As the conflict in eastern Ukraine enters its sixth year, ongoing violence continues to impact the lives and livelihoods of millions of people as well as influencing the country's overall development prospects. Daily skirmishes and numerous ceasefire violations have left thousands of civilians killed or wounded, and no significant change in the situation is foreseen for the near to medium term.

Over 10,000 individuals have been killed, 1.5 million displaced and 3.5 million require humanitarian assistance. Severe humanitarian impacts remain, particularly in non-government controlled areas and along the 'contact line' which separates government-controlled and non-government controlled areas. However, these immediate needs are increasingly accompanied by mid- to long-term development challenges as the conflict remains protracted.
Continued insecurity has interrupted industry and impacted jobs, service delivery, infrastructure and urban development, and put additional pressures on Ukraine’s already overstretched social protection systems. As the crisis continues, these development deficits have become more pressing, with increasing need for long-term solutions for displaced people, demobilized servicemen, and host communities.

Through the Ukraine 2020 Strategy, which identifies the roadmap of necessary reforms in the country, key changes have been made in education, pensions, healthcare and public administration. One of the most challenging reforms have been those concerning the country’s healthcare. Difficult healthcare system reformation and lack of sufficient funding in the sector resulted in serious long-term problems. For example, immunization rates of Ukrainians and specifically children have dropped from full compliance in the 1990s to less than 50 per cent in 2019.

This operational plan reflects the support IFRC will provide to the Ukrainian Red Cross in agreed upon areas, with a particular focus on livelihoods, health and strengthening the National Society.

National Society Profile

The Ukrainian Red Cross was established in 1918 and today has a nationwide presence responding to the conflict in East Ukraine and delivering longer-term development activities such as tuberculosis treatment, HIV and AIDS prevention, home-based care, first aid, psychosocial support, livelihoods and activities related to branch development, youth and volunteering.

The National Society is committed to strengthening its ability to deliver relevant, efficient and effective services to the most vulnerable families in Ukraine. It plans to develop its disaster management capacity and scale up health programming to respond to existing needs. In 2020 and beyond, emphasis will be put on branch and volunteer development, strengthening resource mobilization systems, and building a new type of organizational culture and service delivery at a local level through its volunteer network.

The decentralized structure of the Ukrainian Red Cross aligns with that of the country with 25 first-level territorial entity branches, 24 regional branches and one Kyiv city branch. There are a total of 663 district branches, less than 350 of which remain operational as of the start of 2020.

Ukrainian Red Cross is operating within its Strategy 2018–2020 (transitional strategy) focusing on prioritized areas of: emergency preparedness & response, physical health & resilience to psychosocial challenges, strengthening cooperation & quality communication, and building a strong, reliable, transparent National Society. A new Strategy 2021–2025 will be developed in 2020 based on wide consultations within the National Society and with partners and major stakeholders.
Role of the Country Office

The IFRC Country Office in Kyiv, Ukraine, supports the Ukrainian Red Cross through providing technical assistance in areas such as disaster management, livelihoods, cash-based programming, health and care and organizational/branch development. The Country Office works in close collaboration with Movement partners and ICRC through the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process and supports the National Society in organizing and leading the Movement Coordination Meetings which ensures harmonized and systematic approach to service delivery in Ukraine.

Movement Footprint

Ukraine has been selected as one of the five test countries for the SMCC process. Through this initiative, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is aiming to increase efficiency and effectiveness through well-structured coordination between partners to deliver greater impact for people in need.

There are six partner National Societies present in Ukraine: Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Luxembourg Red Cross—all of which work closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross through bilateral agreements.

The ICRC has a Country Delegation in Kyiv, and operates mainly in eastern Ukraine, in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, both in the government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas. Since the beginning of the conflict, the ICRC has been assisting hundreds of thousands of people, and continues to carry out activities including water supply, repair of buildings, mine risk education, forensics, detention, and Restoring Family Links. Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers are actively engaged in many of these areas of work.
AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The conflict has paralyzed economic activity in Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland, seriously affecting household wellbeing and living standards. The unemployment rate, which was already on the rise, has skyrocketed in the conflict-affected areas since early 2017. Consumer prices doubled between 2014 and 2016, putting an enormous strain on household budgets. The main causes of economic anxiety cited by host communities are price rises and communal tariffs, while displaced people are most concerned about rent, utilities and an inability to find permanent, well-paying employment. Displaced women face particular difficulties balancing family responsibilities and childcare with the need for employment and income.

Ukrainian Red Cross will build on the success of its ongoing cash-based programme by providing livelihoods support in five regions where the greatest needs have been identified. The programme aims to restore or strengthen livelihoods and create opportunities for the most vulnerable households to earn a sustainable income. The programme targets the most vulnerable people among internally displaced people, demobilized servicemen and the host community. People are guided and trained to develop business plans and then provided with conditional cash grants to turn their ideas into viable and sustainable income generating activities. Supporting people to earn their own income not only helps their financial stability, but also restores dignity, improves mental health, and facilitates integration and social cohesion.

Key activities are:

- Orientation sessions for Ukrainian Red Cross regional and district branches
- Training for beneficiaries in business plan writing
- Assessment and scoring of business plans
- Disbursement of conditional cash grants, monitoring and evaluation

The livelihoods project is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
Erosion of trust in the healthcare system along with the widespread reliance on informal information about vaccinations have created perfect conditions for low levels of immunization in Ukraine. Vaccine-preventable diseases remain prevalent and the numbers of affected people have set records for the country in 2019. UNICEF reports that in 2018 only 50 per cent of children under the age of 12 months were vaccinated against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus; 37 per cent against measles, mumps, and rubella; and only 52 per cent against polio, putting many children at risk.

The national Measles Task Force (which includes the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF) has been working since 2017 to provide every eligible child with the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR), nonetheless the immunization rate for 2018 went down. The measles outbreak ongoing since 2017 significantly worsened in 2018 as the country reported a tenfold increase in confirmed cases. The number of cases for 2018 was over 54,000 and slightly increased overall numbers have been recorded for 2019. Despite steadily improved vaccination rates in 2019, Ukraine remains the European country with the lowest vaccination rates.
In 2019 IFRC supported Ukrainian Red Cross with a DREF operation to tackle the measles outbreak in eight regions of Ukraine in 2019, and despite positive effects of the well-coordinated awareness-based action, continuous community mobilization activities are still required. The Ukrainian Red Cross has now built the project infrastructure to further expand its activities in immunization awareness. Furthermore, with support of IFRC and Swedish Red Cross, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) expertise is available in the county. Therefore in 2020 an immunization awareness project is planned to increase vaccination rates of children and adults. The project will use social media to build a national level awareness campaign as well as reaching people through CBHFA volunteers in multiple districts and remote areas.

**Key activities:**

- Project kick-off with government national and regional health authorities
- Design, printing and dissemination of vaccination awareness information materials
- National level vaccination awareness media campaign (goodwill ambassador, social media)
- Trainings for national CBHFA instructors and formation of volunteer teams
- Volunteer support (PSS, transportation, insurance, vaccination)
- Monitoring and close coordination with local authorities, national health authorities, UNICEF and WHO

**OUTCOME**

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS INFORMATION**

90,000

**COMMUNITIES STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE TO PREVENTABLE DISEASES AND VACCINATION RATES IMPROVE**
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

In 2020, IFRC will focus on enhancing systems and procedures, strengthening the leadership and branches of the National Society, encouraging resource mobilization and self-sustainability, as well as developing Ukrainian Red Cross human resources and enhancing accountability and transparency.

Ukrainian Red Cross will utilize Mobile Training Teams - a new concept in organizational capacity building that was introduced and piloted in 2019. The Mobile Training Teams are composed of Ukrainian Red Cross staff and volunteers who are technical experts in multiple areas and are trained to facilitate sessions for regional branches on the RCRC Movement, internal policies and specifics of human resources, finance, logistics and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER).

IFRC will continue to work with the National Society on statutes revision, legal base and strengthening its role as auxiliary to state authorities in humanitarian service delivery in 2020 and beyond. IFRC will support Ukrainian Red Cross to develop its disaster management and risk reduction capacities through development of a multi-year strategy and standard operating procedures for working in emergencies. The National Society will be supported to be better prepared to deliver cash in emergencies and to improve coordination with national and civil protection entities.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAS THE NECESSARY SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND COMPETENCIES TO EFFECTIVELY PERFORM
STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

IFRC will continue to mobilize technical and financial resources in support of Ukrainian Red Cross services while strengthening institutional structures and systems. This will include guiding the National Society to make its communication and public relations more robust and effective in speaking on behalf of communities in need.

Partnership development is one of the main priorities for the Ukrainian Red Cross in 2020 and a new five-year strategy will be developed. The National Society is currently a recipient of financial resources from the IFRC and ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) Fund in support of its fundraising and overall resource mobilization initiatives, while technical support and advice are provided from the IFRC Country Office and the Regional Office for Europe.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAS IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CAPACITIES

60,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC will maintain a balanced mix of skills and experience within the Country Office in keeping with the priorities of Ukrainian Red Cross. The IFRC Country Office will continue to maintain a good working relationship with the other components of the IFRC and Movement, participating in meetings, maintaining regular communication with colleagues, and seeking technical guidance where needed. Country Office staff will remain up-to-date with revised procedures and guidelines, conducting in-house orientations on new regulations, policies and standards when needed.

OUTCOME

IFRC ENHANCES ITS EFFECTIVENESS, CREDIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

240,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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