

BELARUS, MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, & UKRAINE: TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs

13 March, 2001

appeal no. 08/99

situation report no. 7

period covered: 20 November 2000 - 1 February 2001

The TB programme was launched in March 1999 with a focus on raising awareness and combating tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases through long-term assistance to patients and their families, as well as public education on TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs and prevention measures. The programme is ongoing in Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Through social and material support to TB patients and dispensaries the Red Cross has helped local authorities and health institutions in adapting modern international experiences to combating the diseases. ECHO funding currently available for the implementation runs out in March for Belarus, Ukraine and Russia's Siberian regions, and in April for Moldova and Russia's Central regions. Consolidation of current donor interest into firm longer-term funding for the programme is an outstanding need.

This programme, in principle, closed on June 11, 2000. However, recently signed ECHO contracts necessitated a programme extension of the planned activities to the end of the first quarter of 2001. A Final Report will be provided by end June, 2001. To ensure that these activities continue throughout 2001, TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs activities also form a key part of the Federation's 2001 appeal for Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine.

The context

TB is spreading rapidly in the Russian Federation, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. In Russia, over 111,000 cases of TB were reported in 1996 - double the number of cases registered in 1991. Similar levels pertain in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. TB is most prevalent among the poor and their families, including homeless, alcoholics, ex-prisoners and malnourished. In prisons, incidence rates are dramatically higher than among the general population.

Poor TB control measures and inappropriate treatment schedules have led to a rise in resistance to standard TB drugs. Drug resistant TB is difficult and expensive to cure and at the moment health authorities in the four countries cannot afford such treatment, resulting in a spread of this dangerous form of the disease. Depending on their immune status, people can become infected without developing the disease. Immune status is affected by poor nutrition, excess alcohol intake, certain drugs and HIV/AIDS.

Since the early 1980s, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the causative agent of AIDS, has been spreading throughout the world. Currently this pandemic is the leading public health problem at global level. According to the latest figures of UNAIDS and WHO, an estimated 33.4 million people are living with HIV/AIDS; 770,000 live in Europe and 270,000 are in Eastern Europe.

For the moment, Ukraine remains the worst affected country, although the Russian Federation, Belarus and Moldova have registered enormous increases in the past few years.

HIV increases the risk of patients becoming ill with TB thirty fold, because the virus weakens the part of the immune system that protects against TB. As a result TB is the leading cause of death in HIV positive patients.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases have also spread rapidly in recent years, encouraged by socio-economic factors such as increased travel and migration, family disruption, liberalised sexual behaviour and growing prostitution. The years of 1990-1997 saw a 50 fold increase in syphilis in CIS countries, including Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, giving rates 200 to 500 times greater than in Western Europe. As both national and international health authorities now recognise, whatever measures are taken, the situation will worsen over the next few years. The challenge is to limit the ravages of these diseases, and their social and economic effects.

One of the main objectives of the programme is to raise awareness among the general public about the extent of the diseases, and also:

- to train Red Cross staff, Visiting Nurses and others for their role in care and prevention;
- to give social and material support, to encourage compliance with diagnosis and treatment;
- to support diagnostic facilities, essential for disease control;
- to make contingency for pharmaceuticals in the early stages of the programme.

Latest Events

A United Nations report released in November showed that over 21 million people have died from AIDS since it was identified two decades ago. More than 36 million people are infected with the virus across the world. Sub-Saharan Africa remains ground zero of the epidemic, with at least 25 million people HIV positive. Experts expect Asia to be the next hotbed of the virus, followed by countries in the former Soviet Union, such as Ukraine.

Russia

The State Statistics Committee reported that if existing mortality trends continue, only 58% of young men aged 16 now will reach their 60th birthday. Committee experts noted that this was only slightly better than the projections for 16-year-olds in 1897 when 56% were expected to reach the age of 60. However, the Russian Health Ministry noted that infant mortality in the country fell to 15.8 per 1,000 live births in the first ten months of 2000. In 1999, the rate had been 16.9, and in 1990, it was 17.4. Infant mortality was highest in Ingushetia with 34.7 children dying before the age of one.

The Russian Minister of Health declared at the end of November that the country's population is at risk of dying out; there is only 1.5 working individual per each pensioner. In his statement the Minister suggested to concentrate on decreasing the death rate, especially among men, which is four times higher than among women, and exceeds similar rates in other countries 2-3 times. As priorities

in the field of health care development, he put mother and child protection, and combating social diseases such as drug abuse, AIDS, syphilis and tuberculosis. He said that "the situation with TB in Russia is so crucial that if no urgent measures are taken, the epidemic will simply blow up the country. In 2001, the TB sickness rate may reach 118-120 people per 100,000 population, and the country will again find itself on the edge of the crisis in 1965."

Russia's lower house of parliament adopted a draft measure for tuberculosis (TB) prevention in the middle of December. The draft law includes regular check-ups for people, keeping sick people out of work so they do not infect others, and regular medical control by special health centres. One study of Russia's TB rate indicated there are currently 2.2 million people registered with the country's TB centres.

Tuberculosis remains a significant problem in regions targeted by the appeal with the annual incidence of 180 per 100,000 population in Kemerovo, 87.9 in Tomsk, and 199 in Buryatia. Over 1,000 new TB cases were registered in the first nine months of 2000 in Arkhangel'sk, which is 30% more than over the same period in 1999. In Murmansk, TB mortality rate has increased four times compared to 1991-1993, and the majority of TB patients are 18-44 years old.

Belarus •

During 2000 TB incidence in Belarus has decreased from 53.6 to 49.0 new cases per 100,000 population. However, the average TB rate still remains epidemic in the Gomel and Mogilov regions (Red Cross pilot areas). Also, according to the Brest Regional Hygiene and Epidemiology Centre, the incidence of tuberculosis has almost doubled among the region's young people in the last two years. Because of insufficient funding, the National anti-tuberculosis programme is being implemented slowly. The World Bank considers Belarus as having one of the highest rates of multi-drug resistance tuberculosis in the world: 16 % of all TB cases caused by resistant mycobacterium.

Belarus ranks second in the rate of spreading HIV infection in Eastern Europe. Over 3,200 people living with HIV were registered in Belarus as of 1 January 2001, which is 938 (or 40 %) more than at the beginning of last year. AIDS was diagnosed in 26 people, of whom 21 died. Young people aged between 15 and 29 account for 85.5 of the reported HIV cases in the country. Eighty per cent of HIV-infected people are drug addicts. For the last five years, the number of drug addicts in Belarus increased 37.2 times and now officially counts to 5,000 people. According to the estimates, the real figure is 20 times higher.

In Spring, the World Bank will put forward a new three-year strategy for co-operation with the Belarusian government. Among the projects to be supported by the World Bank this year is also a HIV/TB control project estimated at USD 15 million.

Ukraine •

According to official statistics, the incidence rate of TB increased 1.9 times during the last decade: from 32.0 to 61.2 per 100,000 population accordingly. At the same time, the number of TB clinics decreased by more than 10 % during 1990-98 all over the country, with the total number of TB beds falling from 25,695 to 19,966 (more than 22 %) over the period. In 1999, WHO results indicated that half of all Ukrainian TB patients were resistant to at least one drug. TB continues to spread fast throughout the country. In January 2001, the Health Minister announced the TB-emergency in Luhansk region (eastern Ukraine), where the TB morbidity rate came to 65 per 100,000 population. Some 800 people died in the region from the disease last year. Six people are diagnosed with TB and another three die of the disease every day.

Ukraine ranks first in adult HIV/AIDS rates among the transition countries of Europe. Official figures record about 36,900 cases of HIV infection in Ukraine with the southern coastal regions as the worst affected. However, the Ministry of Health considers the real figure may be more than 10 times as high. Two-thirds of Ukrainians infected with HIV/AIDS picked up the virus through syringes and needles. The United Nations estimates about 6 % percent of Ukraine's adult population may be

affected by 2010 which will result in a drop in the childbirth rate by around 100,000-200,000 and additional loss of up to 1.9 million people.

At present, Ukraine has no government programme to combat AIDS, while the average health budget has decreased fourfold since 1994. In December 2000, the European Union and the United States said they would chip in USD 4 million to open a national information centre on preventing HIV/AIDS and help Ukraine to raise AIDS awareness among young people.

In January 2001, a World Bank mission dealing with poverty and social welfare issues started its work in Ukraine to examine some programmes including AIDS and tuberculosis control, and research education and health sector development.

Moldova •

In the late 1990s, the incidence of TB in Moldova increased dramatically. The National Scientific-Practical Centre for Preventive Medicine reported about 1,927 newly registered TB cases during the first 11 months of 2000. As of 1 September 2000, totally 12,000 TB patients were registered countrywide. Ninety per cent of patients are male, and about half of them under the age of 30. The number of smear-positive TB cases increased more than 5 % in 2000, as compared with 1999 and reached 2,978.

Although the number of HIV-infected people is still low in Moldova (1,208 cases registered in 2000), it increased almost 30 times in just last four years. Injecting drug use accounts for 83 % of all HIV infections. In 2000, five cases of HIV transmission from an infected mother to her child and two through blood transfusion were registered.

WHO increased the allocation to Moldova from USD 0.1 million in 1998-99 to almost USD 0.5 million in 2000-2001. In particular, the funds are being used to provide technical assistance for the development of health care reform in the country, health of women and children, and treatment of communicable diseases, especially TB.

In the framework of the anti-TB project supported by UNICEF and the Japanese government, two freight cars of syringes and medicines for the TB treatment arrived to Moldova in January. The total cost of the assistance exceeds USD 117,000.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Russia •

The ECHO/British Red Cross project for Russian Siberian regions of Buryatia, Kemerovo, and Tomsk is facing an end of its second phase in March, 2001. The second phase of the ECHO/Danish Red Cross project for Russian European regions of Astrakhan, Arkhangelsk, Murmansk and Pskov will end in April 2001.

A field trip to Arkhangelsk and Murmansk was conducted from 17 to 20 December by the Russian Red Cross/ Federation team to monitor the ongoing TB programme focusing on the relations between local TB services and Red Cross committees as well as VNS development. Meetings with regional administration and TB authorities were held. An assessment of capacity and strategic overview of regional committees with a particular reference to future resourcing of TB programme also took place. A good relationship with regional administration was observed in Arkhangelsk, and efforts are made to develop similar relations with city authorities. Five year contracts, mainly in the field of TB/VNS were signed in seven districts of the region for a range of programme activities. The local parliament have adopted a regional anti-tuberculosis programme, which recognises the Red Cross as an equal partner to authorities. Local employees are actively involved in the process of fund-raising, which is being complicated by a new tax law, applying tax for all donations. Monitoring showed that there is a problem of controlling the programme in remote districts due to poor transport infrastructure.

Monitoring in Murmansk showed sufficient information and training activities, which led more patients to visit a doctor for TB detection.

Nutritional support to TB patients through hot meals and albumen kits continues according to the programme guidelines; the following amounts of supplies were distributed during the reporting period:

Region	Patient group	November			December		
		No. patients	Hot meals	Albumen kits	No. patients	Hot meals	Albumen kits
Buryatia	Adults	249	3 243	1 242	252	3 145	1 450
	Children	80	1 140	400	80	1 072	359
Kemerovo	Adults	525	9 737	630	500	9 348	600
	Children	265	5 350	0	273	5 350	0
Tomsk	Adults	224	1 712	3 409	228	1 686	3 164
	Children	50	0	1 414	43	0	1 344
Arkhangelsk	Adults	80	1 271	0	74	1 086	0
	Children	47	656	0	43	736	0
Astrakhan	Adults	135	1 374	1 361	142	1 397	1 372
	Children	79	1 561	0	77	1 478	0
Murmansk	Adults	76	470	1 128	80	431	1 157
	Children	13	184	0	8	146	0
Pskov	Adults	118	0	2 651	129	0	3 272
	Children	0	0	0	0	0	0

In November distributions of family food parcels (FFPs) and hygienic kits started and will continue till March/April. The supplies were purchased locally. Each FFP contains 4 kg flour, 2 kg sugar, 2 kg macaroni, 1 lt vegetable oil, 4 cans beef, 2 cans sweet condensed milk, 500 g tea, 1 kg oats, and 100 g yeast. Hygienic kits consist of 2 bars of household soap, 2 bars of toilet soap, a bottle of shampoo, 1 tube of tooth paste, a tooth brush, and 1 box of detergent.

Region	November		December	
	FFPs	Hygienic kits	FFPs	Hygienic kits
Buryatia	45	45	405	405
Kemerovo	0	0	1 050	1 050
Tomsk	88	88	143	143
Arkhangelsk	54	54	120	120
Astrakhan	165	185	15	15
Murmansk	0	0	28	0
Pskov	332	332	57	57

During the reporting period, 203 home visits were made to TB patients on controlled treatment, and 647 vulnerable beneficiaries received traditional Red Cross nursing assistance; 64 visiting nurses received money for transport, and 366 TB patients received money for transport necessary to get them to soup kitchens or distribution points.

All the targeted regions received 12 kinds of information materials on TB and HIV/AIDS; regional RC committees also produce their own posters and leaflets about the anti-TB work. On 1 December,

World AIDS Day, the targeted regions conducted discussions, lectures and/or talks on HIV/AIDS and TB basically for young people. Children's drawing contests were held. In Buryatia, a play devoted to the problem of TB is being performed in remote districts, and the money raised from it goes to the local Red Cross committee. Work on developing the information strategy, in particular to measure its effectiveness is still under discussion. It is likely that with interest from a number of donors it will be more closely discussed in phase three of the programme.

A training seminar on the basics of home care took place in Kemerovo from 13 to 25 of December for the Siberian RC committees - Buryatia, Kemerovo and Tomsk, and as a result 22 visiting nurses and seven instructors were trained. There were also seminars on organisational development, procurement procedures and reporting requirements within the TB programme in Kemerovo, Buryatia, Astrakhan and Pskov for medical and social managers, visiting nurses and volunteers. A seminar on the basics of home care for the European regions involved in the appeal is planned for February.

Currently, there are 542 volunteers working in the targeted RC committees, during the reporting period more of them were trained to work on the TB programme; they participate in programme activities, meet with TB patients' relatives, distribute humanitarian assistance among the families of TB patients and help trace TB patients whose treatment is interrupted.

Eight visiting nurses, TB medical co-ordinator and social assistant were hired in the Oryol Red Cross committee; a tender was held to purchase office equipment and a vehicle; and a plan of action was designed. In close collaboration with local TB dispensaries the Oryol RC committee representatives developed a list of beneficiaries consisting of 80 most vulnerable TB patients. A tender was held for soup kitchen supplies and procurement of albumen kits. Now local Red Cross is carrying out a tender for family food parcels (FFPs) and procurement of hygienic kits.

On 16-17 November a field trip to Oryol was conducted by the Delegation's health co-ordinator, WHO and CDC (Centre for diseases control from Atlanta, USA) representatives to monitor the implementation.

A tender for food parcels procurement finished in December, a supplier started to form the parcels. From 26 to 28 December, the RRC team conducted a monitoring visit to Oryol together with a WHO TB programme manager and had a meeting with a regional TB service. It was decided to expand the programme in the region using family food parcels as incentives for treatment.

Belarus•

The second phase of the TB/VNS programme funded by ECHO from 1 August, 2000 will continue till 31 March, 2001 in the three pilot areas: Gomel and Mogilev regions and Minsk city.

During the reporting period, ambulatory TB patients in the three pilot areas continued to benefit from treatment and care coupled with material and nutritional support; 115 visiting nurses delivered services to an average of 1,066 TB patients per month (WHO categories 1 and 2). This was 6.2 % less than in the previous quarter because of a slight decrease in the number of new TB cases registered in the three pilot areas.

Compliance monitoring was ensured by home visits and at drug distribution points. Sixteen drug distribution points functioned at polyclinics and 22 at Red Cross medico-social centres (10 in Mogilev, 10 in Gomel and 2 in Minsk). These 22 medico-social centres covered over 21 % of TB patients out of the total beneficiary group.

Over the past three months, 566 bus tickets were distributed to TB patients to facilitate their attendance to medico-social centres and TB dispensaries and 343 bus tickets were supplied to visiting nurses to ensure communication with TB dispensaries and TB patients served by home visits. Over 950 volunteers (family members and relatives) were supporting the nurses to ensure non-interrupted ambulatory treatment and its direct observation.

Starting from November 2000, 417 visiting nurses all over the country are benefiting from top-ups to their salaries through the Swiss Red Cross allocation of CHF 40,000. Most of the 117 medico-social centres in the country were supplied with medical kits (syringes and dressing materials). Kits for the centres in Gomel and Mogilev regions were delivered in February.

Distribution of food parcels, hot meals and hygiene kits to TB patients was essential for ensuring directly observed therapy. During the reporting period, a total of 2,200 food parcels and 1,150 hygienic kits were distributed; 50 TB patients were provided with 2,998 hot meals through three soup kitchens in the pilot areas. Over 3,900 litres of disinfectants were procured and distributed as follows: 2,300 litres included in hygienic kits for TB patients; 1,605 litres delivered to Red Cross medico-social centres. In support to health institutions with diagnostic facilities, 10 binocular microscopes were procured and distributed to the laboratory services.

Preliminary analysis of medical cards of ambulatory treatment, which is supervised by visiting nurses, proves the effectiveness of Red Cross participation in TB work. All 104 TB-patients under the selective analysis received ambulatory treatment in conformity with WHO recommendations and none of them interrupted the treatment. Only one patient (0.97%) developed exacerbation of TB process, and 103 patients had positive treatment response. Closure of lung cavities was registered in 12 patients (63,2 %) out of 19 with residual destruction.

In November-December, seven six-day workshops on basic home care for nurses facilitated by the Russian Red Cross instructors were conducted in all six regions of Belarus. In total, 120 Red Cross nurses were trained. Twenty nurses were selected and further trained as VN instructors. The Belarusian Ministry of Health recognised high quality of the training by acknowledging it as equal to state-run advanced training courses. Additionally, 45 nurses in Gomel and Mogilev regions, and Minsk city were trained on methods of psychological support to TB and HIV/AIDS patients.

A two-day workshop for volunteers was conducted in November in Mogilev region. Similarly to the workshops held in October, the training curriculum was based on discussing the Federation's new policy on Volunteering.

Permission to reproduce the basic home care manual for visiting nurses and VN-instructors was received from the American Red Cross. Reviewing the contents of the manual to adjust it to the local needs is ongoing.

Information and education campaign on TB, HIV/AIDS prevention and control continued through wide usage of capacities of mass media. Over the past three months, more than 50 topical materials were published in newspapers and aired on radio and TV all over the country. Additionally, 20,000 calendars, 10,000 leaflets and the same number of brochures of high quality were developed and printed by the National Society in close co-operation with the Federation. Distributions started in February.

In December, 15 Red Cross volunteers attended a workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention organised by the National AIDS Prevention Centre. Each participant received a training tool kit elaborated on modern interactive approaches. On the workshop the participants also designed their own curricula to conduct educational sessions for schoolchildren and their parents. Starting from the end of December these sessions take place in six selected Minsk schools.

Ukraine •

The second phase of the TB/VNS programme funded by ECHO started on 1 September and will continue to 31 March, 2001 in the only pilot area - Kiev city.

During the reporting period the Ukrainian Red Cross continued the implementation of the second phase of the TB/VNS programme composed of two basic elements: 1) providing psycho-social and relief support to TB, HIV/AIDS patients ensuring the compliance of DOTS strategy, and 2)

strengthening the capacity of visiting nurses service through methodological training and provision of standard equipment complemented by organising public awareness campaign national-wide.

Six soup kitchens operated to provide hot meals for 600 TB patients receiving DOTS treatment in Kiev. Visiting nurses provided the patients with psychological support. Data available from the six partner TB hospitals showed positive dynamics in treatment of the Red Cross beneficiaries: blood tests improved in 50 % of cases; up to 20 % of sputum positive patients converted into sputum negative; no acute or relapsed cases were registered.

During the reporting period, 1,800 food and 1,800 hygienic parcels were distributed to TB patients by visiting nurses through home visits. The co-ordination group established under the Ukrainian Red Cross Headquarters and Kiev Red Cross Committee ensured regular monitoring of the quality of relief items and their distribution.

As a result of international tendering for the supply of 640 nursing kits to Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova, a Ukrainian supplier was selected as a vendor. Contracts are being prepared.

Some 44 visiting nurses were trained on the basics of home care during two seminars held in Kiev and Poltava in December-February with the support of the Russian Red Cross facilitators. Eight visiting nurses were trained as VN instructors.

Training manuals for VN instructors are ready for publication while the manual for visiting nurses needs to be revised.

Two booklets for TB patients and their members as well as two booklets on HIV/AIDS prevention for the general public and HIV/AIDS patients were prepared for publishing.

Moldova •

Relief and social components for the new phase of the TB/VNS programme funded by ECHO until 30 April are being implemented in the northern part of Moldova - Edinet and Balti districts; while Chisinau serves as a focal point for visiting nurses training.

In January, procurements and distributions of the 2,500 food and 2,500 hygienic parcels for TB patients took place in the two pilot regions (Balti and Edinet districts).

A training seminar on the basics of home care was conducted by the Russian Red Cross instructor in January 2001. Twenty six visiting nurses completed the basic course; eight of them were trained as instructors.

Outstanding Needs

While this appeal is fully funded, long-term funding of the TB programme is a critical issue. There is an acute need for ongoing external support to carry out preventive, relief and training activities to help combat TB/HIV/AIDS/STDs, educate the general population and support programme beneficiaries.

It is necessary to identify donors to take up programme costs from March, 2001 when ECHO funding runs out and develop a long-term programme plan.

At the same time, the RRCS and Federation are making significant efforts to continue to steer the programme in a sustainable direction. There is an understanding that international donor support is time limited, and that eventually the programme must be able to survive on its own. Much time and effort is going into reducing costs within the programme, utilising resources more effectively and efficiently, and to improve RRCS's capacity to secure funding support for this and other programmes from local and central sources.

Belarus: Delivery of nursing kits to Belarus scheduled for April will most likely require a two month extension of the ECHO contract.

Ukraine: Difficulties in adequately responding to the required international procurement procedures caused a slight delay in releasing of funds needed for purchasing food parcels and hot meals.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

External Relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Russia•

The Health department continued active co-operation with WHO, Merlin, MSF and other health agencies working in the Russian Federation.

WHO/CDC applied to the Health department to provide comments on the newly revised WHO/CDC Training Modules on TB Control at the district level. On 4 December, the health team participated at a meeting organised by WHO to sum up the results of their work with several agencies. The results were incorporated in the joint document that was sent by WHO on behalf of the Federation, Merlin, MSF, PHRI to CDC (Atlanta) and WHO (Geneva). All the concerned parties are meeting on a weekly basis to plan an inter-agency press conference on Friday 23 March, on the eve of World TB Day. The theme for the conference is "TB Against Society; Society against TB".

On 21 December, a co-ordination meeting on TB took place in the WHO (Moscow) office, where the Federation discussed with PHRI joint TB activities in Tomsk. A meeting with the WHO TB manager was then held on improving work with socially marginal groups of population, some new joint approaches were agreed upon.

A meeting with ECHO (Moscow) representatives was held in early December to discuss the possibilities of further funding for the third phase of the TB programme. Swedish RC have already agreed to support the third phase of the TB programme. Negotiations are also moving ahead with the American Red Cross for them to support a package of proposals centring on training/patient tracing research/programme implementation in Buryatia. British RC continues to provide good support to the programme and have advanced negotiations with DfID for coverage of Tomsk, Kemerovo and Buryatia if required.

In November, the Information officer conducted a field trip to Pskov together with the Knight Ridder newspaper group correspondent to cover TB programme activities.

Meetings with the NTV channel representatives were held to discuss short video clips on TB prevention and awareness. The NTV crew together with the Delegation's Information and Health departments are involved in the creative process.

Belarus•

During a visit of the World Bank (WB) mission to Belarus in November two meetings with the WB representatives were organised at the Delegation. The Health Delegate and the Programme Officer took part in the both meetings. The WB mission expressed its positive attitude towards the implementation of the Red Cross TB programme in Belarus. The next WB mission is going to visit the Red Cross pilot areas.

On 15 December, Minsk Delegation's representatives attended the meeting of the UN Theme Group (UN TG) on HIV/AIDS prevention in Belarus. The International Federation was invited to become a new member of the UN TG and considered as an active organisation dealing with HIV/AIDS prevention.

The implementation of the TB programme was given a special attention by the media in the Mogilev region. One of the biggest regional newspaper carried an interview with the Head of Delegation. In November, a series of radio programmes entitled "Implementation of the International Anti-tuberculosis programme" with participation of the Health Delegate and the Programme Officer was aired in the Mogilev region.

On 17 January, the Health Delegate visited the UNAIDS Office in Minsk to discuss the Red Cross activities in the field of preventing HIV. The Belarus Red Cross efforts to support persons living with HIV/AIDS were documented by the UNAIDS country Office as the Best Practice Case and shared electronically among members of the UN Theme Group.

Ukraine•

On 7-8 December, the Head of Kiev Office participated in the Health conference and TB/HIV/AIDS workshop organised jointly by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and USAID. Negotiations were also held with the Italian Embassy in Ukraine on possible future co-operation in the health sector.

Moldova•

Over the past three months, a series of meetings were held with the President of the Nursing Council of Moldova and WHO Liaison Officer to discuss the status of Moldovan National TB DOTS programme and the Moldovan Red Cross involvement in it.

Conclusion

National TV and radio broadcast materials about the training component of the programme as well as about material support to TB patients in Balti and Edinet judets.

The positive impact of the Red Cross anti-TB programme in the nation-wide context is becoming more evident. The health authorities proved the effectiveness of non-interrupted ambulatory treatment the Red Cross involved in, and reported a considerable improvement of the health state of those TB patients covered by the programme. The information and education campaigns organised in the communities continued to serve as a significant complementary tool in creating the grassroots acknowledgement of common responsibility in TB, HIV/AIDS prevention. The methodological training on basic home care enhanced the visiting nurses' professional skills, simultaneously strengthened the capacity of the Visiting Nurses Service as a whole. Collaboration with the state health care system in the region was also further strengthened with a more clear vision of that role the Red Cross can play in TB and HIV/AIDS control.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

BELARUS, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, UKRAINE - HEALTH						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 08/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03/13/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				9,432,000	01/01/99	148.66%
BRITISH - RC		14,787	GBP	37,411	06.12.00	VNP/TB FOR RUSSIAN RC
DANISH - RC		10,000	DKK	20,860	21.06.00	TB/HIV/AIDS/STD & VNS
ECHO - BRITISH RC (01001)		730,000	EUR	1,168,000	09/02/99	RUSSIA
ECHO - BELGIAN RC (02023)		745,000	EUR	1,191,702	08/13/99	MOLDOVA
ECHO - DANISH RC (01002)		1,010,000	EUR	1,615,596	09/09/99	RUSSIA
ECHO - DANISH RC (02022)		970,200	EUR	1,524,766	07/21/99	BELARUS
ECHO - GERMAN RC (2028)		2,930,000	EUR	4,686,828	09/17/99	UKRAINE
ECHO		600,000	EUR	916,680	03.08.00	UKRAINE, VISITING NURSES SERVICES & SUPPORT TO TB PATIENTS
ECHO (09014)		200,000	EUR	304,420	21.12.00	MOLDOVA, VISITING NURSES, SOCIAL MATERIAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE
ECHO - DANISH RC (09002)		500,000	EUR	763,900	01.11.00	RUSSIA - VISITING NURSES
ECHO - BRITISH RC (09001)		500,000	EUR	763,900	21.11.00	VISITING NURSES AND % SUPPORT TO TB PATIENTS IN 3 SIBERIAN REGIONS
ICELANDIC - RC		3,000,000	ISK	60,228	03/24/99	
IRELAND - RC		2,393	IEP	4,873	09/30/99	
FINNISH - RC		25,230	EUR	40,482	08/09/99	
NORWEGIAN - RC/GOVT				139,100	06/02/99	HEALTH DELEG. 10% RC/ 90% GOVT
NORWEGIAN - RC				27,554	20.12.00	
SWEDISH - RC		825,000	SEK	150,810	08/17/99	RUSSIA - VISITING NURSES
SWEDISH - GOVT		150,000	SEK	26,415	12.12.00	HEALTH PROGRAMME
SWITZERLAND - RC				50,000	11/01/99	BELARUS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				13,493,525	CHF	143.06%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - RC		1,135,000	DKK	244,820	07/27/99	Used clothes - 4 trucks (Russia & Belarus)
DANISH - RC/GOVT		592,663	DKK	127,482	07/08/99	HEALTH DELEG, STAFF ON LOAN
Belgium	Delegate(s)			14,949		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			48,131		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			10,513		
Belgium	Delegate(s)			19,877	06/15/00	Year 2000
Denmark	Delegate(s)			26,776	06/15/00	Year 2000
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			35,154	06/15/00	Year 2000
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				527,702	CHF	5.59%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	