


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Belarus

Annual Report 2013

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABY002

30 April 2014

**This report covers the
period
from 1 January 2013
to 31 December 2013**

*Belarus Red Cross emergency response
team at an international simulation exercise
Photo: Belarus Red Cross*



Overview

In the 2010s, Belarus is still facing several challenges related to humanitarian issues, like the Chernobyl nuclear disaster legacy, the growing incidence of trafficking in human beings, TB and HIV incidence, and a serious demographic crisis marked by declining life expectancy, high mortality and morbidity rates, rapid population ageing and deteriorating health conditions.

Being located at the crossroads between East and West and having an essentially open border with Russia, an increasing number of Belarusians have been exposed to trafficking. Belarus is a source and a transit country for women, men, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour.

According to official statistics, a total of 4,835 victims of human trafficking have been identified in Belarus since 2002, 536 out of whom are minors. Trafficking in males has been under-considered; often severely exploited male migrants are overlooked as victims of trafficking (VoT), IOM in Minsk states. Belarus Red Cross anti-trafficking interventions therefore also assist men besides women and children.

HIV prevalence in Belarus continues to rise, with 100 Belarusians infected every month. At 1 November 2013, the number of people registered as HIV-positive in Belarus reached 15,412. The most severely affected age group is composed of young people between 15 and 29, who make up 57.3 per cent of all HIV-infected persons. However, the majority of new HIV cases, 29.7 per cent, are diagnosed in the age group of 40 and above. Infection through sexual intercourse has been most common of HIV transmission in Belarus for several years. However, injection drug use is also responsible for a large percentage of HIV disease (43.2 per cent).

Women make up a growing proportion of the HIV-positive population in Belarus, and the overall new infection rate continues to climb. The share of women in the total number of HIV-infected patients has reached 40 per cent. Women in Belarus are particularly vulnerable to sexual transmission of HIV because of duress and violence regarding the use of contraception and reproductive health. In this context, Belarus Red Cross works closely together with the authorities and other organizations to introduce gender-sensitive approaches to injection drug users and HIV-infected women.

In Belarus, the state's social responsibility is consistently shrinking, while social and economic security risks are increasing. At the same time, the cost of living in Belarus has risen much faster than the rise in salaries. Belarus had the highest rise in consumer prices among the post-Soviet nations in both October and the first 10

months of 2013, according to official statistical data. Consumer prices rose by 12 per cent in Belarus in January-October 2013 compared with 5.3 per cent in Russia, 3.6 per cent in Kazakhstan and Moldova, 3.5 per cent in Armenia, 3.1 per cent in Tajikistan, 2.5 per cent in Estonia, two percent in Kyrgyzstan, one percent in Azerbaijan, 0.6 per cent in Lithuania, and 0.5 per cent in Georgia.

Poverty is becoming widespread among unemployed people, the rural population, pensioners, and children in large families, families with unemployed and single parents. The number of people in need is growing and fairly large social groups are expected to be affected by lower standards of social guarantees.

The government of Belarus does not dare to carry out a full-scale pension reform, but negative demographic trends and decreased pension fund revenues are forcing the authorities to reduce social guarantees for the retired. Presidential Decree No. 389 of 2 September 2013 envisages a change to the effect that as of 1 January 2014, the right to a retirement pension by age or seniority will be granted only if Social Security Fund payments have been made for at least 10 years instead of the current limit of 5 years. In the short term, the amendments will help the state to maintain the level of pension payments acceptable for the majority at the cost of the marginalized groups, which will be excluded from the state support programmes. According to the World Bank forecast, Belarus' pension fund deficit may occur as early as 2014 due to the growing number of aging population.

This situation also influences the functioning of the Belarus Red Cross, since the National Society has to stretch its capacities to meet the growing needs of the vulnerable population groups. Making the most out of its branch and volunteer network, the 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, people with mental illnesses 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 8,148 primary units (grass-root organizations). With a total of 321 paid staff, including 110 visiting nurses in 51 medico-social centres, and more than 22,740 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.

The main international bilateral and multilateral partners of the Belarus Red Cross are the IFRC representation in Minsk, the ICRC delegation in Moscow, the American, Austrian, Danish, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese and Swiss Red Cross Societies in addition to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN agencies, various NGOs, the National AIDS Centre, ministries and governmental organizations, universities and other educational institutions, mass media as well as international and local 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
Azerbaijan Red Crescent	Memorandum of Understanding
Bulgarian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Georgian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Kyrgyz Red Crescent	Memorandum of Understanding
Latvian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Lithuanian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding.
Polish Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Russian Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding
Uzbekistan Red Crescent	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: Promote Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and mainstream those in programmes.

Monitoring	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
1.1.1. Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values are integrated in new projects and programmes in 2013.	Continuous activity
Comments on progress towards outcomes	
Components of dissemination of humanitarian values and reduction of stigma and discrimination were incorporated in new and ongoing programmes such as <i>Integration of ex-offenders into society</i> , <i>Support to people with mental illnesses</i> , <i>Youth volunteering to fight trafficking in human beings</i> , and <i>Enhanced access for female IDUs to HIV prevention and harm reduction services</i> .	

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

Output 2.1.1.: Support provided to Belarus Red Cross upon request, based on own developed DR/DP plans

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
2.1.1. Belarus Red Cross receives the needed technical support.		Continuous activity
Comments on progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 27 until 30 of June 2013, Belarus Red Cross organized a Disaster Management School for its volunteers. The school improved the operational skills of 80 volunteers from the National Society regional response teams. The training was also attended by representatives from other organizations, including the Ministry of Emergencies and Coca-Cola Beverages Belarus. IFRC Europe Zone Office supported the 		

training with an amount of CHF 3,000 and by the deployment of an international expert assigned by Bulgarian Red Cross.

- On 12-13 August 2013, the 24 best-performing volunteers of the Belarus Red Cross's disaster response service demonstrated their skills at the international simulation exercise organized by the Lithuanian Red Cross (please refer to the news story at IFRC website <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/belarus/belarus-emergency-preparedness-saves-lives-63624/>). Some 90 participants from Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia attended the event. The 24-hour simulation of a plane crash called on the volunteers of the four National Societies to carry out search and rescue, provide first aid, and transport people from the disaster zone to safety through rough terrain. The Red Cross teams worked well together, each illustrating the various skills developed by their National Society's training programmes.
- In mid-September, large-scale drills were also organized in Minsk by the Belarusian Ministry of Emergencies in order to prepare for extreme winter conditions. Belarus Red Cross emergency response teams were included in the state's system of response to winter conditions.
- From 27 November to 1 December 2013, Belarus Red Cross conducted a 3-day training (drills) for its volunteers to further strengthen the National Society's capacity to respond to winter frosts and snowstorms. IFRC Europe Zone Office supported the training with CHF 3,500. The purpose of the drills was to enable Red Cross volunteers to respond to new challenges related to winter conditions. The drills strengthened their practical skills in the following areas: search and rescue in snowstorm, driving and using rescue and auxiliary vehicles in winter conditions, providing first psychosocial assistance as per IFRC standards, assessment of needs at regional level, development of regional plans for winter 2013/2014.
- Furthermore, being included in the national plan *Snowstorm* in December, Belarus Red Cross took part in the national simulation where the Red Cross's role was to set up warming stations, provide psychosocial support, search and rescue, evacuation and transportation.
- Simulations such as these have allowed the Belarus Red Cross to strengthen its preparedness for large-scale emergencies both at home and abroad.
- On 12-16 December 2013, Belarus Red Cross hosted First Aid Master Training in Minsk, with the support of the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre. This training was organized based on several requests made by National Societies to build up the capacity of their trainers. The training programme was based on a curriculum in line with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre recommendations. The training strengthened the capacity of National Societies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan in provision of First Aid Education

Output 2.1.3: Psychosocial support to victims of disasters is provided in accordance with Federation standards

Monitoring	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
2.1.3. Belarus Red Cross PSS service offers support in crisis situations.	Target achieved with the National Society PSS established and providing regular services as and when required
Comments on progress towards outcomes	
Belarus Red Cross has a total of 93 Red Cross staff and volunteers trained to provide psychosocial support according to IFRC standards. Out of these, three persons attended PSS Training of Trainers in Moscow on 9-14 June 2013 and are now prepared for international deployment.	

Output 2.2.1: Support Belarus Red Cross in undertaking needs assessments and addressing disaster relief needs

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
2.2.1. Belarus Red Cross DR team is assisted in the use of DREF/Emergency Appeal tools in time of disaster as and when required.	DREF/Emergency Appeal tool is activated in time of disaster	Target achieved
Comments on progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freezing weather and continuous snowfalls affected Belarus in January-March 2013. IFRC supported Belarus Red Cross response efforts with two DREF allocations: CHF 25,631 for <i>Extreme Weather Conditions</i> and CHF 88,166 for <i>Spring Floods Preparedness</i>. According to the final report on the DREF-funded operation Spring Floods Preparedness issued on 4 September 2013, a total of 1,938 people received complementary food and hygiene parcels during the operation; 499 people received warm blankets; 232 people were provided with psychological assistance; 51 people were assisted in pumping out water from flooded buildings; 70 Red Cross staff were involved in the operation; 45 staff and 255 volunteers were engaged in the action by Belarus Red Cross in all the six regions of Belarus; 356 trained volunteers from among emergency response teams and the Red Cross youth volunteer movement were engaged to provide support to the population affected by floods. The <i>Spring Floods Preparedness</i> operation in 2013 was an important added value showing to other National Societies a different use of DREF tool. DREF allocation for spring floods preparedness resulted in the reduction of time needed for assistance delivery from six days to seven hours. Early flood preparedness enabled Belarus Red Cross to establish a sustainable platform for cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies. Special drills were organised for the Red Cross regional emergency response teams, which had not been involved in flood relief before. These drills were organised in cooperation with the local units of the Ministry of Emergencies and apart from learning basic and advanced skills, volunteers were instructed on how to use equipment purchased as part of the preparedness programme. As well as learning how to use the equipment, emergency response teams were also trained in first aid, psychosocial support, search and rescue. 		

Output 2.2.3: Support is provided to Belarus Red Cross to reach compliance with Minimum Security Requirements

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
2.2.3. Belarus Red Cross acts in compliance with Minimum Security Requirements	MSR is followed	Target partially achieved
Comments on progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No security incidents have been reported by the Belarus Red Cross during 2013. Security awareness and basic safety of National Society assets, volunteers and staff were 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 3.1.1:** Support the National Society in HIV prevention and harm reduction activities

Monitoring	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
3.1.1. Belarus Red Cross HIV programmes continue in 2012-2015	Target achieved
Comments on progress towards outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Belarus Red Cross has continued implementing its HIV programmes, supported both bilaterally and multilaterally. Since 2011, the Belarus Red Cross has worked to introduce gender oriented approaches in HIV prevention and harm reduction programming, to improve access to comprehensive harm reduction services for female injecting drug users (IDUs), as well as to strengthen capacity of local organizations providing services to IDUs. In 2013, this work was supported by IFRC and Italian Red Cross through the project <i>Enhanced access for female IDUs to HIV prevention and harm reduction services</i> implemented in Grodno region in close cooperation with key HIV service organizations. 	

Output 3.2.1: 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

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
3.2.1. Anti-trafficking programmes continue in 2012-2015	Programmes are implemented	Continuous activity
Comments on progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, the Belarus Red Cross implemented 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 IOM). The IFRC-supported project <i>Strengthening national mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine</i> was completed in mid-June 2013. The project significantly contributed to the integration of National Red Cross Societies into National Referral Mechanisms as partners with strong local networks. Trained Red Cross community nurses are now integrated in the process of providing potential beneficiaries with another confidential channel at the community level for claiming assistance. In the long term, overall access of victims of trafficking (VoT) to quality services will be enhanced as the project created better possibilities for identifying VoTs and referring them to specialized institutions at district and local levels. The project <i>Youth volunteering to prevent trafficking in human beings</i> has seen the completion of its first three-year cycle of implementation, ensuring networking, capacity building and cooperation between Belarus and Icelandic Red Cross societies through assistance and prevention activities for actual and potential VoT in Gomel region, Belarus. One of the important project outcomes was the strengthened cooperation between project partners, resulting in continued funding support from the Icelandic Red Cross and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland. The expanded project will enable the Belarus Red Cross to replicate the already tested prevention and awareness-raising model in Gomel to Vitebsk and Minsk regions. A new three-year programme cycle was endorsed and it will continue until the end of 2015. 		

Output 3.5.1.: Promote social mobilization and empowerment approaches, further develop National Society volunteering base among all ages and encourage inter-generational initiatives

Monitoring	
Indicators	Year to Date Actual
3.5.1. Empowerment approaches are integrated in new projects and programmes; participation of older people, minority groups in different spheres of life has increased by 20%	Targets achieved, see details below
Comments on progress towards outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the reporting period, the IFRC and other partners continued to promote social mobilization and empowerment approaches. • In 2013, the project entitled <i>Support to people with mental illnesses</i> has seen the completion of its first year of a three-year cycle of implementation. The project objective is to promote participation and social inclusion of people with mental illnesses in the capital city, Minsk, by strengthening the capacity of, and the cooperation between, the Belarus Red Cross and the relevant state and non-state actors in Belarus. With this project, the Belarus Red Cross works from a socially inclusive approach to remove the stigma around mental health issues and to promote the participation of people with mental illnesses in the community, to improve their quality of life. In all this work, the Belarus Red Cross and its project partners are guided by the Red Cross Red Crescent principles and the following values: dignity, respect, empowerment, equality, freedom of choice and the belief that a recovery from illness is possible. • A major milestone in the project has been reached with the opening ceremony of the Red Cross centre for people with mental illnesses, attended by key stakeholders and media (for details please refer to the news story at IFRC website http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/belarus/belarus-red-cross-opens-its-first-centre-for-people-with-mental-disorders-63803/). The Open Home is now fully operational and receives people with mental illnesses. One of the important project outcomes was the strengthened cooperation between all project partners, including the involvement of the Honorary Consul of Iceland in Belarus in supporting project activities. Belarus Red Cross is now prepared to share its experiences with other National Societies and has already come forward with an initiative to raise the issue of mental health and support to mentally ill people at the European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Florence in June 2014. • <i>Integration of ex-offenders into civil society</i> is another new project launched in 2013. This 34-month project represents consolidated efforts and engagement of relevant stakeholders in Belarus to build an efficient mechanism for social inclusion of former convicts and to strengthen the position of civil society in this process. By enabling ex-offenders to return safely to the community and advocating for their right to fair and equal access to education, vocational training, employment and public services this project will foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The project is financed by the European Union and is implemented by Belarus Red Cross in partnership with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) with the support of IFRC. During the reporting period, IFRC, Belarus and MoI have worked with the three penitentiary institutions and inmates in Mogilev region targeting improved legal awareness, motivation and coping skills of ex-offenders, as well as prepared the ground for improved social inclusion opportunities in the target communities. Red Cross support to inmates in the three target penitentiary institutions is becoming increasingly tangible and highly valued both by offenders and prison authorities. The Red Cross is progressively viewed by offenders, not as a charity but rather a humanitarian organization which takes a neutral and impartial position and protects human dignity and life in and out of prison. The groundwork for creation of a new mechanism of preparation of offenders for their reintegration in society has been laid through start-up and coordination meetings. The capacity of the existing support networks for ex-offenders has been enhanced through the training of Red Cross and penitentiary institutions staff. 	

Business line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work.

Output 4.3.1: Reduce dependence on single partners while maintaining and expanding existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative partnerships

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
4.3.1. Belarus Red Cross is assisted in communication with government and external donors, sharing information and plans to develop new partnerships	Continuous activity	Target achieved
Comments on progress towards outcomes		
In the reporting period, the IFRC's Country Representation worked on expanding its existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative partnerships. As a result, the Belarus Country Plan for 2013 has been well covered, with contributions from Icelandic and Italian Red Cross Societies, DFID Partnership grant and EuropeAid.		

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

Output 5.1.1: Maintain regular coordination and dialogue between Movement and non-Movement partners (EU, UN agencies) regarding our main areas of focus in Belarus

Output 5.1.2 Promote increased National Society participation in international dialogue and cooperation, including through ERNA and other relevant networks

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Coordination and dialogue with partners ongoing 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"> During the reporting period, the IFRC's Country Representation has continued its partner coordination efforts by maintaining regular communication and dialogue between Movement partners, sharing information, facilitating discussions between the concerned National Red Cross Societies regarding joint programming and applications to donors. The Belarus Red Cross continued to be an active member of the steering committee of <i>European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network</i> and member of <i>European Network for Psychosocial Support</i>. 		

Output 5.3.1.: Belarus Red Cross contributes to achieving the aims of Strategy 2020 through implementation of its new strategic development plan and on-going activities.

Monitoring		
Indicators	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
5.3.1. 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's strategic directions laid down in the Strategic plan.

Output 5.4.1.: Support capacity building in National Society programme monitoring and reporting.

Monitoring

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

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The IFRC's Country Representation has established and maintains standard monitoring and reporting procedures. However, additional training is needed due to change of reporting templates and new staff joining the National Society. No overdue reports were registered in the reporting period.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Positive references from the Open Home guests start to be provided to the Red Cross project staff. Some of the encouraging beneficiaries' quotes: "I want to find a wife for myself, maybe I will meet her here", "I want to stay here for a longer time", "I like the atmosphere here", "I wish the centre would be also open during weekends", "Can I invite my friend with a mental illness to come here?", "Today I could sleep 12 hours and nothing disturbed me", "Today I left home a bit later than usual, but still came before the opening hour. May I still come in?". The mother of a young man said since he started to visit the centre, his mental health has improved greatly. All the experiences gained during the project implementation will be further shared through the network of Belarus Red Cross branches and other National Societies.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Belarus Country Plan for 2013 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. 	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"> 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. 	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 the 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 outcomes of external reviews and monitoring in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the IFRC-supported project *Strengthening national mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking* 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 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 up by a non-RC organization (IOM); and the high efficiency of a number of NGOs working together on the same issue. Red Cross Societies, IFRC and IOM are encouraged to continue working together in preventing and alleviating the issues related to trafficking in human beings.

The model of prevention human trafficking and abuse developed under the project *Youth volunteering to fight trafficking in human beings and abuse* is now being successfully replicated in two more regions of Belarus. Future areas for replication will be considered with regard to their potential for sustainability. By further strengthening and developing the already existing Red Cross *Helping Hands* centres in Vitebsk and Gomel, and enabling the Red Cross team in Minsk region, access to re-integration, psycho-social support, education and legal services for victims of trafficking and abuse will be improved and developed. Prevention will be the main project focus in all three regions (based on best practices and the already developed model with volunteer involvement). In 2014, for the first time, a special module for children will be developed. Until now, children have not been targeted by Belarus Red Cross though there is a real need to prevent child trafficking. Red Cross volunteers will be specifically trained on working with this target group and will develop games designed especially for children. Reintegration will be provided where needed, so as to fill the gaps or ease the access to IOM-funded assistance (e.g. covering travel costs for the victim from a remote district to reach the IOM rehabilitation centre in Minsk). Reintegration assistance may also be needed in other regions of Belarus, not directly targeted by this project, thus ensuring that every victim will get the support needed and will not be left out. Belarus Red Cross will also seek to empower VoTs and will offer them a peer consultant's role – such a peer consultant will reveal his/her VoT status after presenting a module on trafficking prevention. He/she will tell his/her personal story and try to prevent others from getting into slavery. At the same time, Belarus Red Cross will further explore possibilities for reaching out to the most vulnerable groups, e.g. youth from remote areas, orphans and people with disabilities. Efforts will be made to link the anti-trafficking project with other projects such as integration of ex-offenders into the civil society. As former prisoners have real difficulties to find a legal job due to the stigmatisation of the employers, they are a perfect target group for criminals to force former prisoners into trafficking situation. The project team will provide support to the staff and volunteers working with ex-offenders in order to help them avoid risky situations and behaviours.

The main focus for the project *Support to people with mental illnesses* in 2014 will be running of the centre and increased advocacy. A major advocacy campaign will be devoted to World Mental Health day in October 2014. Partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, the National Scientific and Practical Centre for Mental Health, the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Belarus, the WHO Country Office in Belarus and the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs will be further strengthened. Although the expertise and the structures are now in place, the need to consolidate and expand services as well as to update psycho-social services is huge. So is the need to reach the youth and raise awareness on mental health issues.

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

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAABY00213arf.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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In Belarus Red Cross**
 - Viktor Kolbanov, Secretary General;
email: info@redcross.by; phone/fax: +375 17 227 14 17
- **In IFRC Belarus Office**
 - Sergei Boltrushevich, Head of Office;
email: sergei.boltrushevich@ifrc.org; phone +375 17 223 34 46
- **In IFRC Europe Zone Office**
 - Elkhan Rahimov, Head of Country Cluster;
email: elkhan.rahimov@ifrc.org; phone: +36 1 888 4510