

BELARUS, MOLDOVA, AND UKRAINE: WINTER ASSISTANCE

21 July, 2000

appeal no. 30/99

situation report no. 2

period covered: 1 April - 15 June, 2000

After a late start due to the slow arrival of funding which necessitated a reduction in planned activities, the Winter Assistance operation is in its last phase of implementation. The three National Societies are fully involved, with activities carried out according to the established Operational Contracts.

The context

This current appeal is a follow-up to the first Winter Emergency Appeal (WEA) launched in 1998, and aims to provide short-term assistance to more than 191,200 most vulnerable people in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. As in the past, the appeals targeted the most vulnerable layers of the society. The emergency assistance programme is intended to tackle the most specific needs of the target groups through:

- supplying winter clothes and footwear to the children and elderly;
- provision of hot meals or sandwiches to street children and homeless;
- distribution of food parcels to the disadvantaged families with children and elderly, living alone;
- distribution of hygiene parcels to the disadvantaged families with children and elderly living alone in rural areas;
- provision of school kits for children;
- supporting young people, living in juvenile custody;
- in collaboration with UNHCR, supporting internally displaced persons and refugees.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Belarus •

Some 3,355 food parcels were purchased and delivered to the local Red Cross Committees and distributed to the intended beneficiaries. On May, 19, the tender for the second round of the food parcels distribution was issued, and 3,355 food parcels were purchased and delivered to the local Red

Cross Committees. While these food parcels are being distributed, tender procedures for procurement of 3,355 food parcels for the third round of distribution has begun.

In addition, the first round of distribution of the food parcels under the Swiss donation (2,400 food parcels) and the ECHO donation (8,950 food parcels) was completed in April-May. Under the ECHO donation, special attention was given to TB patients, who were provided with 583 parcels. In the second as well as in the third rounds of distribution, the favourable USD exchange rate allowed the procurement of 4,800 food parcels instead of 2,400 previously planned under the Swiss donation, and 15,000 food parcels instead of 8,950 originally planned under the ECHO donation. The second round of food parcel distribution under the ECHO and Swiss donations was completed in May-early June. The tenders for procurement of the food parcels for the third and final round were announced, the procedures are underway.

By the end of April, hygiene kits for 1,706 beneficiaries and for 115 Medico-Social Centres and sanitary points for the homeless were procured out of British funds and delivered to the project sites. Distribution of 1,821 hygiene kits lasted till early May.

In April-May, nutrition activities were organized at 18 points for total amount of 515 persons in Belarus Regions for British, Canadian and Swiss funds. The beneficiaries included various categories of population, predominantly children from socially disadvantaged families.

A contract for the purchase of 1,000 school kits was signed in late April. The school kits, consisting of 24 items of school-writing materials, were distributed among children from socially disadvantaged families in six Belarus Oblasts, Minsk City and Railway Committee.

In accordance with the Winter Appeal Programme two workshops on psycho-social support were held in the cities of Minsk and Baranovichi on April, 21-28, 2000. 40 activists and workers of the Belarus Red Cross participated at the workshops where they were provided with training on reducing stress situations.

Nine trucks of hygiene and food items were received from the French Red Cross and distributed among the most vulnerable. Since the beginning of the programme, 6 trucks of second-hand clothes/shoes were supplied by the Swedish Red Cross and distributed among 2,604 beneficiaries.

Ukraine •

600 people were provided with hot meals in each of five Oblasts (Crimea, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Lugansk, Kharkiv) 21 times a month in a one and a half month period. Some 200 street children in Lugansk and Ternopil receive sandwiches 3 times a week in a 1.5 month period.

Some 20,440 food parcels were purchased, and distribution started in four project sites (Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Lugansk and Kharkiv Oblasts). Food assistance for 123,440 beneficiaries is underway.

Eleven trucks of second-hand clothes arrived during the reporting period (supplied by the Swedish Red Cross). The French Red Cross sent four humanitarian consignments of food and hygiene items to Volyn (40,000 kg), Vinnitsa (30,558 kg), Donetsk (34,850 kg) and Kyiv (32,092 kg) Oblasts.

Moldova •

The procurement of 6,000 hygiene kits is underway. It is to purchased and distributed 3,325 food parcels under British donation and 2,675 under Canadian donation. Distribution is taking place in 36 districts of the country and to be finalized by June, 30.

The Swedish Red Cross supplied 3 truckloads of second-hand clothes and footwear to Moldova, and distribution of the goods has started by the local Red Cross branch.

Outstanding needs

With only 29% of the appeal covered and the relatively low level of donor interest in the programme, the scale of implementation of the planned activities has been reduced considerably.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

On May, 22, the Regional Relief Coordinator had a meeting at the Canadian Embassy with the First Secretary in Kyiv to brief the officials on the implementation of the Canadian Red Cross/CIDA funds in the framework of the Winter Assistance Programme.

On June, 15, the Head of Kyiv Representative Office and the Regional Coordinator had a meeting with the First Secretary of the British Embassy in Kyiv to provide a brief on the activities of the Red Cross and ongoing programmes run by the National Societies and the Federation, and on the Winter Assistance programme related to the British Red Cross funding in particular.

The representatives of the British and Canadian Embassies were invited to take part in the monitoring of the implementation of the Winter Assistance programme in Belarus and Ukraine.

At coordination meetings in Minsk and Kiev, the Donor Community was informed about the Winter assistance, directed by the Federation. The National Societies were encouraged to issue press releases specifying the donors.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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