

Mid-Year report



Ukraine

Appeal No. MAAUA002

31/August/2011

This report covers the period from 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2011



UKRAINE. HIV peer education session in secondary school of Brovary town (Kiev Region). **Ukraine Red Cross**

In brief

Programme purpose: To reduce the number of death, injuries and impact from disasters; to reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; and to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme(s) summary:

In the reporting period the response to the Revised Plan 2011 for Ukraine has been quite limited. Therefore within framework of the Plan such activities of Ukraine Red Cross as preventing HIV/AIDS, strengthening disaster preparedness, capacity building could not be implemented due to lack of funding. However the joint IFRC/IOM project has started to work with victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova funded by European Commission. Besides, during the reporting period the Ukrainian Red Cross carried on bilateral activities of HIV programme funded by the American Red Cross. In addition, together with other partners the URCS started the anti-TB programme funded Global Funds to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 200,898, of which 15 per cent covered. The only funds received (CHF 30,640) were allocations from the above-mentioned HIV programme funded by American Red Cross earmarked for covering Kiev office costs. The overall expenditure was CHF 26,406, constituted about 86 per cent against received funding.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also:

Revised Ukraine country plan for 2010-2011

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA6700211p.pdf>

No. of people we help: In the reporting period due to lack of funding there were no active projects within the Revised Plan 2011 for Ukraine. However 10, 894 people benefited directly from the interventions of HIV project funded by American RC, and 192,000 have received indirect assistance through mass information campaigns. It is expected that the implementation of the Ukrainian Red Cross programmes in the second half of 2011 will directly target 15,400 people.

Our partners: The Ukrainian Red Cross and the IFRC are working together with a number of partners including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, American Red Cross, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Association of People Living with HIV, UNAIDS, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, PATH, WHO and IOM.

Over many years the National Society has built strong partnerships with the different ministries in the country, including the ministries of health, youth and sport, emergencies, justice and internal affairs, as well as with the State Penalty Committee.

Total number is about 120 organisations (including administration and NGOs in regions)

Context

Ukraine has been among the hardest hit nations by the recent global financial crises as a plunge in the price of steel, its main export, exacerbated a credit crunch and a sharp fall in stock prices. In 2009 the GDP in Ukraine dropped by 15 percent. In 2010 the Ukrainian economy started gradual recovering (real GDP grew by 4.1 per cent). Nevertheless, in the first half of 2011, political, economical and social situation in the country remained still complicated due to aftermath of the world finance and economic turmoil. In February housing tariffs increased by 4,6 percent, and fuel for transport by 4,3 percent. The government has raised costs of electricity for households by 15 percent. Natural gas tariffs have been increased by 26 percent, starting from 1 April 2011.

The crisis and rise in prices has a negatively effect to social life in the country. According to the State Statistics Committee, 12 million out of a population of 46 million have an average income below the minimum subsistence level of just over \$100 per month. The most affected by poverty and lack of adequate health and social care are elderly people living alone, multi-child families, street children, the disabled and marginalized people such as migrants and the homeless.

HIV and AIDS rates in Ukraine remain highest in Europe with 1.6 per cent of the general population infected. It is estimated that there are up to 300,000 injecting drug users in Ukraine, and in major cities as much as a quarter of them are thought to be infected with HIV. According to experts, injection drug use is still driving the spread of HIV but the disease is now being increasingly transmitted by mothers passing it on to their babies and through unsafe sexual behaviour among youth. Young people now represent 80 per cent of the affected people.

Another issue is human trafficking which is getting out of control in Ukraine. Experts say more than 100,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked abroad and forced into indentured labor or prostitution since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is more than in any other Eastern European country. The most vulnerable group in the Ukrainian society today are kids currently living on the streets, and/or kids that are just coming out of the orphanages. 50%-60% of them end up in some sort of a trafficked situation.

Ukraine is prone to accidents and natural calamities. An outbreak of cholera took place in Mariupol (Donetsk region) a port city at Azov Sea. A total of 24 cases of cholera and 11 cases of vibrio

carriers were registered in Mariupol in June. Swimming and fishing were banned along the Sea of Azov coastline.

The humanitarian challenges define activities of Ukraine Red Cross Society. The overall goal outlined in Ukraine Revised Plan 2011 is to ensure that the programmes and services of the Ukraine Red Cross are focused on the needs of vulnerable people, and that these activities are responsive, sustainable and of acceptable standards in performance, accountability and integrity. The Society's mission is to: protect lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering during natural disasters and technical accidents, as well as assist the health authorities and the medical services.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Community-based preparedness
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Component outcome: Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively.

Achievements

As it was mentioned earlier the disaster preparedness component within the framework of current Revised Plan for 2011 did not receive any response.

However in the connection with above-mentioned outbreak of cholera Ukraine Red Cross branches in Donetsk Region, in particular in Mariupol, distributed leaflets on main cholera symptoms and prevention at railway stations, beaches and hospitals of affected regions.

Besides, Ukrainian Red Cross has organised with support of German Red Cross and Armenian Red Cross training of trainers courses on first aid on 16-23 May in Kiev at URCS HQ. Participants of courses were First Aid trainers from Kiev, Kharkov, Donetsk, Lviv and some other cities. The trainings were conducted by facilitators from German Red Cross and Armenian Red Cross. It is planned that these trainers will train volunteers and stewards on first aid for activities during football Championship 2012 to be held in Ukraine.

Constraints or Challenges:

There were no major constraints

Health and Care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS
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Component outcome: Decreased spread of HIV in rural areas of Ukraine due to public awareness-raising and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross.

Achievements

This health and care component within the framework of current Revised Plan for 2011 did not receive any response.

However, the Ukrainian Red Cross continued implementation of HIV project bilaterally funded by the American Red Cross in four regions. These are: Volyn Region is mainly providing HIV prevention among youth in rural areas, Vinnitsa Region conducts voluntary counselling and testing in prisons, Crimea Autonomous Republic provides care and support to HIV infected people at

home, Kiev region is conducting HIV prevention in secondary schools. More specifically the following activities have been carried out.

Volyn Region

- In January 2011, HIV awareness events were held in two colonies. During these events video-shots "Clear Vision": "Stigma and discrimination towards HIV+" were demonstrated, survey aimed to determine the number of imprisoned young people aged 18-24 years who correctly identify ways of HIV transmission was conducted, educational literature on healthy lifestyle was distributed. The events were attended by representatives of the Centre of Social Services for Children, Youth and Family, an infectiologist of District Hospital.
- The youth actions under slogan "Planned choice – HIV/AIDS prevention" took place in the city of Lutsk at medical college, university "Ukraine", cooperative college, Volyn National University, youth club "Metro". During the actions free survey was conducted, easy access to condoms was provided and the leaflets "Planned choice" and stickers were distributed.
- 3 seminar-trainings were carried out by Red Cross trainers for teachers of educational institutions from project pilot areas. Peer trainings "Communication and behavioural changes. HIV/AIDS prevention" was conducted at the Medical College, University "Ukraine", 18 schools and summer camps of Volyn region.
- In May were organised few youth actions dedicated to the World AIDS Memory Day. In particular art competitions "HIV/AIDS – my life, my position" were held at central squares of Kivertsy, Kovel and Novovolynsk. The authors of the best pictures were awarded by the prizes of city NGOs. On May 16, 2011 the Candle March dedicated to World AIDS Memory Day took place in Lutsk.

Vinnitsa Region

- In the four prisons 733 persons were examined, counselled considering pre and post-test counselling for HIV by psychologist and specific counselling by infectiologist, phisiatrician concerning HIV prevention, treatment, clinical and laboratory studies, other infectious and opportunistic diseases. Besides, prisoners received hygienic kits, vitamins, drugs. HIV positive inmates (51 persons) receiving ARV-therapy were supplied with food parcels.
- On March 23, 2011 the information action "HIV and TB" dedicated to the World TB Day was conducted among the inmates of Colony no. 39. The lectures for inmates were carried out by phthisiatrician, infectiologist, representatives of Department and doctors from medical unit of the Colony. 60 inmates took part in the action. The informational materials were distributed.

Crimea Autonomous Republic

- At the basis of ICC «Krokus» in Simferopol clients receive consultations of psychologist and lawyer, medico-social services. The information counselling hot line is operating in regional committee. During the reporting period 1597 visits to ICC were registered. The self-support groups for PLWH were working in Simferopol, Yalta and Feodosiya.
- All project staff members were trained at seminars (project staff, Red Cross staff, PLWH and caregivers) in the framework of project and took part at the training carried out by Coalition of HIV-services organisation and All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH. The seminars for project staff and caregivers were held during the reporting period.
- On June 1, 2011 the Red Cross volunteers prepared and carried out an action on gathering of toy for HIV+ children dedicated to the World Children Day.
- During the reporting period the visiting nurses provided home-based care services to 180 clients, 10 of them died due to the AIDS diagnosis, 814 services were provided. 120 clients of the project were supplied with food parcels on monthly base. 73 clients improved their quality of nutrition and gained weight.

Kiev Region

- In February 2011, HIV events dedicated to St. Valentine's day took place in the three pilot districts Bila Tserkva, Brovary and Borodyanka in cooperation with partner organizations and state authorities. All activities were aimed to promote healthy lifestyle, prevention of

HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol addiction, smoking. Different quizzes, games, lottery were mixed with performances of art groups. Condoms, educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention were distributed. Similar events were conducted in the connection of Day of Youth and World AIDS Memorial Day.

- Two seminars - trainings were held for the most active 38 volunteers from among students. These trained volunteers-instructors later conducted 543 training sessions in the three pilot districts. Some 5536 young people were covered by this "peer" program.
- During May, a brain-ringing game "What do you know about HIV/AIDS?" was carried out in schools and colleges in Bila Tserkva district.

Besides, in the first part of 2011, Ukraine Red Cross together with other NGOs started the implementation of the project on combating TB, funded by Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Ukraine has received a grant of GF at end of 2010). The National Society is a sub-principal recipient covering the component on advocacy, communication and social mobilization. The project is designed for 5 years. In particular in June 2011, the National Society organized two trainings for visiting nurses and other Red Cross workers (60 participants in each training course).

Organizational Development

Programme component 1: Visiting nurses services capacity development

Component outcome: The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses services has been improved.

Achievements:

During the reporting period the Organisational Development component within the framework of current Ukraine Revised Plan for 2011 did not receive any response. Therefore there were no a project for improving the quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses service.

Programme component 2: Anti-trafficking

Component outcome: Capacity of Red Cross in countering human trafficking has been increased

Achievements:

In April-June 2011, the joint IFRC/IOM project on work with victims of human trafficking (EUR 800,000, 24 months) funded by European Commission has been started in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In particular in Ukraine the operational contract with Ukraine Red Cross was signed. Project staff has been put in place and action plan was updated.

Working in partnership

The Ukraine Red Cross works closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional, and local – in its auxiliary role in providing humanitarian relief. The NS has good cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Emergencies, the Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs, and the State Penalty Committee. The Ukrainian Red Cross is a member of several commissions of the government and the president of Ukraine, such as the commission on humanitarian assistance, commission on citizenship etc. In April 2011, URCS has concluded with Ministry of Emergency an agreement on cooperation in providing international humanitarian aid.

The National Society further develops relations with partner Red Cross societies. On 25 February the Ukrainian Red Cross Society leadership organized a meeting with delegation of German Red Cross headed by Vice-President Dr. Volkmar Schon. The parties discussed possibilities of spreading cooperation on volunteering. In particular at present a joint volunteer cooperation project is being implemented in Luhansk Region. The idea is to spread it to Donetsk, Vinnitsa and Odessa Regions.

The President of Ukraine Red Cross Dr. Ivan Usichenko visited Israel on 20-23 June on invitation of Israeli National Society Magen David Adom. The purpose of the visit was to establish

cooperation between the two National Societies. The parties have agreed to conclude an agreement on cooperation in such spheres as developing social-medical centres, providing first aid education and blood donation.

The International Federation provides methodological and consultative support to the Ukrainian Red Cross aiming to strengthen the National Societies' capacity in implementing HIV and AIDS, TB, FA and other programmes, as well as in coordination relations with key operational agencies or organizations (UN, NGOs and others). In particular within the above mentioned joint IFRC/IOM project on work with victims of human trafficking a coordination meeting between IOM and IFRC was held in Kiev in June 2011.

Contributing to longer-term impact

During the reporting period senior staff from the Ukrainian Red Cross head-quarters organised regular visits to the field to ensure sharing of experience and communication with the branches. In particular, regular monitoring was conducted in the course of implementing HIV project funded by the American Red Cross in Vinnitsa, Volyn, Kiev regions and Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Representative of IFRC reference centre on first aid, Khasan Paskal visited Ukraine Red Cross on 2-6 February with monitoring purpose. The National Society has received a First Aid certificate from the reference centre.

The National Society takes into account the gender balance issue in all its projects and activities; particularly the participation of women in the decision-making process, project implementation, planning, international conferences/ workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities (HIV and AIDS, TB, harm reduction activities). The National Society is starting to develop a system for collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data on its membership, volunteers and staff and have relevant tools to assist staff and volunteers in translating existing policies into practice.

Looking ahead

Taking into consideration that Ukraine has the most severe AIDS epidemic in Europe, the Ukraine Red Cross programme priorities in the coming period will include HIV prevention activities with an aim to inform target groups of young people in order to change their attitude and behaviour regarding safe sex, discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as implementation of harm reduction projects. In particular this will be done within the framework of the HIV project funded by the American Red Cross. Operational contract was signed between Ukraine Red Cross and IFRC for continuation of HIV project funded by American Red Cross for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Using the network of visiting nurses, medical-social centres and hospitals the Ukraine Red Cross will continue their anti-trafficking activities. Together with IFRC, Belarusian Red Cross, Moldova Red Cross and IOM, the National Society will provide implementation of the joint project aiming at strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking.

The Ukraine Red Cross will continue the work aimed at further modernization of the Visiting Nurses System. The main activities will be focused on further improving standards of services provision and increasing the qualification of the visiting nurses to meet all the needs of people receiving assistance on the permanent base.

As Ukraine is prone to natural disasters and technology accidents the another priority will be disaster management focused on improving disaster preparedness and response skills of the National Society staff and volunteers through training, competitions and first aid education, as

well as further development of Red Cross infrastructure, including creation of a disaster preparedness centre. The Federation and Ukraine Red Cross will seek necessary funding for these important projects.

How we work

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

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