

# Programme Update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Ukraine

Appeal No. MAAUA002

31/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to  
30/06/2009



A Red Cross worker repairs the house of a family affected by floods. **Ukraine Red Cross**

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** The International Federation supported programmes in Ukraine aim to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters; to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

**Programme summary:** The response to the Plan 2009-2010 for Ukraine is alarmingly low. Only capacity building activities have received funding, via a donation from the Lars Amundsen Foundation aiming to improve the visiting nurses service. Therefore, other activities of the Ukraine Red Cross such as preventing HIV, strengthening disaster preparedness, promoting humanitarian values could not be implemented due to the lack of funding.

This situation is expected to be relieved in the third quarter of 2009 with the start of a large HIV programme funded by the American Red Cross, and the human pandemic preparedness programme supported by USAID. The Ukraine Red Cross is also beginning bilateral activities with the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)<sup>1</sup> on a 250,000 US dollar anti-TB programme (also funded by USAID).

In May, the Red Cross Society of Ukraine finalized its relief operation for flood affected communities in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine.

<sup>1</sup> PATH is an international non-profit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.

**Financial situation:** The initial 2009 budget was CHF 579,301 which was slightly revised to CHF 586,818 (USD 544,128 or EUR 385,027), of which 6 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 25 per cent of received funding.

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

See also: [Floods in Moldova and Ukraine \(MDR67003\) Emergency Appeal](#)

**No. of people we help:** In the first half of 2009 there was only one active project in Ukraine – relief operation for people affected by floods in six regions of Western Ukraine. About 56,000 people have received assistance through the implementation of this project.

**Our Partners:** The total number of partners of the Ukraine Red Cross is about 120 organisations (including administration and NGOs in the regions).

A partnership meeting to initiate collaboration with near neighbours, is being planned for September in Kiev, Ukraine. The EU and USAID missions are expected to participate and give insights on possibilities of collaboration.

## Context

In the first half of 2009, the economic and social situation in Ukraine was quite complicated and deteriorated dramatically due to the world financial and economic crises. Ukraine is among the nations hardest hit by the global financial turmoil as a plunge in the price of steel, its main export, exacerbated a credit crunch and a sharp fall in stock prices. According to the State Statistics Committee during the first six months of 2009, industrial output has dropped by 31.1 per cent comparing with the same period of 2008. The severest recession was registered in machinery production and metallurgy.

At present more than one third of the population lives below the poverty line and over half of the workforce earns below what is considered survival wages. The most affected by poverty and the lack of adequate health and social care are older people living alone, multi-child families, street children, people with disabilities and marginalized people such as migrants and the homeless.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has the most severe HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with an estimated 440,000 people living with HIV and an adult prevalence rate of 1.63 per cent. As of January, 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, 3.5 per cent of Ukraine's adult population, or 820,000 people, may be living with HIV.<sup>2</sup>

The ongoing outbreak of influenza A/H1N1 was declared a pandemic by WHO and might have significant global health, economic, and social consequences. The first case of H1N1 flu was registered in Ukraine in May.

These humanitarian challenges define the Ukraine Red Cross priorities. The overall goal outlined in Ukraine Plan 2009-2010 is to ensure that the programmes and services of the 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

# Progress towards outcomes

## Health and Care

### Outcomes/Expected results:

- *Improved health and social conditions of people living with HIV (PLHIV) due to anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy.*
- *Decreased spread of HIV in rural areas of Ukraine due to public awareness-raising and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross.*
- *Decreased spread of HIV among injecting drug users.*
- *A National Society contingency plan for human pandemic response based on the National Society's disaster management plan have been developed and recognized by the government.*
- *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 six target regions of Ukraine.*
- *Strengthened financial and technical resources for human pandemic response.*

**Achievements:** During the first half of 2009 there were no active projects in the health and care field. However, due to the fact that in recent years Ukraine has experienced outbreaks of avian influenza in several regions of the country, the National Society is planning to further improve its capacity for human pandemic response. The Ukraine Red Cross has been identified as a candidate for funding from USAID for a project on human pandemic preparedness. The National Society developed the draft project proposal with assistance from the Federation office, and will start on 1 July. Ten oblasts in four regions of Ukraine (central, northern, southern and western) have been selected as pilot regions.

The Ukraine Red Cross, with assistance from the International Federation, has developed an HIV project to be funded by the American Red Cross on a bilateral basis in three pilot regions from July 2009. Ten regional Red Cross branches took part in the proposal writing training held in March. A competition among these regions led to three regions being selected and awarded grants of up to 50,000 US dollars to implement their projects.

## Disaster Management

### Outcomes/Expected results

- *The Ukrainian Red Cross has strengthened its material resources for emergency relief.*
- *The skills and professionalism of the National Society disaster response staff and volunteers are improved including the understanding and application by the National Society of the International Federation's standardized guidelines for effective response.*
- *Communities prone to disasters have raised their awareness on hazards and strengthened their disaster preparedness and response skills to respond to disasters effectively.*

**Achievements:** The disaster management component did not receive any funding. Nevertheless, disaster management activities were carried out, most notably the humanitarian assistance the Red Cross gave to people affected by the floods in western Ukraine from July-August 2008. The operation was successfully completed in May.

### Floods operation in Ukraine

The August 2008 storms, described as the worst experienced in either centuries, led to devastating flooding in some of the most impoverished parts of Ukraine and Moldova. In Ukraine, Karpaty's six regions - Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernivtsy, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Ternopil and

Vinitsia – were affected. The floods claimed 38 lives, 784 settlements were flooded and 44,945 homes damaged. Many roads were washed away and over 500 bridges were damaged. Some 33,882 hectares of agricultural lands were inundated. The worst affected were the regions of Ivano-Frankivsk, and Chernivtsy.

Within the framework of the emergency operation a total of 12,000 food parcels were distributed in Ukraine and the National Society mobile repair teams repaired 173 houses. A beneficiary satisfaction survey was conducted after the distributions which confirmed that the people affected were very satisfied with the timely support provided by the Red Cross.

## Organisational Development

### Outcomes/Expected results:

- *The Ukraine Red Cross has developed and strengthened its capacities and structure to establish strong youth movement and volunteer recruitment and retention systems.*
- *The quality of the Red Cross visiting nurses service has been improved.*

**Achievements:** There were no active projects in organisational development due to the lack of funding. However, the Ukraine Red Cross has developed project implementation documents for the Lars Amundsen Foundation's donation of CHF 25,000 that is earmarked for developing the visiting nurse service. Purchasing 250 first-aid bags for Red Cross visiting nurses and holding a workshop are key elements of the plan, while some funds will be put towards making a film about the visiting nurse activities. This film could be used across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to portray the visiting nurses work in a positive light.

## Principles and Values

### Outcomes/Expected results:

- *The level of discrimination towards vulnerable groups in Ukraine has been reduced through the promotion of humanitarian values and changing negative behaviours;*
- *Irregular migrants at their temporary places of residence have received humanitarian assistance, as well as psychosocial and legal support.*

**Achievements:** There were no active projects in the field of principles and values due to the lack of funding.

## Working in partnership

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

In April, the Ukraine Red Cross together with the International Federation organized the launch of the Ukraine Red Cross becoming a member of the Global Alliance on HIV and TB. The forum held in Kiev brought together representatives of National Societies from Eastern Europe, the Ukraine government, international organizations and NGOs. The International Federation and the Ukraine Red Cross together with UNAIDS, USAID, UNICEF, PATH, WHO, International Foundation "Alliance" and Foundation for Ukraine prepared an application from Ukraine to the Global Fund seeking a grant for activities in combating TB. The application was submitted to the Global Fund in May.

Preparations have started for the partnership meeting scheduled for 7-8 September in Kiev. So far definite interest to participate in this event has been indicated by the Swiss, American, French, Italian, Austrian, Danish, German, Japanese and Polish Red Cross Societies. The European Union delegations in Kiev, and the Federation zone office have also agreed to attend.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

As mentioned above it is planned to make a film about the Ukraine Red Cross visiting nurses service which would show the best practices of cooperation with local authorities and the provision of qualitative assistance to clients of the visiting nurses. A respected Ukrainian-English filmmaker has indicated his willingness to collaborate in the project (he previously worked on a Chernobyl photo project with the Federation office in Kiev). The application of the 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, upgrading the conditions of work, and expanding the sphere of services as well as their quality.

## Looking ahead

In July, the Ukraine Red Cross will start its human pandemic preparedness project. The project is designed for one year implementation period with a total budget of CHF 287,219. In the course of project development assessment trips were carried out by senior staff from the Ukraine Red Cross headquarters to the five regional branches of Crimea, Vinnitsia, Chernigiv, Volyn and Kiev to ensure sharing of experience and communication with the branches. Within the project a pandemic preparedness plan will be developed and implemented in selected pilot regions. The plan will include trainings for nurses and volunteers, coordination of efforts on pandemic preparedness with other stakeholders, and publication of information materials.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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