in the region.
 - ii. In Lvivskaya oblast an assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities of eight communities was carried out. Based on the assessment, risk and capacity maps together with disaster response plans were designed.
 - iii. Within the reporting period, Luganskaya Red Cross regional branch has built DP public initiative groups in two communities and is continuing CBDP work.
3. Participatory community development in risk-reduction. Lvivskaya branch of URCS initiated and supported the community of Beregovoe village (total population is 257 persons, including 180 elderly and 57 families living in the area at risk of flooding) in conducting mitigation project and risk reduction of spring and summer floods. This was carried out through cleaning river's banks, increasing their height up to 3 meters and strengthening them with stones. This mitigation project was a joint exercise with participation of local authorities and population, who worked free of charge.
4. The continuation of the URCS's traditional work on First Aid (FA) training including the elements of behaviour in emergencies and competitions of FA teams.

Improving DP/DR warehouse of the URCS

During the reporting period, URCS has replenished its emergency stock supplies: 300 blankets, 400 bed sheets, 100 towels, and 500 individual hygienic sets were procured in accordance with the Federation's logistic procedures. Annual inventory of emergency stock has been finalised.

Impact

Updated DP/DR Plans and organised trainings of the Red Cross staff and volunteers will ensure an effective response of the National Society to potential future disasters. The introduction of new DM activities, CBDP and mitigation components, in particular, have increased URCS image as an organisation playing a leading role among NGOs involved in disaster management. It is worth noting that the improved level of readiness to respond in disasters enabled the URCS to provide humanitarian help to those affected during the earthquake in Pakistan, where the URCS assisted the work of the mobile hospital of Ukraine's Ministry of Emergencies.

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Constraints

One of the constraints encountered during the reporting period were poor skills of DM officers in computers, Internet and English. High workload and combining duties make it very difficult for DM officers to devote all their working time to DM programme only. Also, during the humanitarian operation in Pakistan, there was a lack of operative communication (satellite communication, mobile computer equipment).

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

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively implements first aid programmes.

First Aid (FA) training remains a priority for the national society as an integrated part of its disaster management and health programmes. The governmental policy draws a special attention to the issues of industrial safety, disaster preparedness and appropriate emergency training. This policy facilitated the establishment of various partnerships between Belarus Red Cross and governmental institutions and enterprises. The use of modern and effective teaching methods, quality equipment and training materials helped to further promote positive image of Belarus Red Cross. Public awareness about importance of First Aid training has been raised through various public events and involvement of volunteers in First Aid training. Regional Red Cross branches involved in the project report that First Aid training help to raise funds and attract new volunteers. According to the priorities set by the BRC governing bodies, primary target groups for the present round of the First Aid programme are rescue workers, social workers, Civil defence personnel, teachers of secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

During the reporting period:

- About 1,100 individuals from the target groups were trained in basic First Aid in Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev regions and in Minsk City, including disabled people, rescue workers, road police officers, members of industrial emergency teams, social workers, trade unions members and teachers.
- 12 First Aid Instructors have been trained in Vitebsk region;
- 1,000 copies of the First Aid Manual for general population courses has been revised, edited and published;
- BRC representatives participated in several public events where they disseminated information about First Aid trainings available through local Red Cross branches, demonstrated First Aid skills, and conducted First Aid competitions among schoolchildren together with road police and rescue services.

Impact

Expertise of the Red Cross branches in the field of First Aid training in Minsk, Brest, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions have been improved. Cooperation between the local Red Cross committees and various governmental institutions and organizations, such as police departments, rescue departments, schools, and health institutions has been strengthened. Staff and volunteer participation and facilitation of training workshops have increased the capacity and expertise of the national society disaster management and response base. Public awareness about importance of First Aid training has been raised through the various public events and involvement of volunteers in First Aid training.

Constraints

No constraints were reported during this period.

Lessons learnt

In its attempts to make First Aid training a fundraising tool, the Belarusian Red Cross decided to approach organizations rather than individuals with offer of First Aid training. This approach was more successful. Many Belarusian enterprises and organizations expressed interest in training their employees in First Aid.

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While training is still provided free of charge, cost-recovery is assisted by financial and in-kind support from organizations participating in the program.

Approach for 2006

It has been decided to include Gomel region in programme implementation. It also was decided that the First Aid program is well established in Mogilev region and can function independently without the assistance of DFID funding.

Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross effectively implements first aid programmes.

The project was not implemented, due to the lack of funds. Therefore, the Delegation elaborated a new approach to these activities and a modified First Aid project was placed into the Federation's Annual Appeal for 2005. The experience collected by Red Cross branches shows that in order to improve the programme, there is a need to establish training centres in Red Cross medical social rooms, and there is a deep need for reference books to be provided to course participants. The objective of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society is to ensure that first aid knowledge and skills of population are enhanced through quality training.

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

For project background on population movement:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

For project background on human trafficking :

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing refugee programmes.

Belarus Red Cross has become a full member of the national referral mechanism existing in Belarus. Even before the BRC involvement in counter-trafficking work, many organisations expressed interest and willingness to cooperate with the national society. This can be explained by the fact that BRC has a country wide network of volunteers and dedicated staff and an image of the oldest humanitarian organisation. Since the beginning of the year BRC has been successfully integrating into the system of national referral mechanisms. The national society has found its niche in this system and expressed its commitment to provide high quality services to the risk groups and victims of trafficking (VOT).

Owing to funds from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)⁴, since the beginning of 2005 Belarus Red Cross has been actively involved in anti-trafficking activities. In all five regional capitals of Belarus (Brest, Grodno, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel) consultation centres "Helping Hands" were opened on the basis of medico-social centres. Since September 2005, owing to the funds from Swedish Red Cross, the joint activities of BRC and the IOM has been supplemented and strengthened by production of various printing materials and employment of legal advisers and psychologists in all five consulting centres.

At present, there are two main components of the BRC anti-trafficking programme: prevention of human trafficking and reintegration assistance to the victims of trafficking.

Prevention of human trafficking

Along with educational lectures on human trafficking targeting youth, BRC developed a series of information materials. These are:

⁴ IOM support is provided to the BRC directly (not through the Federation)

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- Diaries for BRC staff containing information about trafficking;
- Leaflets for VOT on assistance provided by the BRC consulting centres “Hands of Help”;
- Brochures for risk groups, containing information on safe staying abroad;
- Calendars for 2006;
- Bookmarks for schoolchildren.

Earlier this year BRC organised a drawing competition on trafficking for youth in Belarus. The best works were used in production of bookmarks and calendars. These printing materials will be distributed to schoolchildren and youth during educational lectures which BRC will continue to run in 2006. Furthermore, the winning entries were displayed in a movable exhibition, which allowed 10,000 students to become acquainted with the issues of human trafficking.

In total for 2005, the BRC gave 544 lectures which reached 23,000 people. Also, 72,000 copies of the new printed materials have been distributed.

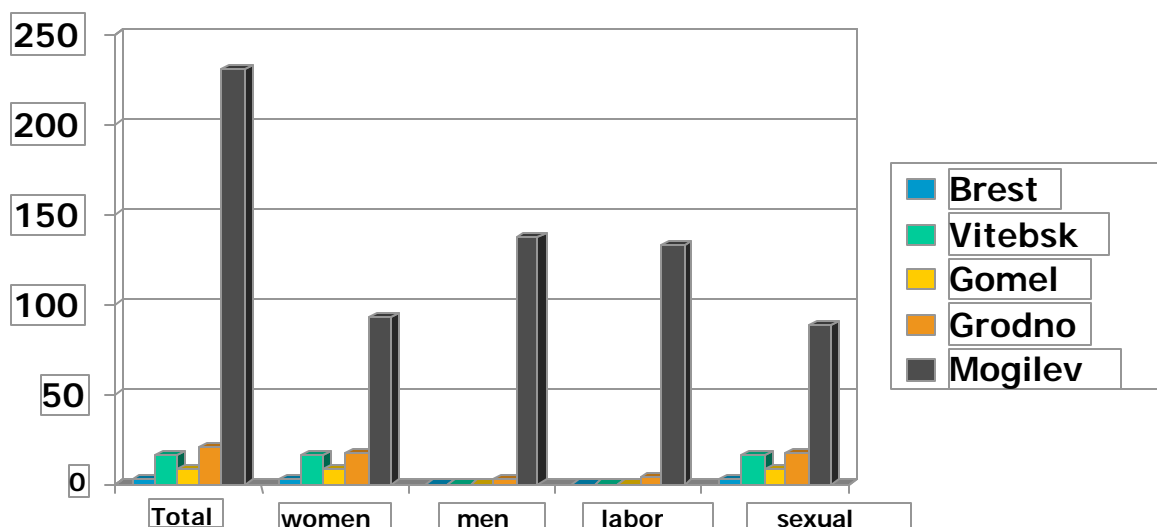
Reintegration assistance for VOT

The main purpose of reintegration assistance is to provide a complex of services to VOT. Thus, with the IOM funding, consulting centres “Hands of Help” provide VOT with the following: compulsory medical examination, reintegration grants, assistance in vocational training and job placement.

Since September 2005, thanks to the funds from Swedish Red Cross, all five consulting centres have been strengthened by qualified legal advisers and psychologists. This was a big step forward that enabled to improve the quality of services on offer. The majority if not all VOT have psychological trauma, and provision of psychological support is a priority need. The psychologists will not only provide VOT with sporadic consultations, but develop an individual plan and follow up system for each VOT.

This work is based on voluntarily decision of VOT to cooperate with BRC, on individual approach to each person and confidentiality. In total for 2005, 279 VOT were assisted with reintegration into Belarusian society.

Victims of Trafficking Assisted in 2005



Coordination

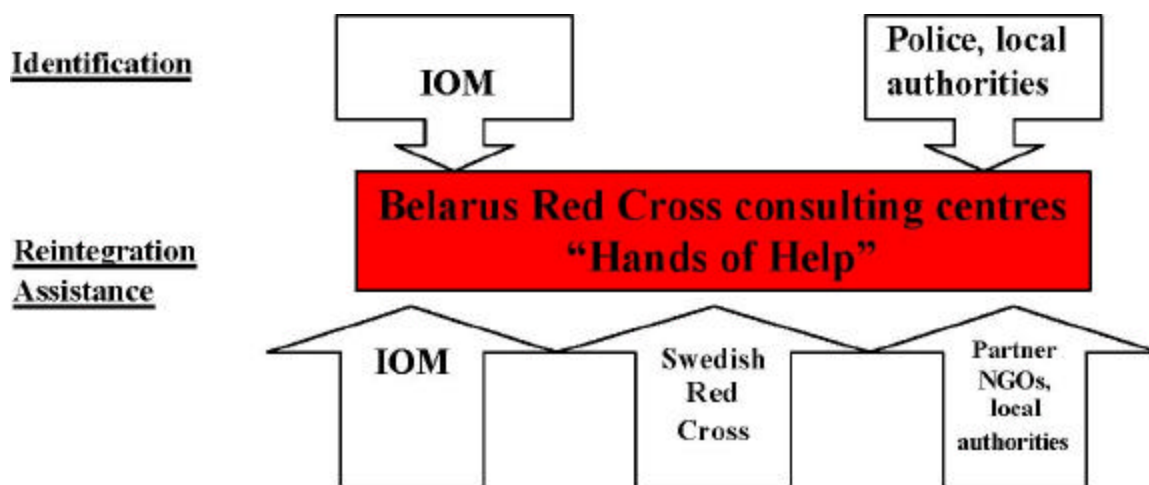
Trafficking is a complex problem, which requires a complex response. That is why the start-up and successful implementation of this project would not be able without cooperation with various state bodies and

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NGOs. In 2005, BRC has built strong partnerships with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the IOM and other organizations. This also helped to build a mechanism of referral and re-addressing of VOT. Thus, to date, all VOT were referred to consulting centres by local police. Thanks to the agreement between BRC and the Ministry of Health, all VOT registered in consulting centres are entitled to have a full medical check up etc.

The BRC project staff participates in meetings of the above mentioned organizations and exchanges information on latest developments and achievements in counter-trafficking.

Chart 1. NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM



Impact

The BRC has had a successful first year of programme implementation with its trafficking programme, effectively increasing awareness about a problem that has remained hidden due to social stigmas. Awareness among BRC personnel of human trafficking has increased from 40% to 90% of personnel due to education efforts. Among the general population, law enforcement agencies have noted the impact of the BRC's information campaign to prevent trafficking. According to these agencies, traffickers have started to look for new ways to recruit victims, as awareness among the general population has increased to the point where it has become more difficult to deceive them.

Analysis and outlook

In 2006, the BRC plans to widen a scope of the counter-trafficking work through introduction of new forms of prevention – art-therapy and creation of social theatre. Involvement of the BRC tracing department in counter-trafficking is also under consideration. The reach of the information prevention campaign will be extended to more schools in 2006, and the BRC will expand its work in assisting young people to start their own businesses or find better jobs through CV and interview workshops.

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

The project was not implemented due to a lack of funds. The Ukraine Red Cross seeks funding to implement this programme, especially in light of the new European Union (EU) borders (areas in Western Ukraine now border three EU countries), which are expected to lead to an increasing numbers of transit migrants. Taking into consideration the fact that the Population Movement project did not receive any funding in 2004, the Delegation and National Society modified their approach to this sphere of activities. Along with social assistance, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has added health care services and psychological support to the

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services it provides for this most vulnerable group. This is reflected in the Federation's Annual Appeal for 2005. *For further details:* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: The Federation delegation has facilitated cross country experience exchange and assessment of possibilities to address the issue of human trafficking. (*Donor: DFID and Swedish Red Cross*)

A grant from the Swedish Red Cross was allocated in response to the Federation's Appeal no. 05AA071 and earmarked to implement regional anti-trafficking activities in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. In June, Minsk Delegation's cross-country anti-trafficking programme coordinator participated in the Conference in response to Human Trafficking: good practices in Europe - collaboration between civil society and law enforcement agencies, hosted by the Danish Red Cross. The conference followed by the internal RC/RC meeting, where the first year of the European RC/RC cooperation in response to human trafficking was reviewed and the priorities for the forthcoming year were determined.

A 2-day regional trafficking meeting, organized by the sub-regional delegation in Minsk, brought together 39 representatives of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine involved in counter trafficking and population movement projects. The meeting was also attended by the IOM representatives from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Their input was very valuable since all the Red Cross counter-trafficking programmes in the region are implementing in close cooperation and with support from the IOM. The meeting was facilitated by a Danish Red Cross representative. To ensure the issues under discussion are interesting and relevant for all four national societies, the meeting agenda was prepared in consultation with participated national societies. The Red Cross regional branches were particularly welcome to attend the meeting. The main reasoning behind this approach is that 90 per cent of all counter-trafficking activities are implementing directly in the regions, targeting risk groups in small towns and rural areas. To that extent, the role of programme coordinators at the national level is to provide overall support, advice and coordination of activities in each respective country.

The goal of the meeting was to bring together the representatives of all four national societies and provide them with a platform for presentations, discussions and mutual learning of counter-trafficking projects run by participated national societies. As this area of work is quite new for the Red Cross societies in the region, such meetings are vital and highly appreciated by the national societies' staff, because they give them a chance to share the problems, discuss questions and challenges which arise during the programme implementation.

The meeting involved both general sessions (presentations and discussions) and group work. All participants received information packs with hard copies of presentations and other information materials (copies of the Bridge magazine, the Red Cross and IOM anti-trafficking leaflets and brochures) before the meeting so that they familiarise themselves with the meeting agenda and materials.

3. Humanitarian Values

Goal: The level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human being is increased in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through the promotion of humanitarian values and a better understanding of the 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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

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Expected result: The general public in targeted regions of Russia, 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 forms of discrimination. (*Donor: DFID*)

This project implementation was delayed and all activities scheduled for the first half of the year started only during the second half. Within this programme, all three National Societies were requested to come up with proposals for anti-stigma activities. However, the process of identifying potential activities was long and thorny for the Belarus and Moldova Red Cross societies. It is only the Ukrainian Red Cross that has responded quickly with a series of proposed activities, the majority of which have been already implemented.

Belarus

The main anti-stigma activities of Belarus Red Cross run at regional and district level, and included the following events:

- Round-table discussions for the mass media, local authorities covering cultural and educational issues, as well as local youth NGOs and volunteers (Brest);
- A contest of video clips with anti-stigma messages (Vitebsk);
- A public event for more than 500 young people aimed at fighting stigma and discrimination through a puppet show (Gomel);
- A film, “Choice”, was shot to show the problems of PLWHA in Gomel region (Gomel);
- A social theatre play, “Youth for the Healthy Way of Life” highlighted BRC activities (Minsk city);
- Other public events, like concerts and posters/essays competitions among youth, held in more than 15 regional BRC branches (Mogilev, Grodno, Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel regions) and in Minsk.

Moldova

In 2005, the MRC performed a series of youth activities aimed at disseminating information about methods of HIV/AIDS transmission and reducing stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Public events have been organized on a regular basis. On December 1, 2005 a public event dedicated to World AIDS Day was organized at the Cultural Club Tcacenco including a concert programme “Time to decide, time to act”. The results of poster and painting contests have been announced, participants underwent anonymous surveys, and informative literature and condoms were distributed. In May 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with “Credinta”, an association of PLWHA. The memorandum foresees cooperation and common activities.



The MRC organized a large public event in the National Palace to recognize World AIDS Day on December 1st

A seminar “Reducing stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS” was held for staff and volunteers, with a separate seminar on the topic being held for mass media. Four radio shows were produced for the National radio station within the most popular children show “Children hour” which is broadcast across the country. The shows discussed different aspects of HIV/AIDS spreading, high risk behavior and reduction of stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS, and how to act when your friend is infected. Another radio show was dedicated to International AIDS Day. Finally, a thematic movie “Time to live” based on “Harm reduction” and “Youth against HIV/AIDS” programmes was broadcast by the local TV channel.

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On November 30, in cooperation with AFEW, Soros Fund, and the Global Fund a public event dedicated to International AIDS Day was held at the National Palace. 1300 youth from all educational institutions attended this event. Each attendee received booklets and condoms. In the end, 1,000 balloons with the Red Cross logo and different leaflets on safe behavior were released in the hall. Within this project, a balloon construction "Tolerance tie" and Quilt cloth "For the right to live" were launched in Bender.

The painting contest "What do you know about HIV/AIDS?" resulted in more than 100 letters from children across the country. 90 paintings have been received for the contest "Reducing stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS". The MRC issued 20,161 booklets titled "Life continues" on the topic of reducing stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS, and issued 34 flags bearing the Red Cross logo with size: 1.85cm x 1.25cm and 59 small flags with the size: 20 cm x30cm.

Impact

Throughout the year, the MRC held 24 public events in different branches, and distributed some 10,000 informative materials and 3,000 condoms at these events. Through surveys conducted during these public events, questions have revealed individual attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS. The observations show that awareness of the facts of HIV/AIDS transmission has considerably increased, leading to decreases in negative attitudes towards PLWHA and decreases in fears of communicating with PLWHA. Finally, there was a great impact resulting from the radio shows; and numerous phone calls were received on air and at the National Committee.

Ukraine

In Ukraine, the national society took a complex approach combining various forms of activities (seminars, discussions, presentations, briefings, round-tables, PR-events), further highlighted in mass media. The implementation of anti-discrimination activities was preceded by a review of the National Society's existing programme with respect to information sources, local activities, partnerships, PR techniques, and long- and short-term priorities. This planning process helped identify the necessary resources and inputs to effectively continue the programme in the future while addressing existing problems. During the first stage of the project (October-November), a working group was organized, the anti-stigma campaign was developed and key partnerships for the campaign were formalized. Key partners for the URCS's anti-stigma campaign include the All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Center of AIDS Prevention of the Ministry of Sciences and Education.

The main activities within the Humanitarian Values programme were as follows:

- **Candle March on 1 December** was identified by Ukrainian Red Cross as a key PR event due to its ability to mobilize volunteers and raise awareness through extensive media coverage. On the World AIDS Day volunteers marched through the streets of selected Ukrainian cities with candles and placed them in a specially designed place in form of a ribbon. Red Cross branches selected for participation by the URCS were Kiev city, Zaporizhzhya, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Poltava, Kharkov, Cherkassy, Chernivci, Lutsk, Lviv, Zakarpattya, Khmelnytsky, Kherson, and Crimea Republic.
- **Distribution of educational materials.** The following items were printed and distributed: a booklet "Side by side with HIV-positive" (5,000 copies), "Come closer!" flags, anti-stigma booklet (10,000 copies), Red Cross caps.
- **Lectures on HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination** were delivered by Red Cross volunteers and activists jointly with the education ministry's regional departments in schools and universities.
- **"Medico-social aspects of home-based care of PLWHA. The problem of stigmatization and discrimination"**. An anti-stigma seminar for Ukrainian Red Cross staff and volunteers was held on 19-20 October in Zaporizhzhya. The seminar broadened cooperation between the URCS and the All-Ukrainian Network for PLWHA as the two organizations worked together to develop training topics, selection criteria, and seminar budgeting. The participants of the seminar were URCS staff or volunteers who work directly with PLWHA on home-based care or plan to join the project, plan to

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continue their work for at least 2 years, and are willing to share information on stigma and discrimination in their community. The seminar provided opportunities to: exchange knowledge and experiences; discuss challenges and methodological issues; and stimulate new ideas in handling and “mainstreaming” HIV/AIDS within the organization. It was expected that participants would take information from the seminars back to their Red Cross branches as feedback for improved programmes through quantitative and qualitative work.

- **Anti-Stigma Mass-Media Workshop.** On International Tolerance Day (16th of November) the URCS hosted the workshop “Promoting Tolerance Towards PLWHA In Mass-Media – A Factor in Overcoming the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Ukraine” at URCS headquarters. The workshop was organized for the representatives of national information agencies as well as journalists from national and regional newspapers, television and radio. The seminar focused on response by the civil society and mass-media’s role in the following areas: working to fight stigma and discrimination; PLWHA rights advocacy; the role of mass-media in prevention; young people’s attitudes; capacity building; and the changing environment concerning HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. Participants of the seminar were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Alla Khabarova, URCS Executive Director, and Ms. Oksana Shved, Head of the Information and Communications Department.
- **Presentation at the 6th National Exhibition ‘MERCY’.** The achievements of the Humanitarian Values programme were presented at National Exhibition “Mercy” (01-04 December, 2005), which was organized for the 6th time at National Expo-centre of Ukraine. With its key message – support for the most vulnerable ranks of society including handicapped, orphans, elderly people, WWII veterans – the exhibition became an excellent opportunity to showcase medical and social services and to share the experiences of leading organizations in the Health and Care sector. This year more than 40 charity organizations and foundations took part at the exhibition. Nevertheless, the exposition prepared by Ukrainian Red Cross Society for the fifth time was overcrowded with people showing their interest in Red Cross activities. On the 1st of December, directly after the opening ceremony of “Mercy-2005” the “Humanitarian Values” programme and “Home-based Care and Support for PLWHA” were officially introduced to the visitors of the exhibition as the new direction for URCS activities for the assistance of PLWHA and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Impact

In the area of effective mass-events and anti-stigma activities URCS now has the confidence to engage in collaboration with other key partners both within and outside of the Red Cross movement. The Programme contributed to closer relationships with PLWHA at a national level as well as in the regions. PLWHA participated fully in events and in media coverage linked to the Anti-stigma campaign. URCS organized several coordination meetings with PR-manager of All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA regarding working issues of programme implementation (World AIDS Day activities, mass-media campaign, and printed materials). There are also several joint events planned in different regions of Ukraine organized by All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA and regional RC branches. URCS leadership stressed the significance of such collaboration considering that it is a very early stage of the partnership and the collaboration is occurring in rather conservative regions.

The Programme made a significant impact on journalists who are highlighting the HIV/AIDS related issues. This can be seen from the increased media exposure of the issues facing PLWHA following the National Media Workshop organized by the URCS. It is also worth mentioning that project contributed to better understanding of stigma and discrimination issues by URCS staff members and volunteers who took part in anti-stigma workshop and the preparation of the Candle March. Seminars provided the participants with a good opportunity for sharing of experiences and from the summaries of seminar evaluation, and there was considerable organizational learning. The seminars provided space for reflection on one’s own work and practices and the opportunity for making new contacts for collaboration. It was proposed that a forum should be established for regular sharing of experiences and learning from each other.

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively implements a humanitarian values and fundamental principles programme targeting youth and women on both banks of Nistru. (*Donor: Norwegian Red Cross*)

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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 the International Committee of the Red Cross (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.

The national society organized two roundtable meetings for junior and senior pupils of a Chisinau lyceum. Humanitarian values were the major topic of these discussions. To address the issues of discrimination and violence the Red Cross branch in Comrat conducted a public event – a disco and a quiz – that was attended by 200 pupils and students.

A constraint of programme implementation was a late start due to absence of programme coordinator. However, since the person has been recruited the programme has started to gather pace. The MRC also had difficulties organizing activities in educational institutions in Drochia where the authorities were guided by an order dated 5 November 2005, according to which NGOs need special permission to hold these types of events – despite the fact that there is a signed Memorandum of cooperation between Moldova Red Cross and the Ministry of Education.

All the activities under this programme are coordinated with the Ministry of Education.

For 2006, a seminar on humanitarian values for staff and volunteers, one seminar for mass media, a round table meeting in 3 cities (Drochia, Causeni and Noresti), and a public event on discrimination and violence and to announce the results of composition contest “Humanitarian values” are planned. Also, as of 1 January 2006, the MRC will begin implementing a new project against human trafficking. The Memorandum of Cooperation with International Organization for Migration (IOM) is already signed. The project “*Cross-border youth integration and cooperation*”, financially supported by Capacity Building Fund (IFRC/RC) and Danish Red Cross, started in January 2005, with funding available through to December 2006. The main purpose of the project is to develop strong and integrated youth sections capable of effective programming and service provision to vulnerable youth.

4. Organizational 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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

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

This is the third year of the project implementation. During the reporting period the Belarus Red Cross was focusing on finalisation of the financial software component to get the finance system that connects the headquarters and eight regional branches and trained staff available to maintain its duly operating. Nine new PCs were purchased during the year and the new financial software was purchased and installed.

Regular technical maintenance, methodological and advisory support has been provided to the branches involved in the project. In addition, the experts of the software developer have provided a continuous follow-up and technical expertise for the Red Cross staff.

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During the programme implementation it was revealed that many finance officers lack expertise in handling new software and that it is essential to provide adequate training for them. However, the initial budget did not envisage for such training. To overcome this problem, the programme budget was revised and funds for training of the BRC accountants were allocated.

Thus, the training took place in November and hosted ten BRC chief accountants, 13 accountants, economists, programme coordinators and the representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the software developer. The workshop was facilitated by a leading specialist of the Ministry of Finance. The training included both theoretical sessions and practical exercises.

Constraints

To ensure proper functioning of the accounting programme it is recommended that each branch has two computers connected to the system. At present, only two branches benefit from having the necessary number of computers.

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

The Ukrainian Red Cross, including its headquarters and regional committees in all 25 Oblasts and Kiev City, now has new computer equipment and software. At this level, the network for finance service of the Red Cross has been created. Within the period under review, the programme has extended the existing computer-based financial network to key branches thus enhancing the Ukrainian Red Cross capacity to report and analyse financial information and improving the cost effectiveness and transparency of its programmes.

In October URCS held a workshop for chief accountants from oblast branches. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce 1C accounting software and to discuss issues of its improvement. During the reporting period, regular technical maintenance, methodological and advisory supports have been provided to the branches involved in the project.

Fundraising objective: National societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have improved their capacity to attract financial resources and mobilize community to support Red Cross activities.

However, funding has been received for capacity building in three countries for one year starting from January 2005. The present project is based on the initiative of Ukraine Red Cross and was developed jointly with the Institute for International Business Development (IIBD) in Kiev, Ukraine.

Capacity building experience of the successfully functioning national societies clearly demonstrates an acute need to adopt a stronger business approach in order to become a self-sustainable structure and to implement social security programmes at internal rather than external expense. The Red Cross society of Ukraine has already accumulated some useful practical experience in fundraising. There is still a great need in practical fundraising experience in Belarus and Moldova.

During the reporting period, the IIBD was selected to develop a fundraising manual and deliver fundraising seminars to the national societies (comparative bid analysis was arranged). A consultant from the IIBD maintained close working relations with the three NS by phone, fax, and e-mail. The consultant explained the project ideas, tasks and purposes to the NS management and asked to share the existing useful fundraising experience in the NS. The collected information was carefully studied and critically analyzed so as to fit into the future manual and become a part of agenda for fundraising seminars.

Close cooperation with the national societies' management allowed identifying true levels of fundraising experience in each of them and, consequently, to take under account uneven skills and experience in fundraising of the societies when composing the manual.

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The consultant developed an original manual concept, which embraced wide fundraising experience of the national societies in developed countries as well. Different levels of economic and democratic developments in three countries were considered. The manual will focus on various fundraising tools based on needs and opportunities of each NS in order to achieve higher effect of their future fundraising training and practice.

The fundraising seminars were held in July (Ukraine), August (Belarus) and September (Moldova). Regular contacts of the consultant with the project coordinators in Belarus and Moldova helped to evaluate their competence in fundraising, and adjust the workshop agenda accordingly.

In October, a solid region-specific practical manual on fundraising was produced and distributed to all national societies. Best practices and country-specific issues have been built into the manual. One copy of this manual will go to each RC branch, with several copies being kept at the headquarters.

The programme is not finished, and after pilot events have taken place in Moldova and Belarus a telephone conference will be held to roundup lessons learned and evaluate the success and shortcomings of the programme.

Ukrainian Red Cross has also continued to develop an online fundraising strategy. In June, as planned, the fulfilment of the website with information available in three languages (Ukrainian, English and Russian) was completed. URCS website does not only convey the full scope of activities in colour and multimedia formats, but also serves as a recruitment site for volunteers, as the main donor recognition site, as a key news site, and as a site for virtual events. (<http://www.redcross.org.ua>)

In October, fundraising workshop for staff from the regional branches was organised. Participants discussed a number of issues: the analysis of fundraising activities of URCS and other National Societies and the ways of their improvement, the strategies for local fundraising and etc. One of the important issues for discussions was the impact of the Internet upon the Red Cross, focusing upon its effectiveness as a fundraising mechanism, which components are successful and what needs to be in place to ensure continued success. CDs and hard copies of Resource Development manual were developed and distributed among participants.

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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross has built up its own capacity in project planning (based on Project Planning Process methodology) in combination with coaching of branches.

The project “Belarus – Organisational Development Strengthening Project Planning Process” is a continuation of the 4-year commitment of the DFID partnership to fund the national society’s initiatives to develop its organisational structure and management system. The Project Planning Process (PPP) trained group will be able to facilitate coaching of branches throughout the Red Cross society and help them drafting relevant project proposals to donors.

The first training session this year was arranged in Minsk from 30 May to 2 June for 24 participants representing the Belarus Red Cross society’s Minsk regional and city branches.

The result of the project implementation in the first half of the year revealed that the current concept for further PPP training has to be reviewed and adjusted to the needs of the national society. Thus, during summer months a project taskforce, formed at the first training, was working on the preparation of a modified version of PPP training. This new methodology was more practical and reflected current needs and capacities of the Belarus Red Cross.

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The second training, held in September, was based on this modified approach and aimed at discussion of practical implementation of the PPP knowledge and skills acquired at the previous training. In November, PPP training was held in Gomel for 24 people. The workshop was facilitated by an expert from the “Belarusian commercial and economic university of consumer’s cooperation”.

Special educational workshops designed for the newly elected heads of the Red Cross regional branches took place in October and December. The participants got acquainted with the PPP methodology, methods and principles of marketing and fundraising. The newly appointed chairmen got acquainted with the specific terms of work in regional branches BRCS thus improving the quality of BRC activities.

Impact

Participants of the PPP training sessions have significantly strengthened their experience in planning and project drafting. PPP training has provided a unique opportunity for Belarus Red Cross staff, especially for new heads of regional branches, to learn specific features of the BRC activities and to get acquainted with modern methods of project planning, reporting, marketing and fundraising. All these will help the BRC to improve the quality of programmes and services designed for the most vulnerable.

While the headquarters staff members are primarily responsible for drafting project proposals, PPP training allow for branch level staff to get acquainted with international standards and use the methodology in their reporting and local project management.

In 2006, PPP training sessions will continue. This is especially important in light of staff turnover in 2005 within the Belarus Red Cross.

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

The regional mechanism of 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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Youth Red Cross movement is improved through successful networking.

Youth are actively involved in the peer education programme. (For further information on activities under this objective, please refer to the **Health and Care** section of this report.

Outside the Appeal

Danish Red Cross and the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) secured funding for a 2-year cross-border youth integration and cooperation programme. The programme was launched in February 2005 by the Danish Red Cross youth delegate with technical support from Minsk Delegation and the ICRC delegation in Kiev. The current project supports the Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross to establish a platform for sustainable cooperation between the Youth sections in the region and integration of Youth sections to the National Societies. Over the first five months of the programme a draft “Youth policy/strategy” and operational plans in three national societies were developed. In addition, the national societies have been strengthened by youth coordinators hired for the first time over the last ten years. The most important events of the reporting period were:

Drafting national society Youth Strategies

Drafting of the NS Youth Strategies was finalized in September 2005. In November 2005 in Moldova and Belarus the drafts were introduced to the NS branches and leadership for comments and suggestions. After approval by the branches, the Youth Strategies are expected to be adopted into the presidiums of the respective national societies in 2006. The Ukrainian Red Cross Youth programme was adopted in December 2004 and is considered by URC as a Youth Policy and Strategy.



Youth forums and leadership training helped attract more than 3,000 new youth volunteers to the Belarus Red Cross

Election of Youth to the Boards

The process of lobbying the election of youth to the Boards is on-going in Belarus and Ukraine. The letters recommending introduction of youth candidates to the Boards were sent from the NS National Committees to all branches of BRC and URC. In Moldova, the board elections were finalized just as the project was beginning. Therefore, to ensure youth representation in the decision making process, youth working groups have been established in four branches of the MRC.

Leadership training in national societies

Three country leadership training sessions, as the follow up of the regional training held in June 2005, were conducted by the national societies during September-October 2005. In total, 46 youth volunteers and coordinators from three NS National Committees and 23 branches participated in the training facilitated jointly by volunteers, youth coordinators and a delegate.

The training sessions addressed the inactivity and apathy among youth as a significant problem in the region. Therefore, the main goal of the training was to motivate and encourage youth and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools that will help them to take active part within their local communities as the Red Cross volunteers.

At these training sessions youth gained experience in performing as trainers; teams of course trainers are established in each national society. These, together with the trainer's handbook, will ensure continuation of future training within the national societies. In addition, during the training youth drafted 17 local initiatives and expressed high commitment to implement their projects. Local fundraising and small grant competition could be the options for financial support of the youth initiatives.

Development of local youth initiatives

This is a new initiative that started in Belarus and Moldova in May with a launch of small grant competition aiming at youth mobilization and involvement in civic participation. The first three grant competitions phases were: announcement of the grant competition, call for proposals and selection of applications. These phases were finished by the middle of July. Then, during August and September, the NSs youth coordinators visited the local branches -grant winners - and met with youth, branches' leadership and local authorities. The fourth phase of the competition started at the end of September – beginning of October, after the above mentioned visits. It is the implementation of nine local youth initiatives (six in Belarus and three in Moldova) under the

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ICRC funding ⁵with a total amount of CHF 5,300 (CHF 3,275 for BRC and CHF 2,025 for MRC). The grants range from CHF 125 to CHF 1,200 each.

The objectives of youth initiatives are: integration of disabled youth into the society; dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian values; HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion of healthy life style among youth.

In total, 220 youth were directly involved in the projects' drafting and implementation and more than 5,200 youth in Belarus and Moldova benefited from these projects in 2005.

Candle March dedicated to 1 December

This year, all three national societies were actively involved in activities dedicated to the World AIDS day. Candle March was organized for the first time by Belarus Red Cross and allowed to publicly declare itself as a national player in the field of the HIV/AIDS prevention. More than 800 volunteers were involved in various activities organized on 1 December, ranging from the Candle March to competition of six volunteers teams.

Moldova Red Cross also celebrated this event for the first time. Activities were organized in five cities of Moldova and in close cooperation with UNAIDS and other NGOs involved in fight with HIV/AIDS. Last year, the Ukrainian Red Cross was the first national society in the region to celebrate World AIDS Day. This year, URC continued this good tradition and held events in seven regions of the country.

Sub-regional Youth Forum

42 youth volunteers, the three national societies' staff (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) and representatives of the Federation's Minsk delegation, Danish RC, French RC and the ICRC Kiev delegation participated in the Youth Forum in Minsk, Belarus. Best practices from partner national societies (Raid Cross from French Red Cross, "Rainbow of good actions" from MRCS) were presented; youth strategies and policies of three NSs were discussed and revised and the development of NSs volunteer policies has been initiated.

At this forum the Youth Coordination Committee of the Red Cross youth BMU-network was elected for the first time. It consists of nine volunteers and coordinators (three Red Cross youth representatives from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine).

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

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

The Federation Representative in Georgia visited Moldova Red Cross at the end of July to conduct a feasibility study concerning the Secretariat support to Moldova Red Cross in its commitment to finalise the transitional period of their governance and management structures. This was a follow-up to the previous discussions between the Secretariat and the Moldova Red Cross President. Further work on the proposed Plan of Action towards the agreed changes in Moldova Red Cross has been done during September-November, with the small allocation to support this process already received from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF).

Constraints

The implementation of the organizational management programme funded by Norwegian Red Cross has been delayed till September in view of the ongoing discussion on the change process in Moldova Red Cross. Strengthening of the management capacity has not been achieved during the reporting period, however programme activities continue to build up the Moldova Red Cross capacity in terms of human resources and infrastructure.

⁵ ICRC funding is provided to the NSs directly.

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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 (VNS)/ Medical-Social Centre (MSC) programme.

For more project background http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

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.

Last year, Belarus Red Cross defined a 2- year action plan and 5- year strategy for development of its VNS. In 2005, the programme continued focusing on quality improvement and widening of the services provided towards the lonely, elderly and disabled people, who have completely or partially lost their abilities for self-reliance and increasing number of people included in this kind of service.

In April 2005, a workshop was held in Gomel for 18 VNS nurses from Gomel, Mogilev, Brest Regional and Railway branches. Two qualified trainers on home based care from Mozyr and Novopolotsk regional organizations facilitated the workshop. On the results of the workshop, all nurses successfully passed state exams on home based care and were certified as nurses of second and high categories.

The newly developed internal computerized database will be distributed within the Belarus Red Cross Regional organizations. This will allow updating and modifying the VNS database at all levels and receive online information on the activities, financing, etc., and eventually leading to the VNS sustainability. (*Donor: DFID*)

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

The programme funds were used to develop a standard of a well-functioning MSC/VNS, a quality assurance system, a nursing code, a training concept for volunteers in VNS, as well as to conduct training on home care and on marketing/fundraising. The training of nurses and development of nursing quality standards were done in close co-operation with the Nursing Association of the Republic of Moldova.

Over the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross held five roundtable meetings in Chisinau, Soroca, Rezina and New Aneny on the role and importance of the activities of the Red Cross and its Visiting Nurses Services among NGOs and governmental services. Local authorities, the Society of Invalids, the Society of Blind People, the League of Veterans, and the Society of Afghanistan War Participants were invited to these meetings. The roundtable meetings highlighted the need for experience exchange and closer collaboration with other organizations providing social services, so that the most vulnerable could benefit from combined efforts.

In November a workshop on marketing and fundraising for nurses and volunteers was conducted in Balti. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of boards and management of well-functioning medico-social centres and to equip the staff with basic skills of marketing and fundraising. A second seminar focusing on a system for the standards and quality of VNS was also held in 2005.

The national society also supplied nurses with 80 uniforms and published 184 calendars. The following books have been edited and translated into English: **Ethics code for VNS, Volunteer handbook, and System of VNS quality and standards.**

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/medical social centres. (*Donor: DFID*)

The project was implemented in Chernigiv and Ternopil Red Cross regional branches.

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During the reporting period the URCS Headquarters developed pocket guidelines for Visiting Nurses. For this Chernihiv and Ternopil Red Cross regional branches carried out a survey among VNS beneficiaries. A total of 282 beneficiaries were surveyed in two branches and all questionnaires were analyzed. The results of this analysis will be a part of methodical guidelines on psychological rehabilitation.

Within the project, Red Cross staff also provided assistance to the most vulnerable. Consultations of psychologists in medical and social centres were held twice a week. During the reporting period 367 lonely low-income people and 114 disadvantaged families received psychological support. 11 beneficiaries received consultations at home.

During the internship students of medical schools also rendered assistance to 130 beneficiaries at home, actively participated in medical and social center activities and activities dedicated to Children's and Anti-smoking Days.

Expected result: Improved quality of assistance to the targeted beneficiaries in selected regions of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through a strengthened VNS network (or service), exchange of experience and knowledge sharing between the three National Societies. (*Donor: DFID*)

In 2004, the first draft of a brochure on quality standards and best practice in Belarus and Ukraine was prepared. However, after extensive consultations with the national societies and experts it was decided that the material developed do not meet the set objectives and should be revised. To facilitate this work and to finalize the development and production of the brochure, a working meeting was held in Kiev for 15 visiting nurses from all three NSs together with an external expert from the Public Health Care institution. The meeting aimed to discuss the materials collected for the VNS book on best practices and at the same time to share the best experience on the VNS activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

To date, there are 30 cases to be included into the book describing different aspects of home based care by the VNS, services provided by the nurses in medical and social centres, involvement of volunteers in VNS activities, VNS participation in other Red Cross programmes etc. At present tender bids are collected for the book issue.

The book is designed for the Red Cross nurses. However, it can also be a useful tool and a good source of information for the state social workers and other interested parties, such as NGOs working in the social sector and beneficiaries themselves.

5. 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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Minsk delegation represents the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and assists the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross societies.

The Federation delegation continued to provide co-ordination and management of partner support to the three National Societies. Regular individual meetings with the secretary general of the Belarus Red Cross, and presidents of Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross were undertaken in order to ensure that the Federation services

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are relevant and responsive to national societies' needs. The Minsk delegation also supported the three national societies with technical advice and follow-up help. Ongoing contacts and information sharing were maintained with DFID and the partner Red Cross National Societies of Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and USA.

A joint visit of the delegation and the Swedish Red Cross desk officer to Moldova Red Cross took place in July. Further meetings with the IOM in Moldova showed prospects for joint programming and possible support in certain components of the future anti-trafficking programme. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between MRC and the IOM.

Over the reporting period, representatives from the Danish and Swiss Red Cross societies visited the region. A desk officer from the Danish Red Cross participated in the Youth Forum held in Minsk in November and met the Head of Minsk delegation and a Danish Red delegate to discuss implementation of the cross-border youth integration programme and other issues. The main purpose of the Swiss Red Cross representative was to facilitate the start up of the Visiting Nurses Programme, funded by the Consortium of the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

During the visit of the Swiss Red Cross representatives to Moldova a re-assessment of Moldova Red Cross and its visiting nurses service, as well as planning workshops to set the conditions and a commonly shared vision for future co-operation were scheduled for April 2006. It was agreed that Moldova Red Cross will also participate in the next Twice Christmas campaign of Swiss Red Cross.

Information-sharing with the French Red Cross bilateral delegate in Moldova is done regularly to avoid duplication of activities and to ensure unified approaches.

A roundtable meeting that will bring together interested sister national societies and provide a platform for coordination and effective use of collective resources in support of Moldova Red Cross is under consideration. Prior to this meeting, which is preliminary scheduled for February 2006, the delegation will consolidate a map of Moldova Red Cross activities supported through the International Federation and other partners.

6. International Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The work of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the Federation and the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement receives adequate recognition among the respective governments, international organizations 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 profile.

For more project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Minsk delegation continues to support the Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross with technical advice, coordination support and representation at the national and international level. Meetings with the delegation and national society staff were held on regular basis and efforts were made to facilitate a dialogue between the region and partner national societies.

During the period under review, regular contacts were maintained with major regional donors and representatives of the international community in Belarus and Ukraine – including UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), TACIS, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation, the Global Fund, the IOM and embassies – in order to ensure proper Federation representation and to discover possible funding opportunities for the national societies.

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The Minsk delegation and Kiev representative office continue to support Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross with technical advice, coordination support and representation at the national and international level. Meetings with delegation and national society staff were held on a regular basis and efforts were made to facilitate a dialogue between the region and partner national societies.

During the reporting period there were intensive activities highlighting CHARP. The Minsk Delegation/Kiev Representative Office together with Ukraine Red Cross organized a Round Table meeting devoted to the Presentation of the World Disaster Report 2005 and to CHARP as a forgotten disaster. This event was held on 5 October 2005 at the Conference-hall of Information Agency "Ukrinform" in Kiev. A book "CHARP focus" devoted to the 15th anniversary of the programme and to the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster has been produced at Kiev Office. The book draws attention to Chernobyl issues and CHARP and will be used for fundraising for the programme. *For more information:*
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07202.pdf

The delegation assisted the Ukraine Red Cross in promoting correct use of the emblem in Ukraine, both when it was fraudulently used in a newspaper advertisement related to Hurricane Katrina aid, and when the new emblem was launched in December.

A meeting took place between the Kiev Federation representative and the Irish Minister for Foreign affairs which resulted in the delegation being asked to submit a proposal for Euro 500,000.

The financial report is attached below. Please click here to return to the title page and contact information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05AA071 - BELARUS, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Budget Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	m05aa071
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	735'706	669'956	135'664	595'203	350'809	2'487'338
B. Opening Balance	48'742	-20'920	6'546	61'800	41'737	137'904
Income						
Cash contributions						
Austrian Red Cross	18'143					18'143
British Red Cross	227'083	149'070	104'349	230'065		710'567
Capacity Building Fund				59'643		59'643
Danish Red Cross	105'000			34'150	59'196	198'346
Finnish Red Cross		17'250				17'250
Irish Red Cross Society					6'630	6'630
New Zealand Red Cross					6'354	6'354
Norwegian Red Cross	107'730	113'400	19'845	42'525		283'500
Swedish Red Cross	83'825	118'064	41'913			243'802
Swiss Red Cross		189'953				189'953
C1. Cash contributions	541'781	587'737	166'106	366'383	72'179	1'734'186
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Danish Red Cross	36'000					36'000
Finnish Red Cross		9'348				9'348
Swiss Red Cross		198'411				198'411
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	36'000	207'759				243'759
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross	-11'793	1'584		11'793		1'584
Swedish Red Cross	29'913	-12'000	-41'913			-24'000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	18'120	-10'416	-41'913	11'793		-22'416
Inkind Goods & Transport						
Finnish Red Cross		158'980				158'980
Swedish Red Cross		360'108				360'108
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport		519'088				519'088
Inkind Personnel						
Irish Red Cross Society					102'000	102'000
New Zealand Red Cross					97'750	97'750
C5. Inkind Personnel					199'750	199'750
Other Income						
Service Agreements					33'830	33'830
C6. Other Income					33'830	33'830
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	595'900	1'304'168	124'194	378'175	305'759	2'708'198
D. Total Funding = B + C	644'642	1'283'248	130'740	439'976	347'496	2'846'102

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	48'742	-20'920	6'546	61'800	41'737	137'904
C. Income	595'900	1'304'168	124'194	378'175	305'759	2'708'198
E. Expenditure	-422'161	-940'277	-99'252	-341'131	-281'795	-2'084'616
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	222'481	342'971	31'487	98'845	65'702	761'486

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05AA071 - BELARUS, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Budget Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	m05aa071
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		735'706	669'956	135'664	595'203	350'809	2'487'338	
Supplies								
Shelter	9'900							9'900
Clothing & textiles	38'675		414'366				414'366	-375'691
Food	232'480	265	218'260				218'525	13'955
Seeds,Plants	600							600
Water & Sanitation	5'959	1'577	1'191				2'767	3'192
Medical & First Aid	91'636	10'341			2'052		12'393	79'243
Teaching Materials	82'205	19'943	1'774	4'734	14'945		41'397	40'808
Utensils & Tools	20'738							20'738
Other Supplies & Services	37'010	4'346		816			5'163	31'847
Total Supplies	519'203	36'473	635'590	5'551	16'996		694'610	-175'408
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles						-9'451	-9'451	9'451
Computers & Telecom	108'975	6'261	1'838	2'517	17'958	2'470	31'044	77'931
Office/Household Furniture & Ec		3'698				1'290	4'988	-4'988
Others Machinery & Equipment						2'757	0	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	108'975	9'959	1'838	2'517	22'004	-9'738	26'581	82'394
Transport & Storage								
Storage	13'473		8'804			46	8'849	4'624
Distribution & Monitoring		985	111'903		36		112'923	-112'923
Transport & Vehicle Costs	60'449	6'975	11'636	12'235	7'342	932	39'121	21'329
Total Transport & Storage	73'922	7'960	132'343	12'235	7'378	978	160'893	-86'971
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	276'000				1'827		1'827	274'173
Delegate Benefits	28'000	6'163	7'340	1'564	10'374	237'930	263'371	-235'371
Regionally Deployed Staff	24'390							24'390
National Staff	330'877	5'466	12'741	8'067	18'735	17'578	62'588	268'289
National Society Staff		118'191	46'238	15'908	72'887		253'225	-253'225
Consultants	98'612				4'778		4'778	93'834
Total Personnel Expenditures	757'879	129'820	66'319	25'539	108'602	255'509	585'789	172'090
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	404'217	98'448	43'306	5'777	58'043	1'237	206'812	197'406
Total Workshops & Training	404'217	98'448	43'306	5'777	58'043	1'237	206'812	197'406
General Expenditure								
Travel	24'472	5'328	3'853	733	3'921	7'007	20'842	3'630
Information & Public Relation	226'468	53'595	11'576	54'293	22'557	-73	141'948	84'520
Office Costs	116'455	18'593	10'521	8'786	76'179	7'488	121'566	-5'111
Communications	59'119	4'544	3'161	1'797	8'731	8'454	26'687	32'432
Professional Fees	9'351	716	935		3'916	1'469	7'036	2'315
Financial Charges	12'889	-13'988	-4'018	-3'904	-5'883	-1'719	-29'512	42'401
Other General Expenses	12'710	3'788	2'395		2'297	-7'991	489	12'221
Total General Expenditure	461'464	72'575	28'423	61'705	111'717	14'635	289'055	172'409
Depreciation								
Depreciation						1'702	1'702	-1'702
Total Depreciation						1'702	1'702	-1'702
Program Support								
Program Support	161'677	27'440	52'135	6'451	22'174	17'473	125'673	36'004
Total Program Support	161'677	27'440	52'135	6'451	22'174	17'473	125'673	36'004
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		39'484	-19'677	-20'523	-5'784		-6'500	6'500
Total Operational Provisions		39'484	-19'677	-20'523	-5'784		-6'500	6'500

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Budget Timeframe	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	m05aa071
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		735'706	669'956	135'664	595'203	350'809	2'487'338	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2'487'338	422'161	940'277	99'252	341'131	281'795	2'084'616	402'722
VARIANCE (C - D)		313'545	-270'321	36'411	254'072	69'014	402'722	