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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Ukraine: Ammunition depot explosion

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRUA008	Glide n° AC-2015-000154-UKR
Date of issue: 11 November 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 10 February 2016
DREF allocated: CHF 209,789	
Number of people affected: over 10,000 people displaced	Number of people to be assisted: 2,800 people (800 families) are assisted through the operation with non-food items and vouchers for small kitchen utensils and essential furniture
Host National Society: Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of branches: 25 regional branches, 865 office staff plus 3,200 visiting nurses;• Number of volunteers: 60,000 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, Austrian Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Ukraine, local authorities and UN agencies, WHO	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On the evening of 29 October 2015, a fire started at an ammunition depot in the town of Svatovo, Luhansk Region, with a population of 19,700 people and in the nearby village of Milovatka with 2,300 residents. Many state-owned and private buildings have been damaged, affecting some 10,000 people. As reported by the Government Agency for Emergencies, one fourth of the population had to be evacuated from the adjacent territories.

The ammunition depot situated in a residential area had a stockpile of about 3.5 tons of ammunition which exploded. The fire spread over the 300 square meter large depot area. According to the feedback and reports received from Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS), Luhansk regional branch, four (4) persons were killed, 54 persons were injured, and more than 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes for safer places. Furthermore, 118 patients of the district hospitals, 100 residents of the nursing homes for elderly people and 116 residents of the boarding schools have been evacuated.



A destroyed home in Svatovo.
By courtesy of TCH.ua

In the town of Svatovo, the fire and the shell explosions damaged 476 buildings (including 18 residential buildings), whereas 4 private buildings were completely destroyed. The affected population lost their food stocks and home properties as well. Storage rooms, stocks for cooking/heating (e.g. firewood), bedding/clothes of the most affected households were destroyed or lost. The infrastructure was also severely damaged including 4 schools (out of the 5 local schools) and a local residential house for elderly people. One of the shells hit a railway line 24 km away from Svatovo in

the direction of the city of Kharkiv. The rail service has been suspended. Gas, electricity and water supplies are significantly limited and disrupted.

The fire also spread to the woods around the town. The exploding shells forced the population to seek refuge in basements, and the authorities pulled in rescuers from the whole region as fast as they could. Local residents have been evacuated to the towns of Kreminna, Troyitske, Rubizhne in Luhansk region. The residents of these neighboring unaffected towns helped by bringing food for the affected population. Local authorities report that some people have been moved to nearby bomb-proof shelters. Those who have decided to leave the town are accommodated at holiday resorts and local hospitals.

In the morning of 30 October, at around 4 am, massive explosions in Svatovo ammunition depot stopped, although sporadic explosions continue to take place.

The town has been divided into 15 sectors in order to conduct search for the missing people and to help those affected. The deactivation of unexploded devices takes place by the Ministry of Emergencies` trained staff, therefore, the population is not allowed to return to their homes. The city operational staff received 216 requests for demining of unexploded ordnance. In Svatovo, the damaged water, electricity and gas supply in the residential sector of the city is being restored.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The emergency response mechanism of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society was mobilized immediately and started providing assistance during the first hours after the disaster. URCS was among the first organizations on the spot helping in the evacuation of elderly people and vulnerable families with young children followed by the delivery of non-food relief. After an appeal from Svatovo local authorities, the Luhansk Regional URCS branch and its district branch in Parvomaysk town approached the Rubizhne town hospital where the affected population in need was hospitalized. URCS provided non-food items including 46 bed linen sets to respond to the request of Head of Health Department of Rubizhne town council. Further, 150 sets of bed linen, 660 blankets, 54 hygiene kits and 32 heaters have been delivered to Svatovo town immediately.

The head of the Luhansk Regional URCS branch met with city officials, the head of Svatovo district administration, the deputy head of the Luhansk military-civilian administration and the head of Svatovo city council, to clarify the needs of the affected population. The major areas of support were identified as follows: support in the evacuation, particularly providing heaters, hygiene kits, warm clothes, blankets, bed linen, shelter relief materials for roofs, windows, doors and other household items.

This humanitarian aid was coordinated with the units of the Ministry of Emergencies in Luhansk region. The Luhansk Regional URCS joined several field assessments which are still taking place in the affected areas.

Table 1. Number of already distributed non-food items for affected population in Svatovo

URCS	Tents (3x3)	Thermos flasks for food	Blankets	Bed linen / towels	First aid kits	Hygiene kits	Sleeping bags	Electric heaters
From the warehouse of Severodonetsk	1	2	260	196	35	54	34	32
From the National Committee of URCS (Kyiv)	2		210	500		362		
Total	3	2	470	696	35	416	34	32

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In connection with the overall situation in the country, an IFRC Emergency Appeal, "Ukraine: Civil Unrest" is being implemented. In Luhansk region the activities are focused on Severodonetsk and Lisichansk towns where household vouchers are distributed to internally displaced people. The ICRC is helping internally displaced people and residents with cash, food, hygiene items and construction materials as well as providing medical assistance to health structures. Austrian Red Cross is providing shelter, non-food vouchers and food vouchers for internally displaced people in Luhansk non-government controlled areas. In Slavyansk area the IFRC is supporting the internally displaced with food vouchers and Luxembourg Red Cross is providing shelter vouchers.

Movement Coordination

Weekly coordination meetings hosted by URCS are taking place for all movement partners, attended by representatives of participating National Societies present in Kyiv along with the ICRC and the IFRC.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The State Emergency Services and the Ukrainian pyrotechnics and rescuers are actively involved. In Svatovo have been established and continue to operate three field kitchens and three tents for reestablishing the heating system and livelihood of local communities and staff. State Emergency Services has released and disseminated 1,000 leaflets on the danger of the unexploded ordinances. In addition, leaders of the city's institutions and organizations disseminate extended information about mine danger. Local radio has periodically broadcast instructions and warnings. The UN agencies present in the region have provided emergency support to hospitals and schools.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

The humanitarian priorities of the affected population have been discussed and identified with the local authorities and representatives of the beneficiaries. Based upon the aforementioned pre-assessment, the UCRS will focus on addressing non-food needs such as household vouchers, blankets, bed linen, hygiene kits and heaters for 800 most affected families (2,800 people).

People who were evacuated out of their homes or usual places of abode and are temporarily hosted in shelters, hospitals and hotels are lacking adequate hygienic supplies (e.g. soap, tooth paste/brushes, etc.). Because of the severe weather conditions and the disruption of gas and electricity supplies, they need heaters and warm jackets to keep themselves warm. The population also needs bedding sets in terms of bed linen and blankets. Besides, many households were damaged during the emergency and need minor or major repairs of windows, doors, roofs, etc. First aid kits will help people moved from district hospitals to get the necessary medicines they need to protect their health.



Needs assessment in progress.
Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross Society

In total, the URCS is targeting 800 families (2,800 people) to be provided with non-food items including bedding, blankets, heaters and hygiene kits.

The distributions will be implemented on the basis of the situation assessment and the beneficiary selection criteria agreed with the local authorities, beneficiary representatives and the State Emergency Agency.

The selected beneficiaries targeted under this response are mainly:

- The most affected families living in damaged and destroyed houses/flats;
- Households with elderly persons (70 and over);
- Households with disabled persons of the first, second and third grades;
- Single headed households with young children (under the age of 18).

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The vulnerability of 800 families (2,800 people) affected by the explosion is reduced through the provision of non-food relief items and essential household items in the form of cash vouchers to 800 families in the value of CHF 100 for each family. Useful information about the danger of unexploded ordnance as well as visual materials will be drafted, printed and disseminated to reach the under-informed residents of the town.

Proposed strategy

Ukrainian Red Cross Society will make a final assessment of the needs of the affected population in cooperation with the local authorities and representatives of beneficiaries' groups. The list of beneficiaries will be prepared according to the aforementioned and agreed selection criteria; it will be monitored, and this list will be the basis upon which the needed items will be procured, transported and distributed to the beneficiaries. Household vouchers will be procured and distributed under a strict monitoring system.

The DREF operation will be an immediate emergency response to address the needs of the targeted 800 families (2,800 people) to ensure that their emergency shelter, hygienic and medicament needs are met.

The key activities planned as part of the operation are as follows:

- Detailed needs assessment and completion of beneficiaries' lists according to the identified criteria agreed with the local authorities;
- Approximately 700 targeted families will be provided with relief non-food items: 2,104 bed linen sets and 2,330 blankets;
- 200 hygiene kits will be handed out for elderly people and 184 hygiene kits will be distributed among children;
- 400 most vulnerable residents will receive winter jackets or sleeping bags;
- 368 families will receive electric heaters;
- The hygiene situation will be improved by distributing water and sanitation promotion materials. The danger of unexploded ordnance is reduced through the dissemination of information materials among 2,800 people;
- Replenishment of the items already distributed to the affected families: 696 bed linen sets, 470 blankets, 416 children hygiene kits and 32 electric heaters.

Table 2 – Overview of non-food items

Items	Blankets	Bed linen / towels	Hygiene kits	Electric heaters
For replenishment	470	696	416	32
For distribution	2,330	2,104	384	368
Total procurement	2,800	2,800	800	400

Table 3 – Contents of a hygiene kit (family with young children)

Item	Quantity
Soap laundry (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Soap ordinary (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Soap for children (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Washing powder (450 g)	2 packs
Dishwashing liquid (not less than 250 ml)	2 items
Toothpaste (100 ml)	1 piece
Toothbrush	1 piece
Shampoo (250 ml)	1 piece
Diapers for babies (7-14 kg, not less than 30 pieces)	1 pack
Wipes for children (not less than 60 pieces)	4 packs
Bag or box	1 item

Table 4 – Contents of a hygiene kit (for elderly persons)

Item	Quantity
Soap laundry (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Soap ordinary (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Soap for child (not less than 150 g)	2 pieces
Washing powder (450 g)	2 packs
Dishwashing liquid (not less than 250 ml)	2 items
Toothpaste (100 ml)	1 piece
Toothbrush	1 pieces
Shampoo (250 ml)	1 piece
Diapers for adults	1 pack
Wipes	4 packs
Bag or box	1

- Distribution of shelter relief materials vouchers to the 800 most affected families in the value of CHF 100. The vouchers are valid for purchasing small kitchen utensils and essential furniture. The URCS implements similar households vouchers for other geographical regions and has already carried out a market analysis.

Operational support services

Human resources

The IFRC Office in Kyiv will provide technical guidance on the DREF procedure and reporting. The National Society's Program Coordinator and 30 trained and experienced volunteers of the local Luhansk Regional URCS branch will be appointed to implement this operation and deliver the assistance needed by the affected population. The deployed volunteers will receive allowance twice during the operational timeframe. The IFRC will ensure volunteer insurance which is reflected in the budget.

Logistics and supply chain

Non-food items and hygiene kits will be procured centrally by the National Committee (Headquarters) of the URCS and distributed locally to the affected population. The procurement, transport and prepositioning of the stocks will be conducted in accordance with IFRC rules and procedures. Shelter vouchers will be acquired centrally by the National Committee of URCS based on open tender procedure.

Information technologies (IT)

The National Committee of URCS will maintain regular communication with its branch in Luhansk region and all affected district RC branches through the mobile telephone network, and, for reports and pictures, through the Internet.

Communications

A press release will be issued in Ukrainian, Russian and English to be disseminated through the local media, and information will be posted on the official website of Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Photos will be taken at the operation sites and used both for sending to media and posting on the international website. Leaflets on emergency response and mine danger will be prepared and distributed. The field staff and volunteers will be available for media inquiries after preliminary coordination with the NC URCS Communications Officer.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The URCS will monitor the whole project implementation. Updates will be provided by URCS to the IFRC on the progress of the operation. A beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted in the form of questionnaires as a part of the monitoring and evaluation activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented during three months and will be completed by 10 February 2016. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 10 May 2016.

Administration and Finance

URCS will ensure the proper use of financial resources in accordance with the conditions laid down in the project agreement signed between the National Society and the IFRC. Financial resources management will take place according to IFRC standards and DREF guidelines.

Budget

Click [here](#) to see the budget of the DREF operation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF OPERATION

10/11/2015

Ukraine Explosion

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	66,880
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,400
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	12,000
Cash Disbursements	80,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	177,280
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	8,800
Transport & Vehicle Costs	
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,800
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	4,545
Total PERSONNEL	4,545
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	1,500
Information & Public Relations	1,260
Office Costs	1,800
Communications	1,800
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,360
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	12,804
Total INDIRECT COSTS	12,804
TOTAL BUDGET	209,789