

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Regional Representation for Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova

Appeal No. MAA67003

30/08/2009

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



International Federation regional representative Jaap Timmer and Russian Red Cross vice-president Dmitry Fedotov during the World Disaster Report presentation in Moscow in July. Photo: International Federation

In brief

Programme summary: The International Federation's regional representation in Moscow worked with the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine to support them in their work aligned with the Global Agenda Goals. Most of this support is laid out in the individual plans for each country, and is reported on through separate programme updates, which can be found here: [Belarus](#), [Moldova](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Russia](#). As such, the plan for the regional representation tries to capture cross-country and regional themes.

This regional plan will be closed at the end of 2009, as the country plans are now well established as the primary vehicle for articulating the support to the four countries, in a more focussed way. Any balances of funds from this plan will be allocated to these plans, in discussion with funders.

Financial situation: There was no income received in the first half of 2009 to support this plan. The attached financial report shows an opening balance of 457,499 Swiss francs carried forward from the previous year and was re-allocated to other projects under the individual country plans.

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

Our partners: The regional representation cooperated with the Red Cross Societies in the region and partner National Societies, USAID, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies operating in Russia, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Russian Ministry of Health, mass media, as well as international and local enterprises.

Context

In the first six months of 2009 the four ex-soviet countries of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova experienced serious negative consequences of the global economic crisis. In Russia, drops in oil prices dramatically reduced the state's budget income. Moldova has suffered from a big recession in the national economy and a drop in remittances from abroad. Moreover, the number of people returning has doubled, placing even greater strain on this tiny, shattered economy. Ukraine's economy is heavily dependent on steel, which is less needed as the construction industry world-wide has slumped. Gas transitting, another big earner, was damaged by the so-called "gas wars" with Russia.

Those left most vulnerable are elderly people living alone, multi-child families, street children, people with disabilities, and marginalized people such as homeless people, people living with HIV, alcoholics, drug users and migrants. Largely as a result of this economic and social picture, migration is a fact of life for many communities.

All the four countries are going through deep demographic crises; population growth is estimated at a negative 0.6 per cent. The incidence rates of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) present major health problems. HIV prevalence varies between the four countries, but is high in Ukraine, at 1.4; in Russia at 1.1; and in Moldova at 1.1; however it is much lower in Belarus, standing at 0.3. With regard to the spread of TB, prevalence rates in Russia and Moldova are the highest in Europe with 150 and 149 cases per 100,000 people respectively.

A more in-depth analysis of the context in each country is contained in the country programme updates.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component : Disaster management capacity building
Component outcome 1: A structure of regional cooperation in all aspects of disaster management is established.
Component outcome 2: Linkages to the International Federation's regional and global response systems are reinforced.

Due to the lack of funding, no activities under this component were implemented.

Programme component : Disaster management response
Component outcome: A contingency plan is in place to immediately and effectively coordinate or support the response in case of disasters.

Due to the lack of funding, no activities under this component were implemented.

Health and Care

Programme component : TB and HIV support
Component outcome 1: The experience of the National Societies in the area of HIV is pooled and used to strengthen the different programmes in the region.

The experience that the regional representation has gained in HIV prevention was shared with the National Societies of Belarus and Ukraine. Plans for greater regional cooperation were discussed during the visit of the regional HIV officer to Minsk and Kiev in May, and plans are afoot to appoint a regional health coordinator.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component : Technical programme support

Component outcome: Technical support and expertise of the International Federation is rendered and the exchange of experience between the different National Societies in the region is facilitated.

The regional representation, supported by an external expert, assisted the Russian Red Cross in developing programme plans for 2010-2011. Encouraging a more strategic approach to planning, focussing on identified needs and strengths of the organisation are vital for the longer-term development of the society as it strives to meet the growing opportunities and its role in the country. Coupled to this, a number of applications for various grants were prepared for funding bodies, that if successful will strengthen the society's standing.

The regional representation has been very vocal in underlining the need for key International Federation documents and information materials to be available in Russian, thereby facilitating the collaboration and consultation with Russian-speaking National Societies in shaping policies and working modalities. A notable case in point is the leading role the representation took in ensuring quick translation of drafts of Strategy 2020, and making them available to National Societies. Other materials from the secretariat in Geneva and the Europe zone offices were translated and distributed among National Societies in the region.

Programme component: Governance and leadership

Component outcome 1: The cooperation between the National Societies in the region is strengthened through annual leadership meetings.

The regional representative participated in a meeting in Budapest that gathered National Society leaders from the region for discussions on Strategy 2020. It was important for the regional representative to be present as it allowed the discussions with National Societies in the region to continue after the meeting had closed, encompassing new drafts and thinking as they emerged.

Preparations started for a leadership meeting organized jointly by the International Federation and ICRC for the National Societies from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The meeting will be combined with a meeting on migration organized by the Russian Red Cross jointly with the International Federation. The meeting had to be postponed and is now scheduled for December 2009.

Programme component: Improved resource mobilization

Component outcome 1: The capacity of the National Societies to raise funds is improved through annual partnership meetings and other contacts with partners.

In close cooperation with UNAIDS and UNDP and the Global Business Coalition, the regional representation was involved in preparing a regional application for the Global Fund that deals with HIV prevention among migrants. It is planned that the application will be ready for submission in early 2010.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component : Promoting humanitarian values and principles

Component outcome 1: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the region is recognized by the national and international media as a primary source of information on disasters and humanitarian response.

Component outcome 2: All National Societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information departments.

An information bulletin that includes regional Red Cross programme developments and International Federation news was issued. There is a regular exchange of information between the Belarus, Russian, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies.

Working in partnership

Close partnership has been established and maintained with WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), the European Commission delegation, USAID and Global Business Coalition regional representation. The International Federation’s regional representation directly works with the Russian authorities, notably the ministries of health, emergencies and foreign affairs, and the governments of the other countries through the country offices.

Looking ahead

A partnership meeting in support of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine is scheduled for September 2009. The theme will be “From donorship to partnership”, and will explore working modalities to allow greater cross-border sharing of resources between these three National Societies and others in Europe, primarily the newer EU member societies.

The recruitment of a regional disaster management delegate will increase the potential of the regional representation in disaster management and cooperation among National Societies.

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>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Regional Representation for Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine: Jaap Timmer, Regional Representative; Moscow, email: Jaap.Timmer@ifrc.org; phone: +7 495 937 52 67; fax: + 7 495 937 52 63 • In the Europe Zone Office: Anitta Underlin, Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: ++36 1 8884 501; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: anitta.underlin@ifrc.org 	