

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## UKRAINE: PLANE CRASH IN SUKHA BALKA

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*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## **The Situation**

On 22 August 2006, a Russian Tupolev TU-154 (Pulkovo Airlines, Flight 612) en route from the Black Sea to St. Petersburg crashed in a field near the Ukrainian village of Sukha Balka. The plane issued a distress signal and disappeared from radar screens at 2:39 p.m. local time (at 3.39 p.m. Moscow time), approximately thirty minutes after taking off from the Black Sea town of Anapa. Representatives of the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry state that weather is to blame for the plane crash, including the likelihood that the plane was struck by lightning. The pilot reported a fire on board and intention to attempt an emergency landing shortly before the crash.

Pulkovo Airlines has stated that there were at least 169 people on board the plane, including 39 children and 10 crew members. There are no survivors, according to representatives of the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry. The process of identifying the crash victims has begun. Relatives of the victims are being flown to Donetsk, Ukraine, the nearest city to the crash site to assist with identification.

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences to the victims of the crash and declared 24 August, 2006, a national day of mourning. He has ordered Russian Federation Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov to set up a commission to examine the crash.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Currently, the Ukrainian Emergency Situation Ministry has closed off the site of the crash. The Ukrainian Red Cross has organized to provide arrival assistance and psychological support to relatives of the deceased upon their arrival at the airport in Donetsk. Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers have also been distributing water at the airport to those who have lost their loved ones in the crash.

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