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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Ukraine: Civil unrest

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRUA007		GLIDE n° OT-2013-000151-UKR
Operation update n° 1		Timeframe covered by this update: 13 December 2013 – 28 May 2014
Emergency operation start date: 13 December 2013		End date: November 2014
Appeal budget: CHF 1,375,100	Appeal coverage: 23% (without consideration of the DREF loan)	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 316,249 (without consideration of the DREF loan)
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 317,790		
N° of people being 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		
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: State authorities, local NGOs and UN agencies		

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of CHF 1,375,100, in cash, out of which amount CHF 317,790 has already been covered by donor replenishments to the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

As violent clashes are continuing in several parts of the country, the present Operation Update wishes to confirm the need to support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's (URCS) activities to help the population affected by the civil unrest. The URCS focuses on providing First Aid services, pre-positioning of emergency relief items and disseminating information on protecting the RC emblem.

### Summary:

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) has been one of the first responders meeting humanitarian needs following the demonstrations that began in November 2013. At the beginning of the demonstrations, the URCS activated emergency response teams to assist the injured. The Emergency Operation was begun at the request of the URCS to have support to increase their response capacity to provide first aid and other humanitarian assistance and especially to respond to increased needs.

Reports from the field have shown that violence has increased in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, in eastern Ukraine, during the period leading up to the May 25 presidential elections. These clashes resulted in a significant number of casualties.

The May 25 presidential elections took place with practically no violence throughout most of the country. Voting was largely curtailed



Young leaders training, including First Aid elements, taking place on 20 May in Bila Tserkva. Photo: URCS

in Luhansk and Donetsk by the armed pro-Russian groups. However, there were several violent clashes after elections between the Ukrainian military and pro-Russian forces in the regions of Donetsk and city of Sloviansk with dozens of people killed.

## Coordination and partnerships

Throughout the operation, URCS has been closely coordinating with local authorities, government agencies (especially with the Ministry of Health, the Kiev City Health Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, SBU – State Security Service, the Ministry of Emergency Situations) human rights protection agencies, and other NGOs providing humanitarian aid.

The agreement with the government on the recognition and respect of the Red Cross emblem and Red Cross workers and volunteers was further strengthened through an exchange of letters.

The URCS is working in close cooperation with the IFRC deployed staff and the ICRC country office staff. The URCS is also active in the eastern regions where most of the violence is occurring and providing assistance where security situation allows. ICRC is active in the traditional fields: protection, RFL (restoring family links), communications, cooperation and is also supporting the first aid activities of the Ukrainian RC. The Ukrainian RC is providing first aid through emergency response teams and training to staff and the public where possible. They also distribute non-food items, including bandages and medical supplies, bedding, blankets procured with help from both IFRC and ICRC. Ukrainian RC emergency teams, especially from Kiev that are working there, can have difficulty in getting safe access to some areas so they are coordinating very closely with ICRC staff together they determine where each has safe access to areas and then share the responsibility on that basis. In performing their activities, the URC has received donations of relief and medical supplies from businesses and private donors.

## Operational implementation

The worsening situation required the mobilization of all the resources of the URCS: emergency response teams, trained volunteers, and used all available warehouse stocks of emergency supplies (bandages, hygiene items, individual protection items/mask and special clothing for emergency workers: overalls, helmets, etc.). Emergency response personnel/volunteers from the Kiev City Red Cross were mobilized, as were the teams/personnel in the oblast committees.

These teams monitor the situation, administer first aid and psychosocial support, and help transfer injured people to ambulances.

The operational priorities of the URC became the following:

- Procurement and distribution of emergency relief items;
- Adequately equipping emergency response teams;
- Further training of response teams and volunteers in first aid and operating safely in emergency environments;
- Dissemination of information about the work of the Red Cross and respect for it;
- Warning that violation of the Red Cross symbols is violation of Ukrainian law;
- Training of new volunteers in operating safely in emergency environments.

To meet these needs, the URC mobilized all remaining resources and called on the IFRC and ICRC to provide further assistance.

The goal of the URCS is to solve the humanitarian problems of people in the areas worst hit or affected by the demonstrations, conflicts and displacement.

Depending on the appeal coverage, the National Society will address other planned intervention areas indicated in the Emergency Plan of Action of the Emergency Appeal (i.e. prepositioning of hygiene kits and other relief items).

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

<b>NS Capacity Building</b>
<b>Outcome 1: The disaster management capacity of the National Society to respond to the consequences of the crisis and disaster situations is strengthened</b>
<p><b>Output 1.1 The National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) has been strengthened to provide efficient response to crises and emergency situations.</b></p> <p><b>Related activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the URCS at the branch level in updating contingency, crisis and response plans.</li> <li>• Improve coordination with governmental authorities on disaster preparedness and response activities.</li> <li>• Conduct general disaster management training for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Basic/rapid needs assessment training/refreshers for National Disaster Response Team.</li> <li>• Conduct training in relief distribution and logistics.</li> <li>• Support for Communications and IT, through the provision of computers, printers, radio and teleconferencing communications materials for particularly insecure areas.</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

The operation has so far enabled the URCS to create and train/equip emergency first aid teams of staff and volunteers to operate in the areas of the country experiencing instability.

The Ukrainian RC has purchased tents with NS logo for the use as First Aid stations. In total, 37 tents were purchased, designated for all 25 regions, and so far have been delivered to Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, and Nikolayev. No problems occurred during the procurement process.

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 started. In total, 515 vests were purchased. The procurement experienced no problems, and within the budgeted amount for 400, 515 were purchase due to volume savings.

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 ones. Funds in the budget have been reallocated to cover the second delivery of 200 extra jackets, which is expected by 1 July 2014.

The URCS designed the layout of the manual "First Aid", and the printing of the First Aid brochures for volunteers is completed.

Currently there are 14 First Aid teams with a total of 274 members of whom 55 are staff and 219 volunteers. The URCS continues to recruit new volunteers.

The Emergency Appeal is aiming to create and train/equip more teams, from 8 to 16 teams (160 to 320 volunteers). The First Aid team members are equipped with coats, vests, helmets, first aid kits, flashlights, rucksacks; and they also have flags, radios, tents, blankets, and additional first aid supplies (bandages, etc.). Training in First Aid has been taking place in the regions for staff and volunteers, done in groups of 10-15 students.

Two seminars were held at national headquarters for a total of 75 people with the participation of first aid and volunteer instructors, emergency response team leaders and visiting nurses program managers

Remaining tasks are the completion of first aid training in the regions, purchase of flashlights, completion of procurement of bedding and jackets and other relief items and hygienic materials envisaged in Emergency Appeal Plan of Action.

The following items have been procured and distributed for the first aid teams until the publication of this operations update:

Procured and distributed items	Amount
Vests with the logo of the URCS	515 pcs.
Jackets with the logo of the URCS	347 pcs.
First aid kits for volunteers	200 pcs
Backpacks	350 pcs.
Tents	37 pcs.
Blankets	2,180 pcs.
Food thermos boxes	40 pcs.
Generators	15 pcs.
Flags	1,000 pcs.
Armbands with the symbol of Ukrainian RC	5,000 pcs.
Two-way radios – walkie-talkies	100 pcs.
Helmets	300 pcs.

**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. 600 volunteers are insured under the IFRC global insurance programme.

## Contact information

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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.



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.