

DREF operation update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ukraine: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRUA005
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000129-UKR
Update n° 1
4 August 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 12 July to 3 August, 2010

Summary: CHF 244,126 (USD 230,693 or EUR 182,524) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 people (1,200 households). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Heavy rains at the end of June, and the consequent rise in river levels have brought havoc to two flood-prone regions in Western Ukraine. Some 6,500 houses have been flooded in Chernovtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regions and almost

40,000 people have been affected. Five people have died and one person is still missing.



Ukraine Red Cross branch staff and RDRT member examine damage to a house in the Chernovtsy region of Western Ukraine. Ukraine Red Cross Society

The Ukraine Red Cross has distributed drinking water, filters, clothes, shoes, bedding, medicine and hygiene items to 10,000 people from its own and local donor resources. Since the launch of the operation a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) has been deployed. The team is supporting the National Society in implementing the operation and has visited affected areas to determine the needs of people. Procurement of the required items is ongoing and distribution will follow.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 12 October 2010. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 January 2011)

ECHO contributed CHF 147,125 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

Heavy rains at the end of June, and the consequent rise in river levels have brought havoc to two flood-prone regions in Western Ukraine. According to the latest data from 30 July some 6,500 houses have been flooded in Chernovtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regions, with 141 ruined beyond repair. The floods also damaged 1,908 hectares of agricultural areas, 291 bridges with 22 destroyed, and hundreds of kilometres of road. Latest estimates indicate that almost 40,000 people have been affected. Five people have died, one person is still missing and 59 are still living at the Red Cross hospital in Bernamet.

Of greatest concern is that food stocks which are usually stored in basements have been destroyed, as have crops which represent not only a source of income, but also of nutrition in the long winter.

Nine districts in the Chernivtsy region were affected: Zastavnytskyi, Kitsmanivskiy, Glybotskiy, Putivlskiy, Gertsaiivskiy, Khotynskiy, Vyzhnytsky, Novoselytskyi, Storozhynetskiy, and the city of Chernivtsy. A total of 25,000 people are affected, with four dead and one missing.

In Ivano-Frankivsk 14 districts were affected: Bogordchanskiy, Verhovinskiy, Galytskyi, Dolinskiy, Kaluzkiy, Kosivskiy, Kolomyyskiy, Naddvirnyanskiy, Rozhnyativskiy, Snyatynskiy, Tusmenytskyi, Tlumatskiy, Kalush, Yaremcha and the city of Ivano-Frankivsk. Some 14,350 people are affected and one person died.

In the hours after the onset of the floods local authorities fully restored electricity and gas services, cleaned and disinfected wells, and pumped out water from the flooded houses.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society works closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional and local in its auxiliary role in providing humanitarian relief. Coordination with the local municipal authorities and social welfare institutions is thus ensured. Moreover the National Society cooperates with the Coca-Cola Company and the “Development of Ukraine” fund, a private NGO.

A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), led by an Armenian Red Cross staff member has been deployed. The team has visited several families. Moreover it has met with Deputy Chiefs of Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regional administrations, and the heads of the committees in charge of coordination of humanitarian aid. They received updated information about the affected regions, and cross-checked that with the information from the branches of the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

The Ukraine Red Cross distributed drinking water, filters, clothes, shoes, bedding, medicine and hygiene items to 10,000 people from its own and local donor resources including the Coca-Cola Company and the private NGO fund “Development of Ukraine”. More than 15,100 items were distributed in the hours and days following the disaster. Please see table one for a complete overview over distributed items.

A DREF allocation of CHF 244,126 (USD 230,693 or EUR 182,524) was released on 13 July to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 people (1,200 households).

Region	Clothing	Bedding	Shoes	Hygiene kits	Bottled Water	Medicine	Filter	Mattresses	First-aid kits
Ivano Frankivsk	233	123	112	463	5,800	-	1,000	5	100
Chernovtsy	730	-	-	560	3,792	115	2,000	-	-
Persons served	963	123	112	1,020	9,592	115	3,000	5	-

Table 1: Items distributed in the hours and days following the floods in Ivano Frankivsk and Chernivtsy regions.

In addition to these items 130 kilogrammes of disinfectants have also been distributed.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Three thousand five hundred people from the affected areas will receive food and non-food items to cope with the consequences of the floods

Outputs and activities planned:

- Assessment of needs and preparation of beneficiary lists.
- Distribution of 1,200 food parcels that contain vegetable oil, sugar, buckwheat, pasta, tinned beef, condensed milk, tea, dry biscuits/crackers by the Red Cross branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Distribution of 1,280 blankets, 2,000 bed linen, 3,000 towels.
- Coordination with the local municipal authorities and social welfare institutions.

In order to ensure that the operation is implemented as planned a Regional Disaster Response Team has been established. The Ukraine Red Cross has employed a RDRT-trained disaster response assistant to work with an RDRT relief specialist from the Armenian Red Cross. The team made their first visit to the affected areas on July 21 aiming to assess the needs and prepare final lists of people to be reached.

Initially the team met with Deputy Chiefs of Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regional administrations, and the heads of the committees in charge of coordination of humanitarian aid.

The team then visited 31 families in 17 communities in 7 districts, did interviews and worked with two focus groups. People's living conditions were examined and were found to be especially hard for lone elderly people, large families, and handicapped people. The assessment showed that the most urgent needs were related to food, bedding, clothing and hygiene supplies.

Based on the findings from these visits the relief supplies to be distributed have been somewhat adjusted to reflect the chronic need for extra foodstuffs, as well as blankets and other bedding materials.

Work to facilitate the procurement and distribution of food parcels is ongoing. The exact number will be determined after the unit price has been ascertained. The response team is returning to the field this week to commence tenders for food parcels in the affected areas.

In the Bobshiv village area the team visited and 86 year-old pensioner, who has outlived all her five children, and is utterly alone. The main flood passed through her house, rendering it unsuitable for human habitation.

In the village of Panka, Chernovtsy region, the team visited the Lupan family, a Roma household consisting of three adults and eight children, Three family members have disabilities. During the floods, water levels reached 30 centimetres inside their home.

The floors in the house had to be removed for drying, and the cellar was still flooded, two weeks after water levels had receded. Families store vegetables in these cellars, meaning their supplies for summer and their stocks for winter have been ruined.

As with many other families, their furniture was almost all destroyed, and the family is living in a shed with a leaky walls. The garden, another important source of food, is destroyed. Adult family members are unemployed, and finding a job in this area is virtually impossible.



The Lupan family affected by the floods in the village of Panka, Chernovtsy region. Ukraine Red Cross Society.

For the planned procurement and distribution of blankets, bed linen and towels the exact number of items will be determined after unit prices have been ascertained. At least 370 bed linen sets will be used to replenish the National Society emergency stocks.

In the Maryamniiska village the team visited a single mother, aged 29, who has four children. Almost all their possessions were lost, including food stocks. The mother has no work and the income for the family amounts to less than one dollar a day per person. The priority is food, children's clothing and bedding.

The expected need for kitchen sets did not materialise, so these will be excluded from being procured and distributed.

The relief operation, and the presence of the Regional Disaster Response Team members, is of great assistance to Ukraine Red Cross staff and volunteers as they build their expertise in disaster response and management.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: 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 1,200 families in the affected settlements.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Safe water is ensured to 1,200 families through distribution of 1,200 water filters and 2,000 kg of disinfectant.
- Promote hygiene awareness and basic sanitation through distribution of 1,200 hygiene parcels and 30,000 copies of a leaflet entitled (*"How to avoid infectious diseases in case of water pollution"*).

Work to ensure safe water is ongoing. Many water filters have already been distributed from the National Society's stock while additional filters are to be purchased. A tender for water filters has already been carried out, and due to favourable prices, a further 200 filters can be purchased and distributed. Some 1,200 filters will be used to replenish the National Society's stocks. However, the exact number is still to be determined.

In terms of disinfectants totally 1,100 kg out of 2,000 kg will be used to replenishment stocks.

The production of leaflets and procurement of hygiene parcels is ongoing through preparation of tenders. The hygiene parcels will contain washing powder, detergent with chlorine, soap, toothpaste, shampoo and tooth brushes.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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