

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 OF AMMUNITION DEPOT

21 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. 02/2004 (no. 01/2004 was issued on 7th May 2004) is being issued

- for further information on the needs required for assistance to the people affected by the explosion of the ammunition depot in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. CHF 10,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- The Ukrainian Red Cross National Society in Kiev; Phone +380 44 235 0157; Fax +380 44 246 5658; email redcross@ukrpak.net
- In Geneva: Miro Modrusan, Federation Regional Officer, email miro.modrusan@ifrc.org, phone 41 22 730 4234, fax 41 22 733 0395

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 three 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 12:50 local time on Thursday 6th May 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.

Up to 1,980 staff of the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies (including fire fighters) 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 lying within 40km of the epicentre of the explosion – Novobohdanovka, Vozrozhdeniye, Privolnoye, Spaskoye, Oriovo and Vysokoye- have been partially or totally destroyed. The evacuated population (5,600 people of 5,722 residing in the area) 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 impact of the explosion is particularly severe, due to the poverty levels in the region, the high percentage of multi-children families, disabled persons and elderly people. Agricultural allotments providing food to support

many of the affected population are likely to be unsuitable for cultivation in the near future, due to possible remains of explosive materials on the ground.

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 has made an assessment of the emergency needs. In response to these needs and in cooperation with local authorities and local branches of Ukrainian Red Cross, Ukrainian Red Cross has compiled a budget for provision of prolonged and more comprehensive support to the affected population. Support will be provided over a three month period (May – July 2004). The 600 beneficiaries identified include the most vulnerable groups of the affected population - multi-children families, lonely elderly, and disabled. Assistance will meet the most urgent needs of the selected beneficiaries - hygienic items, food, clothing, footwear, bedding, first aid kits.

The Ukrainian Red Cross has applied to the DREF fund of the International Federation for CHF 39,642 to allow tender, procurement and distribution of the relief items detailed in the table below:

Humanitarian aid	No. of items
Bed linens	430
Blankets	600
Clothes	430
Footwear	350
Food parcels	600
First Aid kits	100
Hygiene parcels	600

In the meantime, local Red Cross staff is fully engaged in assisting the evacuated people in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies and so far have distributed emergency aid in the form of hygiene kits, bandages, towels, shoes and bed linen (to the value of CHF 5000) to 500 people relocated to three villages in the nearby area- Kamenskoye, Vasilyevka and Mikhailovska. In addition, Red Cross staff members have been working on shift at temporary accommodation centres for the evacuated population and Red Cross visiting nurses have been assisting the injured. Staff is also providing psycho-social support to the affected population.

The Ukrainian Red Cross is also involved in broadcasting a fundraising appeal to local donors on local television, radio and in newspapers. Second hand clothes and shoes from Red Cross emergency stocks are being distributed among the affected population.

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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