

Revised Plan 2011



Ukraine

Executive summary



The second largest country in Europe, Ukraine is a republic that gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. After a difficult transition period to the market economy the country remains one of the poorest in Europe, despite the ostentatious wealth that one sees in the large cities. Currently, the main humanitarian challenges in Ukraine, due to the political, economic, and social situation, are related to poverty, health and disasters. Over a quarter of the population live below the poverty line and lack adequate health and social care. The most vulnerable are elderly people living alone, multi-child families, street children, people with disabilities, and marginalized people such as migrants, homeless people, people living with HIV,

alcoholics and drug users. The increase in TB and the most severe HIV epidemic in Europe add to the challenges for the society and the government, and as these diseases prey on the poorest and most vulnerable both outbreaks are spreading and converging. Ukraine is also prone to natural and man-made disasters such as frequent flooding, harsh winters, storms, the threat of avian flu, road accidents, mine disasters and the legacy of the Chernobyl disaster (see separate plan).

These humanitarian challenges in Ukraine define the Ukrainian Red Cross priorities. The overall goal is to ensure that the programmes and services of the Ukrainian 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. The National Society's partners include the German, the French and the Italian Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The global crisis had immediate and massive effects on Ukraine. Its economy is heavily dependent on steel, which was not needed as construction world-wide slumped. Gas transshipment, another big earner, was damaged by the so-called "gas wars" with Russia. The currency tumbled and many banks went out of business. Those who had borrowed cheap dollars in mid-2008 (when the dollar was trading at 4.74 Hrivna to one dollar), faced immediate hardship when the dollar reached 8 Hrivna.

Health budgets have been hit particularly hard, as have other welfare payments. There are some signs that the large loans from the IMF have helped ease the situation somewhat, but Ukraine is far, far from the confident, bustling place it was when hundreds of thousands took to the streets in the "Orange Revolution" of 2004. The Federation and Ukraine Red Cross is closely monitoring the situation of the most vulnerable, and has already noticed a sharp increase in the amount of requests for clothes, shoes, and other material aid.

At its General Assembly in 2009, the International Federation adopted *Strategy 2020* to guide its work and that of National Societies both domestically and globally. Focussing on "saving lives and changing minds", *S2020* calls on national societies, as effective auxiliaries to the public authorities in

the humanitarian field, to provide high quality services within the core mandates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to influence behaviours, promote changes in attitudes and mindsets, and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to play a lead role in advocating for meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities.”

The International Federation secretariat plan 2010-2011 envisages support to the Ukrainian Red Cross in key areas. It directly corresponds to the Strategy 2020 aims to save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery, to enable healthy and safe living, and to promote social inclusion. The outcomes to be achieved by the end of the programme period will include:

- By strengthening its disaster preparedness the society will contribute to the elimination of the impact of natural and other disasters and socio-economic crisis on communities, especially the most vulnerable populations.
- The National Society will significantly contribute towards health education of youth and improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and people living with HIV. The National Society will also strengthen its preparedness for human pandemics.
- The society will build its capacity by improving the quality of services offered by the Visiting Nurses Service.

The total 2011 budget is CHF 0.2 million.

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

Country context

Ukraine is the largest country entirely within Europe. Its population represents 7.3 per cent of the population of Europe and 1 per cent of the world population. Originally the seat of the first Slavic state, Kievan Rus in the 10th century, it was subsumed first into Lithuania, then Poland and finally into Russia. It became independent in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, although it had a brief period of independence in 1918, the year the Ukraine Red Cross was first established, before being assimilated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

The country has a pronounced east-west division running approximately along the course of the Dnieper River. The west is generally more rural, Ukrainian-speaking and has closer ties with Western Europe, bordering Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The east is the Russian-speaking industrial heartland, bordered partly by Belarus but mostly by Russia. In the middle is the capital, Kiev, scene of the Orange Revolution in 2004 that signaled a westward shift in Ukraine's aspirations. The southern peninsula of Crimea, gifted to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in the 1950s is predominantly Russian-speaking, and home to the Crimean Tatars – 250,000 of this group have returned to Ukraine following their expulsion to Central Asia by Stalin in 1944.

The country is deeply scarred by the two man-made famines in the 1920s and 1930s which killed up to eight million people. The Second World War, or “great patriotic war”, also looms large on the collective consciousness. It claimed millions more lives, as did Stalin's repressions that both preceded and followed the war.

Ukraine is home to the Chernobyl nuclear power station which exploded in 1986 leading to the contamination of vast tracts of some of Europe's most fertile land in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and sending radioactive material as far away as northern Scandinavia. Some observers maintain that the disaster – and the Soviet authorities' casual response to it – hastened the breakup of the USSR. Since 1991, the International Federation has been running the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP), which continues to provide thyroid gland screening and psychological support to 90,000 people in the affected regions via six mobile diagnostic laboratories. A separate plan has been produced for CHARP.

Ukraine's current humanitarian challenges result from its geopolitical position and its recent and medium-term history. The break-up of the Soviet Union caused massive financial instability and socio-economic dislocation. Old diseases like Tuberculosis (TB) re-emerged with a vengeance, and new diseases like HIV climbed to reach the highest rates in Europe on the back of an explosion of

injecting drug use made possible by dramatically increased supply of heroin from Central Asia and the opening of borders.

The opening of some borders has led to a surge of migration through Ukraine into the new EU nations; migrants from China, Iraq, Afghanistan and many more countries mass on Ukraine's western borders. Detained undocumented migrants very often face cultural and language barriers, discrimination and violence. Besides, there is high risk of spreading such diseases as HIV and TB among this vulnerable group of people. The migrants kept in detention centers need humanitarian assistance, in particular provision of sanitary condition, as well as psychosocial and legal support.

Development Indicators		UKRAINE	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	46.6	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	6,914
Surface area (square km)	603,700	GDP real growth (%)	7.3 (2007)
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	6.9	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	6.4
Annual rate of natural increase of the population (%) 2005-2010	-0.6	Inflation (consumer prices %)	12.3 (2009)
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	99.7	Infant mortality rate (per 100,000)	12.4
Gender-related development index rate (GDI)	69	Life expectancy at birth (female/ male)	73/ 62
Human development index value (HDI)	0.796	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	1.6
Human development index rate (HDI)	84	People living with HIV aged 15-49	440,000
Population living below national poverty line (%)	19.5	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	114(2006)
Gender empowerment measure rank (GEM)	86	Health spending as % of GDP	7
Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit, Human Development Report 2009, the global Fund			

The international human rights organization Amnesty International remarks that there are growing cases of racisms, xenophobia and in general intolerance against foreigners and migrants in Ukraine. Meanwhile the bright lights of the EU tempt many Ukrainians to leave the country. Many are seduced by the promise of easy work and fall pray to people traffickers. Both men and women are exploited for their physical labour, particularly in the sex and construction industries. Huge stigma attached to the perceived "failure" of the trafficked makes reintegration into their home communities difficult if not impossible, particularly for women who escape or are rescued from sexual slavery.

Ukraine's transition from a Soviet state to an independent European nation has been vastly more difficult than for its western neighbours or for the Baltic States. Russian leaders from Peter and

Catherine the Great to Stalin and Gorbachev understood that there could be no Russian empire without Ukraine.

Country disasters		UKRAINE	
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people	
Flood	March 2001	300,000	
Flood	July 2008	224,725	
Flood	July 2010	65,000	
Extreme temperature	January 2006	59,600	
Storm	July 2000	39,010	
Flood	February 2005	8,340	
Storm	July 2007	7,552	

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

The Orange Revolution of 2004 was a remarkable lurch from centuries of Russian domination, and sudden demands for market rates for Russian gas, the switching off of supplies in the middle of 2005's and 2009 freezing winters showed the rocky path that independent Ukraine must tread.

The elections of 2009 brought a Russian-leaning president (Viktor Yanukovitch, who lost the disputed 2004 election) to power. A swift rapprochement with Russia followed which has seen economic indicators improve, although critics point to media restrictions and a general tightening of personal liberties.

The collapse of the former command economy also hit Ukraine particularly hard as traditional markets disappeared. Ukraine's heavy industries were chronically unfit for restructuring, focusing as they did on steel, shipbuilding, weaponry, and machine-tool manufacturing – all of which relied on outdated technology, cheap energy, and big subsidies.

Ukraine has been among the nations hardest hit by global economy and financial turmoil started at the end of 2008. According to information of the State Statistics Committee the industrial output in Ukraine decreased by 32.8 per cent in the period January-February 2009 compared to January-February 2008. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) estimated that Ukrainian economy would shrink by 10 per cent in 2009.

Humanitarian challenges are likely to remain high in Ukraine as its economy slows and inflation remains high. The extension of the "Schengen curtain" to all the new EU member states effectively means that once the Ukrainian border is crossed illegal migrants have passport-free access to almost 30 countries; Ukraine's long western border makes it the preferred entry point.

The use of injected drugs shows no signs of slowing, and while the level of education on HIV transmission is quite good, harm reduction and drug substitution therapies could be more widely available.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is the largest voluntary humanitarian organization in Ukraine with a clearly defined authority and scope of multilateral humanitarian activities and social services in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people. Working closely with the International Federation, the National Society receives assistance from sister societies and donors to implement its programmes.

In the disaster management sphere the latest activities included humanitarian assistance for people affected by flooding in Crimea, in Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi Regions (2008, 2010), harsh winter and storms in Ukraine, and mine blasts in Donetsk supported by the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). In late July 2008 heavy rains brought flooding to western Ukraine killing over thirty people and damaging over 40,000 houses. A response operation by the National Society, supported by an emergency appeal launched for Ukraine and Moldova by the International Federation, was completed in May 2009, supplying emergency food aid, ensuring affected populations have bedding and blankets, kitchen tools, heaters and providing psychosocial support to people, in what were already poverty-ravished regions. A new DREF operation is under way in Western Ukraine to combat the effects of summer floods.

As Ukraine is prone to natural and technical calamities the disaster preparedness will remain among the highest priorities of the Ukrainian Red Cross in 2010-2011, aiming to provide efficient delivery of emergency response and recovery assistance for at high-risk communities. The key areas of recovery are new issues for the Ukrainian Red Cross and require even more attention. This will include increasing capacity in livelihoods, shelter, public health in emergencies, water and sanitation and new approaches to early recovery such as cash distribution for communities as well as assisting the community in effectively restoring or improving their pre-disaster conditions. Besides, special attention will be paid to the promotion and dissemination of International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) by conducting seminars and trainings for Red Cross workers and volunteers involved in disaster management activities. The National Society initiated the creation of an inter-ministry group which will update local legislation to be in conformity with IDRL.

The National Society will also strengthen its disaster preparedness capacity through reinforcing the disaster centre and replenishing its disaster relief fund and emergency stocks in each region. The International Federation's office in Kiev and the zone office in Budapest will help define the role of the National Society as auxiliary to the government in the national disaster management framework, in particular in the area of disaster preparedness and response and civil protection. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency the current Ukrainian Red Cross disaster management plan will be updated and recognized by the government.

The society will take necessary measures to ensure that a sufficient number of trained staff and volunteers are ready for action in case of disaster through regular participation in the regional disaster management working meetings and workshops on psychosocial support, shelter and relief and/ or lessons learned from relief operations. In the coming year the National Society is planning to include new components in its disaster response educational courses – psychosocial support (PSS), avian flu and issues of recovery. It is planned that at least 75 per cent of National Society trained staff who can be involved in disaster operations will understand and apply SPHERE standards and the International Federation's standardized guidelines for effective response. A Federation-trained Ukraine RC staff member is assisting the Regional Disaster Response Team with the current floods operation.

The National Society will explore funding possibilities to train volunteers to render first aid at home, at work, and at mass events specifically the Europe 2012 football championships in Kiev, Lviv, Kharkiv and Donetsk. At the same time, a nationwide road safety campaign will be undertaken to reduce the carnage on the roads and make Ukraine a safer place for locals and visitors.

The increase in incidence of HIV and AIDS in Ukraine, which is officially marked as the most severe epidemic in Europe, with an estimated 440,000 people living with HIV is another challenge for the population that the National Society is trying to address. With an adult HIV prevalence of 1.6% [1.1-2.0%] in 2007, Ukraine has the highest prevalence in all of Europe. Between 38.5% and 50.3% of injecting drug users in Ukraine are believed to be living with HIV. As of January 2009, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health had registered more than 141,277 cases. With a rapid growth in new cases, including increases in heterosexual transmission, there is a credible risk that within the next five years, Ukraine's concentrated HIV epidemic will develop into a generalized epidemic, sustained by new infections in the general population. It is estimated that by 2014, approximately 3.5 per cent of Ukraine's adult population, or 820,000 people, may be living with HIV¹.

¹ Source: <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

Recent increases in condom prices in Ukraine have caused concerns about a possible corresponding rise in the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Since October 2008, the price of condoms in Ukraine has increased by 40 per cent to 60 per cent, possibly as a result of the declining value of Ukrainian currency. The price increases could particularly affect young people because they are the country's major condom purchasers despite having the least money to spend. Certain experience has been gained on the prevention of HIV through projects implemented between 2002-2007 in the main cities of Ukraine with funding from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) through the International Federation and from the Netherlands Red Cross on a bilateral basis. The HIV project funded by the American Red Cross was started in 2009. This project is being implemented in 3 regions on a bilateral basis.

The plan 2010-2011 envisages replication of the HIV projects, but this time in rural areas of six selected regions. It includes training of staff and volunteers to conduct HIV awareness campaigns and peer education aiming to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS.

In 2010, Ukraine RC and the Federation, funded by partner NSs and the Lars Amundsen Foundation produced a film on HIV, and services provided by Ukraine Red Cross Visiting Nurses. His can be viewed at <http://dustandscratchesfilms.com/people-like-us/> (The film was premiered at the 2010 International AIDS conference in Vienna).

The Ukraine Red Cross was one of the first European Red Cross National Societies that joined the Global Alliance on HIV. Membership of the alliance means the Ukrainian Red Cross has the possibility to scale up its HIV related activities by introducing best experiences and through cooperation with other members.

Some pilot activities on harm reduction have started and will be further developed if funding available. The project aims to decrease the spread of HIV among injecting drug users (IDUs). Since 2005 the French Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross have been implementing together with the Ukrainian Red Cross this project and as a result IDUs have been regularly visiting the Red Cross needle exchange point. Harm reduction is recognized as one of the priorities at the level of Ukrainian Red Cross governing board.

Under the floods response operation, two vans were purchased for use by mobile repair teams (five craftsmen providing light repairs and a visiting nurse giving psychosocial support). These vans were donated to the Ukrainian Red Cross to be used in harm reduction programmes and to be equipped as mobile harm reduction centres.

The home based care for people living with HIV is another service provided by visiting nurses. This service, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria via the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine has been provided in cooperation with the People Living with HIV Association so far only in 12 regions including Kiev and Odessa where the needs are the greatest and capacities of the National Society most adequate. However there is still room for more activities in this area and if funding available, the National Society is planning to increase it in 2010-2011.

At present a lot of organizations in Ukraine are working in the field of HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and chemical dependences prevention, however, their efforts remain isolated and poorly coordinated. In such circumstances the priority for the Ukrainian Red Cross is to build partnership with leading HIV and AIDS NGOs and international agencies. It could be achieved with support from the International Federation and other National Societies from across the world.

Over recent years Ukraine experienced outbreaks of avian influenza in several regions of the country. The National Society through support from the International Federation and in close cooperation with the ministries of emergency, agriculture, and education implemented a few projects to withstand the avian influenza pandemic. The society has improved its capacity for human pandemic response, especially during the recent H1N1 influenza pandemic. The H2P project supported by USAID was started in July 2009 and successfully completed in September 2010.

In 2010-2011 the Ukraine Red Cross will develop and strengthen the capacities and structure of the National Society to establish strong youth and volunteer recruitment/ retention systems as a form of civic participation. This will help address social problems in local communities, by involving youth in the training of the population in first aid and in HIV prevention activities.

The Ukraine Red Cross will also continue addressing the needs of elderly people living often alone and isolated in their homes. In doing so it puts great emphasis on further developing its Visiting Nurses Service (VNS). This service involves at present 3,200 trained nurses. The government allocates money for nurses' salary but the National Society provides all other elements for the programme, such as medical kits, funds for transport, training for nurses and information materials. In recent years significant support has come from DFID, the Lars Amundsen Foundation and the International Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) which allowed the modernization of about 50 per cent of the service. The National Society and the International Federation will seek assistance to improve the rest of the service.

Using the network of visiting nurses, medical-social centers and hospitals the Ukraine Red Cross will expand their anti-trafficking activities. The National Society is a part of the national referral mechanism for support of victims of trafficking which will ensure that the latter are timely identified and have access to the available national support mechanisms. Together with IFRC, Belarus RC, Moldovan RC, IOM the Ukraine RC has submitted an application to EU seeking a grant for a joint project aiming at strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Another important concern of the Ukrainian Red Cross is raising humanitarian values, particularly in fighting stigmatization of people living with HIV through access to knowledge that may change perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards these people. The National Society implemented projects with support of the Swedish Red Cross through the International Federation and the Empress Shoken Fund. The positive experience obtained from implementing these projects can be replicated in future activities. Besides it is important to respond to other forms of discrimination in Ukraine, in particular xenophobia. The Ukrainian Red Cross has enough human resources to carry out national information campaigns. This will help to improve the existing cooperation with partner organizations and to create new ones. It will also raise the trust of civil society towards the Ukrainian Red Cross and help to form positive attitudes towards the most vulnerable.

Another priority will be to protect the rights of irregular migrants detained in accommodation centres. According to UN statistics, Ukraine occupies fourth place in international migration, at the epicenter of international migration processes as a result of the expanding eastwards of the EU. The cohort includes those deported from Poland, Romania and new member states as well as undocumented migrants from south and central Asia, China and the Middle East. This target group needs to receive humanitarian, psychological and legal support.

The Ukraine Red Cross in cooperation with the regional ICRC delegation and state authorities provided assistance to the undocumented migrants detained in accommodation centres. Besides, the Ukraine Red Cross Society has concluded an agreement with the authorities for regular visits to migrants in penitentiary institutions by Red Cross personnel. This has allowed them to run limited programmes in favor of migrants living with TB and HIV, among other activities. Coordination meetings with the state archive authorities, the ministries of interior, the state committees on nationalities and migrations, and the state security services are regularly held.

Tracing, International Humanitarian Law and information programmes are implemented also with support from ICRC (reduced in recent years and the ICRC reorganizes). The International Committee has expressed a willingness to continue some cooperation between with the National Society, including support to tracing services and to the *Education of Humanitarian Law* programme.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

It is expected that the implementation of the current plan will directly reach 459,200 people per year. Programme implementation will directly benefit residents of high-risk communities, people affected

by man-made and natural disasters, elderly people living alone and people with disabilities, teachers, students, schoolchildren, people living with HIV, National Society staff and volunteers and the general public, particularly through mass information campaigns as mentioned.

Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of high-risk communities, living in the most flooded areas and those most prone to road accidents, people affected by technological and natural disasters, elderly people living alone and people with disabilities, students, schoolchildren and multi-child families 	22,000
Health and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 15- 24 years - HIV awareness programme General population of four pilot regions (human pandemic preparedness) 	18,000 416,000
Organizational development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting nurses, VNS clients RC workers, victims of trafficking 	3,200 200

Table 3: Target populations of Ukraine Red Cross programmes in 2010-2011

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 65,897.

The disaster management capacity of Ukraine Red Cross was strongly tested in the summer of 2008 when it had to respond to devastating floods in the west of the country. The Ukraine Red Cross provided swift and relevant assistance to the affected people in the immediate aftermath of the floods, and lasting benefit through mobile repair teams. Its standing with communities and with the government was greatly enhanced. Whilst some 1.2 million Swiss francs were raised via a Federation appeal, the Ukraine Red Cross received twice that amount in in-kind and cash donations locally. Apart from enhancing its disaster response capacity, the response to the floods also gave the National Society new impetus for fund-raising opportunities. When further floods hit in 2010 in the same region the Society was able to respond immediately, with capable personnel and even stronger links with local authorities.

The total number of people reached over the two years will be 44,000, with 12,740 of them being male and 31,260 female. This target group will have access to reliable information, and will receive social and humanitarian assistance as necessary.

Programme component 1: Community-based preparedness
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.

The National Society will ensure that at least five community-based disaster preparedness programmes targeting high-risk communities are in place. At least five per cent of target communities will be covered by community-based disaster preparedness and response programmes. Disaster affected populations, including those, who live in avian flu-prone regions; especially people with disabilities, elderly people living alone, homeless people and multi-child

families will have access to reliable information, and will receive social and humanitarian assistance. These activities will be closely linked with other programmes of the National Society. Trained young volunteers and Red Cross visiting nurses will be actively involved in raising the awareness of communities on hazards and strengthening their abilities to respond to disasters effectively.

The National Society will develop a case study based on the experience obtained in the field of disaster management with a special emphasis on such innovating areas as psychosocial support, and the use of cash distribution during relief operations. Lessons learned will be shared internally in the above-mentioned community-based disaster preparedness programmes and more widely with other partners.

b) Potential risks and challenges

To implement projects funded by international donors it is necessary to register all the money and other supplies with the Humanitarian Commission of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine in order to be exempt from paying taxes. But sometimes this procedure of obtaining certification can last several months, which leads to delays in project implementation.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The health and care programme budget is CHF 25,000.

In 2010-2011, the Ukrainian Red Cross will aim at reducing youth vulnerability towards HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and drug abuse in rural areas of three selected regions through preventive activities. The direct beneficiaries are people aged 15-49 living in the country. The male beneficiaries make up 6,000, and the female 12,000 of the total 18,000 people per year.

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

The activities of the Ukrainian Red Cross under this component will aim at reducing youth vulnerability towards HIV and AIDS, STIs and drug abuse in rural areas of six selected regions through preventive activities. At present a lot of organizations in Ukraine are working in the field of HIV, sexually transmitted infections and chemical dependences prevention. However, their efforts are focused mainly on urban areas, especially big cities, and therefore rural villages are left out of attention. To avoid overlapping the Ukraine Red Cross is planning to work on HIV prevention in rural areas. The planned campaign is focused on raising public awareness of HIV and AIDS, healthy lifestyle, responsible sexual behavior, safer sex messages, condom use, and rejection of chemical substance abuse. It is expected that the number of people seeking HIV counseling and testing as well as the number of people seeking treatment will increase.

b) Potential risks and challenges

Certain challenges still exist in recruiting qualified people for programme implementation. Sometimes staff and volunteers themselves lack a positive attitude towards PLHIV.

In the human pandemic preparedness component the challenges can be linked with acceptance by the government (memorandum of understanding), testing of messages by the communities without spreading panic, acceptance of the Ukrainian Red Cross lead role by other stakeholders, involvement of qualified trainers/experts, achievement of a widespread understanding of humanitarian pandemic issues at regional level.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The organizational development/ capacity building programme budget is CHF 110,000.

Some 3,200 Red Cross visiting nurses will increase their skills under the programme component 1.

Under component 2 some 100 visiting nurses and 40 RC workers will be trained for countering human trafficking and helping victims of trafficking (60 persons annually)

Programme component 1: Visiting nurses services capacity development
Component outcome: The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses services has been improved.

In Ukraine the number of pensioners is growing each month. More elderly people live separately from their children and require assistance. In addition to social and medical assistance elderly people should have access to legal assistance as well.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society will continue to strengthen its organizational capacity to respond effectively to the needs of these vulnerable people. Priority will be given to the Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) which is an integral and vital part of the National Society's long-term potential. The objective is to raise the quality of services provided by the VNS through upgrading its resource and infrastructure base. It is planned that in 2010-2011 the Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses will be supplied with first-aid kits, bicycles and trained to provide basic legal, social and psychological support to their clients, expanding the range of services offered. In addition, safety rules will be developed to reduce the number of accidents occurring at work, increasing the safety of nurses. There are also envisaged discussions with some National Societies in Europe on peer support.

Programme component 2: Anti-trafficking
Component outcome: Capacity of Red Cross in countering human trafficking has been increased

The project will increase the involvement of the Red Cross in countering trafficking and use the national societies extensive network of visiting nurses and other relevant staff to increase the outreach of the national referral mechanism. By targeted training through the action, community nurses and other Red Cross staff will increase their qualification to identify and refer victims of trafficking as well as to facilitate their rehabilitation. While being beneficiaries of capacity building measures at first, throughout the action they will be involved as facilitators of knowledge.

b) Potential risks and challenges

The potential challenges include the following:

- ◆ Relevant expertise is available, preferably in-country to work with the youth.
- ◆ In the VNS it is important that the government would continue providing salaries for the visiting nurses.
- ◆ Relevant funding for anti-trafficking capacity building and activities is not provided

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

A Federation representative office was established in Kiev in 1990, and continues to assist the Ukrainian Red Cross to reduce vulnerability in the country through relief and development, fund-

raising and capacity building programmes. The Federation Representative for Belarus and Ukraine is based in Minsk, but visits Kiev at least twice a month. The CHARP programme coordinator works out of the Kiev office, and there is a health programme manager, a finance officer, an office administrator and a driver. The office is located in the Ukrainian Red Cross central committee premises. It has proved effective in the past in introducing the Ukrainian Red Cross to several sources of revenue, and has assisted the National Society in gaining access to international organizations. As both organizations are located in the same premises, information-sharing and decision-making is facilitated.

Further technical support is provided through combining the expertise of experienced staff with regionally/ internationally recruited expertise from the Federation regional representation in Moscow and the zone office in Budapest.

The Federation priority is to assist the Ukrainian Red Cross to become a stronger organization delivering better services aimed at preventing and alleviating suffering. Specifically, to:

- Strengthen diversification and search for new sources of funding to ensure both the stable functioning of organizational structures and the implementation of statutory functions
- Improve financial management of the National Society
- Build volunteer-based services
- Strengthen governance and management
- Strengthen the youth participation in the Ukrainian Red Cross
- Adopt policies to promote the training, meaningful involvement and recognition of young people and volunteers and introduce required amendments to the statutes of the National Society
- Strengthening the Visiting Nurses Service and the medical-social centres as the key element of branch development
- Increase sustainability through increased local fund-raising capacity
- Build partnerships with the government, and in-country and international organizations
- Strengthen its response to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in accordance with the Federation Policy on Migration and auxiliary role to the government in the field of migration.
- Build close relationships and cooperation with the civil society to the benefit of vulnerable migrants through joint advocacy campaigns, joint initiatives, and establishment of referral mechanisms

In the coming years, the main goal of the International Federation's support to the National Society will be to help it become a well-functioning organization capable of implementing the Federation's Strategy 2020 adopted at the General Assembly in Nairobi in November 2009.

In line with *Strategy 2020* and other policy decisions of made by statutory meetings and bodies² as well as reviews undertaken by Europe Zone Office of its approach to provision of support to national societies, the Federation will provide core membership services and technical support to national societies.

In addition, the Federation will provide support to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society to roll out *Strategy 2020* and integrate it into its strategic development plan. It will also contribute to the development and data input for the Federation-wide planning and reporting system.

b) Partnership development and coordination

² The International Federation's General Assembly, the Governing Board committees, the Council of Delegates, the International Conference and the European Red Cross and Red Cross Conference."

The International Federation provides methodological and consultative support for the Ukrainian Red Cross to strengthen the National Societies' capacity to implement HIV and AIDS and community health programmes. In 2003-2009 there were numerous seminars and trainings, guidelines, codes of practices for volunteers and staff. The preparation of events for the key dates (World TB and AIDS Days) has been organized in close contact with responsible staff from the International Federation's secretariat. The International Federation supports the work of *PassItOn* electronic forum, which enables to share best practices with more than 180 National Societies.

The Ukrainian Red Cross project activities were designed on the basis of a complex approach, using the considerable experience gained by the National Society and the International Federation (particularly best practices on reducing stigma and discrimination), which is reflected in the combination of various forms of work, such as seminars, discussions, presentations, briefings, round tables, and PR events, and using the motivation of local communities to participate in initiatives responding to stigma and discrimination aimed at changing negative behavioural practices.

Partnership with international organizations (it has joint programmes with UNHCR, IOM, and partner National Societies) and access to international experience and know-how provide solid foundation for further activities. The Ukrainian Red Cross also 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 or the commission on citizenship. It has also developed partnerships with commercial companies who have donated cash and in-kind resources.

In 2010-2011, the International Federation will continue to concentrate on encouraging the Ukrainian Red Cross to become a well-functioning organization with an increased capacity to independently design, manage and implement more focused and responsive programmes primarily based on the use of local resources.

In so doing, the Federation secretariat will play a role as a platform of information, communication and know-how exchange to all partners involved, raising awareness for sensitive and critical issues and bringing both sister societies and external partners to the table to discuss matters together and to try to find common complementary solutions.

In line with the Strategies 2010 and 2020, the Strategy for Change, the long-term perspective of the International Federation is to phase out of the region once the National Society is able to take over full responsibility for programme development and financing. However, due to the continuing socio-economic dislocation, the timeframe to achieve this remains undefined, and the Federation intends to maintain its support to the Ukrainian Red Cross as long as this is considered necessary by the Federation and the National Society.

c) Representation and Advocacy

The secretariat will be a strategic adviser both for the Ukrainian Red Cross and its partners. This function of the Federation secretariat will be complemented by its roles to represent the Ukrainian Red Cross in front of governments and international organizations and to help position the National Society. It will also continue to open doors for the Ukrainian Red Cross and other National Societies in the sub-region to international organizations in Kiev and abroad.

International representation and advocacy will be provided through the Federation zone office in Budapest, with active involvement of the offices in Moscow and Kiev. Approaching local governments, UN agencies, diplomatic missions, banks, NGOs and other organizations the Federation representations will raise the profile of the Ukrainian Red Cross and will seek new funding opportunities for the National Society in order to promote the society's capacity building and programme activities. In particular it is planned to approach EU representation in Ukraine for providing support to disaster management and principles and values programmes, local branch of Lions Club International for support to first-aid project and USAID for funds to HIV projects.

The Federation representative office in Kiev has regular high-level meetings with UNDP, the EU, IOM, UNICEF, and several embassies. An important international event was the launch of the

inclusion of Ukrainian Red Cross into the global network Global Alliance on HIV that was held in April 2009 in Kiev. The forum brought together representatives of National Societies from Eastern Europe, the Ukraine government, international organizations and NGOs which are dealing with HIV activities.

d) Other areas

The International Federation's representative office in Kiev provides technical support and advice also in designing and implementing some bilateral projects run by the Ukrainian Red Cross, for instance the HIV project supported by the American Red Cross.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

The Ukraine Red Cross supports civil society initiatives in formation of gender-oriented national policy though currently there are no special regulations on gender balance within the National Society. However 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 the regulations on equal opportunities, establish systems to collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data on its membership, volunteers and staff and have relevant tools to assist staff and volunteers in translating existing policies into practice. Ukraine Red Cross staff is 90 per cent female.

In all projects for Ukraine, particularly those funded through the International Federation, as far as possible, the interests of every group, gender equity, and social status are taken into consideration. Although the programmes benefit men and women equally according to their specific needs and vulnerabilities however there are projects more specifically targeting women. For instance according to the official statistics there is women's prevalence in Ukrainian population because women have longer life expectancy. This means that there are more elderly females living alone than males. Therefore gender balance is taken into consideration in designing the VNS projects and when selecting beneficiaries.

Quality, accountability and learning

The Ukrainian Red Cross has experienced and well-trained personnel that can provide high quality and cost-effective services to the most vulnerable populations.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has established a reliable reporting system. The projects personnel prepare different types of narrative and financial reports. The projects are regularly monitored and evaluated by using inquiries and questionnaires.

Senior staff organizes regular visits to the field to ensure the sharing of experience and communication with the branches. National Society senior management have been trained in the areas of management, mobilization, the effective use of resources, project planning process, and the development of volunteer and youth movements. National Society staff and volunteers are inducted into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and understand the auxiliary role of the National Society.

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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