

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ukraine

Appeal No. MAAUA002

30/APRIL/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2010 to
31/12/2010



Volyn Region: Youth conducting an anti-HIV event
Photo: Ukraine Red Cross

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Ukraine are in line with the Strategy 2020 strategic aims to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programme(s) summary:

The only response to the Ukraine country plan 2010-2011 was provided for implementing human pandemic preparedness programme (H2P). Besides, some funds, received at end of 2009, were used for strengthening Visiting Nurses Service (VNS). In particular for purchasing first aid kits and making a film about the VNS (donation of Lars Amundsen Foundation) and for procuring vehicles (donation of Japanese Red Cross). In July-October 2010 the Ukraine Red Cross implemented a floods operation funded by DREF. The National Society also carried on bilateral activities of HIV programme funded by the American Red Cross and with PATH within the framework of a 299,850 US dollar anti-TB programme (funded by USAID).

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 337,985, of which 69 per cent covered. In 2010 all funds were received for human pandemic project (H2P). In particular British government/DFID contributed CHF 20,574, Japanese RC – CHF 11,652, Portuguese RC – CHF 29,873 and USAID – CHF 118,235. The overall expenditures against received funding was CHF 210,755.

As mentioned above in July-October the Red Cross Society of Ukraine provided vital services to flood affected communities in the two regions of Ukraine: Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk. CHF 244,126 (USD 230,693 or EUR 182,524) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief

Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 people (1,200 households).¹

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

See also (insert related appeals here) :

[Ukraine country plan for 2010-2011](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual09/MAAUA00210p.pdf) <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual09/MAAUA00210p.pdf>

No. of people we help: In the reporting period the following number of people directly benefited from the secretariat-supported programme interventions:

- human pandemic preparedness project (H2P) - about 411,200 people
- floods operation in Western Ukraine - about 8,550 people

Besides, in the framework of H2P project about 6,000,000 people received indirect assistance through mass information campaigns.

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), Lars Amundsen Foundation, 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

In 2010, political, economical and social situation in Ukraine remained complicated due to the consequences of the world finance and economic crises. Ukraine has been among the hardest hit countries by the turmoil (its GDP in 2009 shrank by 15%). However, being a very open economy, Ukraine has benefited from the ongoing recovery of the world economy. Driven by export-oriented industries and their related sectors, real GDP grew by 4.1 per cent in 2010. Nevertheless, while the economic crisis seems to be passing away social needs remain acute. About one third of the population live below the poverty line and over half the workforce earn below what is considered survival wages. The domestic gas price for households has risen by 50 percent as of August 2010. In the same vein utility tariffs increased by 50 per cent and consumer prices by 20-40%.

February elections resulted in the opposition leader and former president Victor Yanukovich becoming president of Ukraine who turned the policy to more close ties with Russia after years of pro-Western policy. The agreement concluded in April 2010 on stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol on the Ukrainian Crimean peninsula until 2042 in exchange for a price rebate of 30 percent on gas deliveries is positive for Ukraine in the short run. It helps to increase budget revenues, and has eased the conflict with Russia around the payments for gas deliveries. However in the long-term perspective, this agreement increases Ukraine's political and economic dependency on Russia, and hinders the necessary structural reforms in Ukrainian energy and economic policy.

Ukraine has the highest HIV and AIDS rates in Europe with 1.6 per cent of the general population infected. Annually Ukraine has reported more deaths caused by AIDS than any other European country. 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 make up 80 per cent of the affected people.

Thus, the epidemic poses a major threat to Ukraine's youth and to the country's future. Stigma, discrimination and prejudice are still practised towards people living with HIV when it comes to employment and access to state services despite good legislation to counter this.

¹ <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRUA005do.pdf>

During winter 2010 the influenza epidemic was severe, some 301,107 people have been hospitalized and 1,005 died. A total of 5,158,306 people have contracted influenza and other acute respiratory viral infections during this period.

Natural and man-made disasters occur in Ukraine with increasing frequency. In January an explosion partly demolished a hospital in Lugansk in eastern Ukraine, killing 16 people and injuring many others. Heavy rains at the end of June caused rises in river levels and brought havoc to two flood-prone regions in Western Ukraine. Some 6,500 houses were flooded in Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk regions and almost 40,000 people have been affected. Five people died.

These humanitarian challenges prioritise activities of Ukraine Red Cross Society. The overall goal outlined in Ukraine Plan 2010-2011 is to ensure that the programmes and services of the National Society 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 1: Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively.

Achievements

In connection to the floods that happened in Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi Regions at the end of June the regional branches of Ukraine Red Cross started immediately providing assistance to affected people with priority to those who have been evacuated. National Society staff members and volunteers helped people to find shelter in community buildings and with host families, providing them with clothes, hygienic items, and bedding taken from Red Cross Disaster Preparedness stocks. The National Society was supported by DREF funds as well in order to respond to the disaster and to provide adequate assistance to people affected by the floods.

On the basis of conducted tenders and according to the approved budget the Regional Red Cross Committees have purchased and distributed 1,718 blankets, 2,109 bed linen, 3,473 towels, 1,256 food parcels, 411 kitchen sets, 2,488 disinfectant sets, 1,978 hygiene kits. The National Committee of Ukraine Red Cross has procured 1,450 water purification filters and distributed to people affected by floods. More detailed information can be found in the final report on this operation on the IFRC web-site (<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRUA005dfr.pdf>).

Constraints or Challenges:

No further support was received for the disaster management programme in 2010. Hence no progress was achieved towards raised awareness on hazards and strengthened disaster preparedness and response skills to effectively respond to disasters.

Health and Care

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

Achievements: Although no support was received for HIV and AIDS programme activities through IFRC, the Ukrainian Red Cross managed to build upon the support received in earlier years and the capacity built, and subsequently continued vital activities through bilateral support. Supported by the American Red Cross bilaterally about 206,859 people were reached through HIV prevention, care and support activities in three regions:

- In Vinnitsa region the target group were people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the penalty system. One more colony was included into project.
- Totally 624 HIV pre-testing were conducted in four prisons and 4 persons were tested for hepatitis.
- 58 inmates and staff members of colonies were trained in HIV prevention;
- In Volyn region the activities focused on reducing HIV prevalence among youth and college students from small towns and villages in five pilot districts. The existing project was widened by inclusion two more districts. Totally 52,612 persons aged 14 to 24 were covered by peer education sessions and completed the entire training course;
- In the Crimea Autonomous Republic Red Cross nurses provided home care and support for 71 people living with HIV. In addition psychosocial support and legal advice were provided to 2,235 people at international consultation centre “Krokus”;
- Since July 1, 2010 the project supported by American Red Cross was extended to Kiev Region where 75 persons were trained for HIV prevention activities.

Programme component 2: Human pandemic preparedness
Component outcome 1: Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas for human pandemic preparedness is conducted
Component outcome 2: A National Society contingency plan for human pandemic response based on the National Society’s disaster management plan has been developed and recognized by the government.
Component 3: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in human pandemic preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers, effective mechanisms for response in four target regions of Ukraine.
Component 4: Strengthened financial and technical resources for human pandemic response.

Achievements: The Ukraine Red Cross continued implementing H2P project activities funded by USAID through IFRC. The project was launched in July 2009 in ten oblasts (regions) in four pilot areas of Ukraine, and was later extended to the remaining 17 regions of Ukraine.

In 2010 information materials including 300,000 posters, 1,1 million leaflets, 100,000 calendars and 200,000 liners for schoolchildren were distributed among people at factories, schools, universities and during information campaigns. The video “*Your Best Defence is You*” has been adapted to be broadcasted on TV. The video was approved by the Ministry of Health and by the special broadcasting commission. This material was broadcasted in the regions on local TV channels and on the national channel.

A total of 3,200 Ukrainian Red Cross visiting nurses detected 11,200 sick persons and provided them with medical assistance through 280,000 home visits. In total 400,000 masks have been distributed among the population. One third of these masks have been sewed by National Society staff and volunteers. Personal protective equipment (medical gloves, masks), medicines and disinfectants have been purchased and distributed.

Trainings provided for the 3,200 Red Cross visiting nurses on providing assistance to people in an environment characterized by the fast spread of the virus has strengthened capacity of the National Society of Ukraine in human pandemic preparedness and response. Large scale involvement in human pandemic reflects the National Society’s capacity and further strengthens its experience and skills base.

Organizational Development

Programme component 1: Visiting nurses services capacity development

Component 1: The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses service has been improved.

Achievements: The organisational development component was not supported in 2010. However the National Society continued some activities utilizing funds received in 2009. In January the National Society completed the distribution of 100 first-aid kits for visiting nurses purchased with funds from the Lars Amundsen Foundation. Moreover through the same funds a film about the visiting nurse service was produced in June. The movie profiles the services offered by visiting nurses to people living with HIV and other services such as HIV prevention and treatment, harm reduction and anti-stigma as well as describing the extend of HIV and AIDS in Ukraine (*The film is available at <http://dustandscratchesfilms.com/people-like-us/>*).

Remaining funds from a contribution from the Japanese Red Cross in 2009 allowed the purchase of 208 bicycles for visiting nurses which allowed them to visit patients more easily. The contribution from the Japanese Red Cross came as a result of the Partnership meeting “Beyond borders” held in Kiev in September 2009.

Working in partnership

In March, the Ukrainian Red Cross organized a round-table meeting devoted to World Tuberculosis Day, attended by Red Cross workers, representatives of the Ministry of Health, NGOs and the mass media. The main topic discussed was further integration of Ukraine into the international partnership “Stop TB”. This meeting was also a kick-off ceremony for 30 days of Red Cross action on combating TB which took place in March and April 2010.

As response to the partnership meeting “Beyond borders” held in Kiev in September 2009, the Estonian Red Cross organised a first-aid training of trainers in April 2010 hosting first aid trainers from six regional organisations of Ukrainian Red Cross.

Leadership meeting hosted by Ukraine Red Cross was held in Kiev in October 2010 with the participation of 12 Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and also IFRC President, ICRC and Federation senior staff. Important actions were agreed with all participants related to subjects as the preparation for 2011 statutory meetings and pledges, legal base and Movement coordination agreements.

The National Society works very closely with government authorities at all levels – national, regional and local – in its auxiliary role in providing humanitarian relief and support for development. To promote a coherent and unified response, the International Federation facilitates coordination activities for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement including the host National Society, Partner National Societies including National Societies in the region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and externally with key operational agencies or organizations such as UN and NGOs.

The National Society has built up a fruitful cooperation with the Charity Fund “Development of Ukraine” to serve the needs of vulnerable people. Also Ukraine Red Cross has a cooperation agreement with the Coca-Cola Company, which provides free of charge transportation of relief items to regions affected by disasters and makes in-kind donations including drinking water for people affected by disasters.

Contributing to longer-term impact

During the reporting period senior staff from the National Society headquarters organised regular field visits to ensure sharing of experiences and proper communication with the branches. In particular, in the course of implementing the project on human pandemic preparedness monitoring trips were conducted in the seven regional branches.

As mentioned above a film has been produced about the Ukraine Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service which shows the best practices of cooperation with local authorities and provision of assistance to the clients, in particular to HIV positive people at home. The film was successfully screened during the XVIII International AIDS conference in Vienna. It is planned that this film will be used internationally, possibly for fundraising, and within the Commonwealth of Independent States CIS, sharing an experience obtained by the visiting nurse service. The application of the VNS (Visiting Nurses Service) best practices in Ukraine and other CIS countries will facilitate strengthening the infrastructure in service provision, improving the process of rendering assistance to the most vulnerable groups of population, upgrading the conditions of work, and enlarging the sphere of services as well as their quality.

Looking ahead

Due to the fact that Ukraine has the most severe AIDS epidemic in Europe the Ukraine Red Cross programme priorities include HIV/AIDS prevention activities anti-AIDS 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 which will be continued in 2011 with further extension to Belarus and Armenia and will be focused on promoting the care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

From January 2011, Ukraine Red Cross starts implementing the project to combat TB, funded by the Global Fund (Ukraine has received a grant of GF in 2010). The National Society will be a sub-recipient covering the component on advocacy, communication, and social mobilization. The project is designed for 5 years.

Using the network of visiting nurses, medical-social centres 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, Belarusian and Moldovan Red Cross Societies, IOM the Ukraine Red Cross will implement a joint project funded by EU aiming at strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Ukraine is prone to natural calamity and technology accidents. Therefore another priority program will be disaster management focused on improving disaster preparedness and response skills of Red Cross 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.

The Ukraine Red Cross will continue the work aimed at further modernization of the Visiting Nurses Service. 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.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable

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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