

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

5 January 2006

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 183 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA071;

Programme Update no. 2;

Period covered: June - November 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 2,487,338 (USD 1,942,474 or EUR 1,609,406)

Appeal coverage: <[Click here](#)>

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please see the website at

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal 2005; Programme Update no.1

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07101.pdf

Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA072.pdf

CHARP Programme Update no.1 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07201.pdf

Moldova Floods Emergency Appeal no.05ME053 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.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

With support from the international community and in cooperation with various partners, the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine continue to respond to the complex needs of the most vulnerable in three countries. The main focus is on developing the national societies' capacities and providing high quality services to the vulnerable, namely:

- improving the health status of communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (health and care programmes),
- mitigating the impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crisis, on communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (disaster management),
- increasing the level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through promotion of humanitarian values and better understanding of the fundamental principles (humanitarian values), and
- effectively responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people through strengthened capacities of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

A highlight of this reporting period was the World AIDS Day on 1 December, a special event widely celebrated by the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In Belarus the event, celebrated for the first time in the history of Belarus Red Cross, has ultimately raised the national society's profile and served as a platform to promote various programmes of the national society (NS), ranging from youth against HIV/AIDS to humanitarian values.

With support from Minsk sub-regional delegation, the British government/Department for International Development (DFID), and the national Red Cross societies of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand all programmes have received good funding and have made progress. The appeal coverage to date is CHF 2,419,937 (97.3 per cent). All programmes have been implemented directly by the Red Cross societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through their country-wide network of regional branches and volunteers. The Federation through its sub-regional delegation in Minsk has provided technical support and monitoring to ensure the resources have been deployed as planned.

The table below shows the appeal coverage and expenditure as of October 2005.

Programme/Project	Appeal budget in CHF	Total income in CHF	Appeal coverage (%)	Expenditure		
				In CHF	% of income	% of budget
Belarus	1,170,751	1,134,426	97%	1,053,188	93%	90%
Moldova	461,218	458,702	99%	186,524	41%	40%
Ukraine	544,731	513,394	94%	480,308	94%	88%
Cross-Country	891,663	731,928	82%	544,633	74%	61%

Most programmes have been implemented as planned and no major constraints were encountered. Though, in Moldova the anti trafficking programme has not started yet (funds are available from Swedish Red Cross since June 2005) due to absence of a full-time project coordinator in Moldova Red Cross (MRC). However, with the support of the Minsk delegation's counter-trafficking officer the necessary preparatory work,

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including signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between MRC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has been done.

Belarus Red Cross (BRC) is undergoing a comprehensive change process. Its vision is to become a strong and well functioning national society with qualified staff and motivated volunteers who are capable of assisting and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable communities. At the same time, change of leadership and appointment of new programme managers took a long time and caused some delays in programme implementation. During the reporting period, the national society continued activities in HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion of positive behavioural change, disaster management capacity building and counter-trafficking, organisational development and first aid.

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross has been actively involved in disaster response. As a result of heavy rains and storms, which hit Moldova in August, 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) and 15 districts in the north and central parts of Moldova have been affected. Since the very beginning MRC has been involved in relief operations. During the first days of the disaster the national society assisted 162 families of flood victims, using the entire emergency stock available in its warehouse in Chisinau (*for more information please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.pdf*).

This year, the launch of the World Disasters Report (WDR) 2005 was hosted by Ukrainian Red Cross. In October, the national society jointly with Minsk delegation and Kiev representative office organized a round table meeting to promote the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the first launch of the Federation's WDR in Ukraine. In addition to the presentation of the WDR, the Chernobyl and Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance Programme (CHARP) topics have been intensively highlighted and discussed. The Head of Minsk Delegation presented the Federation's Appeal programmes including CHARP Appeal 2006-2007.

During the reporting period, most of cross-country programmes have made significant progress. Thus, the regional disaster management programme supported the national societies – mainly in disaster response capacity building, HIV/AIDS and counter-trafficking – through a cross country workshop. The workshop facilitated experience and information exchange between the three national societies. In parallel, joint regional activities have strengthened cooperation between the NSs youth-related, humanitarian values and health and care programmes. This approach creates an opportunity for the RC programmes to benefit from each other. For instance, youth trained under the youth programme also operate as trainers in other youth related programmes (i.e. HIV/AIDS programme 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 project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education and harm reduction, and HIV/AIDS related discrimination. (*Donor: DFID, the Danish and Italian Red Cross societies*)

A total of 6,867 Belarusians were diagnosed with HIV as of 1 November 2005. The number of HIV-infected persons rose by 600 in the first ten months of the year. The Gomel region has the highest rate of HIV infection, with 3,821 reported cases. In Minsk, 983 people are known to be infected. Most of the HIV-infected are people aged between 20 and 39. Intravenous drug injection is the main way of HIV transmission, accounting for 67.6 percent of all cases. However, 55.4 percent of HIV patients detected in the first nine months of 2005 contracted the virus through sexual contact.

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Belarus Red Cross considers peer education activities that target this high risk group to be one of the most effective ways of halting the spread of HIV/AIDS. The national society is also focusing on harm reduction programmes that aim to contain and control the epidemic. The number of people living with full blown AIDS alone is expected to increase five fold over the next year.

Peer education

Various training courses have been conducted within the HIV/AIDS programme, mainly for facilitators and peer educators. Thus, 587 training sessions for peer educators were carried out in Brest, Minsk, Grodno and Novopolotsk gathering 25 volunteers in every city. During the reporting period, more than 14,500 of Belarusian youth were covered by the training. The training sessions were held by two professional trainers who cooperate with the Belarusian Red Cross society on the project «Youth against HIV/AIDS» on permanent basis. Training participants received trainers' kits, including HIV manuals, leaflets, questionnaires and other handouts for the target group. Young people aged 15-24 remain the main target group of this programme.

In October, an advanced training on peer education for volunteers and regional coordinators involved in the project took place in Minsk. At this training, new topics such as drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were covered. A new version of the volunteer manual on HIV/AIDS containing information on the above mentioned subjects was developed and 160 copies of it were printed and distributed among the volunteers and regional RC organizations for further distribution. In addition, posters (10,500 copies), calendars (21,500 copies) and leaflets (18,000 copies) were distributed among the target group.

Volunteers are the main “driving force” in peer education. That is why Belarus Red Cross pays a lot of attention to volunteers training, motivation and management. From July up to present motivation activities have been carried out to attract volunteers from different parts of Belarus. These include experience exchange visits to the nearby regions, nature trips and distribution of T-shirts, caps and bags with the Belarus Red Cross logo among the most active volunteers.

In July, training in volunteer management was carried out in Minsk. During the training the branch leaders/regional coordinators, as well as the most active volunteers, learned techniques of volunteers' selection, motivation and management. The knowledge and skills acquired will help the project coordinators to retain volunteers more effectively.

In August another experience exchange meeting was organised in Minsk for volunteers from all six regions involved in the project (Brest, Minsk, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk and Mogilev). During this meeting the best teams of volunteers were selected. The volunteers and branch leaders/regional coordinators learnt new methods and approaches to work with the target group. Two professional trainers hold the event.

“Logical Framework Approach” (LFA) and “Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats” (SWOT) workshops are scheduled for December. The Federation's representatives, the project working group and the regional coordinators are expected to participate. Knowledge and skills acquired by volunteers at the above mentioned workshop will help to improve project planning and implementation.

Youth peer educators in Ukraine are fully committed to fight HIV/AIDS epidemics in the country and their local communities. Through peer interventions and regular information campaigns, the general public and target groups are exposed to Red Cross messages encouraging positive behaviour change, healthy life style and anti discriminatory attitude towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). At the same time, peer to peer education makes young people (both peer educators and beneficiaries) more responsible for their own health and future.

In 2005, following the recommendations from the Ukrainian AIDS Control Center, the Ukrainian Red Cross expanded its project activities to the southern and eastern oblasts (Odeskaya, Zaporozhsakya, Poltavskaya,

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Kirovogradskaya, Harkovskaya, Cherkaskaya and the Autonomous republic of Crimea) which form a continuous belt of high HIV/AIDS prevalence. During the period under review three Trainings of Trainers in HIV/AIDS prevention and three workshops for HIV/AIDS peer educators in each of the seven regions involved in the project were organized. In addition, some 1 500 peer to peer sessions were held covering 20 000 young people.

In September URCS hosted the 9th annual ERNA meeting. **Advocacy** and **Partnership** were the key words of the meeting. Participants agreed that RC/RC movement should strengthen internal and external advocacy to better address HIV/AIDS and TB issues in partnership and fight against the diseases by increasing the resources, implementing effective preventive programmes, including Harm Reduction programmes (where not available), making treatment accessible for all and ensuring comprehensive approach and cooperation at all levels. The participants also agreed that in order to complement and support the common efforts, the cooperation among the National Societies as well as with various NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS (advocacy, prevention, harm reduction etc.) should be enhanced. ERNA meeting in Kyiv was also one of the platforms for the preparation of the European RC/RC conference in Moscow in April 2006.



Sigita Puryte, youth leader of Lithuania Red Cross at the ERNA meeting in Kiev, with Diana Gigova from Bulgarian Red Cross and Ozoda Mukhitdinova, secretary general of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society.

Fighting stigma and discrimination

As in previous years, in 2005 Belarus Red Cross continues its work in fighting stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). A social theatre show was organized on the basis of the volunteer team of Baranovichy branch. The scenario for the anti-stigma and HIV prevention performance was developed by volunteers supported by professionals. Rehearsals are on, and the first performance is scheduled for the beginning of December.

Harm reduction

Needle exchange activities now take place in nine needle exchange centres (Brest, Mykashevichi, two in Minsk, Novopolotsk, Molodechno, Kalinkovichi, Rechitsa, and Svetlogorsk). 10,786 needles and 3,955 condoms have been purchased for distribution. Experience exchange for staff was carried out as part of the Federation

cross-country programme in Odessa, Ukraine. BRC branches also participate in the project implemented by the Positive Movement with support of the Global Fund, carrying out outreach work and medical counselling.

The World AIDS Day

A highlight of this reporting period has been the World AIDS Day on 1 December 2005, a special event widely celebrated by the Belarus Red Cross society. The first celebration in the history of the national society has ultimately raised its profile and served as a platform to promote various RC programmes, ranging



Through the Candle Light March organised in Minsk on 1 December Belarus Red Cross for the first time publicly declared itself as a national player in fight with HIV/AIDS.

from youth against HIV/AIDS to humanitarian values. A Candle Light March in the capital of Belarus was part of the celebrations held in six regions of Belarus and attracted more than 1,500 volunteers.

The celebrations continued with a big concert where Belarus celebrities performed. Together with the BRC and Federation's representatives they addressed the Red Cross message to Belarusian youth. The message stressed the importance of HIV/AIDS preventive measures and healthy life style, as well as of fighting stigma and discrimination of the PLWHA. The event was highlighted on all TV and radio channels. Through the Candle March, Belarus Red Cross for the

first time publicly declared itself as a national player in fight with HIV/AIDS.

Impact: The project is a continuation of the previous work of 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/AIDS. A harm reduction component incorporated into the programme adds to fighting the spread of HIV in Belarus.

Constraints: No major constraints were experienced during the project implementation, except for delays in funds transfers.

Expected results: Moldova Red Cross effectively addresses both the epidemic, through youth peer education, harm reduction and HIV/AIDS related discrimination.

Moldova Red Cross effectively prevents high-risk behaviour and school drop out among children from socially disadvantaged families through youth peer education and psychological counselling.

(Donor: Norwegian Red Cross - harm reduction and peer education activities in Bendery; Italian Red Cross - harm reduction in Bendery; Swedish Red Cross - harm reduction in Rezina; British Red Cross provides support on bilateral basis to the harm reduction activities in Soroca and peer education in Balti)

The HIV/AIDS incidence rate in Moldova is rising to alarming levels. Currently, HIV infection is found in all regions of the country, with a national prevalence rate of 51.46 per 100,000. The prevalence rate is much higher in some regions of the country, such as Balti region (503.3 per 100,000), with the highest level of HIV/AIDS incidence in Europe.

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Moldova Red Cross society (MRCS) is a member of the national network of NGOs working on HIV/AIDS and TB prevention. From July 2005 it is also a member of the Country Coordination Mechanism on HIV/AIDS and TB.

Peer education

Moldova Red Cross started its peer education activities in 2004 in the city of Bendery. At present, due to the high interest in peer education shown by youth the project runs in four cities: Bendery, Soroca, Balti and Ungheni.

The programme “Stop AIDS! Choose life!”, financed by British Red Cross, is implemented in Balti. During the period under review, Training of Trainers sessions were organised for students of medical college and technical school. Also, for the first time, five soldiers doing their military service were trained in peer to peer methodology. All these young people will, in their turn, continue peer education activities for their peers.

A series of peer education sessions were organised by Balti Red Cross regional branch for street children and children from disadvantaged families. Topics covered included healthy life style, ways of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and etc. On the whole, during the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross organised **75** peer to peer seminars reaching over **2,200** beneficiaries.

During a summer health-improving camp for children from disadvantaged families and street children organised by Bendery Red Cross regional branch Red Cross trainers carried out various educational activities. These included educational sessions aimed at raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and drugs abuse (“What is AIDS?”, “Say NO to drugs”), distribution of information materials, essay and drawing competitions.

At the end of October, a peer education workshop was organised in Bendery. A total of 22 teachers representing all educational institutions in the city participated in the workshop. Thus, thanks to continuous trainings run by Moldova Red Cross, each school has a trained teacher who is able to provide professional support to young peer educators.

To address the issues on HIV/AIDS related discrimination and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS **16** public events were organized. During these events **6,000** information materials and **1,600** condoms were distributed.

Moreover, Moldova Red Cross organized a series of public events and candle marches in five cities, dedicated to the World AIDS Day. A drawing competition “Youth against HIV/AIDS!” was organised for youth in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau. During the celebrations of the World AIDS Day best drawings were selected and winners were awarded.

Harm Reduction

Moldovan Red Cross actively participates in harm reduction activities through its three needle exchange centre in Benderi, Rezina and Soroca.

Harm reduction centre in Bendery has been operational since January 2004. Presently, there are 68 permanent beneficiaries, some 600 syringes and 100 condoms are distributed monthly. The centre is run by a Red Cross team, including a narcologist, a psychologist, a legal adviser and two nurses.

In May 2005, thanks to the funding from British Red Cross, the harm reduction centre was opened in Soroca. Presently the centre has 11 permanent beneficiaries.

In September, with funding from Swedish Red Cross, a new harm reduction centre opened in Rezina. Local authorities signed an agreement and granted premise for needle exchange centre, project’s consultants were recruited, syringes, condoms and disinfectants were procured.

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Brochures for injecting drug users (IDUs) containing information and advice on HIV/AIDS and related issues were published in cooperation with the state AIDS centre and are distributed to the target population at the needle exchange centre, narcological and epidemiological centres. Moldova Red Cross also provides specific advice to this beneficiary group on health, psychological and legal issues through specially designed posters displayed at the needle exchange centre.

The harm reduction project is well accepted by target groups. Local and national authorities recognise that Moldovan Red Cross plays an important role in fighting HIV/AIDS.

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. (*Donor: DFID*)

This regional programme aims to facilitate the development of a regional mechanism for sharing information and joint skills development on Youth peer education and harm reduction. To achieve this, the following training sessions and workshops were organised during the reporting period:

- A 6-day cross-country training of trainers (ToT) in peer education on Healthy Life Style and Safe Behaviour Promotion was held in July in Kiev, Ukraine. 32 Red Cross volunteers and staff from all three national societies were present at the training. The training's objectives were: to train trainers in knowledge and skills required for peer education in healthy life style and promotion of safe behaviour; and to build a team of trainers (in each NS) who will be responsible for developing effective training programmes in their communities. During this meeting the participants also shared experiences and lessons learned in youth peer education, and established cooperation with peer educators from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The agenda and methodology for ToT were designed in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP), whose trainers facilitated the course. The training has shown that though all participants have experience in teaching and peer education, many of them lack knowledge on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and substance abuse. Some participants have misconceptions of HIV/AIDS transmission and stigma toward people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as well. These topics were studied and discussed in greater details. In parallel, particular attention was paid to elaboration of a strategy of knowledge and skills dissemination to peers after completing the ToT.
- Cross-country seminar "Red Cross response to HIV/AIDS" was organised in Odessa, Ukraine, from 22 to 24 November 2005 to accommodate 27 persons. This region has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rate in Ukraine, and thus this city could serve as a good teaching base for HIV/AIDS prevention, from which Red Cross staff and volunteers can learn and reflect on their achievements and problems. The Federation health advisor's opening presentation was based on ERNA¹ materials. The discussion on "Actual situation of HIV expansion" followed, with further presentations on harm reduction projects from three national societies. Visits to syringe exchange center, community center and substitution therapy project were part of the seminar agenda and were of high interest to participants. Besides, there was a round-table discussion aimed at finding ways to consolidate efforts for effective response to HIV attended by various NGOs. The overall strategy developed at the workshop highlighted the necessity to continue with prevention activities focusing on education and training (peer education), opening new syringe exchange points, outreach work, extension of the range of services for intravenous drug users (IDUs), transfer for substitute therapy, palliative care, building partnerships and cooperation with key stakeholders, work at community level etc. The participants also agreed that harm reduction activities should be further developed, with improved coordination between all partners concerned at all levels. The workshop was a good opportunity to raise awareness of the Red Cross efforts in the region towards harm reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention. It also followed up issues raised at the previous harm reduction workshop in Bendery earlier this year.

¹ ERNA – the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS.

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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 the project was finished in June.

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively provides home based care through its visiting nurses service. (*Donor: Norwegian Red Cross*)

During the reporting period two roundtable discussions on “Home based care for chronically ill patients” were organised in the cities of Balti and Glodiany. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the issues of home based care for patients with limited mobility and training of volunteers and patients’ relatives in home based care skills. To provide expert advice a psychologist, cardiologist and family doctor were invited to the meeting. These meetings provided a platform for collaborative thinking, gain/exchange of experience and skills.

With financial support from Norwegian Red Cross, 19 nurses continued to provide home care and counselling services to the disabled and chronically ill patients in various localities. Presently, the total number of nurses in the Moldovan Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service is 25.

In January-February 2006 the national society plans to supply 19 nursing kits and to conduct two workshops for nurses and volunteers on home based care, as well as on marketing and fundraising.

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

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively contributes to HIV/TB prevention among young inmates in prisons.

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 TB through interactive lectures.

During the reporting period, URCS has been implementing a project in the juvenile detention facility in Mykolajiv and trade school of social rehabilitation for teenagers in the village Jakushnytzi, Vinnytska oblast. Ukraine Red Cross staff identified the necessary quantity and range of hygienic items with regard to the particular needs of each correctional institution.

Hygienic items, vitamins, detergents and disinfectants were purchased and delivered to warehouses at the correctional institutions as given in the table below.

Table 1. Procurements for Mykolajiv and Jakushnytzi correctional institutions

Relief items	Mykolajiv	Jakushnytzi
Hygienic kits ²	100 kits	200 kits
Vitamins	1 100 packings	2 000 packings
Disinfectants	7 sets (2100 items)	various ³
Detergents	336 items	30 bottles of washing liquid (5 liters each)
Additional supplies (vitamins) ⁴	134 packings	

To date, 104 beneficiaries in Mykolajiv juvenile detention facility received various hygiene items. In Jakushnytzi school of social rehabilitation parcels with hygiene items were distributed among 211 teenagers. Remainder of the items will be further distributed among the teenagers according to their needs.

Within the period under review, beneficiaries have been regularly taking vitamins during a meal time under the supervision of the medical staff.

Information brochures on HIV/AIDS and related issues were published for distribution during educational seminars for youth. In total **3 000 leaflets** were published – nearly twice the original number estimated - due to lower costs than expected. Design and contents of the leaflets were carefully considered in order to provide the target group with essential information in user-friendly and clear manner.

Vinnytska Red Cross branch has continued to run awareness for teenagers staying in Jakushnytzi School of social rehabilitation. During the reporting period, more than 200 young people aged 12-17 attended educational sessions on HIV/AIDS prevention organized by Red Cross volunteers and two health officers from AIDS Center.

Lectures were organized in a creative and interactive manner considering psychological and behavioral peculiarities of the target group. Among the techniques used to facilitate the educational process were games, quizzes and contests in order to attract and keep the attention of teenagers. Role plays was also one of the ways in which the Ukrainian Red Cross was spreading knowledge of safe behaviour to the young detainees. During the lectures a short video about HIV/AIDS was shown. Before the lectures, all participants were asked to fill in a multi choice questionnaires in order to assess their existing knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues. The questionnaires revealed that while nearly 50% of all beneficiaries have managed to provide correct answers to most of the questions, many of them have serious gaps in knowledge of HIV transmission, self-protection, healthy life style and etc.

Mykolajiv Red Cross regional branch organized 12 peer to peer education sessions for the teenagers aged 12-18. The sessions were conducted by youth leaders from the Red Cross youth club “Astreya” and the staff of Mykolajiv branch. In addition to lectures and leaflets on HIV/AIDS distributed among youth, volunteers of Mykolajiv Red Cross regional branch have prepared a short radio program for detainees providing information on HIV/AIDS and ways of transmission, as well as preventive measures.

² Hygienic kits for the youth in Mykolajiv contained: toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, laundry soap, toilet soap, shampoo, and shaving-set. Hygienic kits for the youth in Jakushnytzi (Vinnytska oblast) contained: toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, laundry soap, toilet soap, shampoo, bath sponge.

³ Bleaching powder, Chloratoine, Bacillocide Rassant, Sterilization Indicator Vinar (1000 tests), Biomij Powder (25 kg).

⁴ Additional supplies were purchased with the funds remained after major expenditures under the program were finalized.

2. Disaster Management

Overall goal: To mitigate the impact of disasters, including population movements and socio-economic crisis, on communities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

For more project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.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 project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

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. (*Donor: DFID*)

During the reporting period, the dialogue on regional disaster response capacity and update of the national societies' knowledge on international procedures and standards, initiated in the first half of the year, have been maintained through regular visits of the Minsk delegation disaster management (DM) officer. The officer visited all three national societies to facilitate national and oblasts DM workshops, to assist in production of informational materials for population, to monitor and evaluate community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) of local communities.

At the same time, Minsk delegation has continued the process of creating the regional disaster management network. The second planning meeting of DM officers from three countries was held in Minsk in November. The participants discussed the achievements and problems of DM programme implementation in 2005, as well as planned DM activities for 2006.

A 3-day regional workshop on disaster management, including logistics standard procedures, was organised in Minsk in November for 23 participants from all three national societies. The majority of the participants were heads of Red Cross branches and representatives of the Headquarters. At this meeting DM officers reported on the problems faced by the national societies during the reporting period, namely: lack of DM educational materials for Red Cross personnel and standard DM educational course for the NS Headquarters' staff in Russian language, poor understanding within the local communities of CBDP approach, and difficulties in planning and reporting.

Impact

All activities implemented by three national societies within the reporting period have been a baseline for creating a regional disaster management network. The Federation delegation has supported installation of a cross country response mechanism involving all three national societies and facilitated regional skills and capacity –building process.

Knowledge and skills acquired during the DM regional workshop allowed the DM officers from Moldova and Ukraine to replenish emergency stocks in accordance with the Federation's standards and requirements.

The Federation's information kit on standard procedures of the International Disaster Response, which was shared with all three national societies in June, facilitated Moldova Red Cross to respond to flooding and prepare an application for the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund's allocation with little assistance from the Minsk delegation DM officer.

Constraints

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Unfortunately about 60-70 per cent of the regional workshop's participants will not further disseminate knowledge and skills acquired at the training. This can be explained by the fact that very often national societies nominate participants who are not directly involved in DM work or lack skills necessary for training other people. To overcome this problem, in 2006 it is planned to organise an educational course for DM trainers.

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes.

Capacity Building

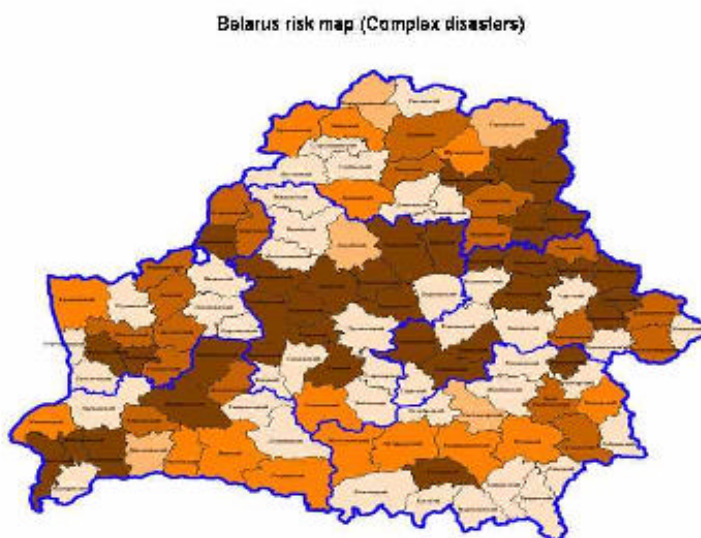
During the reporting period Belarus Red Cross continued development of a capacity building component of the disaster management (DM) programme. One of the main tasks in this process is to design a Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) plan. To accomplish this task the following activities were carried out:

- In November 2005 Belarus Red Cross analysed disaster risks and statistics on emergencies occurred over the past several years. This allowed to identify the most typical hazards for Belarus and to discover 13 most disaster prone districts in three oblasts. The types of identified disasters are as follows:
 - three types of natural disasters (meteorological, hydrological and forest fires);
 - three types of man-made disasters (domestic and industrial fires, traffic accidents, outbreaks of chemical, radioactive and poisonous substances).

This work was carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies and based on disaster risks data available from the government. During the reporting period, Belarus Red Cross also completed the risk mapping analysis at national level.

- During the national DM workshop, held in November, an internal evaluation of the BRC DM programme was conducted. This evaluation was based on the characteristics of a "Well Prepared national society" and helped to reveal the areas of the DM programme which need to be improved. This work was facilitated by representatives from the health and emergencies ministries. Also, the national DM workshop gave the opportunity to continue the dialog between the national society and the Ministry of Emergencies regarding the role of Belarus Red Cross in the National DP/DR plans, as well as to revise the Collaboration Agreement.

Establishment of National/Branch Disaster Response teams



Map of complex disasters in Belarus

In November, with the support of the Federation's DM officer and the newly employed DM officer in the Belarus Red Cross Headquarters, the national society conducted a 3-day DM workshop. 23 representatives from all seven BRCS branches, as well as from the emergency and health ministries participated in the workshop. The participants were trained in standard procedures of the Federation for international emergency relief and the RC main disaster response activities. The Federation Guidelines for involving international response mechanisms were disseminated.

To disseminate the knowledge and skills acquired at national level, two oblast

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workshops were organised by the most active participants of the above mentioned DM workshop. 35 NS staff and volunteers from the most disaster prone districts of Belarus were present. These workshops included theoretical sessions, group discussions and practical exercises. As a result of these educational activities, a group of DM trainers has been established that will continue to educate RC volunteers and staff at oblast level.

Strengthening capacities of local communities

In December the most vulnerable settlements (1-2 in each district) will be identified within 13 disaster prone districts in three oblasts. This will be based on a deep statistical analysis. After that BRC will conduct a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) at community level.

In November the NS staff, volunteers and representatives of the emergency ministry (17 participants in total) from the above mentioned oblasts were trained in community based disaster preparedness (CBDP). The main outcome of the workshop was the elaboration of a detailed Plan of Action for CBDP for all three regions for the next six months.

Coordination

Belarus Red Cross works in close cooperation with the Ministry for Emergencies and local authorities.

Impact

Belarus Red Cross started building a nation wide DP/DR structure of Red Cross staff and volunteers. Workshops held during the reporting period helped the national society to strengthen its cooperation with local authorities and the Ministry for Emergency at all levels.

Knowledge and skills acquired at the workshops already enabled Gomel and Minsk Red Cross branches to respond to some 100 small scale disasters, such as domestic fires and floods.

During the reporting period, BRC started to use new approaches to widen the scope of DM activities. These include community based DP, informing population about disasters specific to certain areas, mitigation projects and participatory community development.

Constraints

Organisational changes in the BRC Headquarters make it difficult to ensure an effective project implementation and continuity of the programme. The DM officer hired in the beginning of the year left his post and a new one was appointed only at the end of August. Such staff turnover hampers programme implementation since DM programme requires highly qualified specialists.

Food Parcels Distribution

Over the last six years Swiss Red Cross has provided Belarus Red Cross with funds to purchase food parcels to alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable in Belarus. In 2005 the Swiss Red Cross contributed of CHF 200,000 for food parcels to be distributed to the lonely elderly in eight regions of the country (Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, Vitebsk and three regions in Minsk city and oblast) in three rounds till the end of December 2005.

The operational contract and budget have been agreed upon and signed. This was followed by tender and procurement procedures, which were held in accordance with the Federation's requirements. Based on tender results and comparative bids analysis, the supply agreement on procurement of **12,100** pre-assembled food parcels was signed. The content of food parcels for distribution has been negotiated with the health authorities and meets recognised minimum nutrition requirements. The beneficiary lists have been reviewed together with representatives of the local social welfare departments to ensure selection of the most

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appropriate population groups. The target groups include lonely elderly, homeless, former prisoners, persons with disabilities and multi children families.

Food parcels were distributed during September – November 2005. The distribution took place as follows:

REGION	QUANTITY
Minsk Regional Organisation	2,145
Minsk City Organization	2,145
Minsk Railroad Organisation	2,035
Brest Regional Organisation	1,155
Grodno	1,155
Vitebsk	1,155
Mogilev	1,155
Gomel	1,155
TOTAL	12,100

To ensure proper food parcels distribution several trips took place to monitor: unloading and storage in the warehouse in Gomel regional organisation, and distributing food parcels among the beneficiaries in Oshmiany district organization.

In addition, each regional organisation involved in the programme was asked to fill in a distribution report.

Impact

During the reporting period, all food parcels that are much needed source of nutrition before a long and harsh winter were distributed to the target group.

The Value Added Tax (VAT) refund will allow for procurement of another lot of food parcels (approximately 1,820). Thus, the total number of parcels procured in 2005 might consequently increase from 12,100 to 13,920 food parcels.

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes. (*Donor: DFID*)

Capacity Building

Moldova is prone to more than 30 different types of natural and man-made disasters. High population density and landscape characteristics combined with limited economic resources make population even more vulnerable to disasters. That is why disaster management (DM) capacity building programme is a priority programme for Moldova Red Cross society.

Development of Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) plan

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross has continued the development of DP/DR plan. In addition to risk maps for earthquakes, floods, landslides, wind storms and map of complex disaster prone areas developed in the first half of the year, Moldova Red Cross has elaborated standard procedures for information management in times of disaster. The procedures will be attached to the DP/DR plan.



Moldova Red Cross volunteer is conducting a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment of communities in most disaster prone areas.

NS has also initiated a dialog with the Emergency Department of Internal Ministry regarding the role of Moldova Red Cross in the National DP/DR plans and development of the Collaboration Agreement.

Maintenance of adequate and appropriate stocks of basic relief supplies

To improve the Moldova Red Cross material capacity for disaster response, the emergency stock of basic relief supplies has been replenished as follows: 200 jerry cans, 339 family hygiene parcels, 22 water purification filters were procured in accordance with the Federation's logistic procedures. In addition,

the procurement of bed linen for emergency stock started. Annual revision of inventory of emergency stock was accomplished in October and appropriate logistic s documents have been prepared in accordance with the Federation's standards.

Community based disaster preparedness

During the reporting period, the activities of DM programme were mostly focused on community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP). This has been achieved through:

- dissemination of information materials on disaster preparedness;
- participatory community development in risk-reduction.

Moldova Red Cross designed, printed and distributed 22,500 booklets (in Moldovan language) containing information on earthquake preparedness. These booklets have been distributed among the population of the most earthquake prone districts in the West and South of Moldova including the capital city of Chisinau through local emergency departments and local governments.

Red Cross branches located in four of the most floods and landslides prone areas organized three workshops for local communities and trained 24 leaders of local public Disaster Response Teams (DRT) in following disaster response activities:

- post disaster needs assessment;
- First aid;
- early awareness;
- distribution of food and relief items, and
- evacuation.

All DRT leaders, in their turn, have provided training for DRT teams members covering 168 persons in total. This was followed by the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) of these communities, which resulted in the development of risk and capacity maps and disaster response plans.

Impact

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As a result of training, local population of four of the most floods and landslides prone rural settlements are equipped with knowledge necessary in time of disaster.

The foundation of the Moldova Red Cross response teams was laid and this enabled the NS to effectively respond to flooding in August 2005 through minor emergency appeal.

Response to floods

As a result of heavy rains and storms, which hit Moldova on 18-19 August 2005, 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) and 15 districts in the north and central parts of Moldova have been affected. Since the very beginning, Moldova Red Cross has been involved in the relief operation. During the first days of the disaster, the NS assisted 162 flood victim families, using the entire emergency stock available in its warehouse in Chisinau. For technical support, the delegation has made available its regional disaster management officer. On 21 August, two emergency response teams comprised of the Moldova Red Cross branch and headquarters (HQ) staff conducted an assessment in the affected area. The Federation disaster management officer also joined the team in the field. An amount of CHF 50,000 has been allocated by Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate needs. During the reporting period, tender and procurement procedures for 1,000 hygienic parcels, 150 kitchen sets, 200 wool blankets, 200 bed linen and 30 mattresses were completed. The distribution of relief items was finalised by 20 December.

For more information: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME053.pdf

Constraints

In the course of programme implementation the following problems have been encountered: limited material resources of local branches for conducting CBDP, and lack of information/teaching materials in Moldavian language.

Soup kitchens

During the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross also provided invaluable support to the most vulnerable people through distribution of food parcels and provision of hot meals in three soup kitchens in Balti, Soroca and Bendery. One meal costs some 12 Lei (about 1 US Dollar) and includes a starter, first and second course, juice or another soft drink. The total number of hot meals provided in all three cities was 16,900. On average, each person attended a soup kitchen during one month. Thus, as it shown in the table below, the total number of people who received assistance during the reporting period amounted to 780.

Table 1. Number of individuals benefited from soup kitchens during July-December 2005

Location	Number of people assisted per month	Duration of soup kitchen	Number of hot meals distributed	Total number of people assisted
Balti	60	6 months (July – December)	7,800	360
Bendery	30	6 months (July – December)	3,900	180
Soroca	40	6 months (July – December)	5,200	240
Total			16,900	780

Beneficiaries were selected together with local authorities, and are the most vulnerable people – lonely elderly, multi-children families, and disabled people. This year, Bendery Red Cross regional branch also included children from disadvantaged families into the programme's target group.

In addition, from 15 November the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has been supporting 16 soup kitchens all over the country. Moldova Red Cross continues to seek additional funding to continue assistance to these needy beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, in accordance with the programme implementation plan, Moldova Red Cross purchased 1,000 food parcels including buckwheat, rice, oil, tinned fish, sugar, and pasta and 2,500 hygienic kits including shampoo, washing powder, toilet and household soap.

Impact

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Red Cross society for their support. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with a huge proportion of the population living below the poverty line. Through implementing this programme Moldova Red Cross provides simple yet invaluable support to the most vulnerable population, distributing relief items and also providing a meeting place for vulnerable, often lonely people, to share their experiences.



As a good tradition, a 3-day field training for 30 VRT members from Kiev city, Luganskaya, Lvivskaya and Zakarpatskaya oblasts was organized in August.

Coordination

Moldova Red Cross works together with local social welfare authorities to provide support to the most vulnerable populations in target areas.

Street children

Bendery Red Cross regional branch organized a summer health-improving

camp for children from disadvantaged families and street children. Activities of Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers included health education, various competitions, games, parties and raising awareness of local surroundings (walking tours, discussion about flora and fauna etc.).

This year the main focus of Disaster Management (DM) activities in Ukraine is on a disaster management approach and this programme includes elements of disaster preparedness for response, response support, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation. During the reporting period these have been achieved through the following activities:

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross is effectively implementing disaster management programmes. (Donor: DFID)

• *Updating DP/DR plans*

- Ukrainian Red Cross Presidium has established a DM working group comprising five focal persons from Headquarters and heads of five regional Red Cross branches.
- An algorithm of response in case of emergency situation (for phases of disaster alert and occurrence) has been developed at national and branch levels. In addition, an internal early warning system has been established in the National Society.
- Detailed characteristics of typical disasters for the most disaster prone districts of all oblasts have been distributed to all 25 oblast Red Cross branches.
- 12 Red Cross branches re-signed collaboration agreements with 14 volunteers rescue search teams for joint disaster response.

One of the main achievements of the reporting period was the update of the National Society DP/DR plans and to date all Red Cross regional branches are covered by risk mapping.

Also, within the period under review the cooperation on joint Disaster Preparedness activities between URC and Emergency Ministry, ICRC, and UNDP has been strengthened.

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One of main events, which can illustrate the above statement, is a round table meeting to promote the Federation's World Disaster Report 2005. Thus, the Minsk Delegation/Kiev Representative Office together with Ukraine Red Cross organized a round table meeting devoted to the presentation of the World Disasters Report 2005 and to CHARP as a forgotten disaster. This event was held on 5 October 2005 in Kiev and hosted representatives from the UN, Ministry of Emergency Situations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, and mass-media – 77 participants in total.

- ***Improving skill and professionalism of members of Red Cross workers and voluntary rescue team (VRT)***

During the reporting period Ukrainian Red Cross Society has continued to increase its disaster management capacity through training of its staff and volunteers. As a good tradition, a 3-day field training for 30 VRT members from Kiev city, Luganskaya, Lvivskaya and Zakarpatskaya oblasts was organized in August. This year educational agenda included new topics such as organization of international humanitarian emergency relief and SPHERE minimum standards of humanitarian aid. Theoretical sessions followed by a refreshment exercise in camp deployment.

Moreover in November 2005 Ukrainian Red Cross staff was trained in Logistics (IFRC standards), Coordination and Disaster Response at the Cross-country DM workshop held in Minsk.

- ***Increasing awareness and capacity of the most vulnerable communities in disaster preparedness***

During the reporting period, activities within DM programme have been focused more on community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation. This has been achieved through:

1. Dissemination of disaster preparedness information materials among population. URCS has designed, printed and distributed 33,000 disaster preparedness information posters (general instructions for population) combined with a calendar for 2006. These were distributed among the population of the most disaster-prone districts of all 25 oblasts and Kiev city. The distribution of posters was carried out during different information campaigns, implementation of the CBDP activities and also through visiting who are involved in this work. Information for population explaining what actions need to be undertaken in case of disaster regularly appeared in mass media.
2. Further training of personnel and volunteers in population education. During the reporting period, Zakarpatskaya, Lvivskaya and Luganskaya Red Cross regional organizations organized three regional Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) workshops for staff and volunteers. As these workshops, 112 people for working with population in 14 districts of Zakarpatskaya oblast, nine of Lvivskaya oblast and two of Luganskaya oblast were trained. The results of CBDP workshops described above are as follows:
 - Zakarpatskaya Red Cross organization conducted awareness of population about typical hazards and rules of behaviour in these disasters. This campaign covered more than 300 people (children, school and medical personal, persons with disabilities and elderly). This followed by Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) of three communities in the region.
 - In Lvivskaya oblast and assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities of eight communities was carried out. Based on the assessment, risk and capacity maps together with disaster response plans were designed.
 - Within the reporting period, Luganskaya Red Cross regional branch has built DP public initiative groups in two communities and is continuing CBDP work.
3. Participatory community development in risk-reduction. Lvivskaya branch of URCS initiated and supported the community of Beregovoe village (total population is 257 persons, including 180 elderly and 57 families living in the area at risk of flooding) in conducting mitigation project and risk reduction of spring and summer floods. This was carried out through cleaning river's banks,

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increasing their height up to 3 meters and strengthening them with stones. This mitigation project was a joint exercise with participation of local authorities and population, who worked free of charge.

4. In parallel, URC continued its traditional work with population on First Aid (FA) training including the elements of behaviour in emergencies and competitions of FA teams.

• Improving DP/DR warehouse of the URCS

During the reporting period, URCS has replenished its emergency stock supplies: 100 blankets, 400 bed sheets and 100 towels were procured in accordance with the Federation's logistic procedures. In addition, the procurement of hygiene items for emergency stock has begun. Annual inventory of emergency stock has been finalised.

Impact

Updated DP/DR Plans and organised trainings of the Red Cross staff and volunteers will ensure an effective response of the National Society to disasters which may occur in the future. Introduction of new DM activities, CBDP and mitigation components, in particular, have increased URCS image as an organisation playing a leading role among NGOs involved in disaster management.

Constraints

One of the constraints encountered during the reporting period were poor skills of DM officers in computers, Internet and English. High workload and combining duties make it very difficult for DM officers to devote all their working time to DM programme only.

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

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively implements first aid programmes.

First aid (FA) training remains a priority for the national society as an integrated part of its disaster management and health programmes. The governmental policy draws a special attention to the issues of industrial safety, disaster preparedness and appropriate emergency training. This policy facilitated the establishment of various partnerships between Belarus Red Cross and governmental institutions and enterprises. The use of modern and effective teaching methods, quality equipment and training materials helped to further promote positive image of Belarus Red Cross. Public awareness about importance of first aid training has been raised through various public events and involvement of volunteers in first aid training. Regional Red Cross branches involved in the project report that first aid training help to raise funds and attract new volunteers. While training is still provided free of charge, cost-recovery is assisted by financial and in-kind support from organizations participating in the programme.

According to the priorities set by the BRC governing bodies the primary target groups for the current cycle of FA programme are rescue workers, teachers and students of secondary schools.

During the reporting period:

- about 620 individuals from the target group have been trained in basic first aid in Brest, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions and in Minsk city;
- 12 FA instructors have been trained in Vitebsk region;
- FA manual has been designed and prepared for publishing.

Impact

Expertise of the Red Cross branches in the field of first aid training in Minsk, Brest, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions have been improved. Cooperation between the local Red Cross committees and various governmental

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institutions and organizations, such as police departments, rescue departments, schools, and health institutions has been strengthened. Staff and volunteer participation and facilitation of training workshops have increased the capacity and expertise of the national society disaster management and response base.

Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross effectively implements first aid programmes.

The project was not implemented, due to the lack of funds. Therefore, the Delegation elaborated a new approach to these activities and a modified First Aid project was placed into the Federation's Annual Appeal for 2005. The experience collected by Red Cross branches shows that in order to improve the programme, there is a need to establish training centres in Red Cross medical social rooms, and there is a deep need for reference books to be provided to course participants. The objective of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society is to ensure that first aid knowledge and skills of population are enhanced through quality training.

Population Movement objective: National societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine effectively address issues related to population movement.

For project background on population movement:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

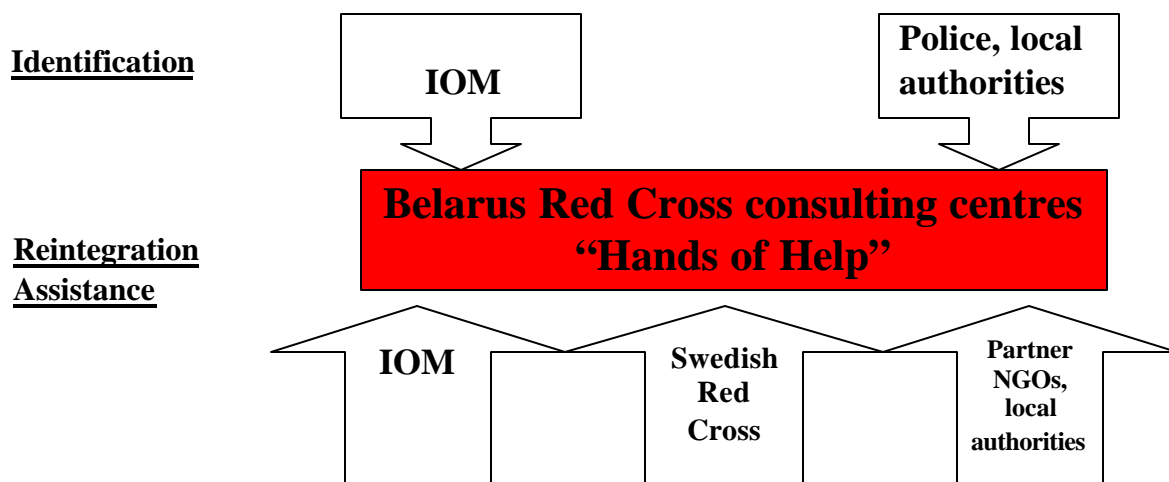
For project background on human trafficking :

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross is effectively implementing refugee programmes.

Belarus Red Cross has become a full member of the national referral mechanism, which exists in Belarus. Even before the BRC involvement in counter-trafficking work, many organisations expressed interest and willingness to cooperate with the national society. This can be explained by the fact that BRC has a country wide network of volunteers and dedicated staff and an image of the oldest humanitarian organisation. Since the beginning of the year BRC has been successfully integrating into the system of national referral mechanisms. The national society has found its niche in this system and expressed its commitment to provide high quality services to the risk groups and victims of trafficking (VOT).

Chart 1. NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM



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Owing to funds from the IOM⁵, since the beginning of 2005 Belarus Red Cross has been actively involved in anti-trafficking activities. In all five regional capitals of Belarus (Brest, Grodno, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel) consultation centres “Hands of Help” were opened on the basis of medico-social centres. Since September 2005, owing to the funds from Swedish Red Cross, the joint activities of BRC and the IOM has been supplemented and strengthened by production of various printing materials and employment of legal advisers and psychologists in all five consulting centres.



One of the winning posters of the drawing competition among youth reads: Woman is not a commodity.

At present, there are two main components of the BRC anti-trafficking programme: prevention of human trafficking and reintegration assistance to the victims of trafficking.

Prevention of human trafficking

Along with educational lectures on human trafficking targeting youth, BRC has developed a series of information materials that will be printed by the end of December. These are:

- Dairies for BRC staff containing information about trafficking;
- Leaflets for VOT on assistance provided by the BRC consulting centres “Hands of Help”;
- Brochures for risk groups, containing information on safe staying abroad;
- Calendars for 2006;
- Bookmarks for schoolchildren.

Earlier this year BRC organised a drawing competition on trafficking for youth in Belarus. Best works will be used in production of bookmarks and calendars. These printing materials will be distributed to schoolchildren and youth during educational lectures which BRC will continue to run in 2006.

Reintegration assistance for VOT

The main purpose of reintegration assistance is to provide a complex of services to VOT. Thus, with the IOM funding, consulting centres “Hands of Help” provide VOT with the following: compulsory medical examination, reintegration grants, assistance in vocational training and job placement.

Since September 2005, thanks to the funds from Swedish Red Cross, all five consulting centres have been strengthened by qualified legal advisers and psychologists. This was a big step forward that enabled to improve the quality of services on offer. The majority if not all VOT have psychological trauma, and provision of psychological support is a priority need. The psychologists will not only provide VOT with sporadic consultations, but develop an individual plan and follow up system for each VOT.

This work is based on voluntarily decision of VOT to cooperate with BRC, on individual approach to each person and confidentiality.

Coordination

Trafficking is a complex problem, which requires a complex response. That is why the start-up and successful implementation of this project would not be able without cooperation with various state bodies and

⁵ International Organization for Migration, website <http://www.iom.int/>.

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NGOs. In 2005, BRC has built strong partnerships with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the IOM and other organizations. This also helped to build a mechanism of referral and re-addressing of VOT. Thus, to date, all 123 VOT were referred to consulting centres by local police. Thanks to the agreement between BRC and the Ministry of Health, all VOT registered in consulting centres are entitled to have a full medical check up etc.

The BRC project staff participates in meetings of the above mentioned organizations and exchanges information on latest developments and achievements in counter-trafficking.

Analysis and outlook

In 2006, the BRC plans to widen a scope of the counter-trafficking work through introduction of new forms of prevention – art-therapy and creation of social theatre. Involvement of the BRC tracing department in counter-trafficking is also under consideration.

Expected result: Ukraine Red Cross is effectively implementing programmes for undocumented migrants. The project was not implemented, due to the lack of funds. The Ukraine Red Cross seeks funding to implement 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 an increasing numbers of transit migrants. Taking into consideration the fact that the Population Movement project did not receive any funding in 2004, the Delegation and National Society modified their approach to this sphere of activities. Along with social assistance, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has added health care services and psychological support to the services it provides for this most vulnerable group. This is reflected in the Federation's Annual Appeal for 2005

For further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: The Federation delegation has facilitated cross country experience exchange and assessment of possibilities to address the issue of human trafficking. (*Donor: DFID*)

A 2-day regional trafficking meeting, organised by the sub-regional delegation in Minsk, brought together 39 representatives of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine involved in counter trafficking and population movement projects. The meeting was also attended by the IOM representatives from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Their input was very valuable since all the Red Cross counter-trafficking programmes in the region are implementing in close cooperation and with support from the IOM. The meeting was facilitated by a Danish Red Cross representative. To ensure the issues under discussion are interesting and relevant for all four national societies, the meeting agenda was prepared in consultation with participated national societies. The Red Cross regional branches were particularly welcome to attend the meeting. The main reasoning behind this approach is that 90 per cent of all counter-trafficking activities are implementing directly in the regions, targeting risk groups in small towns and rural areas. To that extent, the role of programme coordinators at the national level is to provide overall support, advice and coordination of activities in each respective country.

The goal of the meeting was to bring together the representatives of all four national societies and provide them with a platform for presentations, discussions and mutual learning of counter-trafficking projects run by participated national societies. As this area of work is quite new for the Red Cross societies in the region, such meetings are vital and highly appreciated by the national societies' staff, because they give them a chance to share the problems, discuss questions and challenges which arise during the programme implementation.

The meeting involved both general sessions (presentations and discussions) and group work. All participants received information packs with hard copies of presentations and other information materials (copies of the Bridge magazine, the Red Cross and IOM anti-trafficking leaflets and brochures) before the meeting so that they familiarise themselves with the meeting agenda and materials.

3. Humanitarian Values

Goal: The level of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human being is increased in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine through the promotion of humanitarian values and a better understanding of the 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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: The general public in targeted regions of Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are equipped with the necessary knowledge to change their perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS and all forms of discrimination. (*Donor: DFID*)

This project implementation was delayed and all activities scheduled for the first half of the year started only during the reporting period. Within this programme, all three National Societies were requested to come up with proposed activities they would like to implement. However, the process of identification of activities was long and thorny for the Belarus and Moldova Red Cross societies. It is only Ukrainian Red Cross who responded quickly with a series of proposed activities, the majority of which have been already implemented.

Main anti-stigma activities of Belarus Red Cross run at regional and district level, and included the following events:

- round-table discussions for the mass media, local authorities covering cultural and educational issues, as well as local youth NGOs and volunteers (Brest);
- a contest of video clips with anti-stigma messages (Vitebsk);
- a public event for more than 500 young people aimed at fighting stigma and discrimination through a puppet show (Gomel); and
- other public events, like concerts and posters/essays competitions among youth, held in more than 15 regional BRC branches (Mogilev, Grodno, Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel regions) and in Minsk.

Moldova Red Cross developed and published 20,161 booklets titled “Life continues” aiming to reduce stigma and discrimination of people leaving with HIV/AIDS. In addition, Red Cross staff participated in a live radio discussion and answered questions from the audience. Following the competition on the best poster “How to reduce stigma and discrimination”, the selected posters will be published as calendars.

In November Moldova Red Cross organised a workshop on stigma and discrimination for staff and volunteers. At the end of the month a major public action was organised at the Republic Palace jointly with the AIDS Foundation East-West, Soros Foundation and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The event was dedicated to the World AIDS Day. A total of 1,300 young people took part in the event and received booklets and condoms. A thousand of balloons with Red Cross logo and messages about safe behaviour were released in air in the hall at the end of the event. In Bendery, Transdnistria, a special construction of balloons named “The Tie of Tolerance” and a quilt “For the right to live” were air-launched.

The Moldova Red Cross society plans to produce bags, caps and t-shirts with “Come Closer” message. By the end of December 2005, the production of the above mentioned materials will be finished.

Програма „Позалікарняний мед сестринський догляд і підтримка людей, що живуть з ВІЛ/СНІД”, перша на теренах Східної Європи програма, в рамках якої патронажні сестри Червоного Хреста відвідують ВІЛ-позитивних людей вдома

Сьогодні вона реалізується у 10 містах України: В Києві, Одесі, Закарпатті, Мелітополі, Дніпропетровську, Львівському, Тернопільському, Кропивницькому, Чернівецькому, Донецькому, Кіровоградському, Івано-Франківському, Хмельницькому, Житомирському, Черкаському, Чернігівському, Вінницькому, Київському до роботи залучено 80 патронажних сестер Червоного Хреста. Реалізаційний активний патронаж організує 480 клінічних проєктів. За інтенсивний рік патронажні сестри здійснили 17 000 відвідувань до людей, що живуть з ВІЛ/СНІД.

Всі, що нам заважає – це упередженість. Все, що позбавляє від упередженості – це факти

ВІЧ-НА-ВІЧ з ВІЛ ПОЗИТИВНИМ

Стань ближче!

Життєві історії зворушують, турбують і закарбовуються в людській свідомості. Цей буклет розкаже про особисті невідганні історії патронажних сестер Червоного Хреста, які доглядають за людьми, які живуть з ВІЛ/СНІД день за днем.

Із відгуків клієнтів проєкту

„В допомозі медсестри я маю постійну потребу, а лікарі не дуже хочуть класти мені в лікарню. Можливо, не хочуть за пазухами або просто зважають на мене. Люди мене роблять біса з Червоного Хреста. Яна співчувала та турботилася людиною і рідко в нас ні яка... Я її дуже вдячна. Мені стало краще”

м. Костянтинівка, Донецька обл.

„Віталієво тубичку подати працівникам Червоного Хреста, які надають мені допомогу. Я вперше зустріч в своєму житті таке тепле, довірливе, доброзичливе ставлення до себе. Я відчував себе іншим в суспільстві, а зараз знаю, що про мене піклуються”

м. Дніпропетровськ

„Дітята-сестри в нашому житті з'явилися через внаслідок. Провадили самої тоді, коли ми потребували допомоги, підтримували порадами, далися розмови. Саме це в нас воляло надію і в собі знову ставало тихо і мирно. Не лише я рада їх бачити, до них тягнуться мої діти. Після відвідування, що ми маємо такі потреби, знову хочеться жити”

м. м. Київ

„Дякую працівникам Червоного Хреста за те, що вони є. Дуже чуваю і добрі люди. Завжди приходять на допомогу”

м. Тернопіль, Дніпропетровська обл.

„Виключно подяку патронажній сестрі Аліні за чуйність, розуміння, моральну підтримку. З яким би проханням я не звернулася, вона завжди відгукнулася. Допомогає завжди поспішаючи і найкраще знає про життя разом”

м. Павлоград, Дніпропетровська обл., Дніпропетровська обл.

Стань ближче!
Кампанія Товариства Червоного Хреста України з подолання стигми і дискримінації людей, що живуть з ВІЛ/СНІД

ВІЧ-НА-ВІЧ з ВІЛ ПОЗИТИВНИМ

Товариство Червоного Хреста України буклет видано в рамках розширеної програми з подолання стигми та дискримінації. Думайтеся цінності з підтримки Міжнародної Федерації Товариств Червоного Хреста та Червоного Півмісяця

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

www.redcross.org.ua

A sample of an anti-stigma booklet developed by Ukrainian Red Cross within cross-country Humanitarian Values programme.

In Ukraine, the national society took a complex approach combining various forms of activities (seminars, discussions, presentations, briefings, round-tables, PR-events), further highlighted in mass media. During the first stage of the project (October-November), a working group was organized and the conception of anti-stigma campaign was developed. The main activities within the Humanitarian Values programme were as follows:

- Candle March on 1 December, identified by Ukrainian Red Cross as a key PR event. On the World AIDS Day volunteers marched through the streets of Kiev with candles and placed them in a specially designed place in form of a ribbon.
- Distribution of educational materials. The following items were printed and distributed: a booklet “Side by side with HIV-positive” (5,000 copies), “Come closer!” flags, anti-stigma booklet (10,000 copies), RC caps.
- Press-conferences with mass-media, discussions with experts and/or trained peer educators on support and care for PLWHA.
- Lectures on HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination, delivered by the RC volunteers and activists jointly with the education ministry’s regional departments in schools and universities.
- Seminars/workshops organized in the regions, including training sessions for mass media representatives with an active participation of PLWHA. In the regions this campaign was highlighted through local radio broadcasts, publications in local newspapers, thematic film screenings at regional TV channels and video shots.

Impact
The Red Cross HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma campaigns gradually develop and expand. The traditional awareness campaigns, while important, still do not address the whole range of issues related to HIV/AIDS. This disease affects not only the person’s health, it involves social consequences associated with stigma and discrimination of PLWHA. Effective response to HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination must to be promoted. Therefore, the main objectives of the campaigns within this programme were to prevent, reduce and ultimately eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, as well as to raise awareness of the Red Cross activities and image.

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Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively implements a humanitarian values and fundamental principles programme targeting youth and women on both banks of Nistru. (*Donor: Norwegian Red Cross*)

The promotion of humanitarian values is an integral part of key national society programmes such as youth peer education, disaster management and home based nursing care. Moldova also receives support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for dissemination and tracing activities, and Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL), in which fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian values are key components.

The national society organized two roundtable meetings for junior and senior pupils of a Chisinau lyceum. Humanitarian values were the major topic of these discussions. To address the issues of discrimination and violence the Red Cross branch in Comrat conducted a public event – a disco and a quiz – that was attended by 200 pupils and students.

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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross has an appropriate finance system connecting headquarters and oblast branches.

This is the third year of the project implementation. During the reporting period the Belarus Red Cross was focusing on finalisation of the financial software component to get the finance system that connects the headquarters and eight regional branches and trained staff available to maintain its duly operating.

Regular technical maintenance, methodological and advisory support has been provided to the branches involved in the project. In addition, the experts of the software developer have provided a continuous follow-up and technical expertise for the Red Cross staff.

During the programme implementation it was revealed that many finance officers lack expertise in handling new software and that it is essential to provide adequate training for them. However, the initial budget did not envisage for such training. To overcome this problem, the programme budget was revised and funds for training of the BRC accountants were allocated.

Thus, the training took place in November and hosted ten BRC chief accountants, 13 accountants, economists, programme coordinators and the representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the software developer. The workshop was facilitated by a leading specialist of the Ministry of Finance. The training included both theoretical sessions and practical exercises.

Constraints

To ensure proper functioning of the accounting programme it is recommended that each branch has two computers connected to the system. At present, only two branches benefit from having the necessary number of computers.

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross has an appropriate finance system connecting headquarters and oblast branches.

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The Ukrainian Red Cross, including its headquarters and regional committees in all 25 Oblasts and Kiev City, now has new computer equipment and software. At this level, the network for finance service of the Red Cross has been created. Within the period under review, the programme has extended the existing computer-based financial network to key branches thus enhancing the Ukrainian Red Cross capacity to report and analyse financial information and improving the cost effectiveness and transparency of its programmes.

In October URCS held a workshop for chief accountants from oblast branches. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce 1C accounting software and to discuss issues of its improvement. During the reporting period, regular technical maintenance, methodological and advisory supports have been provided to the branches involved in the project.

Fundraising objective: National societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have improved their capacity to attract financial resources and mobilize community to support Red Cross activities.

However, funding has been received for capacity building in three countries for one year starting from January 2005. The present project is based on the initiative of Ukraine Red Cross and was developed jointly with the Institute for International Business Development (IIBD) in Kiev, Ukraine.

Capacity building experience of the successfully functioning national societies clearly demonstrates an acute need to adopt a stronger business approach in order to become a self-sustainable structure and to implement social security programmes at internal rather than external expense. The Red Cross society of Ukraine has already accumulated some useful practical experience in fundraising. There is still a great need in practical fundraising experience in Belarus and Moldova.

During the reporting period, the IIBD was selected to develop a fundraising manual and deliver fundraising seminars to the national societies (comparative bid analysis was arranged). A consultant from the IIBD maintained close working relations with the three NS by phone, fax, and e-mail. The consultant explained the project ideas, tasks and purposes to the NS management and asked to share the existing useful fundraising experience in the NS. The collected information was carefully studied and critically analyzed so as to fit into the future manual and become a part of agenda for fundraising seminars.

Close cooperation with the national societies' management allowed identifying true levels of fundraising experience in each of them and, consequently, to take under account uneven skills and experience in fundraising of the societies when composing the manual.

The consultant developed an original manual concept, which embraced wide fundraising experience of the national societies in developed countries as well. Different levels of economic and democratic developments in three countries were considered. The manual will focus on various fundraising tools based on needs and opportunities of each NS in order to achieve higher effect of their future fundraising training and practice.

The fundraising seminars were held in July (Ukraine), August (Belarus) and September (Moldova). Regular contacts of the consultant with the project coordinators in Belarus and Moldova helped to evaluate their competence in fundraising, and adjust the workshop agenda accordingly.

In October, a solid region-specific practical manual on fundraising was produced and distributed to all national societies. Best practices and country-specific issues have been built into the manual. One copy of this manual will go to each RC branch, with several copies being kept at the headquarters.

The programme is not finished, and after pilot events have taken place in Moldova and Belarus a telephone conference will be held to roundup lessons learned and evaluate the success and shortcomings of the programme.

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Ukrainian Red Cross has also continued to develop an online fundraising strategy. In June, as planned, the fulfilment of the website with information available in three languages (Ukrainian, English and Russian) was completed. URCS website does not only convey the full scope of activities in colour and multimedia formats, but also serves as a recruitment site for volunteers, as the main donor recognition site, as a key news site, and as a site for virtual events. (<http://www.redcross.org.ua>)

In October, fundraising workshop for staff from the regional branches was organised. Participants discussed a number of issues: the analysis of fundraising activities of URCS and other National Societies and the ways of their improvement, the strategies for local fundraising and etc. One of the important issues for discussions was the impact of the Internet upon the Red Cross, focusing upon its effectiveness as a fundraising mechanism, which components are successful and what needs to be in place to ensure continued success. CDs and hard copies of Resource Development manual were developed and distributed among participants.

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: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross has built up its own capacity in project planning (based on Project Planning Process methodology) in combination with coaching of branches.

The project “Belarus – Organisational Development Strengthening Project Planning Process” is a continuation of the 4-year commitment of the DFID partnership to fund the national society’s initiatives to develop its organisational structure and management system. The Project Planning Process (PPP) trained group will be able to facilitate coaching of branches throughout the Red Cross society and help them drafting relevant project proposals to donors.

The first training session this year was arranged in Minsk from 30 May to 2 June for 24 participants representing the Belarus Red Cross society’s Minsk regional and city branches.

The result of the project implementation in the first half of the year revealed that the current concept for further PPP training has to be reviewed and adjusted to the needs of the national society. Thus, during summer months a project taskforce, formed at the first training, was working on the preparation of a modified version of PPP training. This new methodology was more practical and reflected current needs and capacities of the Belarus Red Cross.

The second training, held in September, was based on this modified approach and aimed at discussion of practical implementation of the PPP knowledge and skills acquired at the previous training. In November, PPP training was held in Gomel for 24 people. The workshop was facilitated by an expert from the “Belarusian commercial and economic university of consumer’s cooperation”.

A special educational workshop designed for newly elected heads of the Red Cross regional branches took place in October. The participants got acquainted with the PPP methodology, methods and principles of marketing and fundraising. In December, it is planned to hold a similar training for a newly elected head of Gomel Red Cross branch.

Impact

Participants of the PPP training sessions have significantly strengthened their experience in planning and project drafting. PPP training has provided a unique opportunity for Belarus Red Cross staff, especially for new heads of regional branches, to learn specific features of the BRC activities and to get acquainted with modern methods of project planning, reporting, marketing and fundraising. All these will help the BRC to improve the quality of programmes and services designed for the most vulnerable.

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While the headquarters staff members are primarily responsible for drafting project proposals, PPP training allow for branch level staff to get acquainted with international standards and use the methodology in their reporting and local project management.

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

The regional mechanism of 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.

For more project background: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Youth Red Cross movement is improved through successful networking.

Youth are actively involved in the peer education programme. (For further information on activities under this objective please refer to the **Health and Care** section of this update.)

Outside the Appeal

Danish Red Cross and the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) secured funding for a 2-year cross-border youth integration and cooperation programme. The programme was launched in February 2005 by the Danish Red Cross youth delegate with technical support from Minsk Delegation and the ICRC delegation in Kiev. The current project supports the Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross to establish a platform for sustainable cooperation between the Youth sections in the region and integration of Youth sections to the National Societies. Over the first five months of the programme a draft “Youth policy/strategy” and operational plans in three national societies were developed. In addition, the national societies have been strengthened by youth coordinators hired for the first time over the last ten years. The most important events of the reporting period were:

Drafting national society Youth Strategies

Drafting of the NS Youth Strategies was finalized in September 2005. In November 2005 in Moldova and Belarus the drafts were introduced to the NS branches and leadership for comments and suggestions. The Ukrainian Red Cross Youth programme was adopted in December 2004 and is considered by URC as a Youth Policy and Strategy.

Election of Youth to the Boards

The process of lobbying the election of youth to the Boards is on-going in Belarus and Ukraine. The letters recommending introduction of youth candidates to the Boards were sent from the NS National Committees to all branches of BRC and URC.

Leadership training in national societies

Three country leadership training sessions, as the follow up of the regional training held in June 2005, were conducted by the national societies during September-October 2005. In total, 46 youth volunteers and coordinators from three NS National Committees and 23 branches participated in the training facilitated jointly by volunteers, youth coordinators and a delegate.

The training sessions addressed the inactivity and apathy among youth as a significant problem in the region. Therefore, the main goal of the training was to motivate and encourage youth and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools that will help them to take active part within their local communities as the Red Cross volunteers.

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At these training sessions youth gained experience in performing as trainers; teams of course trainers are established in each national society. These in couple with the trainer's handbook will ensure continuation of future training within the national societies. In addition, during the training youth drafted 17 local initiatives and expressed high commitment to implement their projects. Local fundraising and small grant competition could be the options for financial support of the youth initiatives.

Development of local youth initiatives

This is a new initiative that started in Belarus and Moldova in May with a launch of small grant competition aiming at youth mobilization and involvement in civic participation. The first three grant competitions phases were: announcement of the grant competition, call for proposals and selection of applications. These phases were finished by the middle of July. Then, during August and September, the NSs youth coordinators visited the local branches - grant winners - and met with youth, branches' leadership and local authorities. The fourth phase of the competition started at the end of September – beginning of October, after the above mentioned visits. It is the implementation of nine local youth initiatives (six in Belarus and three in Moldova) under the ICRC funding with a total amount of CHF 5,300 (CHF 3,275 for BRC and CHF 2,025 for MRC). The grants range from CHF 125 to CHF 1,200 each.

The objectives of youth initiatives are: integration of disabled youth into the society; dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian values; HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion of healthy life style among youth.

In total, 220 youth are directly involved in the projects drafting and implementation and more than 5,200 youth in Belarus and Moldova will benefit from these projects till the end of 2005.

Candle March dedicated to 1 December

This year, all three national societies were actively involved in activities dedicated to the World AIDS day. Candle March was organized for the first time by Belarus Red Cross and allowed to publicly declare itself as a national player in the field of the HIV/AIDS prevention. More than 800 volunteers were involved in various activities organized on 1 December, ranging from the Candle March to competition of six volunteers teams.

Moldova Red Cross also celebrated this event for the first time. Activities were organized in five cities of Moldova and in close cooperation with UNAIDS and other NGOs involved in fight with HIV/AIDS.

Last year, the Ukrainian Red Cross was the first national society in the region to celebrate the World AIDS Day. This year, URC continued this good tradition and held events in seven regions of the country.

Sub-regional Youth Forum

42 youth volunteers, the three national societies' staff (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) and representatives of the Federation's Minsk delegation, Danish RC, French RC and the ICRC Kiev delegation participated in the Youth Forum in Minsk, Belarus. Best practices from partner national societies (Red Cross from French Red Cross, "Rainbow of good actions" from MRCS) were presented; youth strategies and policies of three NSs were discussed and revised and the development of NSs volunteer policies has been initiated.

At this forum the Youth Coordination Committee of the Red Cross youth BMU-network was elected for the first time. It consists of nine volunteers and coordinators (three Red Cross youth representatives from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine).

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

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

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The Federation Representative in Georgia visited Moldova Red Cross at the end of July to conduct a feasibility study concerning the Secretariat support to Moldova Red Cross in its commitment to finalise the transitional period of their governance and management structures. This was a follow-up to the previous discussions between the Secretariat and the Moldova Red Cross President. Further work on the proposed Plan of Action towards the agreed changes in Moldova Red Cross has been done during September-November, with the small allocation to support this process already received from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF).

Constraints

The implementation of the organizational management programme funded by Norwegian Red Cross has been delayed till September in view of the ongoing discussion on the change process in Moldova Red Cross. Strengthening of the management capacity has not been achieved during the reporting period, however programme activities continue to build up the Moldova Red Cross capacity in terms of human resources and infrastructure.

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.

For more project background http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Expected result: Belarus Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/medical social centres and increase sustainability.

All activities were implemented in the first half of 2005 (*for more information please refer to Programme Update no.1*).

Expected result: Moldova Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/medical social centres. (*Donor: DFID*)

The programme funds were used to develop a standard of a well-functioning MSC/VNS, a quality assurance system, a nursing code, a training concept for volunteers in VNS, as well as to conduct training on home care and on marketing/fundraising. The training of nurses and development of nursing quality standards were done in close co-operation with the Nursing Association of the Republic of Moldova.

Over the reporting period, Moldova Red Cross held five roundtable meetings in Chisinau, Soroca, Rezina and New Aneny on the role and importance of the activities of the Red Cross and its Visiting Nurses Services among NGOs and governmental services. Local authorities, the Society of Invalids, the Society of Blind People, the League of Veterans, and the Society of Afghanistan War Participants were invited to these meetings. The roundtable meetings highlighted the need for experience exchange and closer collaboration with other organizations providing social services, so that the most vulnerable could benefit from combined efforts.

In November a workshop on marketing and fundraising for nurses and volunteers was conducted in Balti. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of boards and management of well-functioning medico-social centres and to equip the staff with basic skills of marketing and fundraising.

The national society also supplied nurses with 80 uniforms and published 184 calendars.

Expected result: Ukrainian Red Cross effectively implements a programme to define and improve quality standards in visiting nurses service/medical social centres. (*Donor: DFID*)

The project was implemented in Chernigiv and Ternopil Red Cross regional branches.

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During the reporting period the URCS Headquarters developed pocket guidelines for Visiting Nurses. For this Chernihiv and Ternopil Red Cross regional branches carried out a survey among VNS beneficiaries. A total of 282 beneficiaries were surveyed in two branches and all questionnaires were analyzed. The results of this analysis will be a part of methodical guidelines on psychological rehabilitation.

Within the project, Red Cross staff also provided assistance to the most vulnerable. Consultations of psychologists in medical and social centers were held twice a week. During the reporting period 367 lonely low-income people and 114 disadvantaged families received psychological support. 11 beneficiaries received consultations at home.

During the internship students of medical schools also rendered assistance to 130 beneficiaries at home, actively participated in medical and social center activities and activities dedicated to Children's and Anti-smoking Days.

Expected result: Improved quality of assistance to the targeted beneficiaries in selected regions of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, through a strengthened VNS network (or service), exchange of experience and knowledge sharing between the three National Societies. (*Donor: DFID*)

In 2004, the first draft of a brochure on quality standards and best practice in Belarus and Ukraine was prepared. However, after extensive consultations with the national societies and experts it was decided that the material developed do not meet the set objectives and should be revised. To facilitate this work and to finalize the development and production of the brochure, a working meeting was held in Kiev for 15 visiting nurses from all three NSs together with an external expert from the Public Health Care institution. The meeting aimed to discuss the materials collected for the VNS book on best practices and at the same time to share the best experience on the VNS activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

To date, there are 30 cases to be included into the book describing different aspects of home based care by the VNS, services provided by the nurses in medical and social centers, involvement of volunteers in VNS activities, VNS participation in other Red Cross programmes etc. At present tender bids are collected for the book issue.

The book is designed for the Red Cross nurses. However, it can also be a useful tool and a good source of information for the state social workers and other interested parties, such as NGOs working in the social sector and beneficiaries themselves.

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:* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Minsk delegation represents the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and assists the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross societies.

The Federation delegation continued to provide co-ordination and management of partner support to the Belarus Red Cross society. Regular individual meetings with the acting secretary general of the Belarus Red Cross were undertaken in order to ensure that the Federation services are relevant and responsive to national society's needs. Minsk delegation also supported the national society with technical advice and follow-up help.

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A joint visit of the delegation and the Swedish Red Cross desk officer to Moldova Red Cross took place in July. Further meetings with the IOM in Moldova showed prospects for joint programming and possible support in certain components of the future anti-trafficking programme. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between MRC and the IOM.

Over the reporting period, representatives from the Danish and Swiss Red Cross societies visited the region. A desk officer from the Danish Red Cross participated in the Youth Forum held in Minsk in November and met the Head of Minsk delegation and a Danish Red delegate to discuss implementation of the cross-border youth integration programme and other issues. The main purpose of the Swiss Red Cross representative was to facilitate the start up of the Visiting Nurses Programme, funded by the Consortium of the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

During the visit of the Swiss Red Cross representatives to Moldova a re-assessment of Moldova Red Cross and its visiting nurses service, as well as planning workshops to set the conditions and a commonly shared vision for future co-operation were scheduled for April 2006. It was agreed that Moldova Red Cross will also participate in the next Twice Christmas campaign of Swiss Red Cross.

Information-sharing with the French RC bilateral delegate in Moldova is done regularly to avoid duplication of activities and to ensure unified approaches.

A roundtable meeting that will bring together interested sister national societies and provide a platform for coordination and effective use of collective resources in support of Moldova Red Cross is under consideration. Prior to this meeting, which is preliminary scheduled for February 2006, the delegation will consolidate a map of Moldova Red Cross activities supported through the International Federation and other partners.

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 Federation delegation continued to provide co-ordination and management of partner support to the three National Societies. Regular individual meetings with the secretary general of the Belarus Red Cross, and presidents of Moldova and Ukraine Red Cross were undertaken in order to ensure that the Federation services are relevant and responsive to national societies' needs. The Minsk delegation also supported the three national societies with technical advice and follow-up help. Ongoing contacts and information sharing were maintained with DFID and the partner Red Cross National Societies of Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and USA.

6. International Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The work of the national societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the Federation and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement receives adequate recognition among the respective governments, international organizations 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 profile. *For more project background:* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA071.pdf

Minsk delegation continues to support the Belarus, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross with technical advice, coordination support and representation at the national and international level. Meetings with the delegation and national society staff were held on regular basis and efforts were made to facilitate a dialogue between the region and partner national societies.

Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine Annual Appeal; Appeal no. 05AA071; Programme Update no.2

During the period under review, regular contacts were maintained with major regional donors and representatives of the international community in Belarus and Ukraine – including UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), TACIS, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation, the Global Fund, the IOM and embassies – in order to ensure proper Federation representation and to discover possible funding opportunities for the national societies.

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 were made to facilitate a dialogue between the region and partner national societies.

During the reporting period there were intensive activities highlighting CHARP. The Minsk Delegation/Kiev Representative Office together with Ukraine Red Cross organized a Round Table meeting devoted to the Presentation of the World Disaster Report 2005 and to CHARP as a forgotten disaster. This event was held on 5 October 2005 at the Conference-hall of Information Agency “Ukrinform” in Kiev. A book “CHARP focus” devoted to the 15th anniversary of the programme and to the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster has been produced at Kiev Office. The book draws attention to Chernobyl issues and CHARP and will be used for fundraising for the programme.

For more information: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07202.pdf

The delegation assisted the Ukraine Red Cross in promoting correct use of the emblem in Ukraine, both when it was fraudulently used in a newspaper advertisement related to Hurricane Katrina aid, and when the new emblem was launched in December.

A meeting took place between the Kiev Federation representative and the Irish Minister for Foreign affairs which resulted in the delegation being asked to submit a proposal for Euro 500,000.

During the period under review, regular contacts were maintained with major regional donors and representatives of the international community in including UNDP, United states Agency for International Development (USAID), TACIS, World Health Organisation (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation, Global Fund, IOM and embassies, in order to ensure proper Federation representation ad to discover possible funding opportunities for the National Societies.