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Emergency Appeal

Ukraine: Civil unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRUA007	Glide n° OT-2013-000151-UKR
Date of launch: 12 May 2014	Expected timeframe: 6 months Expected end date: November 2014
Appeal budget: CHF 1,375,100	
Number of people to be assisted: up to 5,000	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 60,000 volunteers, 865 staff, 27 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: ICRC, German RC	

<click>:

- [here](#) for the Emergency Appeal budget
- [here](#) for contact details
- [The Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\) document is available upon request.](#)

The emergency

This Emergency Appeal seeks resources to enable the IFRC to support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's (URCS) activities to help the population affected by the continued civil unrest and to allow it to prepare for the potential escalation of violence, which may result in a full scale humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The civil unrest in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, which had been oscillating between calm and violence since November 2013, became more severe during the last weeks of February 2014. More than 100 people died during clashes between anti-government protesters and police. Since then, unrest and violence has spread from Kiev to other parts of the Ukraine, especially to its south-eastern regions, where the so-called "pro-Russian" protesters have been attacking police offices, occupying local authority buildings, and establishing check-points on the main roads into the cities.

In the meantime, a referendum was organized in Crimea around the question of independence from the Ukraine and integration into the Russian Federation. On 16 March 2014, the result was in favour of full independence of Crimea from Ukraine and integration into the Russian Federation. The results of this referendum and the subsequent integration of Crimea into the Russian Federation have not been recognised by any country including the Ukraine, where the parliament ("Verhovna Rada") passed a law, which defined the Crimea as "occupied territory".

Attempts by the international community to de-escalate the crisis have, so far, not brought clear results. On 17 April 2014, the U.S. Secretary of State, the Russian Foreign Minister, the acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister and the EU Foreign Policy Chief held emergency talks in Geneva, trying to find a resolution to the crisis. As a result, a joint statement was issued aiming at de-escalating the tension and ensuring the security of all Ukrainians.

Despite this agreement, "pro-Russian protesters" and the Ukrainian military forces clashed in a number of areas in the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Mariupol and others.



Ukrainian RC Emergency Response Teams (ERT) awaiting deployment
Photo: Ukrainian RC

The first few days of May have brought new violence in the east and south of the Ukraine, with four people killed in clashes between the pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian protesters in Odessa, with reportedly 46 people dying in the fire, which broke out at Odessa's Trade Union House.

The situation in the south-eastern parts of the Ukraine continues to be extremely volatile with the danger of further escalation of fighting which may lead to the unpredictable consequences for the civilian population and its movement in search of safety. It has been noted by UNHCR that there is no mandatory integrated registration system and therefore there is no reliable data on the actual number of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In response to earlier requests from the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) for assistance, the IFRC granted to DREF allocations to a combined value of CHF 317,790, to support preparedness activities and to assist the Society to provide first aid and psycho-social assistance to those affected by the violence. With the continuation and deterioration of the situation, the National Society has now requested further support through this emergency appeal and the DREF allocations will be included in the appeal budget.

The response

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has a clearly defined mandate and scope of activities, as well as substantial experience of handling multilaterally supported humanitarian activities and social services to address the needs of the most vulnerable. It has active branches in all oblasts (regions) of the country with 865 paid staff and 3,200 visiting nurses, who are supported by almost 60,000 volunteers actively involved in the National Society's programmes and services.

Having responded to the unrest since the onset of the protests in Kiev in November 2013, the URCS has been involved in providing humanitarian assistance to the affected population. These activities have been supported by the IFRC through two allocations from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), totaling CHF 317,790.

In order to assist those affected by the violence, the National Committee of the URCS immediately mobilized all its first aid rapid response teams. The rapid response teams are made up of volunteers specialized in first aid. They were involved in monitoring the situation, providing first aid and psychological support to the affected population. The teams evacuated the wounded people to the nearest ambulance service points both in Kiev and other regions. Five URCS volunteers were wounded while on duty.

Currently, there are 12 first aid teams (a total of 274 members of whom 55 are URCS staff and 219 volunteers) operating in challenging operational contexts in different regions of the country, including Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkov, Zaporizhzhya, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa, Nikolayev and Kherson. Given the current situation, the regional branches of the URCS throughout the country have expanded their first aid training to the general population. One Training-of-Trainers first-aid workshop took place at the Headquarters of the Ukrainian RC where 26 volunteers were trained. Subsequently, 450 first aid volunteers were trained through 27 workshops in the regions. This training is being provided in coordination with the ICRC.

The URCS is also using its warehouse emergency reserves to assist people in need.

Coordination and partnerships

In line with the Movement Coordination Agreement signed between URCS, ICRC and IFRC in 2012, regular Movement coordination meetings have been regularly held in Kiev under the chairmanship of the URCS.

IFRC support to the URCS is provided through the IFRC Europe Zone Office. The support is based on the careful identification of needs and is done in close coordination and cooperation with the National Society.

In order to better support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, an IFRC Europe Zone Office team was initially deployed in Kiev from February until the middle of March 2014. It provided support to the URCS in communicating with external partners, updating its consolidated annual and contingency plans, monitoring the permanently changing situation and supporting the National Society in the implementation of the activities funded through the DREF. An experienced Russian-speaking IFRC Europe Zone manager was assigned to Kiev in March - April, to support the Ukrainian RC leadership and senior management with overall coordination and liaison with external partners. In addition, an RDRT member sponsored by the Bulgarian RC was deployed to Kiev for three weeks to help the National Society's operational staff with the revision of emergency plans and the implementation of activities supported through the DREF.

An IFRC Disaster Management Delegate, seconded by the Canadian RC, is currently in Kiev to monitor the situation and to support the National Society with the development of an emergency response plan of action and the establishment of long-term plans in disaster preparedness.

A Finnish RC communications team arrived in Ukraine in the last week of April to support the Ukrainian RC with the development of a video spot and documentary, which will be used for the promotion of the work of the volunteers, both within the country and abroad. The deployment of a further communications expert is expected in the first half of May.

The ICRC is also supporting the URCS in strengthening its first aid delivery capacity by providing training courses to staff and volunteers in tactical and emergency first aid and by supporting the NS's emergency response teams and their deployment in the eastern regions of Ukraine. The ICRC has also been also involved in the areas of protection, restoration of family links (RFL), cooperation and communication. It has opened offices in Crimea, Kharkov, and Donetsk - in addition to the one operating in Kiev. All regional ICRC offices are accommodated within existing NS structures. In line with the Movement Coordination Agreement, the ICRC and the IFRC are working together to share information on their planned support to the NS to ensure this is optimized.

Other international organizations with a humanitarian mandate which are present in country are adapting or developing programmes to prepare a response in the event of an escalation of humanitarian needs. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) all held a technical working group meeting to share their field assessment findings and agree on future steps. The operational UN agencies reconfirmed their commitment to a coordinated approach by all humanitarian actors in the Ukraine, including in support of the assessment of humanitarian needs.

Overall coordination of the management of humanitarian activities by organizations working in the Ukraine is realized through regular humanitarian coordination meetings co-chaired by ECHO and UNOCHA. However, to date, relatively little humanitarian assistance is being distributed.

The operational strategy

Summary of planned sector interventions, outcomes, and main activities:

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal aims to strengthen the capacity of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) and to support its emergency preparedness efforts to ensure timely and effective response to a potential humanitarian crisis and consequences of the civil unrest and violence. This appeal aims to support a holistic approach in complementary areas of future response intervention:

- Enhancing the preparedness of the URCS to support the affected population through the prepositioning of emergency stocks in the National Society's warehouses, to enable it to provide immediate support to at least 5,000 people,
- Assisting the National Society in building operational capacity to provide assistance to the population which might be effected by the growing violence, and particularly, the potential internally displaced population. This effort capitalizes on the National Society's unique position as a national organization present and respected throughout the country.

The uncertainty of the situation in terms of international reaction and possible intervention makes the analysis and planning around triggers challenging. Building on a rapid analysis at field level and based on the capacities of the National Society, the triggers for response related to different scenarios that can unfold in the coming days or weeks are as follows:

- Increasing population movement inside the Ukraine with patterns of displacement from areas where serious clashes are taking place.
- The number of IDPs increases (potentially from 15,000 – 50,000) and there are gaps in national response capacities to respond to this.

Currently, the security situation in the Ukraine, and especially in its eastern and southern parts, remains tense, with little indication of immediate improvement. Therefore it is important that the IFRC launches this Emergency Appeal in response to the URCS request to support National Society capacity and support timely and effective response in case of a further escalation of violence and suffering of the affected population.

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection:

Based on the latest developments, and the continued destabilisation in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkov and Odessa regions, the URCS has requested IFRC to urgently provide support to enhance its response capacity in case of internal population movement or to assist other vulnerable groups.

Beneficiary selection will be closely coordinated with local authorities and inside the Movement to avoid a duplication of efforts and to ensure the complementarity of the assistance provided.

First Aid

The proposed operation will focus on strengthening the URCS's first aid capacities across all regions, in coordination with ICRC support, by training additional numbers of volunteers to meet the increasing needs and through providing emergency response teams with first aid kits, materials and equipment. This support will also help the National Society to set up additional first aid posts based on the assessed needs and in preparation for the upcoming elections.

In April, ICRC conducted a four-day ToT session for 10 staff of the URCS, and in March it provided training in first aid to staff in Kharkov and Donetsk. Current needs for trained URCS first aid teams/personnel are being met, but as the unrest continues and spreads, it is expected that further support will be needed. It is estimated that first aid support will be provided to a minimum of eight first aid teams (160 trained volunteers) up to 16 teams (or 320 trained volunteers).

Psychosocial Support (PSS)

Provision of psychosocial support is envisaged for the people affected by the tense situation and for potential IDPs. Psychosocial support is considered as a key contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of IDPs and other affected groups. Support will be provided to establish psychosocial first aid in the areas where people stay in shelters or in temporary accommodation centres. URCS capacity in the area of psychosocial support needs to be enhanced, therefore additional personnel will be trained to carry out psychosocial activities in preparation for the needs.

IFRC has been working with the Danish RC and Belarus RC to assess the needs and provide support and training to URCS staff and volunteers, so they will be able to support the vulnerable people they are assisting. Initial support through the DREF funded activities helped URCS volunteers and staff who worked through the difficult conditions in Kiev some months ago. There are currently discussions to further identify activities in this area to be included in the 2014 URCS plan of action. These will be basically training sessions aimed at supporting URCS volunteers / staff in offering psychosocial support to the population, but will also include the provision of such support for URCS staff and volunteers themselves, given the difficult conditions.

Emergency response preparedness

In order to strengthen the National Society's capacity to respond to the needs of potential IDPs, relief items for up to 5,000 people will be prepositioned in Kiev. If this prepositioned stock is mobilised, beneficiary targeting will be closely coordinated with local authorities and inside the Movement to avoid a duplication of efforts and to ensure a complementarity of the assistance provided.

The pre-positioned items would include blankets, bed linen sets, hygiene kits and tents.

Trained National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) will conduct needs assessments to determine the suitability of using the prepositioned stock in each situation. Except for tents, all the procurement will be done locally, according to the IFRC procurement standards.

National Society capacity building

The current political and humanitarian crisis in the Ukraine has revealed the need to enhance the response capacity of the Ukrainian RC in crisis situations. While the current political situation in the Ukraine continues to be very uncertain, and efforts are made by different political forces to prevent its further deterioration, both the URCS and the IFRC consider it as their primary duty to intensify their cooperation to strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacity at all levels of the National Society. Hence this Emergency Appeal is aimed at mobilising international support to achieve these objectives.

The IFRC plans to send, upon the confirmation of funds, a team of four international delegates / RDRT to support the National Society in disaster management, logistics, psychosocial support, PMER and communications. Also, regular missions will take place from Europe Zone Office to support the team in the country.

Given the sensitivity and challenges in this fragmented and fluid environment, the IFRC will look to support the URCS as required in its Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) functions around external relations and advocacy. As required, the IFRC Europe Zone will lead in providing support to engage with external actors and potential donors in support of the National Society.

Sector and related outcomes
Health and care
Outcome 1: Increased readiness of Red Cross First Aid teams to provide timely first aid services for IDPs.
<p>Output 1.1 Up to 16 first-aid points of the URCS are ready to serve in case of further escalation of violence (in coordination with the ICRC).</p> <p>Related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of well-equipped and managed emergency first aid stations for first aid and referral services. • Setting up first aid posts to respond in the case of large scale population movement. • Setting up additional first aid posts as required in view of the potential disturbances during the upcoming election. • Training of up to 320 Red Cross volunteers in first aid. • Provision of the basic equipment to Red Cross first aid teams. • Provision of transportation and incentives for the deployment of additional volunteer teams during the coming parliamentary elections and other public campaigns and events. • Monitoring of the deployment of first aid teams.
Outcome 2: The beneficiaries affected by crisis and emergency situations are provided with Psychosocial Support Services (PSS)
<p>Output 2.1 Psychosocial support is provided to the target population</p> <p>Related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of psychosocial support specialist(s). • URCS volunteers receive additional training in community-based psychosocial support and are supported in their daily activities. • Building up a resource pool of volunteers and staff trained in PSS to cope with the evolving situation. • Ensuring a permanent presence of Red Cross PSS-trained volunteers in first aid points across the country. • Identification of people at risk or severely affected individuals; referral to a second-line counselling service. • Psychosocial Support to URCS staff or volunteers affected by the crisis as needed.
Water, sanitation & hygiene promotion
Outcome 1: Preparedness stocks are in place to assist up to 5,000 beneficiaries, particularly with a view to responding to a potential IDP crisis.
<p>Output 1.1 Basic hygiene kits for up to 5,000 beneficiaries are pre-positioned in the warehouses.</p> <p>Related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and prepositioning of hygiene kits for immediate distribution to the affected population. • Effective assessment (by URCS staff / volunteers in coordination with the Authorities / Movement to identify targeted distribution of stocks as needed. • Monitoring of the evolving situation to respond to the water and sanitation needs and use of stocks.

Shelter and settlements (and household items)
Outcome 1: Preparedness stocks of non-food items are in place to assist up to 5,000 beneficiaries, particularly with a view of responding to a potential IDP crisis.
<p>Output 1.1 Basic non-food items for up to 5,000 beneficiaries are pre-positioned in the National Society's warehouses.</p> <p>Related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and pre-positioning / storage of tents, blankets, bed linens for immediate distribution to the affected population. • Effective assessment (by URCS staff / volunteers in coordination with the Authorities / Movement to identify targeted distribution of stocks as needed. • Monitoring of the evolving situation to respond to the shelter and non-food needs and use of stocks.
NS Capacity Building
Outcome 1: The disaster management capacity of the National Society to respond to the consequences of the crisis and disaster situations is strengthened
<p>Output 1.1 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) has been strengthened to provide efficient response crises and emergency situations.</p> <p>Related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the URCS at the branch level in updating contingency, crisis and response plans. • Improve coordination with governmental authorities on disaster preparedness and response activities. • Conduct general disaster management training for staff and volunteers. • Basic/rapid needs assessment training/refreshers for National Disaster Response Team. • Conduct training in relief distribution and logistics. • Support for Communications and IT, through the provision of computers, printers, radio and teleconferencing communications materials for particularly insecure areas.

Operational support services

Human resources

The current crisis has, with extremely difficult and often dangerous working conditions in Kiev and other urban centres of Ukraine, resulted in enormous stress for the leadership, the staff and the volunteers of the URCS. It is unlikely that the politically tense and largely uncertain situation in parts of the Ukraine will return to normal in the coming months.

The operations will be coordinated by the headquarters of the URCS. To ensure a substantially enhanced technical support to the URCS and to closely monitor the situation, the IFRC sees it as an urgent need to deploy a professional technical support team in Ukraine for a period of 3-6 months.

The team will be composed of a team leader, specialists in communications and public relations, disaster logistics, psychosocial support and reporting. The presence of the IFRC team will assist the URCS in positioning itself as a neutral and independent body, which acts in line with the fundamental principles and ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Logistics and supply chain

All logistics activities will follow IFRC procedures and will be conducted in a transparent and cost-efficient manner via local procurement except for the tents.

Information technologies (IT)

Some IT and telecommunications materials such as computers and printers will be provided to the National Society to increase its IT capacity. Furthermore, with the objective to increase the coordination of the operational team in the field, the operation will support the procurement of radio systems in key areas of the country. Both the ordinary and emergency communication between the URCS headquarters and the branches will be further supported by purchasing teleconference facility equipment.

Communications

The visibility of URCS activities in the field is reinforced with press releases to national and international media. All new developments are regularly updated on the URCS and IFRC websites.

Visibility will be further improved through dissemination of short videos in the media which highlight URCS activities during the recent unrest, in addition to promoting emblem protection and the mandate of the National Society.

The URCS will develop a communications strategy that ensures a permanent follow-up of the operations, as well as media management at the national and local levels. During the current operation, the National Society is already developing press releases and beneficiary stories, and will work to develop this area further.

Security

Security of the URCS staff and volunteers is a primary concern, as the ongoing situation is unpredictable and situation dynamics are constantly evolving.

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

To ensure IFRC and Ukrainian Red Cross' operational quality standards, the following monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms will be implemented:

- A first update report issued 15 days after the start of the operation will be followed by regular updates depending on the dynamics of the operation and other specific reporting requirements. This will include as far as possible an analysis of the humanitarian situation in country;
- A final evaluation.
- A final report.

The final evaluation will be conducted with technical support from the IFRC and involvement of the National Society's staff and volunteers, with special emphasis on the personnel in the branches to allow the building-up of this capacity as widely as possible. The DM team and other support staff from IFRC Europe Zone Office will conduct at least two country visits to deliver the needed assistance.

Accountability is a key requirement for the URCS. For this reason, communication channels between the National Society and beneficiaries have been established, in order to ensure feedback.

The final evaluation will include the perception of the beneficiaries and the local authorities regarding the efficiency and efficacy of the activities, which need to be executed in accordance with the standards and policies of the IFRC, Ukrainian Red Cross and the minimal standards of the Sphere Project.

Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget (Annex 1) for details.

Walter Cotte
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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

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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.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

05-05-14

MDRUA005 Ukraine

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	166,375			166,375
Shelter - Transitional				0
Construction - Housing				0
Construction - Facilities				0
Construction - Materials				0
Clothing & Textiles	396,355			396,355
Food				0
Seeds & Plants				0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	64,000			64,000
Medical & First Aid	45,000			45,000
Teaching Materials				0
Utensils & Tools	4,500			4,500
Other Supplies & Services	68,800			68,800
Emergency Response Units				0
Cash Disbursements				0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	745,030	0	0	745,030
Land & Buildings				0
Vehicles				0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	6,900			6,900
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment				0
Medical Equipment				0
Other Machinery & Equipment				0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	6,900	0	0	6,900
Storage, Warehousing				0
Distribution & Monitoring	80,000			80,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,850			3,850
Logistics Services	11,650			11,650
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	95,500	0	0	95,500
International Staff	138,900			138,900
National Staff				0
National Society Staff	78,050			78,050
Volunteers	2,600			2,600
Total PERSONNEL	219,550	0	0	219,550
Consultants				0
Professional Fees				0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0	0
Workshops & Training	109,600			109,600
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	109,600	0	0	109,600
Travel	32,000			32,000
Information & Public Relations	25,000			25,000
Office Costs	16,950			16,950
Communications	19,800			19,800
Financial Charges	1,600			1,600
Other General Expenses	8,000			8,000
Shared Office and Services Costs	7,300			7,300
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	110,650	0	0	110,650
Partner National Societies				0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)				0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	83,670	0		83,670
Total INDIRECT COSTS	83,670	0	0	83,670
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	4,200			4,200
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	4,200	0	0	4,200
TOTAL BUDGET	1,375,100	0	0	1,375,100
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	1,375,100	0	0	1,375,100