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# Belarus

## Annual Report 2012

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAABY002**

**30 April 2013**

**This report covers  
the period 01  
January 2012 to 31  
December 2012**

*A Red Cross summer integration  
camp for children with disabilities  
and their families under the motto  
'Towards victory together  
with brothers'.  
August/Belarus Red Cross*



## Overview

Belarus became independent in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The country is bordered by the European Union (EU) to the west and by the Russian Federation to the east. Both major political neighbours have an influence on the country. In the 2010s Belarus is still facing several challenges related to humanitarian issues, like the Chernobyl legacy, the growing incidence of trafficking in persons, TB and HIV, and a serious demographic crisis, marked by declining life expectancy, high mortality and morbidity, rapid population ageing and deteriorating health.

Hyperinflation has severely affected the economy and the society of the country. According to the National Statistical Committee, with the rate of 21.8 per cent Belarus had the highest increase in consumer prices among ex-Soviet republics in 2012. As a result, large part of the already small middle class has been pushed into poverty, while many workers and pensioners are struggling to survive. Those who have an opportunity, especially the young and qualified are leaving the country.

Belarus is depending on the loans from Russia to come out of its currency crisis, even handing over control of its gas pipeline network as part of a rescue deal. While the macroeconomic effects of last year's financial crisis have been overcome, most people are reeling from its social aftermath, surviving on an average monthly salary of just USD 464, less than what people took home in 2010. Some people earn only around USD 50 per month and are therefore depending on aid or are doomed to a life in poverty.

This situation also influences the functioning of the Belarus Red Cross as the National Society has to stretch its capacities in order to cover the growing needs of the vulnerable population groups. The Belarus Red Cross is widely known and respected among the population and many do ask them for support in case of need.

Based on the national legislation Belarus Red Cross can not receive funds from the state and is also not entitled to conduct commercial activities to increase its income that would allow more

sustainable programming. In this regard, the IFRC and the Swiss Red Cross supported the Belarus Red Cross in its efforts to achieve more favourable legislation (social order, fiscal concessions from the government, and the law on volunteering). As a result, the new Social Service law was adopted on 13 July 2012 and will be operational from 1 January 2013. The law specifies how the state social order will work and it states as well how NGOs that provide social services can receive funds from local budgets. Belarus Red Cross has been actively involved in the elaboration of the Social Order and its Vitebsk and Grodno regional branches are now piloting medico-social service delivery through the social order mechanism.

Despite the new law being put into effect, the Belarus Red Cross still depends very much on membership fees and on the support of other organizations. Under the given circumstances it seems unlikely that Belarus Red Cross will be able to sustain major programmes by itself. Making the most out of its branch and volunteer network, Belarus Red Cross delivers vital services to the most hard-to-reach vulnerable groups such as homeless people, injecting drug users, people living with HIV, female sex-workers, victims of trafficking and ex-offenders.

At present, Belarus Red Cross countrywide network consists of eight regional (including Minsk City and Railway organizations), 162 district/town/railway branches and more than 7,964 primary units (grass-root organizations). With a total of 363 paid staff, including 111 visiting nurses in 46 medico-social centres, and more than 21,546 volunteers Belarus Red Cross is well prepared to effectively run the activities supported by the IFRC and other partners.

## Working in partnership

The Belarus Red Cross has good cooperation relationships with eight partner National Societies, the IFRC, ICRC, UN agencies, and the IOM. The main international bilateral and multilateral partners within the Movement are the ICRC delegation in Moscow, the Danish, Swiss, Austrian, Norwegian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, and American Red Cross Societies. In the national arena traditional partners are the ministries of health, social welfare, emergency, justice, internal affairs and education, national centre for blood donation, national AIDS centre, governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and other educational institutions, mass media and enterprises.

Operational Partners	Agreement
ICRC, IFRC, Danish Red Cross	Movement Coordination Agreement
ICRC, Regional Delegation in Russian Federation, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.	Agreement on strategic partnership 2012-2016
Bulgarian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Lithuanian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding.
Polish Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Russian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Chernobyl Children's International Project (Ireland)	Memorandum of Understanding
Chernobyl Medical Support Network (Japan)	Cooperation Agreement
Ministry of Health	Cooperation Agreement
Ministry of Emergencies	Cooperation Agreement
Ministry of Education	Cooperation Agreement
Coca-Cola company	Non-commercial Cooperation Agreement

## Progress towards outcomes

**Business line 1:** To raise humanitarian standards

**Output 1.1:** Support will be provided to conduct the country vulnerability mapping and risk assessment.

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross carries out country vulnerability mapping and risk assessment in 2012.	Assessment done in 2012	Assessment done in the last quarter of 2012

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to the country vulnerability mapping and risk assessment was provided by the Danish Red Cross on a bilateral basis. The national training of trainers (11 participants) on vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) was held in September 2012. In 2013 it is intended to further improve the VCA concept to adapt it towards social vulnerabilities, to organize refreshment training and to roll-out this activity on regional level.</li> </ul>

**Output 1.2:** Promote principles and values through public campaigns, youth volunteer actions and community-based initiatives.

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) within the National Society and the society in general during 2012.	Continuous activity

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Components of dissemination of humanitarian values and reduction of stigma and discrimination were incorporated into on-going programmes, such as <i>Enhanced access for female IDUs to HIV prevention and harm reduction services</i>, <i>Community care for children with disabilities</i>, <i>Volunteering to prevent trafficking in human beings</i>, and <i>Empowering community through participatory approaches</i>.</li> </ul>

**Business line 2:** To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people.

**Output 2.1:** Belarus Red Cross has strengthened its capacity to provide effective disaster relief assistance according to needs

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross effectively addresses disaster relief needs in 2012-2015; CHARP continues till 2016. PSS trainings held in 2012; PSS service established in 2013.	See details below  Target achieved with five trainings conducted (one advanced PSS training, two basic PSS trainings and two stress-management)

trainings)

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- In February, due to the sudden onset of extremely cold weather, many Belarusians' livelihoods already hit hard by the crisis came under extreme pressure. The severe winter increased the vulnerability of the homeless in particular. The Belarus Red Cross mobilised its own resources and applied for the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in addressing the basic needs of those most affected with hot meals, warm clothing, and blankets. A total of 16,835 people were assisted; 4,054 homeless people received assistance with food and clothing, and 12,781 vulnerable city dwellers were assisted through Red Cross warming stations and mobile teams. 211 staff members and 918 volunteers all over the country were involved in providing assistance during the extreme winter conditions.
- The longest individual humanitarian assistance programme in the history of the IFRC – the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) has been facing a critical funding crisis. Out of a total 2012 budget of CHF 522,500, only CHF 248,155 (47 per cent) was covered (including opening balance). Three National Societies with the support of the IFRC have been trying their best to raise the attention of the international donors towards the programme. In July the Icelandic Red Cross donated CHF 40,000 to support the three mobile diagnostic units operating in Belarus, which enabled the National Society to continue the activities for another three months. By the end of 2012, Red Cross efforts to find alternative domestic funding sources have succeeded in each of the three target regions in Belarus. In 2013, the mobile diagnostic team in Brest will continue its normal function with the support from the regional dispensary, the screening activities in Gomel will be focused on children and supported by the Gomel Scientific and Practical Centre for Radiation Medicine, while the mobile unit in Mogilev funded by the Regional Medical Diagnostic Centre has even reinforced its team with other medical staff, such as breast pathologists and additional ultrasound screening specialists, working both in remote areas and at enterprises as part of self-reliance strategy (operation at enterprises facilitates raising membership fees and donations). With all these achievements in terms of sustainability, the programme desperately needs replacement of ultrasound scanners and vehicles, which have already reached the end of their service life.
- The efforts of the Belarus Red Cross to establish psychosocial support service were continued with the support from the Austrian Red Cross. A total of 93 Red Cross staff and volunteers were trained to provide psychosocial support according to IFRC standards. The psychological counselling unit of the Red Cross branch in Minsk (18 volunteers) provided regular assistance to 70 people affected by the blast in Minsk metro in 2011. With Belarus Red Cross support the blast victims received individual assistance (including psychological counselling, rehabilitation and humanitarian aid), attended self-help group meetings and Red Cross events, some of them becoming volunteers themselves. This psychological counselling unit was also actively involved in the operation in response to extreme winter conditions and now provides support to patients under TB treatment (29 patients and their 13 family members) as well as other people in crisis situations (150 persons).

#### **Output 2.2:** Create fully operational disaster response teams.

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross DR team is trained and equipped in 2012 and is on stand-by during 2013-2015	DR team is trained and equipment purchased	Target achieved

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- In June 2012 Belarus Red Cross rescue teams from all regions attended the national Disaster Management School, the first event of this kind since 2001. The training was co-facilitated by a DM expert from the Bulgarian Red Cross. A total of 50 volunteers improved their knowledge and skills in the following areas: search for victims, transportation, deployment of the Red Cross relief camps, psychosocial support, working in damaged communications. The training was also attended by a representative of one of the Russian Red Cross branches.
- Red Cross rescue teams became operational by the equipment purchased through the IFRC DREF supported operation that enabled the teams to respond to extreme weather conditions in spring and summer. During the period of extremely hot weather on 1-9 July 2012, 27 Belarus Red Cross volunteers assisted 1,000 people in Minsk city and Gomel region. The tents procured with the support of the DREF funds were set up in public places for distribution of drinking water and provision of first aid. Red Cross volunteers with radio equipment patrolled municipal beaches in order to provide immediate assistance when required.
- In July 2012, for the first time since 2000, Belarus Red Cross was invited to take part in a simulation exercise conducted jointly by EMERCOM of Russia and Ministry of Emergencies of Belarus to mitigate cross-border effects of the potential emergency situation.
- The national mechanism of emergency response in Belarus is currently being reviewed with the purpose of giving a more significant role in disaster management and response to the Belarus Red Cross. The Red Cross rescue team remains stable and attracts new volunteers.

**Output 2.3:** *Develop and continuously update disaster management database on human resources and emergency stock.*

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
DM database is regularly updated	Regular information collection	Information is collected

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- Belarus Red Cross does not have its own DM database however is prepared to provide the necessary data for IFRC Europe Zone's Comprehensive disaster management database.

**Output 2.5:** *Support is provided to Belarus Red Cross to reach compliance with Minimum Security Requirement*

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross acts in compliance with Minimum Security Requirements	MSR is followed	Target partially achieved

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- No security incidents have been reported by the Belarus Red Cross during 2012.

- Security awareness and basic safety of National Society assets, volunteers and staff was identified among the key deficits by the recent organizational capacity assessment and certification process (OCAC), therefore this area needs to be focused on.

**Business line 3:** To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people.

**Output 3.1:** Promote social cohesion and address discrimination and exclusion by implementing effective anti-trafficking programmes and contributing to the work of the European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Anti-trafficking programmes continue to be implemented in 2012-2015	Programmes are implemented	Continuous activity

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Belarus Red Cross has continued implementation of three anti-trafficking programmes, <i>Strengthening national mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine</i> (funded by the EU), <i>Volunteering to prevent trafficking in human beings</i> (funded by the Icelandic Red Cross) and <i>Combating trafficking in human beings</i> (funded by the IOM). The programmes have been extremely valuable and there are intentions to continue them into 2013-14 if external funding is available, especially in view of an EU evaluator's recommendation that the involvement of National Red Cross Society ought to be recognised as best practice and should be replicated in other countries.</li> <li>• In December 2012 the IFRC carried out a mid-term review of the project <i>Strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine</i>. The review focused on Belarus and was conducted by an external expert. The review report noted that the project is still relevant, consistent with respective IFRC strategic priorities and policies and coherent with the national policy on combating trafficking in human beings. The project is effective, key outputs are delivered and their contribution to the outcomes is provided as originally planned. The establishment of multi-disciplinary groups was one of the key outputs of the project, which significantly contributed to strengthening of national mechanisms for reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in Belarus.</li> </ul>

**Output 3.2:** Improve the well-being of TB and MDR-TB affected people by strengthening treatment adherence, providing psychological support and conducting advocacy activities

Support the National Society in HIV prevention and harm reduction activities

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross TB programmes scaled up by 20% by 2015; Belarus Red Cross HIV programmes scaled up by 20% by 2015	Target not achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Belarus Red Cross has continued implementing its TB and HIV programmes: information and educational activities targeting the general public as well as psychosocial support to TB patients who are undergoing long-term treatment (UNDP/GFATM), <i>Enhanced access for female IDUs to HIV prevention</i></li> </ul>

and harm reduction services (IFRC/Italian Red Cross), Youth against HIV (Danish Red Cross), Support and capacity strengthening of PLHIV (American Red Cross), HIV/AIDS Prevention (U.S. Embassy Small Grants Program). Although national and international partners generally recognize that Belarus Red Cross has progressed very well in HIV and TB programming, the plan for scaling up still lacks financial backing.

**Output 3.3:** Enhance support for first aid including road safety and community health activities.

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Sustainable FA system established by 2014	Target partially achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the support from the ICRC the Belarus Red Cross has been equipped with new mannequins for FA training, however unfavourable national legislation have impeded the establishment of commercial FA system that would contribute to the sustainability of first aid activities. Further efforts are therefore needed to help the National Society improve its institutional capacity and increase donor response in order to reach its objective.</li> </ul>

**Output 3.4:** Build National Society volunteer and leadership capacities; strengthen regional and local branches through technical support.

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Number of activities involving peer support and capacity building has increased by 20%	Target partially achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through on-going projects and peer support the IFRC and partners work towards enhancing capacities of National Society in volunteering and leadership, as well as strengthening institutional structures and support systems at regional and branch levels. Peer support included advice and guidance on volunteer, leadership and branch development issues, direct technical support to Red Cross structures, provision of equipment, developing of staff and volunteer competences, making IFRC tools and standards available. Where possible, IFRC-supported projects included capacity building elements, such as training, experience exchange, material assistance and strengthening National Society capacities to empower people and communities by engaging them in decision-making and service delivery – all these are contributing to enhance effective ways of working, local ownership and sustainable structures. On this basis, the development of unified and sustainable approaches towards the capacity building of Belarus Red Cross was promoted among other partners by the IFRC representation.</li> </ul>

**Output 3.5:** Promote social mobilization and empowerment approaches, further develop National Society volunteering base among all ages and encourage inter-generational initiatives

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual

<p>Empowerment approaches are integrated in volunteer development programmes in 2012</p> <p>Participation of older people, minority groups in different spheres of life has increased by 20%</p>	<p>Targets achieved, see details below</p>
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### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- During the reporting period the IFRC and other partners continued to promote social mobilization and empowerment approaches, further developing National Society volunteering base among all age groups thus encouraging inter-generational initiatives. The project *Empowering community through participatory approaches* (supported by the IFRC and DFID) has progressed well in Mogilev region. The project focus was on marginalized, disadvantaged and excluded groups of the society. A total of 15 volunteer-led initiatives were developed and implemented by community groups (elderly groups – 11 initiatives, prison inmates – 3 initiatives, disabled – 1 initiative). Over 200 active volunteers, community leaders, and vulnerable people took part in the activities. Based on the successful work with young inmates of correctional institutions it was decided to develop a Red Cross concept on social integration of ex-offenders.
- The project *Community care for children with disabilities* (supported by the IFRC, Norwegian and Austrian Red Cross Societies) had a very positive impact on community and volunteer participation in support of the needs of children with disabilities and their families. Community-based volunteer initiatives acted as a spur to inclusion of small towns and villages, opened up new contacts and created favourable environment for increased participation and improved quality of life of the target group. Volunteer-led activities included education, rehabilitation, holidays, hobbies and communication – to enrich the lives of disabled children and their families and contributing to their social inclusion. Community support was further strengthened through cooperation with health, educational institutions, local authorities and other key stakeholders. A summer integration camp for children with disabilities and their families was a major event of the project. Parents and children gave very positive feedbacks also expressing future expectations. The camp showed family engagement and creativity at its best – with children staying active in spite of physical and emotional health obstacles. During the one-week summer camp project beneficiaries became closer to each other, enjoying time together in an enabling environment and helping each other to overcome difficulties – this was one of the positive effects noted by many parents. According to the observations of the Red Cross staff and volunteers, it was an amazing and inspirational week for all the participants.
- Cooperation with UNICEF resulted in the movie created by professional operators about the children with disabilities, their families and the activities of the Red Cross Day Centre. The movie is translated into English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9OW4XHCKhs>
- In May 2012, the IFRC supported the participation of Belarus Red Cross representatives in a Red Cross conference in Riga, Latvia, where discussed were the issues of active ageing and the role that individuals, local communities and Red Cross national societies can play in the implementation of programmes aimed to improve seniors' health and living conditions and promoting solidarity between generations. At the conference Belarus Red Cross team presented its good practices gained through implementation of the projects *Empowering community through participatory approaches* and *Strengthening Visiting Nurses Service*.
- The project *Strengthening Visiting Nurses Service* supported by the Swiss Red Cross since 2005 is instrumental for mobilizing people in need for care, their close circle and community (relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues and volunteers) for self- and mutual assistance, as well as advocacy. To this end, the Swiss Red Cross has been supporting Belarus Red Cross role as a leader for participatory community work and strengthening community groups in their advocacy functions.
- The on-going programme *Support to civil society development* (funded by the EU and the Danish Red Cross) also gives a strong boost to social mobilisation in order to engage and empower citizens in remote

areas of Belarus, through community-based volunteer initiatives, sustainable volunteer management, partnership and cooperation between Belarus Red Cross and stakeholders.

**Business line 4:** To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people.

**Output 4.1:** Provide tailored support to the National Society for building its role in addressing needs and extreme situations of vulnerability resulting from socio-economic crisis

Measurement	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
Effective assistance provided to the most vulnerable as required	Target achieved, see details below

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IFRC and partners supported the Belarus Red Cross in meeting the needs of approximately 9,838 most vulnerable households including 1,525 multi-child families and 3,737 other individuals affected by the socio-economic crisis. Through the support and contribution of the Swiss and Italian Red Cross Societies for the IFRC-supported programme <i>Humanitarian Assistance to the Vulnerable</i> a total of 14,345 food parcels were procured and delivered to the three Chernobyl affected regions – Brest, Gomel and Mogilev – to assist elderly people living alone (17.9 per cent of the total number of beneficiaries), people with disabilities (52.3 per cent) and multi-child single-parent families (29.6 per cent). Furthermore, within <i>Twice Christmas</i> campaign the Swiss Red Cross has raised and transferred to Belarus Red Cross funds for additional purchase of 1,444 food parcels distributed in Vitebsk region. The Icelandic and Danish Red Cross Societies also supplied three containers with second hand clothing, which were used as humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable as in-kind donation linked to this operation.</li> </ul>

**Output 4.2:** Promote National Society auxiliary role through supporting revision of the RC law, initiating adoption of a law on volunteering, and amendments to the law on NGOs

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Revisions and amendments to the law on Belarus Red Cross introduced in 2012 Law on volunteering developed and adopted in 2014 NS statutes updated as required	Advocate for law on volunteering	Target partially achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisions and amendments to the law on Belarus Red Cross were adopted in 2011.</li> <li>Following the visit of the IFRC Zone representative in 2011 to share experiences of European countries related to Red Cross law and legislation with the members of parliament, the Belarus Red Cross continues its advocacy for passing the law on volunteering. A meeting of the National Volunteer Council held in Minsk on 10-11 February 2012 contributed with a number of recommendations to the discussion on the law on volunteering. The law was further promoted through the Belarus Red Cross deputy secretary general and PR officer participating in the national TV programme and meetings with legislators.</li> <li>The National Society revised and updated its statutes at the end of 2011.</li> </ul>

**Output 4.3:** National Societies have received assistance in building effective governance and management structures

Tailored OD support is provided to National Societies

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross has strengthened its governance and management structures Belarus Red Cross benefits from tailored OD support	OCAC self assessment	Target achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>In 2012 the IFRC supported the OCAC self-assessment exercise undertaken by Belarus Red Cross, and the first phase of the OCAC process has been successfully completed. The Belarus Red Cross has shared the OCAC report with internal (Red Cross Societies) and external partners (UN, IOM) and is currently developing a plan of action based on the findings from the self-assessment process.</p> <p>In the meantime, the IFRC country representation continued facilitating tailored organizational development support to Belarus Red Cross upon request related to strengthening governance and management, resource mobilization and finance development, and human resource management.</p>

**Output 4.5:** Reduce dependence on single partners while maintaining and expanding existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative partnerships

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
NS resource mobilization activities are enhanced, income increased by 20% by 2015.	Continuous activity	Target achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the reporting period the IFRC country representation worked on expanding existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative partnerships. As a result, the Belarus country plan 2012 has been almost fully covered, with contributions from Austrian, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, and Swiss Red Cross Societies, DFID Partnership grant and EuropeAid.</li> <li>Furthermore, the IFRC country representation and the Belarus Red Cross had a number of meetings with embassies, international organizations, UN agencies and the EU Delegation in Minsk to discuss funding possibilities in 2012-2013. As a result, the IFRC application <i>Integration of ex-offenders in society</i> under the <i>European Instrument for Democracy &amp; Human Rights</i> has been successful. The application was developed in close coordination with Belarus Red Cross and Belarus Ministry of Interior. The value of the approved project is EUR 333,000, duration 34 months starting from 1 January 2013.</li> <li>The IFRC country representation also assisted the Belarus Red Cross in the development of two new project proposals for the Icelandic Red Cross and Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs: one addressing the challenges of people with mental illnesses and the other related to trafficking in human beings. Both three-year projects have been approved and will commence in January 2013.</li> </ul>

**Output 4.6:** Support National Society in effective humanitarian diplomacy for improved humanitarian work.

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Support from government and other partners increased by 20% by 2015.	Not applicable	Target partially achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IFRC country representation supported the Belarus Red Cross in humanitarian diplomacy efforts vis-a-vis international and national organizations ensuring that the position of the National Society is delivered consistently at global and national levels. During the DREF-supported operation <i>Extreme weather conditions</i> humanitarian diplomacy activities targeting the responsible government agencies helped to remove operational constraints – in two days all funds transferred by the IFRC to the Belarus Red Cross received the green light from the Humanitarian Aid Department (this routine procedure normally takes four weeks). Furthermore, almost year long negotiations with Coca-Cola resulted in Cooperation Agreement with the Belarus Red Cross and funds allocated for repair works at the Red Cross warehouse for emergency stocks.</li> <li>The IFRC's humanitarian diplomacy has also helped expanding access to the most vulnerable – prison inmates have now been added to the Red Cross target group in Belarus. Furthermore, the IFRC representation used its humanitarian diplomacy also to advocate for Belarus Red Cross with the EU delegation to finance the project <i>Integration of ex-offenders in society</i>. For the same project the IFRC assisted the Belarus Red Cross in negotiations with the Ministry of Interior.</li> </ul>

**Business line 5:** To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability.

**Output 5.1:** *Maintain regular coordination and dialogue between Movement partners thus contributing to common understanding and alignment of working modalities in Belarus*

*Promote increased National Society participation in international dialogue and cooperation, including through ERNA and other relevant networks*

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Partners' working modalities aligned in 2012. Coordination and dialogue on-going throughout 2012-2014. Belarus Red Cross active participation in international fora during 2012-2014	Regular dialogue	Target achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the reporting period, the IFRC country representation has continued its partner coordination efforts by maintaining regular communication and dialogue between Movement partners, mapping projects (on-going and potential) supported by various partners and sharing information, facilitating discussions between the concerned national Red Cross societies regarding joint programming and applications to donors.</li> <li>In March 2012 IFRC country representation assisted Belarus Red Cross in organizing a partnership meeting in Minsk.</li> <li>A Movement Coordination Agreement between the Belarus Red Cross, ICRC and the IFRC was signed in</li> </ul>

March 2012. Danish Red Cross joined the agreement in May 2012 by signing Annex No. 1 *Declaration as Participating National Society*. The IFRC encourages other partners to join the group of National Societies who would like to coordinate Movement activities in Belarus.

- The IFRC country representation has assisted the National Society in organizing the Russian Speaking National Societies' Leadership Meeting in Minsk. The level of the meeting was highly rated by all participating National Societies. President Tadateru Konoé undertook a mission to Belarus during 15-27 September 2012, accompanied by Anitta Underlin, Director of Europe Zone, Yasuo Tanaka, Special Advisor to the President, Pierre Kremer, Director of Communication, Kentaro Nagazumi and Atsuko Tamai, Office of the President, the Japanese Red Cross Society. The President of the IFRC had bilateral meetings with Belarus government (meeting with the Prime Minister and the Health Minister) as well as with all representatives from 13 participating National Societies. The declaration from the meeting was finalized and distributed in December 2012.
- The International Conference on community care and inclusion of children with disabilities hosted by Belarus Red Cross in Grodno on 8-9 November welcomed representatives of European Red Cross National Societies, including Austrian, Bulgarian, Cyprus, Danish, Italian, Lithuanian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, the IFRC, UNICEF, Embassy Office of Switzerland, local authorities, Red Cross staff and volunteers, as well as parents of children with disabilities. The outcomes of the two-day discussion and sharing of different aspects of support to children with disabilities were highlighted in the conference resolution.
- The Belarus Red Cross continued to function as the Secretariat of the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (ERNA). In this capacity Belarus Red Cross works to strengthen and promote the exchange of experiences, information and best practices among member National Societies in the whole of Europe and Central Asia and with others. In its role as ERNA Secretariat the National Society promoted the facilitation of collaborative actions in the prevention of HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases with UN agencies, the EU, nongovernmental organizations, Global Fund and other organizations. ERNA Board meetings were organised to share experiences of ERNA member and non-member National Societies, partner organizations within the IFRC (ART Network, RCRC European Youth Network, IFRC Secretariat, zone and country offices) and key international partners (WHO, HRI, GNP+, NAM, AAE and others). ERNA Secretariat has maintained ERNA website [www.erna.by](http://www.erna.by) by posting news, up-to-date information, official documents, interesting experiences and practices through various social networks, by working closely with IFRC website and FedNet. A recently created ERNA group on Facebook is actively networking and exchanging information.
- The Belarus Red Cross is also an active member of the steering committee of *European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network* and member of *European Network for Psychosocial Support*.

**Output 5.3:** Belarus Red Cross contributes to achieving the aims of Strategy 2020 through implementation of its new strategic development plan and on-going activities.

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Strategic directions are followed throughout 2012-2015	On-going activity	See details below

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

- Belarus Red Cross contributes to achieving the aims of Strategy 2020 through implementation of its strategic development plan that was adopted in 2011. The on-going activities are in line with the National Society strategic directions laid down in the Strategic plan.

**Output 5.4:** Support capacity building in National Society programme monitoring and reporting.

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Belarus Red Cross adheres to IFRC monitoring, evaluation and reporting standards	Continuous activity	Continuous activity

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFRC country representation has established and maintains standard monitoring and reporting procedures. Additional training is however needed due to change of reporting templates and new staff joining the National Society. No overdue reports were registered in the reporting period.</li> </ul>

**Output 5.5:** Support quality systems development including greater use of the National Society own financial management arrangements

Assist National Society in human resource development

Measurement		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Effective financial procedures are developed and adopted in 2012 Effective human resource management system established in 2013	Key finance management functions established	Target not achieved

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IFRC country representation team continued to provide regular support and guidance to Belarus Red Cross on IFRC procedures and key finance management functions.</li> </ul>

## Stakeholder participation and feedback

A Partners' coordination meeting was held in Minsk on 20 March, attended by the Austrian, Danish, Icelandic, Swiss Red Cross Societies, the IFRC, ICRC and UNHCR and hosted by the Belarus Red Cross. The meeting participants shared lessons learned from developing joint grant applications, discussed how to strengthen cooperation between partners and harmonize approaches in building capacities of the Belarus Red Cross, with emphasis on issues related to human resource development.

As a result of the Conference on community care and inclusion of children with disabilities held in November 2012, participants agreed to further encourage:

- to form positive views on the problem of children with disabilities and their communities, promote social inclusion, securing a better quality of life and participation of people with disabilities in social life;
- to study the new system of work with disabled children PORTAGE and other modern methods and approaches;

- to further develop club activities (Parents' Clubs, clubs for mental and handicapped persons) for families with children with disabilities aiming at meeting their socialization, cultural, sport, recovery, educational and legal needs;
- to strengthen partnership of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies with state bodies of different levels as well as international and non-governmental organizations. In order to achieve this it was suggested creating coordination councils in the executive state bodies on issues of families with children with disabilities with involvement of all authorities, organizations and agencies concerned, as well as Parents' Clubs' representatives;
- to consider social services commissioning as a possibility of fundraising for work with children with disabilities and their families;
- to promote volunteer movement with active involvement of volunteers into the work with children with disabilities;
- to continue practice of experience exchange in work on community care for children with disabilities by organization of international conferences on this issue at least once in a two year period, visits and working contacts, organization of joint events.

In the framework of the project *Community care for children with disabilities* positive references from target groups were repeatedly provided to RC staff, volunteers and local authorities. Opinions from some of the target families were asked during the project implementation. In their answers they quote the following related to their self-empowerment: «Before we did not dare to go out – now it's nice seeing our kids communicating with other children in the yard»; «We started to go to the swimming pool ourselves – the staff there has now developed special attitude»; «We are now able to run»; «Now I myself can be involved and assist others». The first integration camp proved to be an experience of a lifetime for families raising children with special needs. 24 multi-child, low-income and one-parent families participating in the integration camp opened up their capacities and were inspired for self-organization, creative activities for the benefit of children, social communication and mutual assistance. Some references from the camp participants: «We have understood that our children have UNlimited abilities», «We hope to meet all friends in the next summer camp», «I wish to be a volunteer».

In order to evaluate the impact of the project *Humanitarian Assistance to the Vulnerable*, 1,000 questionnaires for beneficiaries were produced and distributed among Red Cross branches. 200 questionnaires were filled in by the beneficiaries and sent back. Information from the collected questionnaires has been analysed and is presented below. The questionnaires filled in were mainly submitted by females, 167 out of 200 questionnaires or 83.5 per cent. 93.5 per cent of beneficiaries were satisfied or very satisfied with the contents of the parcels. When asked for possible changes in the future, 32 respondents (16 per cent) suggested adding more sugar to the content of the food parcel, 36 respondents (18 per cent) – more buckwheat, 29 respondents (14.5 per cent) – more canned meat, 24 respondents (12 per cent) – more sunflower oil. 14 respondents (7 per cent) suggested adding rice to the contents of the food parcel, 13 respondents (6.5 per cent) – adding tea, and 26 respondents (13 per cent) – adding milk powder or condensed milk. 31 per cent of beneficiaries would like to receive such parcels more frequently. 115 respondents received information about the food parcels from Belarus Red Cross, 23 respondents – from the social protection centre, 12 respondents – from neighbours, relatives or acquaintances, 6 – from the media, and 44 respondents applied to the Red Cross themselves. 82.5 per cent were satisfied and 17.5 were very satisfied with the attitude of the National Society staff. The timeframe of the delivery of food parcels suited 88 per cent of beneficiaries while 12 per cent left this question unanswered. In

addition to the food parcels, 37 per cent of respondents were provided by the Red Cross with second hand clothes, 17 per cent – with school items and stationary, 42.5 per cent – with toys, 23 per cent – with Christmas gifts, 15.5 per cent – with bed linen, 12 per cent – with vitamins, 12 per cent – with detergents or hygiene items, and 31 per cent – with psychological support. When asked about the needs with regard to future support 66.5 per cent of beneficiaries would like to receive food assistance (52.2 per cent in 2011), 48 per cent – clothing (39.5 per cent in 2011), 18 per cent – hygiene items (8.8 per cent in 2011), 57.5 per cent – vitamins and medicines (7.8 per cent in 2011). 9 per cent of respondents asked for wheel-chairs and 17 per cent asked for pampers.

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Belarus country plan 2012 was well covered, however its Coordination component (IFRC Representation in Belarus) was heavily underfunded which put at risk the continuity of services provided by IFRC at country level.</li> </ul>	H	In conjunction with Europe Zone resource mobilisation, approach National Societies for unrestricted (non-earmarked) funding or secure that IFRC staff are programme funded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going economic crisis and international isolation of Belarus, if continued, may further aggravate the social situation, whereby the number of people in need would increase and without a matching increase in social support this would lead to deteriorating conditions for vulnerable people.</li> </ul>	M	Address this by humanitarian diplomacy, promotion of Red Cross values, strengthening capacities of Belarus Red Cross in advocacy, dialogue and cooperation between relevant international and national actors.

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

Through on-going programmes the IFRC and the Belarus Red Cross will continue to address a range of vulnerabilities that affect socially excluded groups, primarily poor access to healthcare, isolation, lack of access to decision-makers and material poverty.

Based on the feedback from beneficiaries of the project *Humanitarian Assistance to the Vulnerable*, local administrations and social protection centres, in 2013 the Belarus Red Cross will revisit the contents of food parcels, target groups and regions. Efforts will be made to mobilize local resources for meeting the needs of the most vulnerable however international assistance will be still required.

The project *Strengthening national mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine* resulted in a number of practices and solutions that can be considered as best practices recommended for replication. Among them, the need to include a prevention component in all anti-trafficking projects; encouraging creation of self-help groups among former victims of trafficking (VoTs) and involving them in humanitarian work; significant role of faith-based organizations in the early identification of VoTs and providing them with moral support and rehabilitation assistance; the practice whereby the capacity of a National Red Cross Society was effectively built by a non-RC organization (IOM); and the high effectiveness of a number of NGOs working together on the same issue. Red Cross Societies, the IFRC and the

IOM are encouraged to continue working together in preventing and alleviating the issues related to trafficking in human beings.

IFRC supported programmes in Belarus are designed to support the National Society activities and guide towards the fulfilment of strategic goals.

## Financial situation

**Click here to go directly to the financial report.**

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF Process/LTPF/2012/SP567BYLTPF\\_12arf.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2012/SP567BYLTPF_12arf.pdf)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

## Contact information

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