

CHARP

ICCC Meeting

14 March 2000
Minsk, BELARUS

Participants:

National Societies:

Vladimir Yarmolik	BelRC
A.Romanovskiy	BelRC (partly)
Ivan Usichenko	UkrRC
Oleg Chestnov	RusRC
Evgeniy Markin	RusRC

Minsk Delegation:

Jürgen Kronenberger, *Chairman*
Nickolai Nagorny
Alexander Komov
Slava Otchik
Tamara Reshko
Elena Shkrob

1. Opening of the meeting, approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened and the agenda was approved with the following modifications. J.Kronenberger informed that EU/Tacis representatives in Belarus would join the meeting to share prospects on funding possibilities from the EU's point of view. In this connection J.Kronenberger briefed the participants about EU activity in the region and about the initiatives of the Delegation which were undertaken to promote co-operation with EU/Tacis for fundraising actions. With reference to p.6 of the agenda (Annual report on PSS) it was agreed upon to discuss this before the approval of the Plan of Action on PSS. Besides, a new person was introduced: Evgeniy Markin who is in charge of emergencies in Russian RC and will be a new CHARP counterpart in the NS.

2. Follow-up of the previous CHARP meetings (WorkGr & ICCC)

There were no comments made by the participants concerning the Minutes. J.Kronenberger mentioned that the Programme is well managed by Delegation's CHARP team and in the field as well, so CHARP becomes a routine work and no interventions to monitor management crises by the ICCC became necessary in 1999.

3. Approval of PSS Plan of Action

3.1. General

N.Nagorny briefly introduced the Plan of Action which was drafted by CHARP taking into consideration recommendations of assessments missions and of project cycle management.

3.2. PSS outside CHARP

With reference to PSS outside CHARP, it will be implemented in the countries differently and this can also be recognized by three different budgets. However, these budgets still need financing. The extension of PSS to other programmes was raised again. There were questions concerning budget breakdowns and how to cover such costs.

In connection with this J.Kronenberger stressed that it is necessary to develop the management structure and a focal point at the NSs and the Programme should not be looked at only from the budget angle. It was also mentioned by the HoD that PSS in Russia is not the responsibility of CHARP, this goes into CAS of the Russian RC. The nomination of interlocutors for CHARP was agreed upon. S.Otchik will get in touch with them for further planning.

3.3. Annual report on PSS

S.Otchik made comments on the report of PSS activities in 1999 pointing out 3 main fields of the activities: a) training; b) support itself (via individual counseling); c) indirect psychological support. The quality of service provided and the assessment criteria were discussed.

3.4. Plan of Action

S.Otchik focused on the main field of PSS activities and touched upon all important parts (objectives, resources, training, monitoring, etc.) of the Plan of Action. The chapter *Expected results* was discussed in more details since it reflects concrete tasks to be reached within 2 years. These planned results are to be checked by the ICCC.

The participants discussed the relevance of the figures (the targeted number of persons to be provided with PSS) as they seemed to be rather big. It was explained by the Coordinator that they were calculated based on the previous experience and experts' opinion and the participants from the ONS agreed that they can rely on this.

There were some clarifications asked for such as the following

Questions: 1. *What is understood under a focal point?* - A counterpart for S.Otchik at NS. 2. *What budget will cover the expenses of a counterpart?* - J.Kronenberger suggested to cover the expenses out of local resources, but hopefully a mixture of international and local resources (e.g. local input plus CAS and VNS) may be possible.

The participants agreed to the proposed planning and the Plan of Action was approved.

4. Funding situation of CHARP

4.1. Discussion with EU/Tacis representatives

The meeting was attended by Raul de Luzenberger, Head of Tacis Branch Office (Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Belarus) and Leonid Orlov, Executive Director of EU Tacis Programme (Co-ordinating Unit in Belarus) who were invited to discuss cooperation between EU and CHARP.

R.de Luzenberger briefed the meeting about the core mandate of ECHO which is to respond to natural human catastrophes by the provision of emergency aid within 1-6 months. Chernobyl is considered to deal with long-term consequences and the support from ECHO was not prolonged. There were attempts to administer Tacis funds via ECHO for CHARP but no results have been reached so far. In any case if there is a success, the money will be received earliest in March 2001. However, the Red Cross was invited to intervene at different levels to keep the Directorate concerned in Brussels occupied with our case. In particular the support of the National Coordinator in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia is necessary .

Further, answering the questions R.de Luzenberger explained what components of CHARP Programme could be supported by EU/Tacis. In connection with this, it is important to remember, that Tacis is a programme for technical assistance, focusing on know-how transfer and pilot projects as a result attending to long-term sustainability and thus complementing the national budget of the country. It works between EU and CIS-governments, but groups of Civil Society can benefit in each country, when the National Co-ordinator agrees.

All the materials (applications) submitted for consideration at Tacis should be drafted as projects, and they should meet the above mentioned conditions and a number of additional criteria for taking a decision. To summarize the discussion, the following fields of CHARP activity were advised as appropriate to the frame of EU/Tacis activity in the Region (e.g.Belarus):

1. Educational, training component (workshops, seminars abroad, etc.), information on sectors of developments (e.g. Health);
2. Consulting services
3. Part of running costs (only 25% of the project) could possibly be considered;
4. Purchase of equipment - to a less extent, but also ways can be found to fit into the frame needed.

There are other possibilities of cooperation with Tacis or other budget lines outside CHARP. L.Orlov mentioned the Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation which runs a number of small projects with up to 200.000 Euro budget including also public health. There may be a chance for the Red Cross to develop cooperation within these projects. Among areas which are in the focus of CHARP, Brest Region (boarder area) was mentioned. Based on cross-border activities, applications may be drafted and submitted then to the EU for Cross-Border programmes. The final date for applications is September-October.

The Head Office with its Co-ordinating Unit in Kiev can also be addressed by the Ukrainian Red Cross and asked for their possible support in the areas mentioned.

The meeting thanked the representatives from EU.

It was then agreed as a next step, to proceed with cooperation for CHARP and to develop contacts at a local level (with Tacis Co-ordinating Unit). And to approach the National Co-ordinator, who in Belarus as an example is the Minister of Economics, Mr.Shimov, with a letter explaining

- our case (the situation);
- better conditions when we worked with ECHO in the past;
- current requests/plans.

Such an initiative should later be accompanied by adequate contacts in Brussels.

4.2. Funding situation of CHARP/possibility to modify

J.Kronenberger briefed about the current CHARP funding situation and informed about the past initiatives of the Delegation to raise funds. He advised to concentrate on the core group of donors and to try to find new partners case by case. One of the important issues is to increase support from the local level (up to 25% as it was agreed in Kiev in 1998). Three ways to provide for the Programme sustainability were discussed:

a) try to focus on the core group of donors (Japanese, British, Dutch RCSs) to be a real alliance for the basic running of the Programme CHARP must keep close contacts with them; also to develop close relations with other partners (e.g. Finnish RC) and to develop a strategy of activities with them to extend the basic functions of CHARP;

b) negotiate with the EU to get again financial support in addition to a);

c) develop local resources. The main role in this field should be taken by the National Societies (supported by all Presidents). In connection with this, first it was proposed to create a small working group (may be experts from outside) in order to study how it is possible to mobilize our potential and give us concrete proposals. Later it was decided to invite a local expert for this purpose. It was agreed between the Presidents of BelRC and UkrRC that they would have joint cooperation on this issue. For Ukrainian RC and Belarus RC Prof. Kistersky was proposed.

5. Annual medical report

A.Komov made comments on the report of MDLs activities in 1999. The report was supported with tables and charts on the detected diseases and the comparative data were given for the years 1995-1999. It was mentioned that due to the experience and good professional background of the personnel the targeted number of examinations was reached.

7. Any other business: CHARP Newsletter

7.1.N.Nagorny: the Minsk Delegation has already issued 5 newsletters on CHARP: this is an important tool to inform our partners and general public on the programme. However, the idea initially was, that the three ONS provide information for this to the Delegation, but in reality this doesn't work the way it was agreed. N.Nagorny once more requested to make sure that the Delegation gets more inputs for the newsletters from the ONSs.

Secondly, the procedure of approving the newsletters is time-consuming: after being drafted, the text is passed to the Working Group and then to the three Presidents for their comments, so by the time we can finally publish it, the information gets outdated. To simplify the process, it was agreed that no answer from a President in one week means an OK.

7.2. N.Nagorny informed about plans to issue a leaflet or a brochure on CHARP next year, for the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl accident: this can be used as an

additional tool to support fundraising. O.Chestnov suggested to make honorary certificates to PNSs, scientists, ministries, other partners who contributed to the work.

7.3. It was agreed to held the next ICCC meeting in Belarus (probably in Brest Oblast) early September, 2000; A.Romanovsky will chair. The meeting was closed.