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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Kerch College Attack

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDR65002	
Date of issue: 31 October 2018	Expected timeframe: 4 months Expected end date: 28 February 2019
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: <u>Yellow</u> / Orange / Red	
DREF allocated: CHF 52,534	
Total number of people affected: some 600 families or 2,000 people	Number of people to be assisted: some 600 families or 2,000 people
Host Red Cross presence: Red Cross in Crimea has 12 psycho-social support (PSS) workers, 20 volunteers trained in PSS	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: public health and education authorities, Crimean Psychological Service, regional and local administration	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

A shooting and a bomb attack occurred on 17 October 2018 in Kerch polytechnic college. The attack resulted in 20 people being killed (including the gunman, who killed himself), 47 people being hospitalised, and 73 people being injured.

About one thousand people study and work in the college. Over 500 people were direct witnesses of the tragedy. Most of them are youths under 18 years of age. It is estimated that at least 2,000 people received strong psychological trauma as a result of the tragic event. These are people who were at the attack site, and their relatives. One student committed suicide in the aftermath of the shooting and explosions.

The population of Kerch is relatively small (147,033 people), which indicates that the college tragedy has either directly or indirectly affected most of the city's population. The region has been going through a long-term economic recession that has had significant impact on the levels of poverty, unemployment and other social problems. Resources of the local health institutions are humble; the city is located over 200 kilometres away from Simferopol, the regional centre.

Summary of the current response

Overview of the Red Cross in Crimea

The public authorities have allocated RUB 60 million (approximately CHF 950,000) to support people who suffered in the attack. Families of people who died will receive RUB 1,000,000 (approximately CHF 15,000) for every victim. People injured in the attack will receive from 200,000 to 400,000 roubles (CHF 3,000–6,000).

Psychological support is currently being provided by the EMERCOM's Centre of Emergency Psychological Help and by the departments of the Ministry of Health. A hot line is operational.

The Red Cross in Crimea has been supporting people who suffered in the attack and relatives of people killed in the attack since the first day of the tragedy:

- From the first day of the tragic event, the Red Cross in Crimea has been an active member of the response task force lead by the EMERCOM rendering psychological Support. (EMERCOM experts provide PSS intervention during first three weeks after the event to overcome acute mental health conditions.) After this period, limited PSS interventions are provided by local health facilities, but these interventions are not enough to cover all needs of the affected population.) PSS workers of Kerch branch provide continuation of PS support and supplement EMERCOM and local health facilities to support the affected population in different phases: acute, mid-term and long-term.
- Volunteers of the Kerch Branch of the Red Cross were providing first aid, carrying the injured to the transportation equipment, and delivering other services and help as required.
- The Red Cross in Crimea in collaboration with NGOs was supporting health authority in calling for, and promoting, the voluntary blood donation.
- Volunteers of the Kerch Red Cross Branch are visiting injured in the hospitals.
- Volunteers of the Kerch Red Cross Branch were accompanying relatives during funerals and were helping at the cemeteries and in churches.
- The local Red Cross centre of pre-medical support is open and provides regular services to people.
- A representative of the Red Cross in Crimea is in regular contact with the authorities. The Red Cross in Crimea took part in the situation analysis and a rapid needs assessment as part of the Emergency Response Headquarters, which was set up by the local authorities. The Red Cross in Crimea agreed with the authorities the provision of psycho-social support by the Red Cross and has requested a list of people who suffered as a result of the attack.
- The Red Cross in Crimea started a fundraising campaign to ensure there are sufficient resources to continue psycho-social support in the medium to long-term after DREF funding comes to an end.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Crimea

Red Cross (RC) in Crimea has experience of short-term and longer-term provision of psychosocial support to different categories of the population. The resources of the Red Cross in Crimea include trained personnel, a psycho-social support model, and an effective model of long-term social and psychological support to people in crisis situations in line with the PSS Strategy of the IFRC.

Red Cross in Crimea implements HIV prevention and blood donation programmes, has 24 centres and rooms of health and social services where help is provided to the most vulnerable people, lonely older people, people with disabilities, people living with TB, multi-children families, and orphaned children. Every year, over 200,000 people receive support from the health and social centres.

From 2014 to 2016, the IFRC was supporting the RC programmes of comprehensive, and often vital, psycho-social support services to people living with AIDS in the terminal stages. This work has aimed at strengthening psycho-social well-being, resilience and coping mechanisms in people who are in crisis situations.

Since 2014, the ICRC has been working in Crimea with local Red Cross Branches to protect and assist people who have fled the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. People who have fled the Ukraine crisis for Crimea are supported by the ICRC in partnership with the Red Cross to meet their immediate needs with food, hygiene items.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in Crimea

No UN agencies or other international organizations, other than components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, operate in Crimea. Emergency Ministry in Crimea is the leading state agency carrying out comprehensive response to emergencies and crises. There are no local NGOs that are specialised in the provision of psycho-social support. The Red Cross in Crimea cooperates with the EMERCOM based on the MoU which defines roles and responsibilities of partners and collaboration during emergencies. The RC in Crimea keeps regular contact with the Ministry of Labour and Social protection, and Ministry of Health.

Coordination and partnerships

The local authorities started working immediately after the tragedy to save people's lives and alleviate consequences of the disaster. Currently, the authorities concentrate their support on provision of emergency psychological help and financial compensations. Over 50 specialists of the EMERCOM and other operative services were deployed. Psychologists of EMERCOM and Health Ministry were helping people, accompanying them during the investigations and were providing latest information both in person and through a hot line. Expert team in mental health from the Psychological Support Centre (EMERCOM) and Psychiatric Institute (Health Ministry) are deployed for one month to provide help and to prepare local experts in mental health focusing primarily on care in the hospital.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

According to official data, five teachers and 15 students (15–20 years old) died as a result of the attack. Six of the students who died were under 18 years of age. The total number of injured people is 73; 47 of them are hospitalised (34 female and 13 male). At least 10 people are in critical condition. Several people suffered severe injuries, including loss of limbs.

The current public emergency response system can address the most important and urgent tasks of eliminating the consequences of disasters and crises, yet it is faced with shortage of resources and specialists when a longer-term support is required. Many people received serious psychological trauma that needs to be addressed for an extended period.

In addition to people who received injuries, those who were directly affected, and relatives of people who died or suffered in the attack, there is another group of people who received psychological trauma. These are friends, classmates, teachers in schools where killed students had been studying prior to moving to the college.

Pain, mental disorders, loss, grievance are present in all people who suffered in the attack and their relatives. The Red Cross therefore focuses on the provision of mid-term and longer-term psychosocial rehabilitation of people.

People also need free legal consultations about how to work with the authorities, request information, what documents they need and how to process these, what are their rights and options, etc. While the public authorities will provide information and explanations, this will largely be done upon receiving proper applications and only within their mandates. People often do not know where they can seek support from and which type of support they are entitled to; and which documents may be needed to apply.

Targeting

Information provided by the emergency and health authorities highlights that people who directly suffered as a result of the tragedy are highly prone to physical and psychological disorders, mental disruptions and anti-social behaviour patterns. The following target groups have therefore been identified by the staff and volunteers of the local Red Cross Branch in Kerch:

First group

- 20 families who lost their family members and who need PSS services through home visits in Kerch and in Krasnodar region
- 73 families who were affected and who need PSS services through home visits

Second group

- Some 500 students and teachers who directly witnessed the attack and members of their families

Third group:

- 12 PSS workers and 20 volunteers of the Red Cross in Crimea and the RC Kerch Branch will be trained in PSS provision in this context and long-term accompaniment and supervision.

Justification of the intervention

- Psycho-social support in the early stages can help ease stress significantly and identify and refer people with significant mental health issues to specialised psychiatric institutions.
- Self-help skills and confidence rebuilding will contribute to a more effective process of overcoming feelings of helplessness and despair, which otherwise can lead to serious depression.
- It is essential to prevent professional burnout in PSS workers and volunteers.

Scenario planning

Psycho-social support for targeted families aims to:

1. Ease emotional pain while in the grieving stage to help people use their own resources to overcome the crisis. Help people accept the situation as it is and to start the recovery process.
2. Reduce the risk of negative effects of stress on mental health, and prevent serious and severe mental disorders.
3. Contribute to building confidence and mastering the methods of self-protection and becoming resilient.
4. Prevent a-social behaviour within families and in other day-to-day situations. This process will help restore importance of values.
5. Equip PSS workers and volunteers with burnout prevention skills.

Operation Risk Assessment

- The proposed work is supported by the local administration, and therefore will not foresee any major risks to the implementation process.
- The Red Cross in Crimea will be building contacts and agreements with the regional crisis centre, and with regional and local social and psychological services to achieve the aims of the project and to increase the effectiveness of the provided support.

B. Operational strategy

Overall operational objective:

Reduce the level of psychological impact of the explosions and shooting in Kerch Polytechnic College on some 600 families (or about 2,000 people), by provision of psycho-social support. The target group for PSS activities is 20 families of the victims and their relatives, 73 families of injured people and about 500 families of students who were in the college during the attack and may suffer psychological trauma.

In order to establish the actual impact of the attack and to determine the actual number of affected people, their needs in psychosocial or other types of support and the required duration of this support, an in-depth assessment of the situation and needs will be conducted by the PSS team in the course of the DREF operation. This needs assessment will further inform the Emergency Plan of Action, which is based on the initial analysis of the situation.

The work will be implemented by the Red Cross in Crimea through 12 PSS workers and 20 volunteers who will be recruited and prepared to deliver the operation and provide PSS support. The Red Cross volunteers will support PSS workers in identification of people in need of psychosocial support, collection and dissemination of information, during mass mourning events. In addition, in some complex cases, legal assistance will be provided to affected families by a professional lawyer who will be providing these services on a voluntary basis.

As per the request by the local authorities, the Red Cross will provide psycho-social support to people who suffered as a result of the attack. The response operation will be supported by two PSS consultants of the Russian Red Cross who were leading a similar operation in Kemerovo after the tragic fire in the Zimnyaya Vishnya shopping mall, in Beslan (terrorist attack on school) and other similar crisis situations. Due to their strong experience, the consultants will deliver an initial induction workshop, will provide weekly skype consultations to the PSS teams in Crimea, and will support in managing complex cases and ensure relevant referrals.

The Red Cross in Crimea will be responsible for close collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders in health institutions and local authorities.

The following eight interventions have been identified for this DREF operation:

1. **Induction PSS workshop** for PSS workers and volunteers recruited locally in Kerch. Red Cross in Crimea is in contact with local psychologists who know the targeted families, in order to recruit 20 candidates to the PSS workshop and then select 10. The PSS workers in the Red Cross in Crimea have long-standing experience in working with terminal AIDS patients, and, through this work the Red Cross has developed a PSS model. Yet this approach is different to the one required in the situation of Kerch college attack. To ensure people have the right knowledge about PSS provision in the current context, an induction workshop is an essential element of the operation.
2. **Develop in-depth interview plans** with the beneficiaries to identify the level of severity of their situation. These interviews will be conducted during the initial home visits and with people who witnessed the tragedy.
3. **Carry out psychosocial support visits** to the families who lost their relatives and to the injured and their families by the trained and equipped Red Cross PSS workers. First home visits will commence after the workshop.
4. **Conduct situation analysis and if necessary provide psychosocial support** to students, teachers and family members of those who witnessed the tragedy and were traumatised. PSS workers will start visiting this group after the workshop.
5. **Provide PSS during mass mourning events** by PSS workers and local volunteers.
6. **Increase knowledge of the victims and** members of their families about ways of grieving, including through provision of information booklets during individual meetings and public events.
7. **Provide consultative support, guidance and supervision** to the PSS team in Crimea to help address emerging challenges and to deal with complex cases. This support will be available from two PSS consultants/psychologists of the Russian Red Cross who have built the PSS models through their work with Beslan, Kemerovo and other high-impact crises.
8. **Advocacy** towards local authorities and by using mass media as and when necessary.

AP023	To conduct a meeting with the students, who were in the college during the attack, to identify people needed in psychological support. To organize the daily presence of a PSP specialist either in the College or in the Red Cross Assistance Center in Kerch.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x	x	x
AP023	Conduct an assessment of the psychosocial wellbeing of families according to a completed questionnaire. Fill in of beneficiaries' records					X			X			X			X		X
AP023	To create 5 duty teams of the PSS workers of the Project and arrange for the duty of the team members in places related to the need for the stay of the victims and their family members (cemetery during memorial days, a polyclinic, state institutions where documents are issued and compensation for the victims and victims within 2 months), as well as during the special events - 40 days (November 25, 2018)					X	X	X	X								
Task 3. To increase the knowledge of affected people and their families on ways of grieving by disseminating information booklets and leaflets during individual meetings and social events																	
AP023	To publish information material aimed at helping the affected people on 'how to cope with the grief (distress)' (3,000 copies) with the contact phones of the Red Cross in Crimea								X								
AP023	To distribute informational material among the affected families and their environment									X							
Task 4: To provide advice on the Project implementation and supervision of complex cases by the Red Cross consultants-psychologists																	
AP023	Two PSS consultants to conduct counseling of affected people in complex cases and ensure appropriate referrals and follow-up.					X			X			X			X		X
AP023	To provide professional supervision over the Red Cross PSS workers in Kerch, analysis of a complex cases and methodological support by the consultants-psychologists of the Red Cross in Crimea (3 people) (2 times a week by groups)					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP023	Conducting classes with the Project team to prevent the "burnout" syndrome by psychologists-consultants of the Red Cross in Crimea (1 time per month).							X				X			X		
AP023	Skype consultations between PSS workers and two consultants for reviewing complex cases as and when required.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP023	To conduct prevention seminar on PSS for school psychologists and teachers in schools, where killed children were studied (6 groups x 10 people)							X					X				

Task 5: To advocate for the interests of people affected by the attack in the local state institutions of Crimea and the media

AP023	Inform local authorities, emergency services and interested services in about the activities of the PSS project and establish contact with them for interaction		X															
AP023	Provide legal and social assistance to affected families. In the most complex cases a consultancy of professional lawyer will be provided free-of-charge					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP023	Provide information support for the project (press release, TV interviews, articles in the media)		X			X		X		X		X		X		X		
AP023	To organize Lessons Learned Workshop for staff and volunteers involved to the project.																	X
AP023	To organize a round table with the participation of Kerch city Administration and interested organizations in order to summarize the results of work												X					

Budget

The total budget for this DREF operation is CHF 52,534 – please see attached.

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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF Operation MDR65002

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Kerch College Attack

Budget Group		Multilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
500	Shelter - Relief	0	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0	0
520	Food	0	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0	0
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND		0	0
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT		0	0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	800	800
594	Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE		800	800
600	International Staff	0	0
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	27,400	27,400
667	Volunteers	2,030	2,030
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
Total PERSONNEL		29,430	29,430
670	Consultants	1,600	1,600
750	Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES		1,600	1,600
680	Workshops & Training	9,000	9,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING		9,000	9,000
700	Travel	4,000	4,000
710	Information & Public Relations	2,600	2,600
730	Office Costs	400	400
740	Communications	1,348	1,348
760	Financial Charges	150	150
790	Other General Expenses	0	0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0

	Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,498	8,498
		0	0
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
	Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	3,206	3,206
	Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,206	3,206
	TOTAL BUDGET	52,534	52,534
	Available Resources		
	Multilateral Contributions		0
	Bilateral Contributions		0
	TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0
	NET DREF NEEDS	52,534	52,534