

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## UKRAINE: EXPLOSION

7 May 2004

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

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 10,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

Explosions at a munitions dump in South East Ukraine have killed five people and wounded over 300 according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies. Over 5,000 people living within a 15 km radius of the disaster have been evacuated.

The explosions hit at about 10:00 local time on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May in Novobohdanovka near Melitopol in the Zaporozhye region. According to eye witness reports, flames shot up to 300m high at the depot, which stands 40 km from one of Europe's biggest nuclear reactors. 24 hours later, explosions continue to send debris up to 40km away, according to Reuters reports.

Hundreds of Ukrainian firefighters and soldiers have been involved in the rescue and clean up operation. Reports so far indicate that over 300 buildings have been destroyed, and six villages were partially or totally destroyed. The evacuated population has been relocated to schools, hotels and other public buildings in the vicinity. Wounded people are being treated at first aid centres and the Melitopol district hospital. The cause of the explosion is as yet unknown.



### Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The President of the local Ukrainian Red Cross in the Zaporozhye region branch has been in contact with the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies and made an assessment of the emergency needs. Local Red Cross staff is

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fully engaged in assisting the evacuated people, and so far have distributed hygiene kits, bandages, towels and shoes to 500 people relocated to three villages in the nearby area- Kamenskoye, Vasilyevka and Mikhailovska. The Ukrainian Red Cross is also involved in broadcasting a fundraising appeal on local television, radio and in newspapers. Second hand clothes and shoes from Red Cross emergency stocks are being distributed among the affected population.

According to the preliminary Ukrainian Red Cross assessment, the following humanitarian aid is urgently required to assist a further 600 of the affected population and support the under-equipped local first aid centres and district hospital:

<b>Humanitarian aid</b>	<b>No. of items/ kits</b>
Bed linen sets	600
Food parcels	600
First Aid kits	100
Hygienic kits	600

The Ukrainian Red Cross also plans to mobilize local Red Cross Visiting Nurses to assist the affected population and help with re-accommodation. Local staff is also providing psycho social support.

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