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## DREF operation update

### Ukraine: Civil Unrest

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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#### DREF operation n° MDRUA007

#### GLIDE n° OT-2013-000151-UKR

#### Update n° 3

#### 18 April 2014

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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:

#### 6 March to 17 April 2014.

**Summary:** Due to the evolution of the situation in Ukraine, in addition to some changes in the budget lines and items variations required by the National Society according to the changing needs on the ground, this third operational update is published. However, the time frame of this DREF operation will not be extended beyond 30 June 2014.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has been responding to the unrest since the onset in November 2013 with financial and technical support by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through its DREF, jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

An assessment mission by IFRC Europe Zone Office between the end of February and the beginning of March 2014 reconfirmed that the URCS was in need of extensive support to reinforce its response capacities. Therefore, an additional amount of CHF 178,488 of DREF fund was allocated to support the equipping of First Aid services in key cities, recruitment and training of 600 volunteers, and strengthening the capacities related to IT and communications, adding up to a total amount of CHF 317,790.

Financial support is primarily sought along the parameters of a revised long-term planning framework and the annual consolidated operation plan for Ukraine. In these endeavours and other operations, the IFRC continues to work closely with the respective National Societies and partners to develop appropriate strategies and generate the required financial and technical resources to support their response.

The initial DREF allocation 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 had to be extended by six weeks, until 30 March 2014. Afterwards, with the second allocation, the timeframe was extended until 30 June 2014.



Ivano-Frankovsk regional branch of URCS. Workshop for the volunteers of the first aid team.  
*Photo: Ukrainian RC*

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 ECHO, the Canadian Government, the Canadian Red Cross and the Italian Government have fully replenished 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.

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## The situation

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's decision last November to suspend the negotiations of an association agreement with the EU sparked high-scale street demonstrations countered by the riot police. The civil unrest continued for a few months and resulted in killing of about 100 people and more than six hundred injured. On 21 February 2014 an attempt to find a compromise with the opposition was made by the Ukrainian authorities through signing an Agreement on the Settlement of Crisis in Ukraine by Victor Yanukovich, and the leaders of the opposition at that time, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Oleh Tyahnybok and Vitaly Klichko, certified by the Polish, German and French Foreign Ministers. Shortly after Viktor Yanukovich left the territory of Ukraine, the Parliament took a decision to dismiss him from his post. The former speaker of the Parliament, Olexander Turchynov, was appointed interim President and the elections' date was set for May 25.

Following a referendum on 16 March in the Crimea in favour of full independence, the Russian Federation took a decision to integrate the Crimea as part of Russia's territory and took de facto control over the region. Since then the relations between the West and Russia have worsened dramatically as the EU and the US imposed travel bans and asset freezes on several officials from Russia and Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial withdrawal of troops from the border with Ukraine, but NATO foreign ministers decided to suspend all practical civilian and military co-operation with Russia at a meeting in Brussels. Now there are high-level talks between the concerned parties in Geneva with EU and US participation. The situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine remains tense, with ongoing pro-Russia manifestations calling for a federalization of the country.

There are tensions between pro-Russia protesters and the Ukrainian Army in Sloviansk, Druzhkivka, Yenakiyevo, Kramatorsk, Artemivsk, Kharkiv, Makiyivka, Donetsk, Khartsyzk, Mariupol, Zaporizhya, Luhansk. Disturbances have also been reported in Ilovaysk, Dobropillya, Kostiantynivka, Snizhne and elsewhere. Tensions are at their highest in Sloviansk, in Donetsk region, where armed men seized a police station and other government buildings on April 12. Fatal clashes have been reported in some of the above mentioned regions.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, his acting Ukrainian counterpart, Andriy Deshchytsia, and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, together with several other diplomats met on 17 April 2014 in Geneva for emergency talks on the crisis in Ukraine. As a result, a joint statement was issued with the aim of de-escalating the tensions and ensuring the security of all Ukrainians. The pact calls for all illegal armed groups to be disarmed, all illegally seized buildings to be returned to their legitimate owners and all occupied public spaces to be vacated. It also promises amnesty for protesters who leave buildings and give up their weapons, apart from those convicted of capital crimes.

## Coordination and partnerships

To achieve optimum performance in emergency situations, the URCS is in constant contact with the local authorities and the government agencies. Several letters have been sent to the leadership of the Interior Ministry in Kiev and the Ministers of Justice, Health and the General Prosecutor of Ukraine in order to facilitate the work of the first aid teams of the URCS. Appropriate arrangements have been secured with governmental and non-governmental organizations, through exchanges of letters in order to ensure the legal use of the emblem of the Red Cross and the protection of staff and volunteers of the Red Cross during the performance of their humanitarian activities.

The URCS continues its statutory activities of humanitarian assistance to the population. Launched back in 2012, the program of replenishment of clothing banks of the Red Cross and the existing reserves for

emergencies allow to give the necessary assistance to the needy in the form of clothes, shoes, etc. Entrepreneurs and private donors have also donated to the URCS significant amounts of medication and bandages.

## 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 its DREF and with the financial and technical support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). From the first days of the protests that began in Kiev on 26 November 2013, the staff members and the volunteers of the Red Cross Society have been monitoring the situation daily, on the sites, to assist the victims. The URCS established a working linkage with the medical service of "Maidan" to coordinate its assistance to the victims. The URCS leadership has carried out extensive outreach on the use of the emblem of the Red Cross and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross. The first aid teams of the Ukrainian RC were regularly monitoring the situation and providing first aid and psychological support to the victims where necessary, and they were also providing transportation of the affected people to the nearest ambulance service points both in Kiev and the regions.

To assist the victims, the National Committee of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society immediately mobilized its entire first aid rapid response team for use in emergency situations. The rapid response teams are made up of volunteers specialized in first aid. The URCS also used its warehouse emergency reserves to assist people in need. The Kiev city organization of URCS has also joined the forces with HQ so as to provide humanitarian assistance. The first aid teams have been activated at the regional organizations of the URCS as well.

The first aid team of the National Committee of the URCS in Kiev is made up of 58 people, and they intensified their efforts to create first-aid teams in the regions too – not only in the capital. Currently, there are 27 first aid teams altogether, each of those being composed of 10 to 20 people. With the support of the DREF budget and the ICRC, the first aid teams are equipped properly. As the humanitarian needs in this setting significantly exceeded the URCS's possibilities, priority was given to

- Improved equipment of first aid rapid response teams,
- Training of members of first aid teams and volunteers on first aid and safer access,
- Increased awareness of the activities of the Red Cross and promotion of its work,
- Prevention of violations of the Law of Ukraine On the emblem of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Crystal in Ukraine,
- Preparation of additional volunteers to work in emergency situations.

Currently, the URCS has first aid teams operating in challenging operational context in different regions of the country including Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Nikolaev, Kherson regions where, given this situation, the regional branches of the URCS all over the country have expanded the training onto the general population in first aid skills. One Training of Trainers first aid training took place at the HQs, and 26 people were trained in Kiev, representing 90 per cent of the planned trainers. Afterwards, 27 workshops were conducted in the regions for 450 volunteers for first aid teams.

First aid manuals have been published to disseminate the knowledge about first aid. Now the branches are conducting training for all interested people on a shortened program of 6 hours.

An IFRC Europe Zone Office team, consisting of a general management team and DM, was temporarily deployed in Kiev from February 2014 until the middle of March to support the URCS in communicating with the external partners, updating its consolidated annual and contingency plans, monitoring the permanently changing situation and supporting the National Society in the implementation of the DREF operation. One RDRT member from the Bulgarian RC, supported through the DREF operation, was deployed to Kiev for three weeks until the end of March to provide support to the NS with the revision of emergency plans and the implementation of the DREF operation. The further deployment of a DM delegate, supported by the Canadian RC; and communication experts, supported by the American and Finnish National Societies, is confirmed for April/May 2014. Currently, a Europe Zone manager is deployed to Kiev supporting the URCS with overall coordination.

The ICRC's operations in Ukraine were managed from Moscow until 6 February, when the ICRC opened an office in Kiev. At the beginning of April the ICRC established a fully-fledged delegation with reporting lines to the Geneva HQ. Currently 12 international staff are deployed to work in Kiev. The ICRC has opened offices in Crimea, in Harkiv, in Donetsk and it is planning to open the fourth office in Odessa shortly. All regional ICRC offices are accommodated within existing NS structures. The ICRC is supporting the Ukrainian in strengthening their First Aid capacities by providing training courses to staff and volunteers in tactical and

emergency First Aid; by continued support to the NS emergency response teams and supporting their deployment to the eastern regions of Ukraine to strengthen the teams there. In addition the ICRC has deployed the following expertise: Protection, RFL, Cooperation and Communication.

In line with the Movement Coordination Agreement signed between URCS, ICRC and IFRC in 2012, regular Movement coordination meetings were revived and are taking place at the NS HQ under the chairmanship of the URCS's leadership.

## Progress towards outcomes

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society responded immediately to the humanitarian needs. Seminars to enhance the level of preparedness of volunteers and members in regional organizations for 60 persons and at the National Committee of the URCS for 30 persons have taken place.

### Emergency health

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

**Output 1: Additional 600 Red Cross First Aid volunteers<sup>1</sup> are trained and equipped to provide lifesaving first aid services to casualties in the cities most at risk.**

**Output 2: 20 additional first-aid points<sup>2</sup> of the URCS are set up and equipped in the different provinces.**

**Activities planned:**

- 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 Ukrainian RC has procured tents with NS logo. The analysis of the manufacturing companies was made, quotations were collected, manufacturer selected, agreement has been signed, sample tent has been produced). Due to a discount from the manufacturer, the URCS has ordered 17 tents (instead of the 15 planned).

To ensure recognition and visibility of the staff and volunteers while working, vests and jackets with the URCS logo were produced. The URCS completed the analysis of the local manufacturing companies, collected quotations, selected the manufacturer, made the sample vests and production has start Due to the increased exchange rate of the US currency, the fabric for the manufacture of jackets supplied from abroad has risen significantly in price, leading to more expensive products. Instead of the expected 500 jackets, the URCS ordered only 347. For vests, the producer made a discount, allowing the URCS to order 255 units, instead of 200

The URCS designed the layout of the manual "First Aid" It performed the analysis of the printing companies, collected quotations and ordered the printing. The current members of rapid response teams continue with their daily duties and further monitor the situation. The URCS continues to recruit new volunteers. Initially the budget provided for the purchase of 500 helmets and 500 flashlights of lower price. s. At the same time, some vendors are able to provide small items, leading to savings in budget lines: backpacks, blankets, medical instruments, fuel, and generators. Workshops: the change of venue of seminars (instead of seminars being held in Kiev, they were held in other areas) created a significant saving on travel and accommodation. The National Committee of the URCS requested the IFRC to authorize the use of the funds for the purchase of 1,000 flags (instead of the planned one) as well as for buying mannequins for workshops and seminars to continue in the second phase of the project.

<sup>1</sup> In total the number of the volunteers trained and equipped by the NS will be 1,100.

<sup>2</sup> In total the number of the first aid post ready for supporting the needs will be 35 in the whole country.

**Challenges:** Currently, security in Kiev and in the rest of the country 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. Experience with the procurement program and at the ICRC, while assisting victims in Kiev, has shown that it is necessary to purchase the more expensive helmets and flashlights, which would lead to a reduction in their numbers, but the complications of the financial sector have hampered the supply of goods to Ukraine. This also affected the flashlights and helmets that have been identified for procurement. The supplier in Ukraine set a delivery time much beyond the timing of the program. These facts led to the balances of these budget lines.

#### 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.

The following items have been procured and distributed for the first aid teams:

Procured and distributed items	Amount
Vests with the logo of the URCS	255 pcs.
Jackets with the logo of the URCS	347 pcs.
First aid kits	1,000 pcs.
Backpacks	350 pcs.
Tents	17 pcs.
Blankets	2,180 pcs.
Food thermos boxes <sup>3</sup>	35 pcs.
Generators	15 pcs.
Fuel for generators	1,500 litres
Flags	1,000 pcs.
Armbands with the symbol of Ukrainian RC	5,000 pcs.
Two-way radios – walkie-talkies	48 pcs.
Helmets	75 pcs.
Tents	66 pcs.
Lanterns for helmets	36 pcs.

<sup>3</sup> Instead of 15 due to supplier discounts.

## 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.
- The first DREF Operation Update was issued on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
- The second DREF Operation Update was issued on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014, extended the timeframe until 30 June 2014, and the total budget increased to CHF 317,790.
- This is the third Operation Update without extending the timeframe and without increasing the budget – in order to reflect the rapidly evolving situation in the eastern parts of the country.



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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.