

Appeal 2008-2009



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova

Appeal No. MAA67003

Date: 14/12/2007

This appeal seeks CHF 10,543,184 (USD 9,430,397 or EUR 6,389,808) to fund the planned programmes that are to be implemented in 2008-2009.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Low income families in the region often lack food. Here, a young single mother receives a food parcel in Minsk, Belarus. Photo: Belarus Red Cross.

Current context

The consequences of the huge economic decline which followed the break-up of the Soviet Union are still visible in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. Even where there are positive economic indicators, especially in Russia, division between the rich and the poor is very deep. Domestic statistics state that around 20 per cent of the population live below the poverty line. In Belarus these figures reach the level of 40 per cent, compared to 27 per cent in Ukraine and 23 per cent in Moldova. This most significantly affects older people, children and migrants. Largely as a result of this economic and social picture, migration is a fact of life for many communities. In Moldova, about 50 per cent of those aged between 20 and 50 are thought to work abroad.

Poor socio-economic conditions aggravate the consequences of any disaster, with the degree of damage caused in the region increasing in each of the last four years. The number of earthquakes, fires, floods and wind storms is growing, but even more striking is the incidence of man-made disasters such as buildings collapsing, mine blasts and road accidents. Between January and October 2007, 27,289 people died in these types of accident and 243,000 were injured on Russian roads.

The incidence rates of Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV represent a major health problem. Ukraine has the most severe epidemic levels in Europe with 1.6 per cent of the adult population being HIV positive according to the Ukrainian National AIDS Center. Russia occupies the second place with regard to the

spread of HIV; 940,000 cases were recorded in 2006 according to UNAIDS. The level is particularly high among young people with around 40 per cent of all HIV positive cases being people aged between 15 and 29 and inmates of the penitentiary systems with approximately four per cent. Poor public awareness, risky behaviour, traditionally low demand for condoms, significant injecting drugs use and inadequate health care exacerbate the HIV threat, particularly among the young people and those who live in correctional facilities. People living with HIV (PLHIV) are still subject to stigma and discrimination. With regard to the spread of TB, Russia occupies the highest place in Europe with 83.5 cases out of 100,000 people.

Programme summary

This regional appeal comprises two programme support plans- one plan for the Russian Red Cross and one joint plan for the National Societies of Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. The programmes in the fields of disaster management, health and care, capacity building and humanitarian values will address the needs of people and communities that constitute the most vulnerable in each country. The 2008–2009 plans presented here reflect the strategy outlined in the Federation of the Future process and the work of the National Societies towards the goals of the Federation's Global Agenda, scaling up programmes, increasing the Red Cross Societies' capacity and strengthening their role in the civil society. At the same time, the plans put into practice the Istanbul Commitments adopted by the VII European Red Cross Red Crescent Regional Conference in June 2007 that address health and social care and the needs of people affected by migration.

Disaster Management

Target population: 171,225

Since 2004 the National Societies of the region have developed a number of tools and strategic directions designed to address Global Agenda Goal one. These include needs assessment, emergency response, psychosocial support, road safety promotion and cash based assistance. During 2008-2009 these tools will be shared throughout the region to enable the National Societies to focus on resilience, prevention and response within their local communities.

The National Societies have strengthened their disaster management skills and material resources necessary for an emergency relief operation responding to localized disasters. Those communities in which the National Society has a well-operating disaster management programme are more aware of possible disaster risks and how to prepare for and cope with them. Promotion of community resilience and risk reduction is to be carried out through trainings and awareness raising campaigns that focus on road safety and psychosocial support.

Health and Care

Target population: 301,110

The primary focus of activities of the National Societies in the region is health and care, addressing Global Agenda Goal two. Special attention will be given to countering the spread of infectious diseases, particularly HIV and TB. Work will also include the promotion of improved access to essential health and care services and psychosocial support for marginalized groups, especially older people and children. Programmes will follow a three fold approach of service delivery to address immediate needs, community sensitization to address discrimination and stigma, and advocacy to address policy issues at a higher level.

The actual scope of National Society work in this field goes beyond the narrative of this appeal, as increasingly National Societies successfully negotiate for receipt of state grants and support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This appeal narrates innovation that studies, pilots and disseminates best practice. It is anticipated that the support for these interventions will be

understood as a start up capital, enabling National Societies and other stakeholders to demonstrate capacity and impact as a prelude to linking up to more sustainable funding sources, and as a platform to influence policy-making and practices at higher levels.

To counter the spread of TB, the Russian Red Cross will focus on promoting the effective implementation of DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, short course) in two new regions, and more specifically, will provide social support to TB patients in order to reduce defaulter rates. Sustainability of the National Society's TB case management programme is assured through the transfer of the financial responsibility to local authorities in the two pilot regions. As in the past, on demonstration of impact, the National Society will advocate for the adoption of the programme by state budgets. Given the high rates of multi-drug resistance (MDR) in the region, the National Societies will also design a support role for MDR patients. To this end, three regional TB Services and three Russian Red Cross branches have increased their capacity to manage the control of MDR.

HIV programmes will address the epidemic by focusing on three key areas – public awareness raising on prevention and anti-discrimination, harm reduction through support to injecting drug users (especially in the later stages of HIV), and care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV). Target groups will include youth, sex workers, injecting drug users, inmates of penitentiary systems and those recently released. By implementing HIV programmes the National Societies aim to achieve a reduced risk of stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV and a reduced risk of youth contracting HIV due to better knowledge of protection. Special attention will be given to HIV positive people within penitentiary systems who will receive support in taking antiretroviral therapy in prison and on release.

Capacity Building

Target population: 146,150

The combination of declining international donor interest, domestic economic growth- particularly in Russia- and the structural vulnerability of certain segments of the population, make it even more important for National Societies of the region to be competitive, creative and efficient. The appeal covers a number of capacity building initiatives, most of which are cross-cutting throughout the programmes. These initiatives include improving advocacy and fundraising skills, empowerment, and volunteer management. Special emphasis is placed on youth and older people.

Advocacy initiatives are expected to result in policy-makers and service providers incorporating the opinion of marginalized groups, particularly older people, into their policy and budget planning process. Furthermore, empowerment activities targeting older people will contribute to an improved feeling of self-worth and self-respect within the older population, with a greater knowledge and familiarity of their rights, social interaction with their peers and increased involvement in the wider society.

Being an essential component of a well-functioning National Society, effective volunteer management will be prioritized for the capacity building agenda for the coming two years with special emphasis on attracting and retaining youth volunteers.

Principles and Humanitarian Values

Target population: 30,056,000 (including mass media awareness raising campaigns in Ukraine)

Promoting the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values is cross-cutting throughout the programmes of this appeal. The principal focus will be countering stigma and discrimination in the region. National Society/Federation research conducted with older people, migrants, children and PLHIV throughout 2005–2007, confirmed that stigma and discrimination lies at the heart of how vulnerable people experience their marginalization, and is a root cause of social exclusion.

Within this appeal, stigma and discrimination are addressed through work with volunteers and partners, through public events, messages and publications. Target groups include older people, children, PLHIV, people affected by TB (PATB), migrants and victims of human trafficking. The latter constitute a specific focus of anti-discrimination campaigns. As an outcome of the programme, irregular migrants will receive humanitarian assistance and protection at their temporary places of residence. In order to reduce the level of discrimination towards vulnerable groups, the capacity of National Societies to promote tolerance and respect for diversity needs to be increased.

Needs

A budget summary for each Global Agenda Goal is shown in the table below:

| Programmes | 2008 budget in CHF | 2009 budget in CHF | Total budget in CHF |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total Required Budget | Total Required Budget | Total Required Budget |
| Disaster Management | 963,781 | 991,676 | 1,955,457 |
| Health and Care | 3,336,590 | 2,986,303 | 6,322,893 |
| Capacity Building | 637,943 | 640,851 | 1,278,794 |
| Principles and Humanitarian Values | 270,110 | 244,070 | 514,180 |
| Coordination | 257,180 | 214,680 | 471,860 |
| Total | 5,465,604 | 5,077,580 | 10,543,184 |

Working in partnership

The National Societies in the four countries have established effective partnerships with their governments and the local authorities. Various ministries, including those of emergency, education and the Ministry of Labour in Ukraine and different social welfare services actively participate in the Red Cross activities. The Russian Red Cross has received strong support in working with PLHIV and people with TB within the state penitentiary system from the Ministry of Justice together with the federal TB and HIV institutes. Health institutions such as the National AIDS Centre, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Russian Harm Reduction Network are very much involved in the Red Cross health programmes.

The main international partners of the four National Societies are the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross supporting the region's National Societies bilaterally or multilaterally through the Federation. The Norwegian Red Cross works under an Operational Alliance agreement designed to promote the reduction of child vulnerability. The most significant international partnership outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is USAID, which is a technical assistance partner as well as a donor for TB and HIV programming. A joint refugee programme is run together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and an anti-trafficking programme with the International Organization for Migration.

Close cooperation has also been established with non-governmental organizations such as La Strada, Credinta, the Positive Movement, Fialta, Acasa and the Russian Veterans' Association.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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 Appeal, please contact:

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[Click here for the Budget summary;](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 plan for the Russian Red Cross Society and here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 plan for the Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Red Cross Societies and](#)

[Click here for the Belarus Red Cross Society planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here for the Ukraine Red Cross Society planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here for the Moldova Red Cross Society planning and resource summary matrix](#)