

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

BELARUS, MOLDOVA & UKRAINE

30 December 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. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.80/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July - December 2004; Appeal coverage: 94.2 %; *(Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List)*

Appeal target: CHF 2,325,370 (USD 2,050,950 or EUR 1,505,310)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

CHARP Annual Appeal 2004 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018104.pdf

CHARP Programme Update no.1 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01810401.pdf

Ukraine Explosion Information Bulletins 1 and 2

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/ukraineexp04a1.pdf,

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/ukraineexplosionib0204.pdf

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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>

Operational developments

Response to the appeal in 2004 has been good, as the appeal coverage to date is CHF 2,190,500 (94.2% coverage). The main donors are the British government/DFID (Department for International Development), and the following National Red Cross Societies: Austrian, Danish, Finnish, Irish, Swedish, Swiss and New Zealand. The Minsk and Kiev delegations and National Societies continue to seek funding, especially for the Visiting nurses service in Moldova; and to support the street children in Moldova;

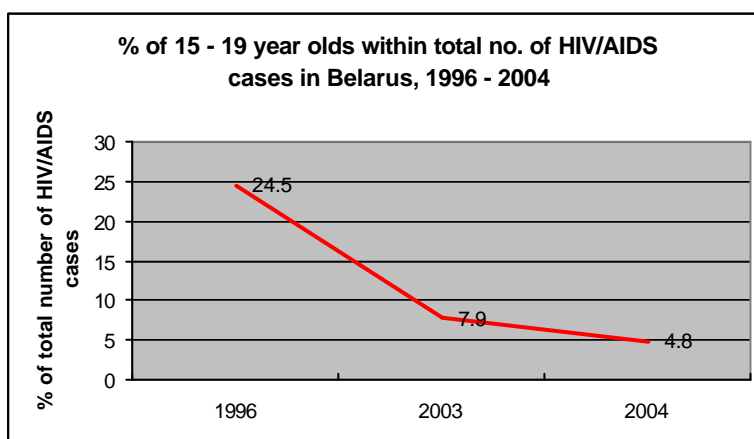
1. Health and care

Overall goal: To improve the health status of the communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

HIV/AIDS objective: The Red Cross National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have the capacity to contribute effectively to the regional and countrywide response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

In Belarus: The peer education project is a continuation of the previous work of the Belarus Red Cross in the field of HIV prevention and is regarded as one of the National Societies' key activities. It is built around a dedicated team of trained volunteers, delivering education to their peers. This approach transfers knowledge and teaches life skills resulting in a change of behaviour among beneficiaries and in reduction of stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV. A decrease in HIV/AIDS rate among 15-19 year olds may be attributed to nationwide efforts by the Red Cross and other non governmental organisations (NGOs) to educate young people about HIV/AIDS (For details, please see table 1 below).

Table 1.*



*Source: Ministry of Health Centre for Hygiene Epidemiology and Public Health - AIDS Prevention department

In total, 9000 leaflets, 26,500 posters, 20,500 wall calendars and 1,200 manuals for volunteers were published during the reporting period.

The needle exchange service adds to the fight against AIDS by providing clean syringes and practical advice on HIV/AIDS to Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs), who currently account for over 70% of all registered HIV/AIDS cases in Belarus.

In Moldova: The peer education programme has expanded though the training of new peer educators who now provide peer education classes in 80% of schools in Benderi. Moldova Red Cross assesses the relevancy and impact of its peer education project via review of pre and post seminar questionnaires completed by participating students. The national society is supported in this assessment by a volunteer from a local sociological organisation. In the future, through introduction of mobile teams of peer educators, Moldova Red Cross plans to expand its peer education work to rural areas where children have less access to information about HIV/AIDS issues.

Moldova Red Cross is also participating in harm reduction activities through its needle exchange centre in Benderi. Since programme implementation, Moldova Red Cross has successfully gained beneficiaries' confidence. Injecting drug users are willing to talk about their experiences and problems with needle exchange centre staff, and receive impartial, professional social, legal and psychological advice and support. The number of visitors to the needle exchange centre continues to increase, indicating the general appreciation of the services provided among the target population. As a result of beneficiary interest, meetings are now held every week and provide a valuable social forum for the centres' visitors who have few options for socializing in Benderi and nearby Tiraspol.

Cooperation with local authorities has had a positive effect on the success of the programme. Thanks to the membership card that is authorized by local Ministry of Internal affairs and Red Cross, IDUs are able to visit the centre freely and without risk of arrest.

In Ukraine: Youth peer educators are fully committed to fight HIV/AIDS epidemics in the country and their communities. Through their peer education sessions and systematic information campaigns, the general public/target audience is exposed to appropriate messages to encourage behaviour change. At the same time, the peer education project offers young people (both peer educators and beneficiaries) the opportunity to assume responsibility for their health and their future.



Ukrainian Red Cross is the only humanitarian organisation providing information on HIV/AIDS to young detainees

Ukrainian Red Cross (URCS) is also working in youth detention centres to improve general health of the detainees and increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) through interactive lectures. During the reporting period, detainees have received hygienic items and been offered the chance to improve their personal hygiene skills and reduce vulnerabilities to colds and infectious diseases, including TB. Chief medical officers of the detention centres report that URCS lectures have improved the psychological wellbeing of detainees. The level of trust and open communication is considerably higher between detainees and Red Cross staff than between the detainees and detention centre staff. The detainees associate the Red Cross visitors with the general principles of humanitarianism and as a result, are ready to communicate and accept distributed information.

At present, URCS is the only humanitarian organisation providing prevention and information activities among imprisoned youth. During the reporting period, involvement of URCS volunteers in the programme in Melitopol was brought to an end due to strict visiting procedures to the detention centres. As a result, visiting nurses have become more involved in the project activities, especially during the lectures.

[*<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus, Moldova ad Ukraine during the reporting period>*](#)

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation facilitates an effective mechanism for cross country information sharing and joint skills development in the areas of youth peer education, harm reduction and anti-discrimination work

The planned experience exchange visit of Belarus and Ukraine Red Cross to the Moldova harm reduction programme and HIV workshop have been postponed until February 2005, due to time pressures on the National Societies in other areas.

This programme is supported by DFID.

Constraints : The evaluation of the programme planned by National Societies has not been done.

Home based care objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are able to provide quality home based care through a sustainable and efficient Visiting Nurses Service (VNS)/ Medical-Social Centre (MSC) programme

In Belarus: Belarus Red Cross is focusing on improving services offered to vulnerable people at the Pinsk Charity house. Nurses' skills in providing care to chronically ill people have been improved through training, and renovation of the charity house has improved living and working conditions for both staff and patients, and enhanced the quality of daily care and medical social services offered to bedridden and handicapped elderly patients. In addition, the project helped retain charity house staff through providing regular salaries.

Project implementation has drawn attention once again to the vital role this Red Cross facility has among the local community. Local health authorities and government publicly recognised the value of Red Cross during a joint session of the local medical council and city executive committee.

In Moldova: During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross continued to increase the capacity of its visiting nurses service to provide quality home based care. Staff and volunteers working on the programme receive regular support from Moldova Red Cross headquarters and branches, in the form of seminars and workshops and opportunities for experience exchange. As a result of experience exchange and training, nurses and volunteers increase their skills base and are able to provide more effective care to their patients. Moldova Red Cross ensures that the most vulnerable people receive their support through a system of research, interview, and assessment, conducted with assistance of local authorities.

However, although Moldova Red Cross and Federation have been taking efforts to make the visiting nurses service more sustainable, it still remains very much dependent on external funding. Global Fund support to VNS salaries ended in September 2004, which puts the National Society in a highly precarious situation and may lead to the collapse of VNS in 2005. The National Society and Federation plan to utilise savings made in 2004 to sustain MSCs for 5 months in 2005.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus and Moldova during the reporting period>

TB objective: The incidence rate of HIV/AIDS and TB among young inmates is reduced

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross is effectively implementing a TB prevention programme for 500 young inmates

Ukrainian Red Cross is implementing limited activities to meet this objective. (Please refer to the HIV/AIDS project above for details of project activities).

2. Disaster Management

Overall goal: To mitigate the impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis, on communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Disaster Management objective: The National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have strengthened their capacity to prepare for and respond quickly and efficiently to disaster situations (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

In Belarus: Belarus Red Cross is providing support to lonely elderly and/or disabled people through provision of 4,752 food parcels (1,188 per region) to the target beneficiary group in 4 target regions: Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev and Vitebsk. Due to complications in tender and procurement procedures, the programme has been delayed. Belarus Red Cross expects to finalise distribution of the food parcels by February 2005, which will ensure provision of extra nutrition to the target group during the harsh winter months.

In Moldova: The National Society developed its disaster management capacity through purchasing of bed linen sets and designing a disaster preparedness/response plan. Moldova Red Cross will assess the level of vulnerability in Moldova and disaster management potential, with an eventual aim to better understand how to mitigate potential risks. To ensure effective analysis of the in - country situation, Moldova Red Cross staff have been trained in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology. The National Society is also working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies to collect hazard risk data.



During the cold winter, Red Cross soup kitchens are often the only option for hot meals for Moldova's most vulnerable elderly people

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross also provided invaluable support to vulnerable elderly people through distribution of hygienic kits, food parcels and shoes, and running three soup kitchens in Balti, Soroca and Chisinau. Beneficiaries themselves have expressed gratitude to the Red Cross for their support. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, with a huge proportion of the population living below the poverty line. By implementing this programme, Moldova Red Cross is providing simple yet invaluable support to some of the most vulnerable population, distributing relief items and also providing a meeting place for vulnerable, often lonely people to share their experiences.

Due to organizational constraints, it was not possible for the National Society to carry out an assessment of the potential programme targeting street children. However, the National Society and delegation recognize the scale of the problem and urgently seek funds to implement a children support programme.

In Ukraine: The National Society continues to increase its disaster management capacity through training of its voluntary rescue team and renovation of its rescue centre. Organised training of the voluntary rescue team members will ensure their effective response to disasters in the future. During the seminars, the issue of raising disaster preparedness among the general public was also raised. This will be done through community-based Disaster Preparedness training and community-based mitigation activities conducted by the rescue team members and Red Cross staff trained in the seminars mentioned above.

As a result of continued training and modernizing of the rescue centre, the National Society is in a position to respond quickly and efficiently at times of disaster throughout Ukraine. For example, when the explosions happened at the munitions dump in Southern Ukraine, Red Cross was one of the first organisations on the scene, providing psychological support, organizing distribution of Red Cross relief stocks and locally donated relief goods and conducting a fundraising campaign. Financial support from the Federation's disaster emergency relief fund (DREF) was later provided. (For full details, please see the information bulletins at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=1>.) Large scale involvement in emergency situations reflects the National Society's capacity and further strengthens its experience and skills base.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine during the reporting period >

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation has supported installation of a cross country response mechanism involving all three National Societies and facilitated regional skills-building in international standards

Continuation of the dialogue on regional disaster response capacity and updating the National Societies' knowledge on international procedures and standards was intensified from June 2004 with the arrival of a regional Disaster Management Officer to Minsk. A questionnaire was prepared and agreed with Belarus Red Cross, which will enable to assess disaster preparedness and response capacities of local branches.

In September, a sub-regional workshop on disaster management and vulnerability and capacity assessment took place in Minsk for focal persons from Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus Red Cross Societies, and one representative each from Russian Red Cross and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. The majority of the participants were heads of regional Red Cross committees and representatives of headquarters. This cross-country programme is supported by DFID.

In October, the Minsk delegation organized a round table meeting to promote International Disaster Day and the first launch in Belarus of the Federation's World Disaster Report 2004. In addition to the presentation of World Disaster Report, round table participants reviewed the experience of the Emergency Ministry of Belarus and the Head of Delegation gave a presentation on Belarus Red Cross disaster management activities. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belarus presented its project on assistance to local communities of Belarus and UNDP activities in the areas of sustainable development and emergency situations management. Participants included representatives of the following: United Nations, Belarus Red Cross, Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Head of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), International Organisation of Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); World Bank; Academy of Sciences; Belarusian State University; International Sakharov University of Radioecology; International CORPS.

Constraints: A planned National Society evaluation of the programme has not been completed. VCA activities were supported by funds transferred from the human trafficking programme.

Impact: The workshop on disaster management and vulnerability and capacity assessment supported Belarusian, Moldovan and Ukrainian Red Cross in identifying their capacities to effectively address disaster situations and ability to contribute to the regional response capacity.

First Aid objective: National Societies of Belarus and Ukraine have the capacity to effectively implement first aid programmes.

In Belarus: During the reporting period, Belarus Red Cross trained 600 individuals from the target group in first aid, and designed and published information materials on first aid. Staff and volunteer participation and facilitation of training workshops has increased the capacity and expertise of the National Society disaster management and response base. Public awareness about importance of first aid training has been raised through various public events and involvement of volunteers in first aid training. Throughout programme implementation, use of modern and effective teaching methods, quality equipment and training materials helped to promote a positive image of Belarus Red Cross. In addition, a recently issued presidential Directive, which gives special attention to matters of industrial safety, disaster preparedness, prevention of accidents and appropriate emergency training, has strengthened cooperation between Belarus Red Cross and various governmental institutions and organizations, such as police departments, rescue departments, schools, and health institutions.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities during the reporting period>

Population Movement objective: The National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine effectively address issues related to population movement. (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Belarus

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing refugee programmes

No funding has been received. The Minsk delegation and Belarus Red Cross continue to seek financial support for implementation of this programme. (For more project background please go to: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Ukraine

Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross is effectively implementing programmes for undocumented migrants

The programme supporting undocumented migrants in Western Ukraine came to an end in 2003. However, relief items continued to be distributed to detained migrants throughout the winter months of 2004 (For full details, please refer to the final report, available from the Kiev representative office - contact details on page 1 of this update). The Ukraine Red Cross seeks funding to continue this programme, especially in light of the new European Union (EU) borders (areas in Western Ukraine now border three EU countries), which are expected to lead to increasing numbers of transit migrants.

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation has facilitated cross country experience exchange and assessment of possibilities to address the issue of human trafficking

On 7-8 December, 2004 in Mogilev, a two-day seminar named "Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" was organized by IOM and Belarus Red Cross. The seminar brought together representatives of IOM, governmental bodies and NGOs, and Red Cross district organizations from Mogilev, Gomel and Vitebsk regions. The seminar will be followed by series of other regional seminars targeting all 116 Red Cross district organizations. IOM initiated the cooperation with Belarus Red Cross in order to broaden its existing network, thus contributing to awareness raising as well as victim identification and assistance in Belarus.

3. Humanitarian Values

Goal: The level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings is increased in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine by a greater dissemination of humanitarian values and fundamental principles.

Objective: Red Cross/ Red Crescent humanitarian values and fundamental principles are promoted within the National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, its volunteers and partners, and disseminated to the general public (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Regional

Expected result: The general public in targeted regions of Russian, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are equipped with the necessary knowledge to change their perceptions, attitudes and behaviours towards people living with HIV/AIDS and all forms of discrimination

In addition to expanding youth peer education, the focus in 2004 is on harm reduction and advocacy campaigns against stigma and discrimination. The Federation assisted the National Societies in providing technical expertise, developing effective communication with public authorities and communities to influence reduction of discrimination in the community, and establishing partnerships with people living with HIV/AIDS. A regional anti-stigma and anti-discrimination campaign plans for organisation of mass public/media events to promote World AIDS Day on 1 December (e.g. a concert for youth with dissemination of anti-stigma message, a candlelight memorial march), as well as printing 74,000 postcards based on the design of the International Red Cross Red Crescent campaign "You CAN get AIDS by..." and their dissemination in Chisinau, Moscow, Minsk and Kiev through "Fly Cards" service. These postcards and related posters were printed and distributed in December 2004 and proved extremely popular among young people, according to a survey conducted by the distribution company. The National Societies have also worked with central and regional TV and radio stations to ensure free rotation of anti stigma clips.

In Moldova. Through the combined efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)- funded International Humanitarian Law (IHL) programme and implementation of related activities (seminars for youth, round tables) funded by the Norwegian Red Cross, the Moldova Red Cross is both raising the profile of the National Society and the Movement, and increasing awareness of international humanitarian standards. The activities conducted are designed not only to attract youth volunteers to the Movement but also to encourage youth to act as agents of positive change and promote humanity, tolerance and charity within society as a whole. In addition, the round table meetings and education sessions offer young people the opportunity to express their own opinions and develop public speaking skills. In December 2004, Moldova Red Cross will develop and publish

educational materials relating to international humanitarian law and humanitarian values, conduct public events against discrimination and violence, and hold round table meetings for media to promote its activities. In addition, students will participate in drawing competitions and Red Cross staff and volunteers will attend seminars and experience exchange/ coordination meetings.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities during the reporting period>

4. Organisational Development

Goal: The needs of the most vulnerable people are effectively met by National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through their strengthened capacities

Financial management objective: National Societies in Belarus and Ukraine have improved their financial management and accountability to stakeholders (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

In Belarus: The National Society has reviewed its accountancy software. Following the review's recommendations, new software was installed in Gomel and Vitebsk Red Cross branches and finance staff are trained in using it. The installation has contributed to the development of an effective, modern information exchange that will facilitate improved performance in programming, reporting and monitoring. The software also reduces the amount of manual labour required to maintain professional accounting records.

Belarus Red Cross is also developing a website in Russian and English. The website has been launched in Belarusian language. Further funds are sought to carry out translation into English in order to ensure that information about current Red Cross activities and fundraising drives reaches a wider audience.

In Ukraine. During the reporting period, URCS trained accountants on how to use new equipment and software purchased and installed following an analysis of existing accountancy systems and the requirements of URCS finance departments. As a result, the quality of URCS financial management and reporting has improved. The new computer hardware and software has provided an effective information/ communication network between most URCS branches, and seminars held have directly improved skills and knowledge of the Red Cross finance staff and provided a forum for information sharing. URCS headquarters and Regional committees in all 25 Oblasts and Kiev City now have new computer equipment and software. The programme aims to extend the existing computer-based financial network to key branches over the next year in order to enhance the URCS capacity to report and analyse financial information and improve the cost effectiveness and transparency of its programmes.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus and Ukraine during the reporting period>

Regional

Expected Result: The Federation delegation facilitates an effective system of information sharing and skills building in financial management and systems

A mid-term review was planned in both National Societies (Ukraine and Belarus) covering areas of data management, soft and hardware and future feasibility to extend these programmes, to be followed by a joint workshop in order to enable the National societies share and jointly analyze the findings of the two reviews and to learn from each other's success story. However, these plans could not be implemented, due to the lack of funding.

Fundraising objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have improved their capacity to attract financial resources and mobilise the community to support Red Cross activities (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

In Ukraine: In the area of effective on-line fundraising implementation, URCS now has confidence to engage in effective collaboration with fundraising partners both within and outside of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The project has resulted in a feasibility study and development of an online fundraising strategy that meets URCS needs in appropriate ways. The feasibility study outlined the purpose, objectives, methodology, and

limitations for URCS online fundraising. The results and findings defined factors influencing on-line donation, the donor community, the effectiveness of the Internet as a fundraising channel, on-line fundraising techniques, strategies that work, the size and scope of on-line giving in the context of URCS, potential public and private partnerships, methods to build the constituency and promote the image of URCS, and steps to create a primary donor base.

Implementation of the fundraising strategy is essential to ensure that the internet becomes an integral part of the overall fundraising strategy and building capacities of the URCS. By tailoring the web to the National Society and its target donors, URCS will have a forum for publicizing its special events, campaigns, reaching target audiences and will build its capacity as a self-sustainable humanitarian organization rendering continuous assistance to the most vulnerable in Ukraine.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities during the reporting period>

Regional

Expected Result: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have developed appropriate skills in fundraising

Constraints: No activities were carried to achieve this objective during the reporting period. However, funding has been received for capacity building in the three regions for 1 year, starting from January 2005. Ukrainian Red Cross has also continued to develop an online fundraising strategy. *Please see above for further details.*

Project development objective: Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross Societies are providing better and more relevant services to the community through better planning (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

In Belarus: Three Project Planning Process (PPP) training sessions were held for a total of 60 people. Participants of PPP training sessions have significantly strengthened their experience in planning and project drafting. While the headquarters staff members are primarily responsible for drafting project proposals, PPP training is a good opportunity for branch level staff to get acquainted with international standards and use the methodology in their reporting and local project management. It is expected that the knowledge and planning skills developed during the PPP trainings will encourage regional and district chairpersons to revise and alter their financial plans and plans of actions drafted for 2005, with a focus on branch sustainability and increased outreach. Following PPP training, staff at Mogilev and Gomel regional branches have increased their local fundraising.

However, although participants in PPP training sessions have increased their knowledge of Red Cross project design methodologies, it is unlikely that all participants will actively use PPP skills to fundraise locally. This is due to the limited existence of feedback throughout the National Society and poor expertise on a local level. To resolve this problem, future PPP training will focus on headquarters and oblast and district level staff and put more emphasis on selecting appropriate participants.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities during the reporting period>

Regional

Expected result: The Federation delegation has facilitated a support system for project planning and joint PPP skills building in combination with coaching of branches

A regional mechanism on information exchange and joint PPP skills building was not established due to lack of funds.

Youth objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have strengthened their youth sections, enabling them to carry out effective services and programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable people

Expected results: Belarus Red Cross/ Moldova Red Cross are developing Youth Red Cross through youth activities e.g. youth peer education programme

Youth are actively involved in the peer education and disaster management programmes (For further information on meeting this objective, please refer to the **Health and Care** and **Humanitarian Values** section of this update).

National Society management objective: Effective and relevant programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable people through strengthened management capacity of Moldova Red Cross

Moldova

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross has an adequate and effective management

Although the programme is fully planned and funded, it has not progressed as originally envisioned. The recruitment process of an Executive Director to separate roles and responsibilities of governance and management was delayed over the past nine months for several reasons: time consuming preparations for the National Society Congress; summer holidays period; a longer than anticipated transition period for Moldova Red Cross; difficulties in the recruitment of high calibre management; short-term funding. Although Moldova Red Cross Presidium was approached to select an appropriate candidate for the position of Executive director in August, actual recruitment can only take place when long term funding and continuity of the position is secured.

The Federation and Moldova Red Cross also need more time to develop a workable model for gradual delegation of responsibility from board to management. Partner National Societies interested in this process are already involved in discussions and knowledge sharing with the Moldova Red Cross President. At a meeting in Bern in November 2004, representatives of the Red Cross societies of Austria and Switzerland, the Federation and the Moldova Red Cross President agreed that Moldova Red Cross requires a step-by-step approach to organisational development. Methods and scope for development will be determined through a systematic process of consultation between the national society headquarters and its branches.

In December, the Norwegian Red Cross was approached with a request to carry forward CHF 36,000 from this programme to 2005. In 2005, these funds will also enable Moldova Red Cross and Federation to cover the gap between the current and next year funding allocations, thus ensuring continuity of key programme activities and staff.

Sustainability of medical-social centres objective: National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are able to provide quality home based care through a sustainable and efficient Visiting Nurses Service (VNS)/ Medical-Social Centre (MSC) programme

In Belarus: During the reporting period, Belarus Red Cross defined a 2 year action plan and 5 year strategy for development of its VNS. The existing VNS was evaluated and training was provided to nurses already working on the programme without professional qualifications. Belarus Red Cross also developed standards of a well functioning MSC and indicators for quality home based care. To guarantee future sustainability of the programme, Belarus Red Cross organised training days for staff on marketing and fundraising skills and developed a related programme.

Programme implementation has had a positive impact on the existing services – 5% of MSCs, supported by local authorities, are now meeting the standards of a well functioning MSC; VNS beneficiaries are benefiting from higher quality service as a result of training for nurses. Although there was initial reluctance among regional heads of VNS to recognise the need for reform within the existing service, promotion and support of VNS development from Belarus Red Cross and other National Red Cross Societies was successful.

In Moldova: Moldova Red Cross initiated activities in July with funding from DFID (Department for International Development, Great Britain). During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross conducted an evaluation of the existing visiting nurses service. A survey was conducted among visiting nurses themselves, among visitors to Red Cross social medical centres and among beneficiaries receiving home based care. In addition, 80 medical uniforms were purchased for visiting nurses in order to ensure clear identity and increase the professional image of the VNS.

Moldova Red Cross is actively sharing experience with Ukrainian Red Cross and applying methodology successfully used in Ukraine to reform the VNS. In addition, the National Society is working with partner National Societies and other NGOs to create sustainable, effective VNS/MSCs.

In Ukraine: Ukrainian Red Cross has developed its VNS strategy based on the results of the sociological survey conducted in 10 selected pilot regions among 200 bedridden patients supported by VNS, 200 regular visitors to MSCs and 376 visiting nurses. Changes made to improve the quality and effectiveness of the VNS and MSCs include the following: the workload of one visiting nurse was decreased from 8-10 patients to 4-6 patients per day;

visiting nurses will conduct their work at MSCs during working hours; Ukrainian Red Cross will provide reliable social insurance for visiting nurses; 70 nursing kits were delivered to the ten pilot regions.

Ukrainian Red Cross is monitoring the implementation of these changes in the pilot regions to assess their impact on strengthening the VNS infrastructure and improving the quality of the service offered to vulnerable people.

<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus and Ukraine during the reporting period >

Regional

Expected result: Improved quality of assistance to the targeted beneficiaries in selected regions of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through a strengthened visiting nurses service network, through exchange of experience and knowledge sharing between the three National Societies

In October Belarusian, Moldovan and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies representatives attended a workshop on the approaches and findings of the review of the VNS/MSK conducted in Ukraine and Belarus in April and June this year, as well as the development of quality standards and, consequently, of capacity building plans. In addition, a brochure on quality standards and best practice in Belarus and Ukraine is being prepared for printing in Ukraine.

5. Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: Well functioning National Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine work effectively together with other partners within and outside the Movement and provide responsive, high quality and sustainable services to their vulnerable communities.

Objective: The delegation is providing efficient and cost effective coordination based on the available resources (For more project background, go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

Minsk Delegation represents the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and assists the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross Societies. The Delegation is as well responsible for the International Chernobyl programme for Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

For further details please refer to Chernobyl: Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018104.pdf

The Federation delegation continued to further intensify its co-ordination and management efforts. Regular individual meetings with the presidents of the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross were undertaken in order to ensure that the Federation services are relevant and responsive to national societies' needs. Ongoing contacts and information sharing were maintained with the partner Red Cross National Societies of Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and United States of America.

The second edition of the Delegation sub-regional report, which gives a human face to some of the humanitarian challenges faced by the National Red Cross Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, was issued in August. For those National Red Cross Societies who are mainly dependant on private and public donations, the delegation will continue to provide this kind of informal feedback in terms of beneficiaries' stories and photo material which can be utilized by donor National Societies in their own fundraising context. The report aims to update, on a regular basis, those who are interested and supportive to the three national societies and to provide information on key developments. It also aims to address donor needs by providing facts and beneficiaries' stories.

During the reporting period, several important delegations visited the region, including the following: Swedish Red Cross (to identify possible areas for future cooperation); Danish Red Cross (to monitor the Regional Youth Development Programme and attend the Youth workshop); Danish Red Cross volunteers (to monitor programmes funded by Danish Red Cross, i.e. Youth against HIV/AIDS and distribution of second-hand clothes). Reviews were also conducted of the Youth against HIV/AIDS programme (British Red Cross and Kiev office health adviser); and DFID four year partnership programme (Dfid partnership coordinator and external consultant) to assess progress of the Partnership; to determine whether the Partnership framework remains relevant to the priorities of each organisation in light of a changing external and internal environment, and make

recommendations accordingly; to review current Partnership management arrangements and recommend changes as necessary.

To further promote sharing of relevant cross-country expertise and resources, in June 2004 a disaster management officer from Kazakhstan Red Crescent with experience of work in the context of Moscow delegation joined the Minsk delegation.

6. International Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The work of the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the Federation and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement receives adequate recognition among the respective governments, international organisations and the international community.

Objective: The Federation delegation effectively represents and advocates on behalf of the national societies, the Federation and the Movement, obtaining programme support and raising its profile (For more project background please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018004.pdf)

A new Head of Minsk delegation was appointed in October 2004 and a new Federation representative joined the Kiev office in July. Since then, the Federation has increased its role in all areas of international representation and advocacy in the region. The head of delegation, federation representative and national staff have participated in meetings with international organizations and authorities of the three countries, using the existing fora to advocate the Federation's initiatives including HIV/AIDS prevention. In particular, the Minsk Delegation was one of the key players to facilitate negotiations between the Belarus Red Cross and the main contractors within an approved Global Fund project to fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Minsk delegation and Kiev representative office continue to support Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross with technical advice, coordination support and representation at the national and international level. Meetings with delegation and national society staff were held on a regular basis and efforts made to facilitate a dialogue between the region and partner national societies. Main events included the launch of the Federation World Disasters Report and 2005 appeal in Minsk in October and the launch of the appeal 2005 in Kiev in December (delayed in Kiev, due to demonstrations following the second round of Presidential elections), and World AIDS day. The Federation is also a prominent member of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN), a UN initiative with the objective to support the ongoing international, national and civil society efforts towards the sustainable development of the affected territories of Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine. Through its membership of the ICRIN Steering Committee, the Federation participates directly in governing of the Network's initiatives, its strategies, approving implementation plans and other related vital activities.

Although the Delegation has experienced a negative funding trend in the past, this trend was reversed in 2003 and 2004. National societies in the region are increasingly seen by relevant international organisations as local actors deserving programme support. TACIS offices in Belarus and Chisinau are very supportive towards efforts to apply for financial support under the budget line TACIS IBPP (Institution Building Partnership Programme) provided by the European Union. In April a TACIS application was submitted by the French and Moldova Red Cross and a second TACIS application has been prepared by the consortium of Austrian, German, Swiss and Belarus Red Cross societies. These applications are currently under consideration and a final decision is expected in early 2005.

The delegation maintained good relationships with the embassies of the main donors in Minsk, which is the delegation base, however funding opportunities as a result of these relations are limited, due to the very difficult political context and the country's current relations with the EU and the United States. The Minsk office staff had much less opportunity to meet the diplomatic community and agencies in Kiev, simply due to the distance from Minsk delegation headquarters to Ukraine. The arrival of the new Federation Representative in Kiev has enabled better follow up on such meetings to establish ongoing relationships. In Moldova, there was only a limited opportunity to meet international organisations.

[<Please click here for a detailed update of activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine during the reporting period>](#)