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DREF operation update Ukraine: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRUA007
GLIDE n° OT-2013-000151-UKR
Update n° 1
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:
13 December 2013 to 12
February 2014.

Summary: CHF 139,302 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 13 December 2013 to support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries.

Responding to the large-scale demonstrations on-going in Ukraine since the end of November 2013, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has been on the forefront of facilitating a social dialogue and responding to the humanitarian needs by deploying its emergency response teams to help those injured and wounded on the streets of Kiev and other provinces.



Ukrainian Red Cross emergency response team ready for deployment.
Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross Comms Unit

This operation was planned to last for two months, to be completed by 13 February 2014. However, due to administrative problems arising from the circumstances of the civil unrest and the logistic difficulties to procure the items according to the rules and standard procedures, the operation has to be extended by six weeks, until 30 March 2014.

In line with Federation reporting requirements, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation, by 30 June 2014.

The Netherlands Red Cross gave a donation of CHF 52,500 and the Canadian Government gave, by way of the Canadian Red Cross, CHF 19,000, replenishing in total 50 per cent of the DREF allocations. The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross

and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. On behalf of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Massive protest actions have been taking place since the end of November 2013 in the Ukrainian capital and other big cities, supporting the initiative to conclude a trade agreement with the EU, demanding the resignation of the President and a few members of the government, as well as calling for new parliamentary elections. On several occasions the riot police have used force in different parts of Kiev against the demonstrators who and are set to continue the protests until a compromise deal is reached to resolve the current political crisis.

Taking into account the high density of people in the capital and the threats of more tension, Ukrainian Red Cross intervention is fundamental in providing first aid, as MOH ambulances cannot work in the city centre due to the crowds and are stationed in the side streets. Each emergency response team consists of six people equipped with the essential equipment such as stretchers and first aid kits.

According to local media reports, the government and the opposition have signalled their willingness to start negotiations, but both parties have attached certain preconditions before they can agree on a lasting solution. It is not known how the situation will develop, and the level of tension and violence may further increase.

Coordination and partnerships

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has been in permanent contact with the local authorities, mainly the Ministry of Public Health, the Department of Health of Kiev Municipality, the Ministry of Interior and the law enforcement agencies.

Relevant agreements have been laid down with the governmental organizations through exchanges of letters in order to ensure the legitimate use of the Red Cross emblem and to protect the Red Cross staff and volunteers in the course of fulfilling their humanitarian mission.

Entrepreneurs and private donors have supplied to the Ukrainian Red Cross significant quantities of medicines and humanitarian items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society responded immediately to the humanitarian needs by deploying its emergency response teams to help those injured and wounded on the streets of Kiev and other provinces. Based on its contingency plan, several actions have taken place already since the beginning of the protests in Kiev and other provinces.

Four Red Cross first-aid points (RCFAP) with 1 physician, 2 Red Cross visiting nurses, and two volunteers trained in first aid at each point, were deployed in the centre of Kiev and in other cities affected by the protest. The task of the Red Cross first-aid points is to provide a round-the-clock emergency first aid and psychological support to the affected people.

The Red Cross mobile response team (RC MRT) is divided into 2 groups of 6 people and is deployed in the centre of the groupings. The RC MRT's main objectives are the following: to regulate the outflow of people to prevent crowding, to provide first aid and psychological support to those affected, to take injured people to ambulances if necessary, to inform those in need about the location of first aid points and ambulances, to liaise with other volunteer organizations that are providing drinking water, food, and heating to the people on the square.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has been closely coordinating with the Europe Zone Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and with the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross so as to optimize their professional performance and utilize both internal and external expertise. The IFRC Europe Zone Office is constantly monitoring the situation and deployed one staff to support the NS to assess the situation and support the NS with the DREF request.

The ICRC has donated to the URCS CHF 90,000 for the procurement of emergency response material, including some equipment for managing the warehouse.

Close coordination is in place between the IFRC Zone Office and the ICRC Regional Delegation in Moscow

for monitoring the situation, information exchange and coordinate activities such as first aid support, updating contingency plan. Experts of the Regional Delegation of the ICRC paid a visit to Kiev at the end of January 2014 to coordinate their activities with the URCS related to emotional debriefing and psychological support for the emergency response team (ERT) members.

IFRC Vice President for Europe Francesco Rocca visited Ukraine between 20-22 December 2013 and discussed the situation with the President of the Ukrainian RC Society and other top officials of the National Society.

Progress towards outcomes

The URCS does not have a hospital or a first aid post on the central square of Kiev, the so called "Maidan". There is an Emergency Response Team of the URCS with first aiders who have been activated since the onset of the events. Only during one night, from February 18 to February 19, they provided first aid to some 200 people. They are monitoring the situation in a round-the-clock system, 24/7, and are working in close coordination with the municipal hospitals and medical points, and there is a constant exchange of information between them. The URCS is also working closely with the state ambulance service during their first aid operations.

Emergency health

Outcome: Increased readiness of Red Cross First Aid teams to provide timely first aid services to casualties during the protest actions.

Output 1: 500 Red Cross First Aid volunteers are trained and equipped to provide lifesaving first aid services to casualties in the cities most at risk.

Output 2: 15 additional first-aid points of the UKRC are set up and equipped with generators and 100 blankets each

Activities planned:

- Provide trainings for an additional 500 First Aid volunteers in the cities of Kiev, Donetsk, Lviv, Odessa, Kharkiv and Simferopol.
- Purchase medicine, equipment for volunteers, tents, manufacturing of banners with the Red Cross symbolic.
- Provide equipment including generators and 100 blankets each for 15 Red Cross first-aid points.
- Monitor purchase and supply.
- Reallocate Red Cross resources to oblasts and cities at increased risk (the property acquired within this operation plus hygiene items that are stored in the central emergency warehouse of the disaster response service).
- Coordinate with local authorities, the State Service of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, and Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Provide first aid to the population by volunteers at the Red Cross humanitarian aid stations
- Inform the population through the media about activities of the RC rapid response teams and other Red Cross units.

Progress: The National Society's operational capacity in emergency assistance was strengthened during the civil unrest response operation with the support of IFRC and ICRC. First Aid treatment, evacuation, hospital transfer services, and transportation services were provided on a need basis by the National Society to assist people affected by the violence. The NS played its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities and has fulfilled its mandate of assisting the wounded and alleviating human suffering.

Challenges: It was not easy for URCS volunteers due to of the volatile situation to assist the injured people. Some roads and streets remained closed or blocked. Often the air was filled with tear gas, and only part of the volunteers had protective masks to wear.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 13 December 2014 for CHF 139,302 for two months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
- This is the first DREF operation update issued.
- The timeframe was extended by the DREF Management of the IFRC Secretariat on 12 February 2014 until 30 March 2014.



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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.