

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Moldova and Ukraine: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR67003  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000122-UKR/MDA  
Operations update n° 3  
25 March 2009

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 5 August to 31 February 2008

**Revised appeal target:** CHF 1,533,543

**Appeal coverage:** [<click here to see the updated donor response list>](#)  
[<click here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This **Emergency Appeal** was launched on 5 August 2008 for CHF 1,250,355 (USD 1,193,428 or EUR 765,881) for eight months to assist 60,000 people.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 636,942 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Societies during the initial phase of the operation in Ukraine (CHF 437,942) and Moldova (CHF 199,000).
- The operation has been extended for a further two months until the end of May, as a result of additional unmet needs that were identified during the operation. A final report will be issued by 31 August.

**Summary:** The Red Cross Societies of Ukraine and Moldova continue to provide vital services to flood affected communities in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. In August 2008 the worst storms in over two centuries had killed 40 and displaced some 30,000 people. Both National Societies have now completed the second round of food distribution, and a total of 2,763 families in Moldova and 8,000 in Ukraine have received relief items so far. Both National Societies deployed mobile response teams (one in Moldova and two in Ukraine) to provide basic repair works to the families whose homes had been damaged by the floods. The teams are equipped with construction tools and materials to fix broken doors and windows,

fill in cracked walls, repair floors and electrical cables. Red Cross visiting nurses travel together with the mobile response teams to offer basic nursing services and psychosocial support to the disaster affected families. Since the start of the relief operation, the Ukraine Red Cross has distributed 10,000 water filters (one per family) to ensure that local communities have clean drinking water, while the Moldova Red Cross distributed 500 water filters. The epidemiological situation in the targeted areas is stable in both countries, but the living and working conditions were made more difficult during the winter period.

During the course of the operation additional urgent needs were identified, and the operation timeframe and budget have been extended for this reason. A further 5,200 families will receive food items during a third and final round of distribution in April. In addition, the Ukraine Red Cross distributed 1,350 electric heaters to enable



**Red Cross distributes food parcels to the people affected by the floods. Photo: International Federation**

families to cope with a severe cold wave during the winter period.

Donors are asked to consider contributing to the revised appeal to cover the outstanding needs, or to contribute directly towards the replenishment of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

## The situation

The worst storms in over two centuries have led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. In Moldova, 22 districts were affected in the north of the country along the Prut and Nistru rivers. Two people were killed. Over 4,000 people were evacuated, 677 homes were flooded, of which 126 were badly damaged. Some 2,200 wells were submerged. At the time of reporting, most of the wells had been repaired.

In Ukraine, Karpaty's six regions - Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and Vinitsia – have been affected. As a result of the floods, 38 persons are reported killed, 784 settlements were flooded and 44,945 homes were damaged. Many roads were washed away and over 500 bridges were damaged. Some 33,882 hectares of agricultural lands were inundated. The worst affected were the regions of Ivano-Frankivsk, and Chernivtsy. The Ukrainian government declared a three-month state of emergency in the region.

The situation has now stabilized in both countries. In Ukraine, the government has offered some cash support to the affected households and provided new accommodation to the families whose homes had been washed away. The epidemiological situation in the targeted areas is stable in both countries. However the living and working conditions were made more difficult during the severely cold winter period.

## Coordination and partnerships

Both National Societies have good working relations with the authorities at central, regional and local levels, and attend regularly inter-agency coordination meetings. Ukraine Red Cross representatives at the regional level are members of the government-led regional disaster response units. The president of the Ukraine Red Cross is a member of the State Emergencies Commission. Local authorities support the National Society with fuel and vehicles during relief distributions. In Moldova the president of the Moldova Red Cross is a member of the government-led flood emergency commission, which coordinates all relief effort to the floods affected population.

A number of NGOs and private companies in Ukraine supported the disaster response efforts with both cash and in-kind donations, which were registered by the National Society as bilateral contributions additional to this appeal. These contributions and the related distributions of relief goods are not included in the tables below, but detailed information is available upon request.

The International Federation, via its offices in Kiev, Chisinau, Moscow and Budapest leads the coordination of international relief assistance, including mobilization of financial resources and technical expertise where required. The Federation head of operation is based in Chernivtsy region and is supported by coordinators in Kiev and Chisinau, as well as six project coordinators in Ukraine.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

#### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide emergency relief (food parcels and basic non-food items) to a total of 12,000 families (60,000 people)**

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

## Progress

Both National Societies have completed the second round of food distributions to the most vulnerable families - 1,263 families in Moldova and 4,133 families in Ukraine were targeted. In Moldova, each family was provided with hygiene parcels as well. In Ukraine, 1,350 families in addition received electric heaters to ease their living conditions during the cold winter months. Beneficiary lists had been prepared by Red Cross branches in consultation with the local authorities. The elderly people, people with disabilities and multi-child families were prioritized. Food had been procured by the National Societies through a local tender. A beneficiary satisfaction survey in all six regions (involving around 500 beneficiaries) conducted by a consultant in Ukraine confirmed that the people affected were very satisfied with the timely support provided by the Red Cross. A more detailed analysis of the survey will be included as part of the final report for this operation.

The third and final rounds of distribution assisting another 4,000 families in Ukraine and 1,200 families in Moldova will be concluded in April.

Table 1 and 2 show the relief items distributed so far in Ukraine and Moldova:

**Table 1: Relief items distributed in Ukraine since the beginning of the operation**

Country	Food parcels (two rounds)	Kitchen Kits	Water Filters	Blankets (family set)	Electric Heaters
Ukraine	8,000	2,000	10,000	1,500	1,350

**Table 2: Relief items distributed in Moldova since the beginning of the operation**

Country	Food parcels (two rounds)	Hygiene parcels	Blankets	Bed linen sets	Water Filters
Moldova	2,763	2,763	1,500	1,500	500

## Emergency shelter

**Objective: To assist 600 affected households in making their damaged houses habitable again by supporting basic repairs through the provision of mobile repair teams (MRTs).**

Expected results	Activities planned
Up to 600 affected households in the two most affected areas in Ukraine and Moldova have been supported with basic repairs to damaged housing	MRTs assess where cheap and effective interventions can be made, moving from village to village repairing doors, windows, interior (floorboards, plasterwork) but no major structural work or reconstruction.

Both National Societies have deployed mobile response teams to the flood affected areas – two in Ukraine and one in Moldova. The teams have four members each with a construction background. Equipped with construction tools and materials, the teams visit flood affected families to offer support with minor repairs to damaged homes. The teams fix doors and windows, plaster walls, repair leaking floors and fill cracks in walls. Although initially the plan was to repair 600 houses, after a needs assessment carried out by the National Societies, the number of families targeted was reduced. This was due to the fact that some damaged houses were purchased by the state, while some others were sold by the owners. The National Societies by the end of the operations plan to repair 289 houses, out of which 119 have been already



**Red Cross mobile response team prepares to visit flood affected families. Photo: International Federation**

repaired. The beneficiaries' houses have been identified in consultation with the local authorities and surveyed by the Red Cross teams.

The mobile response teams are accompanied by Red Cross visiting nurses. Equipped with first-aid and emergency kits, the nurses offer basic nursing services as prescribed by doctors and psychosocial support to the families affected by the disaster. The International Federation is planning to organize a psychosocial support training for Red Cross nurses both in Ukraine and Moldova.

### Challenges

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

The deployment of mobile response teams was delayed due to complicated local procedures for vehicle procurement.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

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

### Progress

An additional 5,000 water filters were distributed by the Ukraine Red Cross. Since the start of the relief operation, the Ukraine Red Cross has distributed a total of 10,000 water filters (one per family) to the most vulnerable flood affected families identified by the Red Cross through assessment in consultation with the local authorities. The Moldova Red Cross has distributed 500 water filters. As a result of needs revision, the procurement of more filters is not planned.

Special focus has been put on raising community awareness of disease prevention through local mass media. The Ivano-Frankovsk Ukraine Red Cross regional branch printed 50,000 leaflets on disease prevention. The leaflets were distributed in all the six target regions by Red Cross volunteers. A web-story was also written and posted on the International Federation's web-site at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/08/08123002/> about the situation in Ukraine.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

There has been good media coverage in both countries, and both National Societies communicate regularly with the public to share the latest update from the disaster affected regions. A number of articles about the Red Cross' work were published in local and national newspapers both in Ukraine and Moldova.

## How we work

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

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

### Global Agenda Goals:

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

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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