

Emergency Plan of Action operation update

Ukraine: Ammunition depot explosion

DREF n° MDRUA008	GLIDE n° AC-2015-000154-UKR
EPoA update n° 1; date of issue: 30 December 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 11 November -11 December 2015
Operation start date: 11 November 2015	Operation timeframe: 3 months and end date: 10 February 2016
Overall operation budget: CHF 209,789	
N° of people being assisted: 2,800	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Ukraine Red Cross Society, IFRC and ICRC, Austrian Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government Agency for Emergencies of Ukraine, local authorities and UN agencies, WHO	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:
No revision made so far.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the situation

On 19 October 2015, a series of explosions occurred at the ammunition depot in the town of Svatovo, Luhansk region, Eastern Ukraine, killing 4 people, injuring another 54 and causing massive damage to housing and property both private and multi-staged buildings. More than 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes for safer places in neighboring towns. Furthermore, 118 patients of the district hospitals, 100 residents of the nursing homes for elderly people and 116 residents of the boarding school were evacuated. Two weeks after the disaster, the evacuated people could return to their places of residence as deactivation of unexploded devices by the Government Agency for Emergencies' trained staff was finished and damaged water, electricity and gas supply in the residential sector of the city was restored. Also the railway was restored. However, information from the Government Agency for Emergencies of Ukraine indicate that 18 institutional buildings, 60 multi-staged buildings and 1,079 private houses of the most vulnerable families remain seriously damaged and have become unsafe for living.



The Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers distributed urgently needed non-food items to affected people.
Photo by URCS

Reports from the local authorities and the National Society reveal that 3,082 people (1,041 living in private houses and 2,041 living in flats) were officially registered in three groups as those who suffered because their homes were damaged by the disaster. The authorities pledged to compensate the destructions for these families by providing

financial support and assistance in construction works both in terms of human resources and building materials. At the moment government financial support covers up to 44% of those in need (1 person received – 4,400 CHF, 6 persons received – 436 CHF, 1356 persons received – 130 CHF). Although with the start of government supported construction works families began to return home in Svatovo, still around 30 families continue to stay in neighboring towns. With the DREF allocation, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has procured highly needed relief items such as bed-linen, blankets and warm jackets, and signed a contract of household items vouchers with local supermarket for construction materials. The distribution of those items will start in the second half of December 2015. All of the relief items have been procured locally and in accordance with the International Federation's standard tendering procedures.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Following the appearance of the disaster, the volunteers and staff of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) were mobilized immediately to help evacuate affected people and conduct a rapid assessment of their needs. Answering to a call 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. The URCS provided non-food items including 46 bed linen sets to respond to the request of the Head of Health Department of Rubizhne town council. In addition, 150 sets of bed linen, 660 blankets, 54 hygiene kits and 32 heaters have been delivered to Svatovo town immediately. Further, the URCS Headquarters provided humanitarian assistance in the form of wheelchairs, kitchen sets, FA kits and tents. Within the framework of an agreement with the Austrian Red Cross, the Luhansk Red Cross branch distributed 45 vouchers (45 CHF each) for food and hygienic items to the population that was evacuated in Rubizhne town hospital. On the 13th of November, the Luhansk Regional Red Cross branch provided humanitarian aid in the form of medical equipment and equipment for medical nurses.

On their part, the Svatovo Red Cross city organization has been disseminating information and assisting with applications for government compensations, providing clothes to affected population. When the evacuated population started returning to their homes, the Svatovo Red Cross city branch together with local authorities carried out a situation assessment to identify the impact of the explosion and the needs of affected people. They visited the families whose houses had been damaged in Svatovo city and region in order to confirm the list of beneficiaries for relief distributions.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is closely coordinating its response actions with the government at national and local levels, especially with the Government Agency for Emergencies of Ukraine. The local authorities from the very first hours of the disaster expressed their full support of the National Society's activities. The Luhansk regional Red Cross branch is in close contact with the local authorities of Svatovo, including Svatovo city council and the Luhansk military-civilian administration and the Svatovo Red Cross city organization. The URCS HQ, the Luhansk regional Red Cross branch and the affected Svatovo city organization are key implementers of the operation. Red Cross volunteers were actively involved in the distribution of humanitarian aid provided by other oblast administrations, private foundations and donors to affected population.



The affected population also rely on Red Cross volunteers as a source of information regarding Government compensations Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers. Photo by URCS

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation's country office in Kyiv has been providing general supervision and coordination. The PMER officer and CTP & DM Delegate conduct a monitoring visit to Svatovo as soon as the distribution of relief items, hygienic kits and household vouchers starts. The International Federation's country office will also seize that opportunity to provide technical and logistical support as needed.

The Austrian Red Cross who works with the Luhansk branch of the Ukraine Red Cross on around 50 km distance from the DREF location provided 45 vouchers (45 CHF each) for food and hygienic items to the population that was evacuated in Rubizhne town hospital as well as technical advice and support where necessary.

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

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The response of the Ukrainian Red Cross was closely coordinated with the Government Agency for Emergencies, regional and local authorities.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

An assessment conducted by the volunteers of the URCS together with local authorities showed that 3,082 officially registered people were directly affected by the explosions, meaning that their homes were seriously damaged by explosions. Further assessment was carried out by URCS staff and volunteers who identified 2,800 of the most affected people (families with older people, families that have people with disabilities, families with many children and low-income families), as well as 1 475 residents of three health institutions (Regional Psychiatric Hospital, District Hospital and Elderly home). The major areas of support were identified as follows: providing heaters, warm clothes, blankets, bed linen, shelter relief materials for roofs, windows, doors and other household items. The affected people also needed hygiene kits and other relief.

In an effort to meet the most urgent needs, during the first 12 hours of the explosion the National Society dispatched from the central and regional disaster stocks 470 blankets, 696 bed linen and towels, 35 first aid kits, 416 hygienic kits, 34 sleeping bags, 32 electric heaters, and 3 tents. These stocks will be replenished with DREF funds.

Risk Analysis

The activities are being implemented according to plan. There is only variance in quantities and unit prices of three budget items, at the same time the budget remains unchanged.

Based on the needs and the outcome of a very sharp tender procedure, the number of bed linen, blankets and warm clothes has been increased, but the total budget per item remains the same. All eleven suppliers who responded to the tender provided around 50% low prices than before. The decrease in prices is either due to over production and a high number of blankets and bed linen on stock by traders, or could be associated with the considerable drop in prices (constantly increasing exchange rate). This was unpredictable at the time of planning this DREF operation as the prices during last two years had remained relatively stable.

The situation does not affect the DREF operation as more items can be purchased against a very favourable price, and therefore more affected people can be assisted. These affected people are becoming even more vulnerable in view of the growing prices for goods and services, and severe winter conditions.

Immediately after the explosion, the inpatients of the Regional Psychiatric Hospital (750 beds), the District Hospital (300 beds) and the Elderly home (180 beds) were evacuated. Once these inpatients returned to these institutions, the authorities were faced with the need of support to resist the winter conditions; thus they appealed to the local Svatovo Red Cross Branch. Consequently, an additional 3,045 blankets and 745 bed linen sets have been procured. These items will be distributed to the inpatients of the afore mentioned health institutions.

The total number of beneficiaries increased by at least 1,475 people, including in two months reaching 750 patients of the Regional Psychiatric Hospital, 500 patients of the District Hospital and 225 residents of the Elderly Home.

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

This DREF operation is an immediate emergency response to address the needs of the targeted affected people to ensure that their essential emergency shelter, hygienic and winterisation needs are met. Based on careful assessments of the needs of the affected population in cooperation with the local authorities and representatives of beneficiaries' groups the list of beneficiaries has been established. The major areas of support were identified as follows: providing heaters, warm clothes, blankets, bed linen, shelter relief materials for roofs, windows, doors and other household items. The affected people also needed hygiene kits and other relief.

Household vouchers are being procured and distributed under a strict monitoring system. Post distribution monitoring will take place two weeks after the distribution.

Operational support services

Human resources

The IFRC Office in Kyiv provides technical guidance on the DREF procedure and reporting. The URCS's Program Coordinator and 30 trained and experienced volunteers of the local Luhansk URCS Regional branch have been appointed to implement this operation and deliver the assistance needed by the affected population. The deployed volunteers receive allowance during three months of the operational timeframe. The IFRC ensured volunteer insurance which is reflected in the budget.

Logistics and supply chain

Non-food items and hygiene kits are procured centrally by the Headquarters of the URCS and distributed locally to the affected population. The procurement, transport and prepositioning of the stocks is being conducted in compliance with IFRC rules and procedures and in a transparent and cost-efficient manner. Due to low prices shelter vouchers are acquired centrally by the URCS Headquarters based on open tender procedure.

Thanks to a sharp tender procedure, providers offered very suitable prices enabling URCS to buy more relief items at the same price and reach more beneficiaries.

No logistic support was required from the IFRC Secretariat's Global Logistic Services. Local transportation companies were hired to transport the goods to the warehouses of the local URCS branches.

Information technologies (IT)

The Headquarters of URCS 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 was issued in Ukrainian, Russian and English to be disseminated through the local media, and information was posted on the official website of Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Photos were taken at the operation sites and used both for sending to media and posting on the website of the URCS.

The field staff and volunteers are available for media inquiries after preliminary coordination with the URCS Communications Officer.

Security

Staff and volunteers are properly informed on the security regulations. No security incidents reported.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The URCS monitor the whole project implementation. The International Federation's country office in Kyiv has been providing general supervision, coordination and monitoring.

Weekly updates are provided by URCS to the International Federation's 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. A questionnaire or post-distribution monitoring was developed by URCS.

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

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: The quality of emergency response operations is improved												
Output 1.1 URCS provides monitoring and needs assessment based on the situation												
Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
On-going assessments and monitoring												
Mobilising volunteers for the implementation of activities												
Monitoring visits by URCS												
Output 1.2 A Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey will be conducted at the end of the operation.												
Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conducting a Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey by URCS through questionnaire (no budget costs involved)												
<p>Progress:</p> <p>During the reporting period URCS developed criteria for beneficiaries' selection process. It consists of two stages: first, families from the damaged buildings (officially registered 3,082 people) were identified, second – vulnerability criteria was applied – meaning belonging to one of 5 vulnerability categories: multi-children families, pregnant and lactating women, disabled, single headed households, the elderly. Based on this mix of criteria local Svatovo Red Cross city branch prepared a list of 800 families (2800 people) for distribution of hygienic kits, relief non-food items and household vouchers. In addition the residents of three health institutions (Regional Psychiatric Hospital, District Hospital and Elderly home) have been identified in need of essential non-food items such as blankets and bed linen.</p> <p>In accordance with activities' timeframe, 30 volunteers were mobilized for the implementation of activities, which comprises from local volunteers as well as volunteers from neighboring towns and Luhansk Regional Red Cross branch based in Severodonetsk. All volunteers received insurance. The Deputy head of Luhansk Regional Red Cross branch attended a training on cash vouchers management and volunteers enrollment in Kharkiv facilitated by URCS staff in terms of Emergency Appeal programming. This activity was funded within the framework of another project.</p> <p>The timeframe for monitoring visits has been agreed between URCS, Luhansk Regional RC branch and IFRC staff. The monitoring visits take place during and after the distributions. Meanwhile questionnaire for Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey has been developed based on URCS previous best practices on cash programming and non-food relief items distribution.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <p>Guidance on assessment of beneficiaries based on the situation was provided by URCS and IFRC to Luhansk Regional Red Cross branch. For the Luhansk Red Cross branch, URCS Headquarters developed a step by step instruction to follow by branch staff while asking questions for/from beneficiaries. Further IFRC guidance and technical support to enable URCS to conduct Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey is required and will be provided during the implementation.</p>												

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome 1: The hygiene situation in the affected communities is improved.												
Output 1.1 Hygiene kits are provided to the 800 most affected families (2,800 people).												
Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conduct emergency needs assessments												
Prepare list of beneficiaries together with local authorities												
Conduct a monitoring of beneficiary lists												
Procure selected items, transport and pre-position stocks												
Transport and distribute hygiene kits among beneficiaries												
Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user												

Monitor the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributors

Progress:

In accordance with the operational timeframe, an emergency needs assessment was done and the content of hygienic kit was agreed with beneficiaries and local authorities. The tender procedure on hygienic kits took place at the HQ of URCS to receive more proposals from suppliers and more suitable prices and terms of delivery. The tender procedure took more time than it was expected because of low interest to the tender from suppliers.

Prior to the procurement, an emergency needs assessment was conducted by Svatovo city Red Cross Branch together with local authorities. The lists of beneficiaries were prepared based on the selection criteria developed by URCS. Monitoring through home visits of vulnerable population was made at the local level to finalise the beneficiary lists.

Regarding the noon-food items, the list of beneficiaries and number of items has been finalized.

Number of non-food items for affected population in Svatovo

Lugansk, Svatove district organizations of URCS	Household/Construction items vouchers	Blankets	Bed linen + Towel	Hygiene kits	Winter Closes Jackets	Electric heaters
For distribution targeted families	800	2800	2104	384	400	368
For replenishment		470	696	416	120	32
For Regional Psychiatric Hospital (Svatove) (750 beds)		1500	400			
For District Hospital (Svatove) (300 beds)		1000	200			
For House of elderly people (Svatove) (180 beds)		545	125			
Total:	800	6315	3525	800	520	400

Challenges:

Suppliers showed low interest for tender on hygienic kits. Consequently, the tender procedure was prolonged for 10 working days.

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs analysis: The affected population needs bedding sets, blankets and household vouchers for elementary repair of their houses (windows, doors, roofs).

Population to be assisted: 800 families (2,800 people) will be provided with bed linen sets, blankets, warm jackets, electric heaters, household vouchers.

Outcome 1: The immediate settlement needs of the target population are met

Output 1.1 Non-food items are distributed to the targeted population

Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Week												
Conduct detailed emergency needs assessments												
Prepare list of beneficiaries together with local authorities												
Conduct a monitoring of beneficiary lists												
Procure selected items, transport and pre-position stocks												
Transport and distribute bed linen sets, blankets, electric heaters, warm jackets among beneficiaries												
Monitoring of the evolving situation to respond to the shelter and non-food needs and use of stocks.												

Outcome 2 Emergency shelter /non-food relief item needs of the 800 most affected families are met

Output 2.1 The affected families received vouchers for shelter relief household materials.

Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Week												
Conduct detailed emergency needs assessments.												
Prepare lists of beneficiaries together with local authorities.												
Conduct monitoring of beneficiary lists.												
Organise a tender on household vouchers												
Organise the distribution of household vouchers												

DREF OPERATION

29/12/2015

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