

## ***UKRAINE: ICE STORM***

*11 December, 2000*

### ***Information Bulletin N° 1***

### ***The Disaster***

Severe ice storms have been ravaging 11 regions of the Ukraine since 27 November 2000, leaving 4 people dead, more than 700 injured, and knocking down electricity lines thereby cutting power supplies to large areas of the country. The Ukrainian Emergency Situations office deployed some 7,200 workers in order to restore electricity to the hardest hit regions, focusing in particular on affected hospitals, 743 kilometres of railway power grids, and bakeries. The storms also affected the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant which resulted in a temporary closure of its only working reactor. A similar situation occurred at the Yuzhna Nuclear Power Plant where two reactors were temporarily shut down.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The regional offices of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, together with the Ukrainian Emergency Departments and Health Services, conducted surveys throughout the affected regions and have requested assistance from the International Federation for relief supplies to alleviate the immediate suffering of those in most need. To immediately respond to the situation, CHF 32,000 has been released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to begin the delivery of assistance.

### ***Needs***

Warm clothes, water filters, petroleum lanterns and food parcels are needed to assist some 1,800 families (5,400 people) for 2 months. While the International Federation does not intend to launch an international appeal at this time, the donor community is requested to provide assistance to the operation by reimbursing the CHF 32,000 allocated from the DREF.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head ai  
Relationship Management Department

Martin Faller  
Head ai  
Europe Department