

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova and Ukraine: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR67003
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000122-UKR/MDA
Operations update n° 2
14 October 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 15 August to 30 September, 2008;

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,250,355 (USD 1,193,428 or EUR 765,881);

Appeal coverage: 68%;

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report,](#)
[here to go to the photo gallery,](#)
[or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This **Emergency Appeal** was launched on 5 August 2008 for CHF 1,250,355 (USD 1,193,428 or EUR 765,881) for 8 months to assist 60,000 people.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 636,942 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Societies during the initial phase of the operation in Ukraine (CHF 437,942) and Moldova (CHF 199,000).

Summary: The worst storms in over two centuries have led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. 40 people were killed and some 30,000 people were displaced. Hours after the disaster, the Red Cross teams were in the disaster affected areas saving lives, soothing pain and bringing hope. Since the start of the emergency relief operation about 60,000 people received assistance from the Ukraine and Moldova Red Cross Societies.

The disaster has generated a strong response by the international community. Various countries, international organizations, NGOs and private companies have supplied humanitarian aid to the affected areas. The appeal coverage is high and the International Federation on behalf of the Moldova and the Ukraine Red Cross Societies takes this opportunity to thank those who contributed.

The epidemiological situation remains stable in both countries. The National Societies are monitoring the conditions and finalizing the procurement of additional food and non-food supplies for the affected communities. Further distributions will be undertaken in coordination with the local authorities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over eight months, and will therefore be completed by April 2009; a Final Report will be made available by July 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).



Red Cross volunteer distributes aid to the people affected by the flood in Stefan Purcar, Moldova.
Photo: David Macharashvili, International Federation

The situation

The worst storms in over two centuries have led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. In Moldova, 22 districts were affected in the north of the country along the Prut and Dniester rivers. Three people drowned in the capital, Chisinau, over 4,000 people were evacuated. 677 homes were flooded, of which 126 are badly damaged. Some 2,200 wells were submerged and people have since been stranded without access to safe drinking water. At the time of the reporting, most of the wells had been treated, but the quality of water still raises concerns. The government of the Republic of Moldova committed to construct or help buy new houses for families whose homes were destroyed, but many of the affected families have not yet been able to reconstruct their homes. They request support and prioritize construction materials, drinking water, food, clothes, hygiene items, bedding, blankets, and kitchen items.

In Ukraine, Karpaty's six regions - Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia were affected. 38 persons were reported dead. 784 settlements were flooded with 44,945 homes being damaged. Hundreds of kilometres of roads were washed away and over 500 bridges were damaged. Some 33,882 hectares of agricultural lands were inundated. The worst affected were the regions of Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsy.

The Ukrainian government has declared a three-month state of emergency in the region to deal with the crisis and set up central headquarters, led by the first vice-prime minister to coordinate post-flood rehabilitation work in the western regions affected by the devastating flooding. Rehabilitation works are ongoing. Dams and river embankments are being reinforced. Flood waters are being drained. The epidemiological situation is monitored by the sanitary epidemiologic services. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy provided the people affected by the floods with cash support. To date, 98 per cent of the first transfer and 70 per cent of the second transfer made by the ministry has been paid.

Coordination and partnerships

Both National Societies have good working relations with the government authorities at central, regional and local levels, and attend regularly inter-agency coordination meetings. In Ukraine, the Ukraine Red Cross representatives at regional level are members of the regional disaster response units, while the president of the National Society is a member of the State Emergencies Commission. Local authorities support the National Society with fuel and provide vehicles during relief distributions.

A number of NGOs and private companies contributed to the disaster response efforts. The Ukraine Development Foundation supplied 7,000 food parcels that were distributed in Kosovsky and Verhovinsky districts of the Ivano-Frankivsk region. "Simpex Ltd." donated 5,000 water filters. "Procter and Gamble – Ukraine" made an in-kind donation of washing supplies of the total value of 390,000 US dollars.

Contributions continue to arrive through the International Federation and bilaterally from partner National Societies. Since the last update issued on 18 August, the Chinese Red Cross contributed 30,000 US dollars to the Ukraine Red Cross. The Hungarian Red Cross sent canned goods, bed-linen, blankets, clothes and furniture of the total value of 30,000 US dollars for the flood affected residents of Rahovsky and Hustsky districts in Zakarpattya region of Ukraine. The German Red Cross provided in-kind donation of medicine, bedding and washing supplies for distribution in Ivano-Frankivska region. All items have now been distributed by the Ukraine Red Cross Society.

The US embassy has been coordinating support from the American private companies, which have representative offices in Ukraine. One of the first to respond to the call for support were the 3M, Day Europe, Kimberly Clark and Tetra Park companies, who contributed with hygiene items, milk and drinking water. The Chernivets'ka regional branch of the Ukraine Red Cross received blankets, water tanks and water treatment products of UAH 110,000 (about 20,000 US dollars), as in-kind contribution from USAID. As this report was being prepared the American ambassador in Kiev announced that 250,000 US dollars in cash, raised by expatriate companies in Ukraine, would be donated to the Red Cross flood relief work. The Federation country representative is in discussions with the American Chamber of Commerce on how best to utilize this donation. Furthermore, the Italian Red Cross donated 100,000 euros to the response in Moldova.

In early August, the Moldova Red Cross received in-kind donation of food parcels, blankets, mattresses, water tanks and soap of the total value of 1,462,711 lei (equivalent to 150,790 US dollars) from the Turkish Red Crescent Society for distribution to flood affected population. The emergency items were distributed to 437 people in Briceni, Soroca, Rezina, and Stefan Voda.

The French embassy in Moldova contributed 30,000 euros. Using these funds, the Moldova Red Cross procured food and non-food items and assisted 450 more people, including 94 people from Stefan Voda district. The distributions were conducted in close coordination with the local authorities.

[Click here to see the full list of contributions.](#)

The overall management of the operation is conducted by the head of operation, based in Chernivtsy region, supported by coordinators in Kiev and Chisinau, and six project coordinators in each of the regions in Ukraine affected by the floods.

The International Federation, via its offices in Kiev, Chisinau, Moscow and Budapest coordinates the international relief assistance, including the mobilization of financial resources and technical expertise, where required. On 2-6 September a joint mission of the Ukraine Red Cross and the International Federation visited the six flood affected regions - Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia– to monitor the situation and the implementation of the emergency operation. Meetings were held with the regional project coordinators and on-the-ground teams to discuss the progress and challenges. The authorities pledged to try to contribute with construction materials and/or possibly instruments.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: To provide emergency relief (food and basic non-food items) to a total of 12,000 families (60,000 people).	
Expected results	Activities planned
12,000 most-affected families receive emergency food aid, bedding, hygiene supplies and/or household sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary lists will be supplied by local branches in conjunction with the local authorities at village level Distribution of relief supplies to 12,000 most affected families Replenishment of essential stock already distributed Basic relief training for selected staff and volunteers where required Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions Carry out beneficiary satisfaction surveys to determine follow-up, and to guide future operations

Progress

Immediately after the disaster, both National Societies utilized non-food items from their emergency stocks to provide assistance to those who had lost their family members, homes and livelihoods because of the flooding. Red Cross volunteers helped evacuate people to safer grounds, provided first aid to injured people and distributed some essential non-food items such as clothes, bedding and hygiene items. The Moldova Red Cross using its own emergency stocks assisted 656 people from two affected villages (Drepcauti and Criva) in Briceni district with minimal food, bedding, blankets, shoes, second-hand clothes, hygiene kits and buckets of the total value of 173,504 lei (USD 17,887).



The Moldova Red Cross is registering beneficiaries in Stefan Purcar. Photo: David Macharashvili, International Federation

The National Societies are now monitoring the situation and finalizing the procurement of additional food and non-food supplies for the affected communities according to the plan. Further distributions will be undertaken in coordination with the local authorities.

In Ukraine, the procurement is organized locally by regional branches through a local tender (see the table 2 below). Beneficiary lists were prepared by the Ukraine Red Cross in consultation with the local authorities. People

under the patronage of the Red Cross such as elderly people living alone, multi-child families, single parents with small children and low-income families are prioritized.

In total, in Ukraine and Moldova about 60,000 people received assistance in food and non-food items.

Table 2. Items procured by the Ukraine Red Cross using DREF allocation

Region	Food parcels	Kitchen Kits	Water Filters	Blankets (family set)	Visiting nurse bags
Vinnitsa	500	190	500	216	
Transcarpathian	500	566	300	400	
Ivano-Frankivsk	1,000	566	1,500	362	
Lviv	600		700		
Ternopil	400	112	500	122	
Chernivci	1000	566	1,500	400	
TOTAL	4,000	2,000	5,000	1,500	500

The Ukraine Red Cross is organizing several mobile technical teams in Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivitsy to assist the flood affected populations with the rehabilitation of their damaged homes. Each team will include a team leader, a driver and two to three other technicians, all being paid staff. The teams will serve people, who are already under the patronage of the Red Cross such as elderly people living alone, multi-child families, single parents with small children and low-income families. The teams will carry out minor restoration work including repairing of broken doors, windows and fixing electrical wiring. Recruitment of team members and purchasing of necessary vehicles is in process. The mobile teams will be equipped with basic construction materials, to be prioritized according to the needs. In addition, the Ukraine Red Cross plans to include in each team a visiting nurse that will provide necessary medical and psychosocial support to the people affected by the disaster. Procurement of first-aid kits for visiting nurses is also envisaged.

With support from DREF, the Moldova Red Cross has procured additional food and non-food items (hygiene kits, blankets, bedding sets and water filters) to about 1,500 people, including those who were provided with minimal emergency aid from the National Society's own stocks. The procurement was organized in Chisinau through tender. The first part of the goods has now arrived (see the table below) and the first round of distribution was scheduled at the end of September. Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers in coordination with the local authorities are re-assessing now the needs and preparing beneficiary lists for the second round by identifying the most vulnerable people. Elderly people, people with disabilities and families with many children are being prioritized. By the end of the operation, the Moldova Red Cross will assist over 3,000 people.

Table 1. Items procured by the Moldova Red Cross using DREF allocation

Nr	Locations	Food parcels	Hygiene parcels	Blankets	Bed linen sets	Water Filters
1.	Briceni RC branch	511	744	555	555	215
2.	Anenii-Noi RC branch	48	48	23	48	-
3.	Soroca RC branch	44	44	44	44	45
4.	Ocnita RC branch	254	254	254	254	110
5.	Chisinau RC branch	481	232	468	421	84
6.	Bender RC branch	128	128	128	128	46

7.	Rezina RC branch	34	50	28	50	-
	TOTAL	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	500

Challenges

Both National Societies report that the distribution of relief items remains complicated because of the lack of transport means in the regional and district branches and also because of the damaged roads and bridges.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 12,000 families in seven areas for three months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 12,000 families through distribution of inexpensive water filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 12,000 locally-made membrane mini-filters which have a working life on one year and require minimal maintenance (weekly cleaning) • Promote hygiene awareness and basic sanitation, and provide guidance on maintenance/cleaning of filters
Wells in the affected regions are tested to determine clean-up needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy a water and sanitation technician to assess the water and sanitation needs • Advise on the need for clean-up of contaminated wells in the affected areas
Capacity of National Society in conducting water and sanitation assessments on usability of wells and chlorination is boosted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train National Society volunteers and staff on well safety, using water and sanitation technicians • Monitor the progress of those trained so they can be used as resources in future emergency operations of this kind within Europe

Progress

The Ukraine Red Cross has distributed one water filter to each of the 5,000 families in all the six affected regions of Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia. In addition, 3,500 filters were provided by the Ukraine Development Foundation. Beneficiaries were selected among the people who were already under the patronage of the Red Cross such as elderly people living alone, multi-child families, single parents with small children and low-income families. Recently, an agreement was signed by the Ukraine Red Cross with the Simpex Ltd. to deliver an additional 5,000 water filters. Distributions are planned at the end of September.

In Moldova 500 water filters were procured and will be distributed by the end of October.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The media coverage was good in both countries. On 29 July, the national radio channels broadcast the Ukraine Red Cross appeal to support people affected by the flood. TV channels give daily updates from the flood affected areas, including Ukraine Red Cross response. The president of the Ukraine Red Cross gave a radio interview and encouraged the audience to contribute to alleviate suffering of those affected. A number of articles about the Ukraine Red Cross work were published in local and national newspapers. The Ivano-Frankivsk regional branch issued 50,000 leaflets on disease prevention in all six regions. Ukraine Red Cross regional branch directors communicate regularly with the public to share the latest updates from the disaster affected regions.

In Moldova, the national channel TV-7 provided full coverage of the aid distribution conducted by the Moldova Red Cross.

[Click here to access the photo gallery.](#)

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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