

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ukraine

MAAUA002

30 April 2010

This report covers the period 1 January
2009 to 31 December 2009.



Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers distribute protection masks for the general public during the influenza outbreak. Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross.

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aim to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters; to reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme summary: The funding in 2009 for the Ukraine country plan 2009-2010 was low. Only capacity-building activities received funding through the IFRC. These were donations from Lars Amundsen Foundation and the Japanese Red Cross to the project aimed at improving the capacity of the visiting nurses service (VNS). Other activities of the Ukraine Red Cross such as disaster preparedness and promotion of humanitarian values could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

Nevertheless in the third quarter of 2009 a human pandemic preparedness programme (H2P) supported by USAID and an HIV programme funded bilaterally by the American Red Cross were launched. The Ukrainian Red Cross also began bilateral activities with PATH¹ within the framework of a 250,000 US dollar anti-TB programme (also funded by USAID). In May 2009, the Ukraine Red Cross completed its relief operation for flood affected communities in some of the most impoverished parts of the country.

The partnership meeting held in September 2009 in Kiev resulted in the establishment of new partnerships for the National Society. The society received support from the German Red Cross for its volunteer programme and for organising a new mobile diagnostic laboratory in Volyn region to conduct Chernobyl-related activities. Besides the Japanese Red Cross allocated money for the development of the VNS and Estonian Red Cross offered financial support to conduct a first-aid training of trainers for the National Society.

¹ Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

Financial situation: The initial 2009 budget was CHF 579,301 which was revised to CHF 640,312 (USD 593,981 or EUR 438,570) due to additionally received funds, of which CHF 105,984 or 17 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 68 per cent of received funding. The remaining 32 per cent was carried forward to 2010 to be used for film production and purchasing of bicycles for the VNS.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

See also the emergency appeal Moldova and Ukraine: Floods:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDR67003ea.pdf>

No. of people we help: Some 90,000 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programme interventions in 2009 and about 6,000,000 people received indirect assistance through mass information campaigns. It is expected that the implementation of the Ukrainian Red Cross programmes in 2010 will directly target 924,000 people if funding is available.

Our partners: The Ukrainian Red Cross and the IFRC are working together with a number of partners including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, American Red Cross, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), Lars Amundsen Foundation, the Association of People Living with HIV, UNAIDS, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, PATH, WHO and IOM.

Over many years the National Society has built strong partnerships with the different ministries in the country, including the ministries of health, youth and sport, emergencies, justice and internal affairs, as well as with the State Penalty Committee.

The total number of organizations the Ukrainian Red Cross is working with is about 120 (including administration and non-governmental organizations in the regions).

Context

In 2009 the economic and social situation in Ukraine remained difficult and worsened dramatically due to the global financial and economic crisis. Ukraine has been among the nations hardest hit by global financial turmoil as a plunge in the price of steel, its main export, exacerbated a credit crunch and a sharp fall in stock prices. At present more than one third of the population live below the poverty line and over half of the workforce earn below what is considered subsistence wages. The most affected by poverty and the lack of adequate health and social care are older people living alone, multi-child families, street children, people with disabilities and marginalized people such as migrants and homeless people.

With the continuing spread of A/H1N1 influenza all over the world and with outbreaks of the disease registered in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Red Cross stands ready together with other international and bilateral partners to support Ukraine's efforts in fighting the epidemic. By the end of 2009, the Health Ministry of Ukraine had confirmed 1,005 deaths of influenza and acute respiratory viral infections. Since 29 October 2009 (beginning of the epidemic), about 4.5 million people have been registered as having contracted flu and acute respiratory viral infections.

Meanwhile, the incidence rates of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV in Ukraine have reached epidemic levels and show no sign of decreasing. Ukraine has the most severe HIV epidemic in Europe, with an estimated prevalence rate of 164.2 per 100,000 of the population. As a substantial proportion of all cases occur in people under the age of 30, this epidemic poses a major threat to Ukraine's youth and to the country's future. Stigma and discrimination still see people living with HIV prejudiced against when it comes to employment and access to state services, despite good legislation to counter this phenomena.²

² UN, USAID, Global Alliance

Natural and man-made disasters have begun to occur in Ukraine with increasing frequency. Some 11 miners were killed and several more injured after an accident at a coal mine in eastern Ukraine on 8 June 2009. In the middle of October heavy rains, snow and gale-force winds hit electricity supplies to 1,463 towns and villages in 12 regions of western Ukraine.

These humanitarian challenges in the country define the Ukraine Red Cross Society's priorities.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results

- *The Ukrainian Red Cross has strengthened its material resources for emergency relief.*
- *The skills and professionalism of the National Society disaster response staff and volunteers are improved including the understanding and application by the National Society of the International Federation's standardized guidelines for effective response.*
- *Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively.*

Achievements: The disaster management component did not receive any funding. Nevertheless, disaster management activities were carried out, most notably the humanitarian assistance the Red Cross gave to people affected by the floods in western Ukraine from July-August 2008. The operation was successfully completed in May 2009.

Floods operation in Ukraine

The August 2008 storms, described as the worst experienced in either centuries, led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. In Ukraine, Karpaty's six regions - Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia – were affected. The floods claimed 38 lives, 784 settlements were flooded and 44,945 homes damaged. Some 33,882 hectares of agricultural lands were inundated.

Within the framework of the emergency operation a total of 12,000 food parcels were distributed in Ukraine and the National Society mobile repair teams repaired 173 houses. A beneficiary satisfaction survey was conducted after the distributions which confirmed that the people affected were very satisfied with the timely support provided by the Red Cross.

Constraints or Challenges: There were no major constraints in the implementation of the floods operation.

Health and Care

Outcomes/Expected results

- *Improved health and social conditions of people living with HIV (PLHIV) due to anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy.*
- *Decreased spread of HIV in rural areas of Ukraine due to public awareness-raising and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross.*
- *Decreased spread of HIV among injecting drug users.*
- *A National Society contingency plan for human pandemic response based on the National Society's disaster management plan has been developed and recognized by the government.*
- *Strengthened capacity of the National Society in human pandemic preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers, effective mechanisms for response in six target regions of Ukraine.*
- *Strengthened financial and technical resources for human pandemic response.*

Achievements: The health and care component did not receive any funding. However the Ukraine Red Cross has been identified as a candidate for a project funded by USAID on human pandemic preparedness which was launched in July 2009 in ten oblasts (regions) in four pilot areas of Ukraine (central, northern, southern and western). Due to the outbreak of the influenza epidemic in November the project activities were extended to the remaining 17 regions of Ukraine.

In particular the following activities were carried within the project:

- A two-day training for 40 trainers was held in October in Kiev, who in their turn, conducted trainings of volunteers in the oblasts in November.
- Information materials "*Your Best Defence is You*" have been translated into Ukrainian language and printed (200,000 posters, 400,000 booklets, 200,000 liners for schoolchildren and 100,000 calendars). The Ukrainian Red Cross has distributed these information materials in all regions of Ukraine. The local branch of Pepsi-Cola company provided support by helping to deliver information materials to regional Red Cross organizations.
- The video "*Your Best Defence is You*" has been adapted for broadcasting on TV. The video was approved by the Ministry of Health and by the special broadcasting commission. This material has been broadcast in the regions on local TV channels and also on the national channel.
- The regional Red Cross organizations in cooperation with the healthcare authorities organized trainings for Red Cross visiting nurses on providing assistance to people in an environment characterized by the fast spread of the virus.
- The National Society distributed personal protection equipment (PPE) for volunteers supplied by the IFRC. Communities were provided with disinfection and hygiene products from the regional warehouses of emergency stocks.
- All regional Red Cross organizations were monitoring the health status of persons supported by Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses as well as provided healthcare services for sick people.

In April 2009, the Ukrainian Red Cross together with the International Federation organized the launch of the Ukraine Red Cross becoming a member of the Global Alliance on HIV and TB. The forum held in Kiev brought together representatives of National Societies from Eastern Europe, the Ukrainian government, international organizations and NGOs. The IFRC and the Ukrainian Red Cross together with UNAIDS, USAID, UNICEF, PATH, WHO, International Foundation "Alliance" and Foundation for Ukraine prepared an application from Ukraine and submitted it to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria seeking a grant for activities combating TB. The application has been approved and starting from 2011 the Ukrainian Red Cross will act as a sub-recipient for advocacy and social mobilisation components of the Global Fund TB project.

Besides, the Ukrainian Red Cross with assistance from the Federation office in Kiev developed a bilateral HIV project funded by the American Red Cross. The project was launched in July in three pilot regions. In Volyn oblast activities are focused on the reduction of HIV prevalence among youth, college students from small towns and villages of five pilot districts. In total 20 trainers were trained at a seminar who in their turn trained instructors. Peer education sessions and a large-scale information campaign were conducted during which volunteers distributed information materials and condoms.

In Vinnitsa oblast the project is focused on prevention, as well as care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the penalty system. In total, 1,650 hygiene kits, protective items and disinfectants, emergency kits, and 700 express tests were purchased for the inmates. Volunteers' diaries, calendars, and leaflets for inmates have been developed and printed. Altogether 4 trainings for 36 persons have been carried out in all prisons in 2009. Also some 117 persons received pre-test consulting³.

In Crimea Autonomous Republic the project provided care and support to PLHIV. In 2009, some 1,683 visits have been made to 80 visiting nurses service (VNS) clients. PLHIV received social

³ Provision of psychological support before the HIV test.

assistance including food parcels, vitamins, disposable syringes, bandages, clothes and shoes, school supplies, quilts, as well as legal and psychological consultations.

Constraints or Challenges: There were no major constraints in the implementation of these projects.

Organizational Development

Outcomes/Expected results

- *The Ukraine Red Cross has developed and strengthened its capacities and structure to establish strong youth movement and volunteer recruitment and retention systems.*
- *The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses service has been improved.*

Achievements: The youth and volunteer promotion component of the programme did not receive any funding.

In 2009 the Lars Amundsen Foundation allocated CHF 33,554 to the visiting nurses service development project. Part of this allocation was used for purchasing first-aid kits for the VNS. Another part of this donation will be spent on a production of film about the Ukrainian Red Cross VNS activities which would be used all over the Commonwealth of Independent States countries.

In addition, the Japanese Red Cross allocated CHF 16,819 for the development of the VNS. This money will be spent for purchasing bicycles for the visiting nurses. The tender procedure for this procurement has been arranged and the best commercial offer was selected. The bicycles will be purchased and distributed in the first quarter of 2010.

Principles and Values

Outcomes/Expected results:

- *The level of discrimination towards vulnerable groups in Ukraine has been reduced through the promotion of humanitarian values and changing negative behaviours;*
- *Irregular migrants at their temporary places of residence have received humanitarian assistance, as well as psychosocial and legal support.*

Achievements: There were no active projects in the field of principles and values due to the lack of funding.

Working in partnership

In March, the Ukrainian Red Cross organized a round-table meeting devoted to World Tuberculosis Day, attended by Red Cross workers, representatives of the Ministry of Health, NGOs and the mass media. The main topic discussed was further integration of Ukraine into the international partnership "Stop TB". This meeting was also a kick-off ceremony for 30 days of Red Cross action on combating TB which took place in March and April 2009.

A partnership meeting "Beyond Borders" was organized by the Federation representation for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine in Kiev on 7-8 September 2009. The objective of the meeting was to encourage and initiate new/stronger partnerships and cross-border cooperation between National Societies in the region and consequently enable increased funding possibilities for the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine as well as for neighbouring societies. The leadership of the three above mentioned National Societies as well as representatives from the National Societies of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, Japan, United States, and also representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), European Union, USAID and BBC attended the meeting. The main presentations were on the socio-political environment in Belarus, Moldova and

Ukraine, on humanitarian opportunities and challenges in CIS countries, and on activities of the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Representatives of the EU delegation and USAID presented the current and future funding mechanisms of their organisations. Discussions also touched upon the IFRC's Strategy 2020 as well as on good humanitarian donorship.

The meeting resulted in the establishment of new partnerships for the Ukraine Red Cross. The German Red Cross offered support for the Ukrainian Red Cross' volunteer programme and for a new mobile diagnostic laboratory in Volyn region to conduct Chernobyl-related activities. Furthermore the Japanese Red Cross allocated money for the development of the VNS and Estonian Red Cross offered financial support to conduct a first-aid training of trainers for the National Society.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In order to ensure sharing of experience and communication with the branches, the Ukrainian Red Cross headquarters organized regular visits to the field. In particular, in the course of developing the human pandemic preparedness project monitoring trips were carried out in the ten pilot regional branches.

As mentioned above a film will be produced about the Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses service which would show the best practices around cooperation with local authorities and the provision of qualitative assistance to clients of the visiting nurses. A respected Ukrainian-English filmmaker, who has previously worked on a Chernobyl photo project with the Federation office in Kiev, has indicated his willingness to collaborate pro bono in the project. The application of best practices in Ukraine and other CIS countries will contribute to strengthening the infrastructure in service provision, improving the process of rendering assistance to the most vulnerable groups, upgrading the conditions of work, and expanding the sphere of services as well as their quality.

Looking ahead

Ukraine has the most severe HIV epidemic in Europe. The Ukrainian Red Cross programme priorities therefore include HIV activities aiming to inform key population groups such as young people on HIV in order to change their attitude and behaviour regarding safe sex and discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV, and also harm reduction activities. The American Red Cross funded project will be focused on providing care and support for PLHIV.

The Ukrainian Red Cross will continue the implementation of the pandemic preparedness programme funded by USAID. Activities will include training of nurses and volunteers, coordination of efforts on pandemic preparedness with other stakeholders as well as publication of information materials.

The Ukrainian Red Cross will also continue its work aimed at further modernisation of the VNS. The main focus will be on improving the standards of service provision and increasing the qualification of the visiting nurses to meet all the needs of people receiving assistance on a permanent basis.

Ukraine is prone to natural calamities and technological accidents. Thus, another programme priority will be disaster management focused on improving disaster preparedness and response skills of Red Cross staff and volunteers through training, competitions and first-aid education, as well as further development of the Red Cross infrastructure, including the establishment of a disaster preparedness centre. The IFRC and Ukrainian Red Cross will seek necessary funding for these priority areas.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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