



BELARUS IFRC Country Office



COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In 2018, Belarus is still facing several challenges related to humanitarian issues, including the Chernobyl legacy, the growing incidence of trafficking in human beings, TB and HIV, migration, a high inflow of migrants from Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, and a serious demographic crisis marked by declining life expectancy, high mortality and morbidity, rapid population ageing and deteriorating health. The Belarusian economy remains highly vulnerable and depends on trade relations with neighbouring countries. Weather-related disasters such as flooding and heatwaves occur every year. One-parent households, multi-children families, people with disabilities, lonely older people, and people with a low level of education are still vulnerable to poverty, and, as a consequence, to health-related challenges and trafficking. IFRC, Belarus Red Cross and partners are committed to continued support to the most vulnerable.

With a total of 408 paid staff and 16,935 volunteers, Belarus Red Cross is well prepared to effectively run humanitarian operations in the country. As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, Belarus Red Cross provides high quality services within its core mandate and plays an essential role in advocating for meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities. Belarus Red Cross delivers programmes on reducing the consequences of disasters, responding to migrants' needs, social inclusion, psychosocial support and improvement of health in communities, assisting the most vulnerable population groups such as older people, those with limited abilities or illnesses, people affected by emergency and crisis situations and others.

A Movement Coordination Agreement between the Belarus Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC regarding their respective roles and responsibilities in Belarus was signed in July 2017. As of November 2018, Danish, Swiss, Bulgarian, Polish and Ukrainian Red Cross societies have joined this Agreement. IFRC (country office in Minsk), ICRC (representative, full country office since summer 2018), Swiss Red Cross (country coordinator), Danish Red Cross (country coordinator) are present in Belarus.

STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT



A still developing post-Soviet National Society, Belarus Red Cross is becoming increasingly strong in programme implementation and reaching the most vulnerable.

However, further support is needed to strengthen disaster response capacities, organizational development, fundraising, health programmes, migration programmes and inclusion actions.

The recently introduced Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanism in Belarus brings additional responsibility on partners to act as a Movement in Belarus and support the vulnerable together.

STATISTICS

15%

of the country's population are older people

5,074

HIV cases in total are registered in Belarus

1.6%

of all children live with disabilities

3,000

people displaced from Ukraine still need assistance

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

CHF 80,000 REQUIRED

IFRC's objective is to mitigate the impact of disasters on communities by strengthening the disaster management and response capacities of the Belarus Red Cross. The National Society will reinforce its human, material and technical resources and community contingency planning. Expected outcomes:

- Seven community contingency plans will be developed
- 5,000 people will be reached with public awareness and education campaigns

HEALTH

CHF 100,000 REQUIRED

The Belarus Red Cross will be supported to effectively prevent non-communicable and infectious diseases, promote healthy lifestyles, healthy ageing and first aid. As well as supporting people living with HIV, Belarus Red Cross will continue its HIV prevention programme to disseminate knowledge among young children, implement volunteer initiatives, train HIV prevention educators, produce educational materials and support staff. The National Society will also expand and structure its first aid activities and prepare to provide first aid during the 2nd European Games, which take place in Belarus in 2019. Expected outcomes:

- 400 volunteers will be mobilized for health activities
- 3,500 people will benefit from HIV prevention activities
- 300 educators will be trained in first aid

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

CHF 110,000 REQUIRED

With technical and financial support from IFRC, the Belarus Red Cross will continue to promote social inclusion and empowerment of discriminated and marginalized people such as people with mental illnesses, injecting drug users, vulnerable migrants, survivors of human trafficking, and sick children. The Red Cross will address the challenges of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged groups in Belarus through services, advocacy, education and empowerment, in order to build their self-esteem, self-confidence and ability to participate in their own development. A resilience programme will be delivered to empower vulnerable children. Prevention of human trafficking activities are planned to target the vulnerable groups most at risk. Expected outcomes:

- 120 people with mental illnesses will receive psycho-social support
- Voluntary clown therapy will reduce the stress of 800 hospitalized children

MIGRATION

CHF 220,000 REQUIRED

2,700 vulnerable displaced people from Ukraine will receive vouchers for food and hygiene items from Belarus Red Cross regional and district branches. 300 displaced people who meet vulnerability criteria and have a temporary registration in Belarus will benefit from annual medical insurance. 50 displaced people from Ukraine in acute need of medical assistance will be provided with such essential services and medicines as painkillers, immune-modulators and chemotherapy, surgery and prosthetic services, obstetric aid during childbirth, insulin and cardiovascular medications.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

CHF 70,000 REQUIRED

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

Capacity building and organizational development processes at the Belarus Red Cross will continue to be supported through coordination and alignment with partners, follow-up and dialogue with National Society leadership and staff. Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) will be carried out to identify strengths and areas for improvement of Belarus Red Cross branches. IFRC will look into possibilities to re-conduct the 2012 Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) of the National Society. Learning and exchanges between all Russian speaking National Societies will be facilitated, thus supporting and complementing a broad range of capacity building needs. With IFRC and Swiss Red Cross support, face-to-face and digital fundraising will be developed in Belarus, while old methods of collecting funds such as membership fees, will be modernized.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

2019 will be dedicated to formalizing the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process, identifying key priorities and drafting a Movement contingency plan to reflect the operational positions of each partner in preparation for a potential emergency scenario.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Red Cross activities in Belarus receive significant attention from the authorities and the general public. However, there remains a lack of understanding about the unique nature of the Movement, and therefore IFRC will increase awareness-raising via local mass media. IFRC seeks to promote Movement activities especially in the fields of migration, disaster management and health and care – with special focus on TB and HIV.

CONTACTS

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