

CHERNOBYL ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (CHARP)

More than 11 years after the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, some 4 million people are still living in the contaminated areas of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and are suffering the consequences of the disaster. There is a high incidence of thyroid pathologies, including cancer, which experts say will increase. A steep decline in health and social welfare programmes following the break-up of the Soviet Union, combined with a drastic deterioration in living standards, have contributed to stress-related illnesses which urgently require medical and psychological support. It is therefore vital that CHARP continue for another 10-12 years, its sustainability ensured through mobilising local resources, supported by external financial commitment.

CHARP seeks to continue providing the most vulnerable population groups throughout the contaminated areas of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus with:

- | medical screening for thyroid gland pathologies
- | health-related information
- | psycho-social support
- | supplementary food for children.

The Federation issued its fourth appeal for funding support for CHARP on 11 November 1997. It sought CHF 1,300,000 to increase the number of target beneficiaries of the screening services of six mobile diagnostic laboratories to 90,000 in 1998 and to expand the psychological support service from Belarus, where it began in 1997, into Ukraine and possibly Russia. The total number of beneficiaries is 200,000.

Copies of the appeal are available on request.