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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° 2
7 March 2014

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:
12 February to 5 March 2014.

Summary: Due to the escalating situation, the original sum of CHF 139,302 that had been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 13 December 2013 to support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society to enhance the readiness of Red Cross First Aid teams, is now increased by CHF 178,488, making the total budget for this operation to be CHF 317,790.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has been responding to the unrest since the onset in November 2013 with the support allocated by International



First Aid training for new Ukrainian RC volunteers.
Photo: Ukrainian RC

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through DREF and with the financial and technical support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The URCS emergency response teams have been working around the clock for months, providing first aid to the wounded from both sides and transporting them to ambulances. In the most dramatic three days more than 660 people – protesters and members of the security forces - received first aid assistance from the URCS. Six Red Cross volunteer were injured, one of them was shot and taken to hospital, where he underwent an operation but his life is not at risk. To date the URCS response teams remain on duty day and night. At the end of last week, the URCS, jointly with the ICRC, had a meeting with all regional branches to discuss the situation in the whole country and the ways how to strengthen preparedness.

The initial DREF allocation was planned for 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 had to be extended by six weeks, until 30 March 2014. With this second allocation the timeframe will be extended until 30 June 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 September 2014.

The Netherlands Red Cross, the Canadian Government, the Canadian Red Cross, the ECHO and the Italian Government are replenishing the DREF allocations assigned for this particular operation. 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 the revised budget, and here to see contact details>](#)

The situation

The standoff in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, which has oscillated between calm and violence since November 2013, escalated dramatically in the past weeks. On 18 February violence erupted at Maidan Nezalejnosti (Independence Square) at an unprecedented scale. Over 30 people were killed and several hundreds injured during clashes between anti-government protesters and police. The unrest has spread outside of Kiev to other parts of the country, mainly the western regions, with protesters attacking police offices and occupying local government buildings, although there were also reports of police forces joining protesters in some places. Again on Thursday, 20 February 2014, the volatile and tense situation escalated into violence with fatalities exceed those of Tuesday and reaching more than 80 people dead. The months of protest culminated last week after the signing a compromise between the government and the opposition, brokered by three European foreign ministers agreeing on a government of national unity, less power to the President and settling on a date for parliamentary elections. Shortly after the President left the capital, and the Parliament removed him officially from power and appointed an interim President. Whereas this has brought some calm to the capital, the situation around the country is still volatile, and especially in the predominantly ethnic Russian autonomous region of the Crimea in the city of Simferopol and in the south-eastern regions.

Since 28 February 2014, not identified military forces have taken position in the Crimea.

Presidential elections are expected to be held on 25 May 2014.

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 other humanitarian items.

After the escalation of the military situation, the Ukrainian Red Cross established close contacts with the Ministry of Defence to coordinate action in case the situation should worsen.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has been responding to the unrest since the onset in November 2013 with the support allocated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) through DREF and with financial and technical support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The URCS emergency response teams have been working around the clock for months, providing first aid to the wounded from both sides and transporting them to ambulances. In the most dramatic three days more than 660 people – protesters and members of the security forces - received first aid assistance from the URCS. Six Red Cross volunteer were injured, one of them was shot and taken to hospital, where he underwent an operation but his life is not at risk. To date the URCS response teams remain on duty day and night. At the end of last week, the URCS, jointly with the

ICRC, had a meeting with all regional branches to discuss the situation in the regions and ways how to strengthen preparedness.

The following actions have been undertaken by URCS since the onset of the crisis:

1. Recruitment and training of additional number of volunteers.
2. Distribution of informational materials on RC Fundamental Principles and emblem.
3. Dissemination of information about URCS actions, use of RC symbols, and RC Fundamental Principles in the mass media (TV, radio, social media).
4. Meetings with law-enforcement authorities.
5. Meetings with leadership of the medical service operational at Maidan, the centre of Kiev.
6. Coordination of activities with Kiev City Ambulance Service.
7. URCS Tracing Service carried out primary assessment of restoration of family links (RFL) needs among people in crowded places and distributed informational materials on prevention of family links separation.
8. Development, with the support of IFRC and ICRC, of a scenario analysis.

Two IFRC Europe Zone teams, altogether six persons, were temporarily deployed in Kiev and one RDRT member will be deployed from 9 March to support the URCS in updating its contingency plan, closely monitoring the situation and supporting the NS in the implementation of the DREF operation.

This operation is being developed and implemented in close collaboration and communication with the ICRC and URCS. Regular meetings are taking place to enhance collaboration and to find, where applicable, synergies that will have a positive impact of the work undertaken for the affected population.

A call conference with the participations of more the 20 sister National Societies was hosted by IFRC Europe Zone and led by URCS on 6 March 2014.

The ICRC has been providing the URCS with financial (close to CHF 100,000) and technical support to boost its ability to meet needs in the capital and in provinces. So far, the ICRC has supported the URCS to purchase uniforms, helmets, backpacks, first aid material, aprons, tents and other emergency equipment. First aid crash courses were organised for the newly recruited volunteers. ICRC, jointly with the URCS management, organised “lessons learned” exercises with the emergency response team volunteers to brief them on the basics of safety and security risk management. Due to numerous cases of misuse of Red Cross emblem by various medical organisations at Maidan, the URCS has developed a number of video films with the support of the ICRC and uploaded them on the URCS website and YouTube, calling on the population and the authorities to respect the Red Cross emblem. Almost 15 ICRC delegates are already on the ground, and the Rapid Deployment Unit is activated.

Progress towards outcomes

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 one physician, two 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 round-the-clock emergency first aid and psychological support to the affected people.



Simulation of an evacuation exercise at the headquarters of the URCS.
Photo: Ukrainian RC

The Ukrainian Red Cross mobile response team (RC MRT) is divided into two groups of six people and is deployed in the centre of the events. 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.

It is difficult to predict how the situation will evolve in Ukraine. At the moment the needs to respond to the evolving situation will be related to:

- Emergency kits to support response teams and logistic equipment as well as emergency care in the whole country;
- First aid kits, material and equipment for URCS team as preparedness measure due to the uncertain situation in the country;
- Increase of communication / media capacities;
- Increase of IT/telecom capacities of the NS.

Security will be a primary operational concern as the ongoing situation is unpredictable and the situation dynamics are constantly evolving.

Emergency health
<p>Outcome: Increased readiness of Red Cross First Aid teams to provide timely first aid services to casualties during eventual protest actions.</p>
<p>Output 1: Additional 600 Red Cross First Aid volunteers¹ are trained and equipped to provide lifesaving first aid services to casualties in the cities most at risk.</p>
<p>Output 2: 20 additional first-aid points² of the URCS are set up and equipped in the different provinces.</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trainings for an additional 600 First Aid volunteers. • Purchase medicine, equipment for volunteers, tents, manufacturing of banners with Red Cross symbols. • Provide equipment including generators and 100 blankets for each of the 15 Red Cross first-aid points. • Monitor purchase and supply. • Reallocate Red Cross resources to oblasts and cities at increased risk. • Coordinate with local authorities, the State Service of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, and Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. • 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 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: Currently, security in Kiev and in the rest of the country, especially in the autonomous Republic of Crimea remains tense with little indication of improvement in the foreseeable future. All planned interventions must be developed and implemented in this light. The implementation of activities will continue to be monitored closely. All RC volunteers, national and international staff must carry at all times visible RC emblems and a valid RC ID Card. IFRC staff movement is not limited but all the movement in the country needs to be coordinated with the IFRC Europe Zone Office's Security Focal Point.

¹ In total the number of the volunteers trained and equipped by the NS will be 1,100.
² In total the number of the first aid post ready for supporting the needs will be 35 in the whole country.

IT/Telecom

Outcome: The National Society's capacity for IT/telecom will be increased.

Output 1: The National Society's radio communication is strengthened during the operation and the coordination between the first aid team is increased.

Activities planned:

- Purchase 100 walkie-talkies in the local market.
- Distribute Red Cross radios to oblasts and cities at increased risk.

Communication

Outcome: The National Society's capacity to delivery information is increased.

Output 1: The National Society's Communication Department is strengthened.

Activities planned:

- Purchase 2 digital cameras in the local market.
- Support the NS to profile their role inside the Movement and with national and international mass media.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Ukrainian Red Cross Society**, Dr Ivan I. Usychenko, President, Kiev, 30, Pushkin Street, Phone/Fax +44.288.1658, email: national@redcross.org.ua
- **IFRC Europe Zone:** Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator; Tel: +361.888.4505, email alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer , Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 13 December 2014 for CHF 139,302 for two months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
- The first DREF Operation Update was issued on 20 February 2014.
- This is the second DREF Operation update. The timeframe was extended by the DREF Management of the IFRC Secretariat on 6 March 2014 until 30 June 2014, and the total budget increased to CHF 317,790.



1. Click [here](#) to view the revised budget of the DREF operation.
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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.

DREF OPERATION

Ukraine

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	18,375
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	91,255
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	45,000
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	4,500
Other Supplies & Services	55,300
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	214,430
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	6,900
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	6,900
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,250
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	2,250
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	5,714
Volunteers	1,100
Total PERSONNEL	6,814
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	49,600
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	49,600
Travel	13,000
Information & Public Relations	5,000
Office Costs	
Communications	400
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	18,400
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	19,396
Total INDIRECT COSTS	19,396
TOTAL BUDGET	317,790