



How are we going to be better prepared?

In order to support the affected and vulnerable groups in the longer term:

- National Societies which have experiences of dealing with the long term effects of a nuclear disaster can provide a range of activities on public health and social welfare for affected populations.



Stakeholders we work with:

- All components of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.
- Communities around nuclear power plants which need sensitization of the potential risks and strive to become more resilient.
- Authorities, national regulatory bodies and specialized agencies within domestic civil protection systems.
- International organizations and networks involved in nuclear and radiological emergencies.

For more information on nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness, please contact:

Martin Krottmayer

*Senior Officer,
Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness*

Telephone: +41 22 730 4662
E-mail: nuclear.emergency@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org

NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



**International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**
www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.

1266100 R 02/2015 E 500



Why do we need to be better prepared?

"We were not at all aware of the possible damage at the nuclear power plant, and we started the treatment of tsunami survivors. But, soon after our arrival, we heard the news of the explosion, so that we had to pack up and change the location of our medical relief activities. 'You are going to leave us!' survivors said to us reproachfully. My heart was close to breaking with a mixture of guilt and fear that I wanted to evacuate from the radiation danger."

Ms. Ayumi Watanabe, a nurse from the Fukushima Red Cross hospital, faced this agonizing situation because at the time of the triple disaster in March 2011, the Japanese Red Cross neither had appropriate equipment, nor clear guidelines for their medical teams on how to operate amid the risks of radiation due to a nuclear accident.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, with its 189 National Societies and millions of volunteers, is often on the front line of disasters. However, if the disaster includes nuclear and radiological incidents, are we ready to protect our staff and volunteers, let alone to support the victims?

What have we done?

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and a number of National Societies responded to the short and longer term consequences of the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant with the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP). Over the course of 23 years, it embraced a range of activities such as relief assistance at the evacuation centres, radiation screening of people and food, health and psychosocial care, as well as in kind and financial assistance for the affected populations. As the years progressed, the programme focus shifted to support public health, psychosocial support and social welfare. In total CHARP provided directly assistance to more than 4.2 million people in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

In 2011, the IFRC and National Societies adopted a key resolution on preparedness to respond to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear emergencies at their General Assembly. The objective is to develop and improve response plans as well as to build up expertise and knowledge within the IFRC and to strengthen National Societies' capacity to assist affected populations.



How are we going to be better prepared?

The Nuclear and Radiological Emergency preparedness programme covers all areas from preparedness and response to recovery.

In order to be better prepared, we will provide:

- Operational guidelines covering issues on how a National Society and a community can be better prepared for a nuclear or radiological emergency, specifically in its health aspects, and also potential areas of Red Cross Red Crescent activities to support the affected population.
- Online knowledge base which contains useful tools and background documents from various National Societies and also from specialized organizations and authorities.
- Face to face or online training on how to respond to a nuclear and radiological emergency.

In order to respond to nuclear and radiological emergency we will provide:

- A pool of experts who can support National Societies in adjusting their existing response capacities to specific situations such as a nuclear emergency.
- Ongoing engagement by IFRC with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Incident & Emergency Centre in order to receive early notification of any kind of nuclear emergency, allowing us immediately to exchange information with National Societies in the concerned area.
- Specialized detection and protection equipment such as personal dosimeters, which could be made available to the National Societies of affected countries in case of a nuclear emergency.