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Emergency appeal Operations Update

Belarus: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRBY006		GLIDE n° OT-2014-000146-BLR	
Operations update n° 2 Date of issue: 4 August 2016		Timeframe covered by this update: 26 January – 27 July 2016	
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 3 June 2015		Original timeframe of the emergency appeal: 3 June 2015 - 3 February 2016 Extension of the operation: until 31 December 2016	
Appeal budget: CHF 742,931	Appeal's coverage: 84%	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 624,793	
N° of people being assisted: 2,400 families (some 10,000 beneficiaries) identified as the most vulnerable among the displaced people arriving in Belarus from Ukraine			
Host National Society presence: Belarus Red Cross Society with 250 volunteers, 52 staff members, 6 regional branches and the Minsk City organisation			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Since 2014, IFRC, ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross have been the major supporters of the Belarus Red Cross in addressing the acute humanitarian needs of the displaced population arriving in Belarus from Ukraine. A total of 10 donors, including seven Partner National Societies and DG ECHO, have contributed to the appeal in the value of CHF 624,793. The following Movement partners have supported this operation through the emergency appeal: Austrian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross (from the Canadian Government), Icelandic Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, Red Cross of Monaco, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross (from the Swiss Solidarity foundation). In addition, ICRC and Danish Red Cross have supported the operation bilaterally.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in Belarus in assisting the displaced population from Ukraine: Belarus state authorities including the Citizenship and Migration Office; Labour, Employment and Social Protection Committee; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; local authorities. Assistance has been also provided in Belarus to the displaced population from Ukraine by UNHCR, IOM, and the Orthodox Church of Belarus.			

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

New rules for registration of funds have been introduced by the Belarusian authorities in 2016. Belarus Red Cross's projects supported with foreign funding have been experiencing serious delays in implementation due to a much longer and more complicated funds' registration process. The Swiss Solidarity and Partner National Societies' contributions received by Belarus Red Cross on 2 May 2016 have been waiting for the permission from the Humanitarian Aid Department for almost three months. The greenlight for the use of the latter was received only on 27 July 2016. Therefore, taking into account the current circumstances, with this Operations Update the timeframe of the Emergency Appeal is being extended until 31 December 2016, in order to carry out all the planned activities.

Summary

The armed conflict in the southern-eastern regions of Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, has triggered a massive movement of civilians in search of refuge and security to other parts of Ukraine and beyond, into neighbouring Belarus and the Russian Federation, which now host the majority of displaced people from eastern Ukraine. Belarus is a practical choice for Ukrainians due to its location and cultural affinity. The overall number of forced migrants is estimated at more than 160,000 people¹. Since spring 2016 OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has been recording an increasing number of ceasefire violations and an increase of violence in Donetsk region.

According to the Belarusian National Statistics Committee, in January-June 2016 Belarus welcomed 7,728 people from CIS countries, with 87.4 per cent of them coming from Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan. As of 19 June 2016, the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior of Belarus registered 38,205 citizens of Ukraine with temporary or permanent resident permits (over 48,000 in 2015). While there were 800 applications for refugee status and subsidiary protection admitted for examination in 2014, there were a total of 1,200 applications in 2015. In 2016 the number of forced migrants arriving in Belarus remains high. Over the first half of 2016, approximately 300 foreigners have applied for subsidiary protection. Since 2014 the number of applications for subsidiary protection from Ukrainian forced migrants has prevailed in the total number of applications. According to the Citizenship and Migration Department, over 1,600 Ukrainian citizens have applied for refugee status or subsidiary protection in Belarus following the armed conflict in Luhansk and Donetsk regions. 1,400 out of 1,600 applicants from Luhansk and Donetsk regions have been granted subsidiary protection.

The displaced people from eastern Ukraine who fled to safer areas have been traumatized, and many are struggling to integrate. Despite the welcoming attitude and generosity shown by most local citizens, some negative attitudes were also observed where the displaced people from Ukraine were perceived as people being favoured and as competitors in employment, accommodation, social services, social benefits and humanitarian assistance. The labour market was also affected by the increasing number of displaced people from Ukraine arriving in Belarus. Furthermore, a new tax on unemployment introduced at the end of 2015, pushed voluntary unemployed Belarusians to register with employment centres and find an odd jobs, leaving little choice for the displaced people from Ukraine. At the moment, new-comers from Ukraine face serious difficulties in finding a job. Furthermore, not all displaced people are in a position to take up employment. Mothers with young children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and older people are among this vulnerable group and therefore require urgent support with their daily subsistence needs. Persons with chronic diseases fall under a special risk group because health services and medicines are not available for free to foreign citizens in Belarus. Most of the enquiries received through the Belarus Red Cross's help line "201", are related to temporary accommodation, employment, social benefits, medical assistance, legal advice and psychosocial support.

According to the latest data provided by Belarus Red Cross branches, there are at least 2,400 severely vulnerable families from earlier arrivals who require continuous support. These are (1) elderly people without any source of income (pensioners who lost access to their regular pension allowances and saving accounts in Ukraine); (2) disabled persons who do not have access to health care services in Belarus (3) pregnant women and mothers with small children (without social benefits or income). As the time goes by, these people's chronic needs remain unchanged. In Belarus only holders of permanent resident permits in are entitled to financial assistance from the state, while forced migrants with a temporary registration have to rely on their own resources. Considering this, the operation's target beneficiaries such as disabled people living alone, pensioners, and large



Distribution of vouchers to the most vulnerable displaced families in Minsk City, Belarus.
Photo: Belarus Red Cross

¹ People who have come to Belarus from Ukraine since June 2014 as estimated by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

families with infants will be deprived from state support during next seven years² which proves that the needs of these vulnerable people will persist.

In the reporting period, the Belarus Red Cross' emergency assistance operation for the displaced people has provided a lifeline for over 12,000 Ukrainians, but it is striving to do more and scale up its support with the help of IFRC and other partners. The IFRC's appeal has received a major boost from ECHO which donated CHF 327,610 Swiss francs in November 2015, enabling the Belarus Red Cross to organise two distributions of vouchers in February and March 2016, as well as to ensure access for the target beneficiaries to medical treatment and medications. In April, May and June 2016 valuable assistance to the displaced population from Ukraine was provided by Belarus Red Cross with ICRC support.

With the contribution of CHF 150,500 from the Swiss Solidarity foundation through the Swiss Red Cross and CHF 37,625 from the Swiss Red Cross in March 2016, the coverage of the IFRC Emergency Appeal to assist displaced people from eastern Ukraine has grown up to 84 per cent. However, still more funds are required to meet the acute chronic needs of some 1,600 families from Ukraine, who have been carefully selected by Belarus Red Cross through filters and criteria established in coordination with IFRC and ICRC. The medical needs are reported as not fully covered, while Belarus Red Cross takes care of only life-saving cases. The total number of the displaced people in need is about 10,000. The needs are not so high in Minsk but are becoming more acute in Gomel and Mogilev regions.

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of the Host National Society

The Belarus Red Cross 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. Present in all regions of the country, the Belarus RC is the biggest humanitarian organization in Belarus which plays an important role in communities. It consists of eight regional organizations (including those for Minsk City and the Railway Company), 160 district/town branches and more than 8,000 primary units (grass-root organizations). With a total of 360 paid staff and 22,000 volunteers, Belarus Red Cross is well prepared to effectively run this relief operation for displaced people from Ukraine.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the National Society provides high quality services within its core Red Cross mandate and plays an essential role in advocating humanitarian needs of the vulnerable people and the communities. Belarus Red Cross's programmes specifically focus on marginalized or excluded groups to reduce the existing discrimination and exclusion.

As an example, integration assistance to refugees, victims of trafficking and ex-offenders is ensured by Belarus Red Cross through referrals for health examinations, medical, legal and psychological treatment, counselling and assistance in vocational training. The help line "201", operated by Belarus Red Cross volunteers on weekdays from 7 PM to 9 PM receives calls from Ukrainian citizens in need of advice or emergency assistance. Trained Red Cross volunteers ensure counselling, support and referrals as needed.

Since the arrival of the first groups of forced migrants from Ukraine in June 2014, Belarus Red Cross has been responding to the needs of the most vulnerable displaced people by its emergency cash fund and distributing household items from its disaster preparedness stocks. The distribution of essential food and non-food items has been effected through the well-established voucher distribution system. In addition to one-off humanitarian assistance, Belarus Red Cross has provided referral, counselling and psychological support services, temporary accommodation, and subsistence to travel and medication.

Movement Coordination

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, close coordination is maintained with the ICRC on different levels in the countries affected by the Ukrainian crisis. The IFRC Country Office in Belarus keeps contact with the ICRC Delegate in Belarus, the IFRC Representatives in Ukraine cooperate with the ICRC Delegations in Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine, while the IFRC Regional Office for Europe coordinates with the ICRC Regional Office in Moscow.

IFRC, ICRC, Swiss and Danish Red Cross Societies have continued to assess the most acute humanitarian needs of the displaced people from Ukraine arriving in Belarus for safe refuge. Technical advice was provided to Belarus Red Cross for the establishment of a voucher-based humanitarian aid distribution system, psychosocial support training, and improvement of the monitoring and reporting systems. ICRC has also supported Belarus Red Cross in developing a database for the electronic registration of beneficiaries taking into account the number of

² According to Belarusian legislation, permanent resident permits can be obtained after living for at least seven years in the country.

family members and their financial situation. This database was successfully tested in November and December 2015 during the ICRC-supported distributions.

Coordination among Movement and other partners is ensured by Belarus Red Cross with the support of the IFRC Regional Office for Europe and the IFRC Country Representation in Minsk. Movement partners and other stakeholders cooperate closely on the provision of assistance to the displaced people from Ukraine. Through regular email exchange, WebEx communication and face-to-face meetings, the partners jointly look for opportunities to provide adequate support to the displaced people.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

There are no development projects and programmes, including the UN system, which would work extensively in favour of the Ukrainian displaced people in Belarus. Thus there are no coordination challenges, and there is no overlapping. Even so, IFRC, Belarus Red Cross and other humanitarian actors cooperate closely on the provision of assistance to the displaced people from Ukraine. Together with UNHCR, IOM and other partners, the Red Cross jointly looks for opportunities to provide adequate support to the displaced people taking into account the challenges they face. All partners recognize Belarus Red Cross's role as the main coordinator in relation to the assistance to the forced migrants from Ukraine.

Belarus Red Cross headquarters and branches have been in close contact with the relevant state and non-state actors, who are providing the National Society with hands-on information on the evolving situation. Regular operational contacts are maintained by the National Society with the Citizenship and Migration Office, the Labour, Employment and Social Protection Committees, the Education and Health Departments, and local authorities. The Belarusian Government's attitude towards the displaced people is in general positive despite the existing legal and financial barriers. The State is helping, within its limits, with registration, employment, housing, medical and social assistance. The Ministry of Health is providing emergency medical care to the citizens of Ukraine free of charge as well as medical check-ups and health certificates required for employment. The provision of vital medicines for the displaced with chronic diseases (e.g. insulin) remains a critical issue, and Belarus Red Cross is trying to address it on an individual basis with the support of the Ministry of Health and local authorities.

Operational implementation

Overall objective

To provide life-saving assistance in Belarus to 2,400 displaced families (some 10,000 beneficiaries) from Ukraine who clearly meet the criteria of acute vulnerability defined by the Belarus Red Cross and IFRC.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods	
Outcome	Output
Outcome 1: Emergency assistance is provided to 2,400 families of displaced people from Ukraine	Output 1.1 The nutritional and health needs of 2,400 displaced families from Ukraine are met through the distribution of vouchers for food and household items and direct payments to medical service providers and vendors.

Progress towards outcome

Cash assistance has been provided to the targeted beneficiaries in the form of (conditional) vouchers of a specific provider, to be able to cover their basic needs related to hygiene and food, while the health needs of the affected people related to medicine and health care were covered through direct payment to the service providers and vendors. The number of vouchers distributed to a family depended on the size of the family, providing higher amounts for the bigger families.

There were two distributions of vouchers (a total of 4,420 vouchers reaching some 2,100 families, approximately 8,900 individuals) funded by the IFRC's emergency appeal in February-March 2016, with a voucher value of CHF 50.

In addition, a total of 220 vouchers were distributed in February among 83 families of forced migrants (200 individuals) in Borisov, Minsk region, with Danish Red Cross's bilateral contribution of EUR 10,000.



A voucher note for the value of 200,000 Belarusian roubles
Photo: BRC

With the ICRC's financial support of EUR 369,839, the Belarus Red Cross supplied 6,600 vouchers for food and household items in three distribution rounds to approximately 4,500 most vulnerable families in April, May and June 2016.

There were no distributions in July due to long funds registration procedure.

Prior to the operation, ICRC/IFRC delegates assessed beneficiary needs and helped Belarus Red Cross with the development of the system of distribution, monitoring, reporting, and a complaint mechanism. Vouchers have been distributed among the following categories of displaced people from Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine: elderly pensioners (30 percent); disabled people (8 percent); single parent families arriving to Belarus without breadwinners (35 per cent); families with many children (at least three minors) (6 per cent); pregnant women and nursing mothers (21 per cent). From a status perspective, the beneficiaries are divided as follows: residence permit – 51 per cent; temporary stay for a period from six months to one year – 41 per cent; asylum seekers – 3 per cent; temporary stay up to 90 days – 0,97%. Geographically, the distribution system has covered the whole territory of Belarus.

Distribution was carried out according to the family size (1-2 members – one voucher, 3-4 members – two vouchers, 5 members and more – three vouchers). The value of one voucher was BYR 1,000,000 (approximately CHF 50). The voucher was divided into five notes of BYR 200,000 so that beneficiaries could go shopping several times. Since November 2015, all beneficiaries have been registered in the electronic data base, operated by Belarus Red Cross volunteers. According to ICRC monitoring data, many beneficiaries have opted to spend vouchers on meat products and cereals. What is more, the bigger part of purchased products have been long-storage products. According to the majority of beneficiaries, a voucher fully covers their monthly nutritional needs. Notably, fresh vegetables and drinks were among the least purchased items. All in all, voucher beneficiaries have considered dividing vouchers into notes of BYR 200,000 useful as it allowed them also to buy fresh products and baby food several times.



A single displaced mother from Ukraine uses Red Cross vouchers in a town of Slutsk, Minsk region.

Photo: BRC



A diagram representing beneficiaries preferences when purchasing food and non-food items with Red Cross vouchers
Source: Belarus Red Cross database

As for non-food items, they have been supposed to cover basic needs in hygiene items, underwear, baby clothes. Meanwhile, Belarus Red Cross collections from the local population have provided Ukrainian displaced people with outdoor clothes. During the reporting period, displaced people from Ukraine have received over 20,000 second-hand, but perfectly wearable clothing items donated by the population. These 20,000 included some 5 per cent of new clothing donated by companies and individual entrepreneurs to Belarus Red Cross. Medical services have been among the critical needs of displaced people since 2014. Especially given that the state adopted an amendment to the law related to medical services for displaced people from Donetsk region. The amendment

states that only pre-employment and school entry medical examination as well as emergency medical care can be provided free of charge for this category of migrants.

Since February 2016, Belarus Red Cross has been running a programme addressing critical health needs. Unfortunately, six patients have died of cancer by the time the assistance has arrived. The programme supported by the emergency appeal has helped 245 displaced people in need of surgeries, chemotherapy, costly vital medications. As a result, three beneficiaries can walk again and take care of themselves; 23 persons have undergone chemotherapy and have a stable health condition at the moment; and more than 100 persons have been provided with vital medications and medical services. However, the lack of funding to cover medical needs from autumn 2016 to the end of winter 2017 raises concerns.

The beneficiary lists have already been established through the electronic database, which enables Belarus Red Cross to focus on the most critical cases and provide assistance immediately now that the use of funds has been approved by the Humanitarian Aid Department. Access to medical services and supplies is highlighted as the most acute and so far not fully covered need.

National Society capacity building	
Outcome	Output
Outcome 1: The capacity of the Belarus Red Cross to respond to the target beneficiaries and wide public enquiries is strengthened	Output 1.1 The National Society's hot line "201" is upgraded to provide efficient communication and information to the vulnerable people and the wider public.

Progress towards outcome

The project includes measures to build the local capacities of the Belarus Red Cross to ensure efficient communication and provide information to the vulnerable and general public.

The help line "201" operated by BRC volunteers on weekdays from 7 PM to 9 PM continues to take calls from Ukrainian citizens in need of advice or emergency assistance. During the period from September 2015 to July 2016, help line operators have received a total of 1,320 calls, while volunteers operating social network (<https://vk.com/redcrossbyinfo>) processed more than 2,000 questions and requests both via timeline and private messages. The number of calls has dropped since the voucher operation ended in May 2016. The help line monitoring has showed that most callers are new-comers in contrast to displaced people who have stayed in Belarus for long time and have already been properly counselled and informed. Over 70 per cent of the questions were related to selection criteria, rules of voucher use as well as suggestions for improvement of voucher programme. In order to keep the help line operational, new volunteers were recruited and trained.

Considering the resumption of fighting in Luhansk and Donetsk regions and new wave of new-comers, the capacity of the help line has been doubled thanks to the emergency appeal funds. Since Belarus expects more new-comers from Ukraine in the second half 2016, the help line has been equipped with two additional working places, screen, multifunctional device (printer-scanner-copier-fax machine), uninterrupted power supply and other accessories. By strengthening its help line capacity, Belarus Red Cross aims to increase the outreach to the target audience in terms of informing about services and available support, strengthening the beneficiary communication component of the action by ensuring a platform for feedback.

Operational support services

Human resources

The number of professional Belarus Red Cross staff members engaged in the action is 52, while some 250 volunteers have been mobilized to support the operation.

Technical support, monitoring, reporting and adherence to standard IFRC procedures and financial management are ensured by the IFRC Country Office in Minsk with the support of the relevant structures of the IFRC Regional Office for Europe.

Logistics and supply chain

Cash assistance, specifically through the distribution of pre-paid debit cards, has been initially identified for the action as the most efficient and effective means of ensuring that the basic needs of the target groups in terms of food, hygiene items and medicines are met. However, in July 2015 after consultations with the Humanitarian Aid Department³, the Belarus Red Cross was informed that financial support through personal bank cards would not be supported as this modality does not ensure the transparent use of funds and does not make proper reporting easy. Therefore, it was decided to use the voucher mechanism already tested by Belarus Red Cross in 2014 in the operation supported by IFRC, ICRC and Swiss Red Cross. Belarus has a number of supermarket chains, with shops of various sizes and profiles in each region of Belarus. Three supermarket chains covering all six regions of the country have already been selected in a tender.

Information technologies (IT)

IT and telecommunications equipment such as computers and printers were provided by Belarus Red Cross. In this operation, Belarus Red Cross has also increased the capacity of its help line "201" established in 2014 and managed by 15 volunteers.

The help line "201" capacity has been strengthened with two additional soundproofed working cabins and comfortable chairs for operators. Moreover, a new colour multifunctional device (printer-scanner-copier-fax machine) will speed up the production of information materials. As a result, the help line can process about 10 calls and be on call with four callers at a time.

Communications

The work of Red Cross volunteers in response to the emergency needs of displaced people has been highlighted by Belarus Red Cross throughout the duration of this operation. Visual material and written contents are shared with the national media (electronic, printed, etc.), as well as through the National Society's website and social media platforms. In addition, the leadership of the National Society informs the relevant authorities and the general public on the progress of the operation towards its objectives.

The IFRC has contributed to the visibility of the National Society and its partners' work through its respective communication channels. Please see news stories published on the IFRC's website:

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/belarus/mother-forced-to-flee-fighting-faces-cancer-battle-72077/>

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/belarus/families-fleeing-fighting-in-ukraine-plunged-into-poverty-in-belarus-72118/>

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/belarus/single-mums-struggle-to-support-family-after-fighting-left-them-homeless-72197/>

Support has also been provided to the National Society by the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Region communication team which visited Belarus in January 2016. The team provided hands-on training in communication, visited and interviewed target beneficiaries and produced news stories for the IFRC website (see links above) and the Appeal backgrounder for the concerned partners (please refer to Annex 1).

In April 2016, the Belarus Red Cross arranged a large photo-exhibition accompanied by personal stories of displaced people from Ukraine to raise public awareness and advocate for the rights of the displaced people. The initiative was entitled "The Choice" and consisted of an exposition and booklet with a collection of photos and personal



"Now I have to count every rouble, we have two kids. One of them has diabetes; the other is an infant, born in Belarus. Thus our family budget is very limited; we can't afford buying any beef and pork. We eat chicken once per week at the weekends. We hope that one day we will find a new home." - The Phomins family from Oktyabrsky, Kuibyshevsk district, Donetsk region, now living in Vetka, Gomel region, Belarus.

Source: Photo-exhibition

³ In Belarus, all funds and supplies received from abroad must be registered as humanitarian cargo with the Humanitarian Aid Department reporting to the President of the Republic.

testimonies. The event was widely covered by media and visited by general public and relevant stakeholders, in particular the UNHCR, IOM, local authorities. Since its opening on 1 April 2016, the exposition has been travelling across Belarus.

Regular operation updates were provided by IFRC Secretariat's Country Office in Minsk to the IFRC Secretariat's Regional Office for Europe, Disaster Management Unit.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

In the course of the preparation for the operation, monitoring visits were carried out by the National Society to Grodno, Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev regions so as to assess the current needs of the families who have arrived in Belarus since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine.

A Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (BSS) targeting 240 people was carried out from 25 May to 15 June 2016, one month after IFRC's voucher distribution. The survey questions touched upon issues of relevance/appropriateness, timeliness of the assistance provided, information dissemination and visibility. The survey was carried out by seven staff and ten volunteers and targeted those who received the assistance through voucher mechanism and payments for medical services and medications. Target beneficiaries from all six regions of Belarus were involved in the survey.

According to the feedback received from beneficiaries, the following needs were prioritized: food (87.5 per cent), clothes (77.9 per cent), employment (76.7 per cent), medical services (65.8 per cent), social allowances (60.8 per cent), hygiene items (59.2 per cent), accommodation (55 per cent), medications (32.5 per cent). All respondents mentioned fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk regions as the main reason for coming to Belarus. Moreover, all the respondents have underlined that their life and property was endangered in these regions of Ukraine. In particular, 17 per cent of respondents escaped from the fear of being killed, 59 per cent of respondents had their property damaged.

96.7 percent of respondents answered the question about their needs by the Red Cross. The survey results have clearly showed that the need in food items and medical services remain critical for the majority of respondents. When asked about priority needs not yet covered, 37 per cent of beneficiaries mentioned medical assistance and 11 per cent – medications, 36 per cent – food, 32 per cent – social allowances, 30 per cent – clothing, 24 per cent – housing, 14 per cent – employment.

All in all, 60 per cent of respondents have been fully satisfied with the assistance, 37.5 per cent have been almost satisfied and only 2.5 per cent of the beneficiaries have not been satisfied. The survey came up with some conclusions and recommendations, including: consider continuation of such assistance; divide vouchers into notes with the value less than 200,000 Belarusian roubles (approx. CHF 10); consider changing the supplier of vouchers in Minsk region where the supermarkets were located far from beneficiaries' place of residence; consider simplifying the procedure of approval for receipt of medical assistance; inform medical institutions about the health assistance programme implemented by the Red Cross; provide legal advice and more information materials to the displaced people from Ukraine on the rights, and allowances, relevant assistance programmes; include psychosocial support component in such operations and counselling by volunteers via telephone or internet; ensure regular replenishment of Belarus Red Cross stocks so as to provide assistance in case of emergency.

Administration and Finance

The operation relies on the existing management, financial and administration systems in Belarus Red Cross. The IFRC Country Office's financial staff in Minsk provides all required technical support and ensures that the use of the available financial resources is in line with the standard IFRC procedures.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Belarus Red Cross:**
Viktor Kolbanov, Secretary General;
phone: +375 17 327 14 17, email: info@redcross.by
- **IFRC Country Representation in Minsk:**
Sergei Boltrushevich, Head of Office;
phone: +375 17 223 34 46 ; email: sergei.boltrushevich@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow:**
Davron Mukhamadiev, Head of Regional Representation;
phone: + 7 499 126 15 66, email: davron.mukhamadiev@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Office for Europe:**
 - Elkhan Rahimov, Head of Country Cluster;
phone: +36 1 888 4500, email: elkhan.rahimov@ifrc.org
 - Ruben Romero, Disaster Management Coordinator;
phone: +36 1 888 4500; email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva**
Cristina Estrada, Operations Support
phone: +41 22 7304260; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org

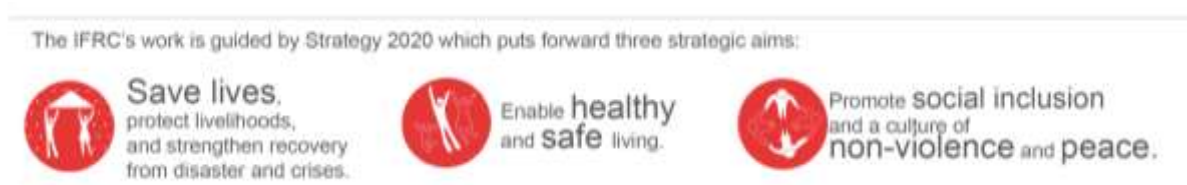


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How we work

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 Humanitarian 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.



Emergency appeal
Belarus
13 May 2016



Humanitarian needs in Belarus

Increasing needs

More than two years since civil unrest and conflict forced citizens to flee Ukraine, 150,000 displaced people have arrived in Belarus where they still seek safety. Returning home is not an option because conflict continues in Ukraine. Many people brought with them only what they could carry; others left everything behind. As their meagre savings dwindle, combined with limited opportunities for employment due to a depressed economy, humanitarian needs of displaced people in Belarus are on the rise.

Displaced families reside in regions and communities across the country. In the north in Vitebsk, Red Cross supports 652 displaced families. In the east in Mogilev, 1,039 families receive ongoing assistance. South in Gomel and Brest, 2,050 and 491 families respectively require continued humanitarian relief; in Grodno in the west, 814 families; and in the capital, Minsk, 2,039 families.

Red Cross response

Since the arrival of the first groups of people from Ukraine in June 2014, Belarus Red Cross has been responding to humanitarian needs distributing household items and vouchers for essential food and non-food items. The Red Cross has also been providing referral, counselling and psychological support services; temporary accommodation; and subsistence for essential medication and travel.

Emergency appeal

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has an

emergency appeal for 743,000 Swiss francs to support the Belarus Red Cross in providing life-saving assistance to 10,000 displaced people who are extremely vulnerable.

People with limited sources of income and acute humanitarian needs: in many cases single mothers, pregnant women, people with disabilities and older people require urgent support with daily subsistence needs. Persons with chronic diseases also fall under a special risk group because health services and medicines are not available for free to foreign citizens in Belarus.

The IFRC's emergency appeal is underfunded. Providing people with access to medical services and supplies is now the most vital humanitarian need.

Nearly 50 health-related cases are registered with Belarus Red Cross which need immediate response. This includes treatment needed for 10 cancer patients, 20 surgical operations for children and older people, and medications. Funds raised will help to provide these medical interventions and cover basic needs, for example, food, hygiene and access to basic healthcare.

In times of emergency, access to life-saving and life-enhancing information is as essential as food and shelter. The telephone help line "201", operated by Red Cross volunteers, receives calls from Ukrainian citizens in need of advice or emergency assistance every weekday from 19:00 to 21:00. Over a five month period, the help line received 350 calls and 410 messages from people in need of assistance. Emergency appeal funds will enable the Belarus Red Cross to expand this vital service.

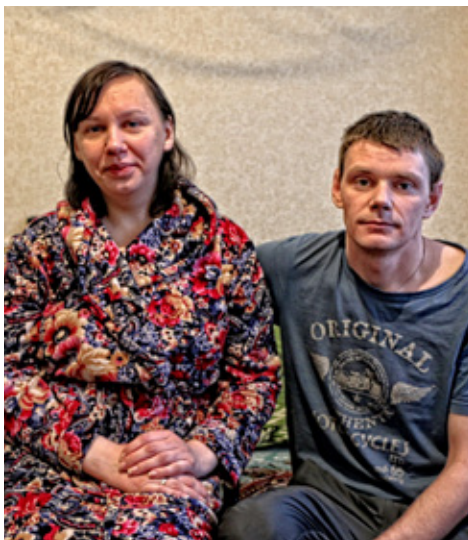


Photo: Nichola Jones

More than two years after fleeing Ukraine, 41-year-old Tatyana Perevozhchikova and her husband Alexandr, 32, remain safe in Belarus but live in poverty. Tatyana is battling cancer. She is on the Red Cross priority list for financial support which will enable her to access medical treatment.

743,000
CHF

Total emergency
appeal target

626,134 of 743,000 CHF target covered



15% Gap



Alla Krovchenko was overwhelmed when she arrived at the train station in Minsk, Belarus' capital. She and her five children fled conflict-hit Ukraine, all their belongings bundled in carrier bags. The family are now settled in Mogilev and are among thousands of people who have received food support from the Belarus Red Cross.

Exhausted mother-of-five given vital support as escape from battle ends in Belarus

By Nichola Jones, IFRC

Alla Krovchenko was overwhelmed when she stepped off the train from conflict-hit Ukraine on the platform at the main station of Minsk, Belarus's capital. She had travelled for hours with her five children, all their belongings bundled in carrier bags. The shell-shocked family arrived in the early hours of the morning, with little idea of what to do next.

"I was trying to find my husband but I didn't know what to do – we were all very drained. The children were upset and traumatized by the bombing they had just seen," said Alla.

"They are still haunted by that."

Alla, 25 and her husband Sergei, 42, had been living in the Ukraine's Luhansk region when shelling started. They knew they had little option but to leave with their children eight-year-old Misha, six-year-old Ilona, five-year-old Daniil, four-year-old Ivan and Zakhar, 18 months.

Sergei had gone ahead to Belarus in the hope of finding the family a house. When his wife and children arrived, they were met by a Belarus Red Cross team stationed on the platform to provide support for people fleeing the Ukraine.

Belarus Red Cross disaster management coordinator, Dmitry Rusakov, was among the team.

"We'd seen a lot of people that night but I remember the family clearly – they were exhausted and worried about what to do next. We were able to give them some food and help them get where they needed to be."

That was in autumn 2014. Since then, the family has moved to Belarus's Mogilev region and is beginning to build a new life. The Kravchenkos were among 2,400 families to receive emergency food vouchers from the Belarus Red Cross following an emergency appeal by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

"It's been very difficult but the Red Cross has been a huge help," she said. "The food vouchers were important for us – it's not easy to feed five children with what we had before. Sergei is working now – we feel like there could be a future for us."

Thousands more families need the same support but funds are falling short. IFRC head of Belarus, Sergei Boltushevich, said: "The Belarus Red Cross has provided a lifeline to thousands of families already but there are thousands more we need to reach."

Thank you to the donors who have contributed to this emergency appeal:

- Austrian Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross/ Government of Canada
- European Commission - DG ECHO
- Icelandic Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross
- Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan
- Red Cross of Monaco
- Spanish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross
- Swiss Solidarity

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Olga Porokhnya, 58, is a former nurse from Donetsk, Ukraine. She lives with her 81-year-old mom Faina and 48-year-old sister Elena with extended family in a cramped house in Mogilev region, Belarus. When bombs dropped and snipers appeared on the streets of their home town, they fled to Belarus.

Heartbreak of former nurse crippled by arthritis and displaced by violence

By Nichola Jones, IFRC

Olga Porokhnya doesn't sleep. Every day she's in pain – not just the crippling pain of the arthritis that has weakened her hips and back, but also the emotional agony of having to leave her home in the Ukraine to live a half-life in Belarus.

The 58-year-old former nurse from Donetsk in the Ukraine, lives with her 81-year-old mum Faina and 48-year-old sister Elena with extended family in a cramped house in the town of Borisov. When bombs dropped and snipers appeared on the streets of their home town, they had to leave.

"The only way I can describe it is a nightmare," said Olga. "I look at my mum and I feel so much guilt – can you imagine your mum or your grandmother having to do this? She thought she would end her days in the Ukraine."

Olga cannot work because of her illness. She needs a hip joint replacement but she's not eligible for free health care in Belarus. The Belarus Red Cross has been able to provide the family with some emergency

supplies and vouchers but what she desperately needs is an operation.

"If I could get that done, I could work. I could support my family better. I can't bear living like this. I can't stop myself crying and I can't sleep."

Olga's sister Elena is also a nurse and the only family member able to work. It takes her about four hours to get to work. Every day, she gets up about 4am, walks six kilometres from their house to the nearest train station and then heads to Belarus's capital Minsk where she works a 12-hour shift before making the return journey – all for 150 USD per month. Although Elena was a senior sister at a hospital in the Ukraine, she has no chance to get back her labour book from Donetsk. It is dangerous to go there and the post office does not work either so she's working well below the level of her qualifications.

"Seeing my sister having to suffer? This pains me more than anything else. I feel utterly useless," explained Olga.

Dmitry Rusakov, disaster management co-ordinator at the Belarus Red Cross, said: "Life is extremely difficult for people from the Ukraine – people struggle to access pensions, work permits and health care. Olga and her family have been hit hard by every aspect of that.

"Finding the funds for her hip operation is our priority – nothing can quell the pain of having to leave your home but it could make a world of difference to the whole family's quality of life in Belarus¹."

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is running an emergency appeal to raise 743,000 Swiss francs aimed at providing support, including financial support for urgent medical care, to 2,400 Ukrainian families in Belarus.

¹ Since this interview was conducted Olga has undergone two successful hip replacements. The surgery was funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO)

For more information please contact:

International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies

Europe Region
13-15 Berkenye Street
Budapest, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 888 45 00
Email: europa.region@ifrc.org
www.ifrc.org



Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBY006 - Belarus - Population Movement

Timeframe: 03 Jun 15 to 03 Aug 16

Appeal Launch Date: 03 Jun 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/6-2016/6	Programme	MDRBY006
Budget Timeframe	2015/6-2016/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget			742,931			742,931	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>Austrian Red Cross</i>			10,893			10,893	
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>			327,241			327,241	
<i>Icelandic Red Cross</i>			15,000			15,000	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>			24,500			24,500	
<i>Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan</i>			1,890			1,890	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>			10,610			10,610	
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>			21,760			21,760	
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>			37,625			37,625	
<i>Swiss Red Cross (from Swiss Solidarity (SwS)*)</i>			150,500			150,500	
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government*)</i>			24,672			24,672	
C1. Cash contributions			624,689			624,689	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)			624,689			624,689	
D. Total Funding = B + C			624,689			624,689	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income			624,689			624,689	
E. Expenditure			-567,424			-567,424	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)			57,266			57,266	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBY006 - Belarus - Population Movement

Timeframe: 03 Jun 15 to 03 Aug 16

Appeal Launch Date: 03 Jun 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/6-2016/6	Programme	MDRBY006
Budget Timeframe	2015/6-2016/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)				742,931			742,931	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Cash Disbursement	576,000							576,000
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	576,000							576,000
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Office & Household Equipment	4,000							4,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,000							4,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,500							3,500
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,500							3,500
Personnel								
National Staff	8,000			4,073		4,073		3,928
National Society Staff	14,214							14,214
Volunteers	240			126		126		114
Total Personnel	22,454			4,199		4,199		18,256
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees	25,000			6,000		6,000		19,000
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	25,000			6,000		6,000		19,000
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	7,000							7,000
Total Workshops & Training	7,000							7,000
General Expenditure								
Travel	16,160			4,650		4,650		11,510
Information & Public Relations	2,900							2,900
Office Costs	400							400
Communications	2,900			16		16		2,884
Financial Charges	17,280			250		250		17,030
Other General Expenses	2,880							2,880
Shared Office and Services Costs	13,827			4,600		4,600		9,227
Total General Expenditure	56,347			9,517		9,517		46,830
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies				510,862		510,862		-510,862
Total Contributions & Transfers				510,862		510,862		-510,862
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	45,130			34,488		34,488		10,642
Total Indirect Costs	45,130			34,488		34,488		10,642
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee				1,659		1,659		-1,659
Pledge Reporting Fees	3,500			700		700		2,800
Total Pledge Specific Costs	3,500			2,359		2,359		1,141
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	742,931			567,424		567,424		175,507
VARIANCE (C - D)				175,507		175,507		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRBY006 - Belarus - Population Movement**

Timeframe: 03 Jun 15 to 03 Aug 16

Appeal Launch Date: 03 Jun 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/6-2016/6	Programme	MDRBY006
Budget Timeframe	2015/6-2016/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL3 - Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development							
Migration	742,931		624,689	624,689	567,424	57,266	
Subtotal BL3	742,931		624,689	624,689	567,424	57,266	
GRAND TOTAL	742,931		624,689	624,689	567,424	57,266	

FINAL Financial Statement

Project Name: Belarus: Population movement
Project Code: PBV045
M Code: MDRBY006
Implementation period: November 2015 - May 2016
Reporting Timeframe: March-April 2016

Type of expense	Total Budget in CHF	Expenditure for 1st qtr	Expenditure for 2nd qtr	Expenditure for 3rd qtr	Expenditure for 4th qtr	Total Expenditures	Total budget vs Total expenditure
SUPPLIES (расходные материалы)							
Vouchers for food and goods of daily use (3 times) / Ваучеры на продукты питания и гигиенические товары (выдача в 3 этапа)	214 000,00	-	195 804,20	18 132,94	-	213 937,14	62,86
Payments to medical service providers and pharmacies / Перечисление средств поставщикам медицинских услуг и аптекам	65 000,00	-	-	25 564,40	39 762,57	65 326,97	-326,97
total supplies	279 000,00	-	195 804,20	43 697,34	39 762,57	279 264,11	-264,11
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00
total capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE (транспорт и хранение на складе)							
Fuel, BRC (monitoring and distributions) / Топливо БОКК (мониторинговые визиты и распределение помощи)	1 600,00	-	-	-	-	-	1 600,00
Maintenance, BRC / Техническое обслуживание / БОКК	1 000,00	-	399,05	-	-	399,05	600,95
total transport & storage (итого по транспорту и хранению на складе)	2 600,00	-	399,05	-	-	399,05	2 200,95
PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE							
DM officer, BRC HQ (7 months, 50%) / Сотрудник по реагированию на ЧС, Секретариат БОКК (7 месяцев, 50%)	1 750,00	-	1 000,00	500,00	250,00	1 750,00	0,00
Assistant / translator, BRC HQ (7 months, 75%) / Ассистент / переводчик, Секретариат БОКК (7 месяцев, 75%)	2 450,00	-	1 400,00	700,00	350,00	2 450,00	0,00
Accountant, BRC HQ (7 months, 75%) / Бухгалтер, Секретариат БОКК (7 месяцев, 75%)	2 450,00	-	1 400,00	700,00	350,00	2 450,00	0,00
Social charges and taxes (34.4%) / Социальные платежи и налоги (34.4%)	2 288,00	-	1 309,48	654,74	327,37	2 291,59	-3,59
BSS survey - expert service/consultant / Оценка удовлетворенности бенефициаров - услуги эксперта/консультанта	3 000,00	-	-	-	2 200,01	2 200,01	799,99
BSS survey - per diem / Оценка удовлетворенности бенефициаров - суточные	180,00	-	-	-	-	-	180,00
BSS survey - travel and accommodation / Оценка удовлетворенности бенефициаров - командировочные расходы и проживание	400,00	-	-	-	-	-	400,00
BSS survey - incentives for beneficiaries (food, coffee) / Оценка удовлетворенности бенефициаров - поощрение бенефициаров (еда, кофе)	2 880,00	-	-	-	2 753,79	2 753,79	126,21
total personnel	15 398,00	-	5 109,48	2 554,74	6 231,17	13 895,39	1 502,61
WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS							
Introductory workshop on working medical service providers and pharmacies / Вводный семинар по работе с поставщиками медицинских услуг и аптеками	2 000,00	-	134,77	-	-	134,77	1 865,23
BSS interviewers briefing and debriefing meeting / Встреча по инструктажу/подведению итогов оценки удовлетворенности бенефициаров (для лиц, проводящих оценку)	1 000,00	-	-	264,91	-	264,91	735,09
Lessons learned workshop / Рабочая встреча по подведению итогов	4 000,00	-	-	-	-	-	4 000,00
total workshop and training	7 000,00	-	134,77	264,91	-	399,68	6 600,32
GENERAL EXPENSES							
Monitoring, BRC / Мониторинг, БОКК	800,00	-	177,54	80,20	513,33	771,07	28,93
Upgrading Hot Line 201 volunteer service - furniture and equipment / Оснащение инфолинии 201 - мебель и оборудование	4 000,00	-	96,85	-	-	96,85	3 903,15
Stationery / Канцтовары	2 850,00	-	2 710,55	-	-	2 710,55	139,45
Visibility and recognition items for RC volunteers / Узнаваемость, поощрение волонтеров БОКК	2 700,00	-	1 905,73	557,57	-	2 463,30	236,70
Communication / Коммуникация	200,00	-	-	-	-	-	200,00
Currency exchange losses / Курсовые убытки	5 952,00	-	-	-	-	-	5 952,00
total general expenses	16 502,00	-	4 890,67	637,77	513,33	6 047,77	10 460,23
GRAND TOTAL	320 500,00	-	206 338,17	47 154,76	46 507,07	300 000,00	20 500,00

CASH BALANCE / остаток	CHF
CASH RECEIVED / получено средств	314 548,00
CASH EXPENDITURES / денежные расходы	300 000,00
BALANCE / остаток	14 548,00

NS Budget Holder: [Signature]
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 IFRC Budget Holder: [Signature]
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