The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people. By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The International Federation, the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

The Netherlands Red Cross

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Density of terrain contamination with Caesium-137

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CHARP focus

15 years of the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme

20 years after the Chernobyl disaster

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
The programme objective is to identify – at the earliest possible stage – thyroid gland cancer and other thyroid pathologies of people in the most remote rural communities.

Although consequences on the health of people continue to be studied, it is widely recognised that in the contaminated region, rates of thyroid cancer – widely recognised that in the contaminated region, rates of thyroid cancer – are dozens of times higher than normal.

The screening it provides, 15 years on, is still helping saving lives on a daily basis. But funding for CHARP is running out, just as cancer rates are set to reach a peak.

Some 7 million people in three countries have been screened to date, with roughly 10,000 people being confirmed as suffering from thyroid cancer. The screening it provides, 15 years on, is still helping save lives on a daily basis.

Fund-raising (pink) and received (blue) from inter,

The programme action is to identify – at the earliest possible stage – the cost gland tumours of other thyroid pathologies of people in the most remote rural areas, so that medical care is provided. It is recognised that the actions of the programme are essential if lives are to be saved.

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You’re about to enter the scene of the world’s worst nuclear accident. The sun is streaming down on multicoloured meadows, and forests that you want to run and sing in skip by the car window. A barbed wire fence heralds your arrival in the 30-kilometre exclusion zone. Papers checked, a soldier waves you on. A stork wafts languidly overhead. Chernobyl village passes, with its shining monument to the firefighters: «to those who saved the world». And the thought — if an earthquake or other accident happened, they would have to be ready to do it all again.

Soon, half-built chimney stacks loom over the road, and the TV pictures in your head come to life. A huge silver bust of Lenin frowns at the entrance. You go to the viewing area, stand a hundred metres from «it», from the crumbling sarcophagus, and you shiver, despite the summer sun. Suddenly it all becomes real, too real.

And the ultimate irony. All around, nature is throwing her tendrils like a chloroform awning over the rusting Soviet infrastructure. In this unnatural disaster, which forced the mighty to flee, nature now blossoms.
A jumble of posters and banners for the 1986 May Day celebrations lie unused in Pripyat.

Nothing can prepare you for the emotions you feel when you visit. Here was a town about to celebrate May Day; the posters of various dignitaries lie scattered backstage at the theatre. The parks have become jungles, the streets are forests. Birds still sing, wasps zing, but no dog barks, no child cries. Pripyat is dead – no litter, no fumes, no rattle of traffic. Just the whisper of a million leaves, and the echo of tattered dreams.

Pripyat. Its river-water drove the turbines in the Chernobyl power plant, and it gave its name to the town that stands more than four kilometres from the zone of the world’s worst nuclear accident. Pripyat has become iconic, emblematic of Chernobyl. Disaster tourism has arrived – for 300 dollars you can get a tour of the “ghost town”, and see the natural harbours, the posting paint, the swinging doors, the rusting signs – all that remains of a town of 45,000 souls.

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We are in Poliskoye, a village that takes its name from the Polyssa region around Chernobyl, meaning “Land of Forests”. Dr Alexander Bogdan, Chairman of Zhitomir Red Cross, shows us around what used to be his village. Nature has reclaimed it. Branches burst out of windows, trees tear through tarmac. A traffic sign dangles uselessly from a bough.

“My eyes would not have been able to unsee it,” he says. “I had my teenage years here, my first kiss. Look at it now – it looks worse than Bosnia in the war. It feels like cats are scratching at my soul.”

He remembers the day. “I was in Zhitomir and one of our neighbours drove in from Poliskoye and started to wash his car intensively. When we asked him why he said ‘you’ll know soon enough’. He went and checked his shoes and jeans in the local sanitary station and found a terrible level of radiation. He washed them as well, but threw them away later.”

Alexander says the Soviets continued to invest in Poliskoye until 1989 even though levels of radiation were high. “The number of people getting sick with malignant tumours started to increase,” he says. “Then the Soviet Union collapsed and the town was gradually allowed to wind down and die.”

He points to some graffiti on the wall of “Children's World”, a former toy shop, written, he says, by ex-inhabitants: ‘Judases (who left) our prosperous, beautiful country. They swapped you to a Chernobyl reservation in a strange land. Our orchards are blossoming even without you but the graves of your dear people will not forgive your betrayal, nor will the lonely houses of your parents.”
How much land remains contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl accident?

The question is difficult – half-lives of radioactive material range from days to thousands of years. The weather, human intervention and time all play their part. Experts cannot agree where the safe zone begins, or which land can be used for agriculture. One fact is uncontested: the legacy of that fateful day haunts us all, and impacts directly on five million people who live on land that received high doses of radiation.

A thirty-kilometre circle rings the exclusion zone. Barbed wire and blocked roads keep out all those without permits. Yet even here there is surprising amount of human activity. People still work in the Chernobyl plant – maintenance is required even though it has long since stopped producing electricity. Chernobyl village houses these workers for their two-week on two-week off shifts. Firemen keep watch over abandoned villages. And the elderly, unable to settle in the tower blocks built to resettle them, have returned to their wooden houses, to leave their bodies on the land that bore them.

Сколько земли загрязнено в результате Чернобыльской аварии? Период полураспада радиоактивных веществ длится от нескольких дней до тысяч лет, что осложняет расчеты и прогнозы. Даже при использовании роботизированного оборудования, задача очень сложная. Эксперты затрудняются сказать, где начинается безопасная зона и землю уже можно использовать под сельское хозяйство. Бесспорным остается один факт: последствия одного из крупнейших в истории человечества катастроф продолжают оказывать негативное воздействие и на нынешнее поколение людей. Одним из фактов, которые не вызывают никаких сомнений, является то, что радиоактивность присутствует в течение столетий, а значит, и в пределах Чернобыльской зоны отчуждения. Даже в непосредственной близости от источника радиоактивных загрязнений можно увидеть людей, работающих в Чернобыльской зоне отчуждения, которые проводят две недели в расчете, что за это время уровень радиации может снизиться до безопасного уровня. Эксперты также отмечают, что радиоактивное загрязнение может сохраняться в течение столетий, что делает задачу по уничтожению загрязненных территорий чрезвычайно сложной.

100 Kilometers from Kiev
100 км от Киева

130 Kilometres from Kiev
130 км от Киева

RADIATION POLLUTION!
CATTLE PASTURE
HAY MOWING
COLLECTING MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES
STOCKING FIREWOODS

FORBIDDEN!

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Во время Чернобыльской катастрофы огромные территории были загрязнены радиоактивными веществами. Даже в настоящее время в Чернобыльской зоне отчуждения можно увидеть людей, работающих в Чернобыльской зоне отчуждения, которые проводят две недели в расчете, что за это время уровень радиации может снизиться до безопасного уровня. Эксперты также отмечают, что радиоактивное загрязнение может сохраняться в течение столетий, что делает задачу по уничтожению загрязненных территорий чрезвычайно сложной.

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В основном, это люди преклонного возраста. Но не все они создают впечатлении «нежных обезьянок», возвращающихся умереть на загрязненной земле. Семидесятилетняя Людмила ездит пять километров на велосипеде, усадив свою сверстницу Екатерину на раму, для того, чтобы заняться любимым делом всех славян: сбором сезонных даров природы – ягод и грибов. Их дома находятся на территории, рекомендованной к эвакуации. А ягоды они собирают лишь в нескольких метрах от табличек, напоминающих о том, что сбор ягод и грибов нелегален и запрещен. Но они не боятся наказания. Ни тучи прожорливых комаров, ни радиоактивные осадки не могут удержать беспечных женщин от любимого занятия.

Они не верят в радиацию. «Какой вред она нам может причинить?», – говорят они. «Мы срываем ягоды, перекрестим их, и после этого освящения, в них нет никакой радиации», – говорит Людмила с блеском в глазах. Они прожили жизнь и тверды в своей вере.

В Чернобыле многие люди продолжают жить свою жизнь и не бояться радиации. Они верят в счастье и продолжают заниматься тем, что им нравится. Они не боятся комаров, радиоактивных осадков и других препятствий. Они собирают ягоды и грибы в нескольких метрах от табличек, которые указывают на запрет сбора. Они верят в свою веру и не боятся наказания. Они не верят в радиацию и считают, что радиация не может им навредить.

**Berry pickers Ekaterina and Ludmilla**

Екатерина и Людмила собирающие ягоды

**Not all the elderly fit the comfortable picture of frail babushkas, tormented by exile, returning to expire on contaminated soil. Seventy-something Ludmilla has cycled five kilometres, with Ekaterina, equally aged, riding on the crossbar, to do one thing the Slavs love the most – collecting those seasonal gifts from heaven, wild berries and mushrooms. Their homes are in an area recommended for evacuation, but not compulsory, and they are picking berries just yards from signs saying what they are doing is unsafe and illegal. But not fear of punishment, nor swarms of voracious mosquitoes nor nuclear fallout can deter these hardy ladies from their quest.**

They don't believe in radiation, and if they did, what harm can it do them they say? They've lived full lives and are strong in their faith. «We pick the berries and make the sign of the holy cross over them», says Ludmilla, a twinkle in her eye.
Even long-term Red Cross workers might be surprised that CHARP – the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Programme – is the longest-running International Federation humanitarian programme. Wars in the Balkans, economic dislocation in the former Soviet Union, mass displacement in the Great Lakes region in Africa, earthquakes and hurricanes in the Americas, massive floods in Asia, all have been the largest relief programmes in their time.

The Red Cross makes things better, or is supposed to. It intervenes, people regain their coping mechanisms, and life goes on. But with Chernobyl, the rules bend. Thousands of the thyroid glands that thirstily sucked in radioactive iodine in 1986 are still waiting to be screened. Enlarged glands may yet become cancerous. And science continues to research the effect of Chernobyl, seeking evidence of conditions that today are evident, but unproven.

Established in 1990, CHARP focuses on high-risk groups – those who were under 40 at the time of the accident as well as those older persons who still live in highly contaminated areas. In recent years, funds have come from the Netherlands, Japanese, Austrian Red Cross Societies and British Government/Department for International Development. However, despite the clear indicators showing the increase in thyroid cancer incidence, the interest from donor communities for this unique Red Cross programme has steadily declined.

Recent large scale crises and disasters prominently featured in the media have pushed the Chernobyl disaster further in the shadow. All this whilst the Red Cross continues to improve its early detection capabilities. For example, the Brest mobile diagnostic laboratory (MDL) in Western Belarus can now conduct on-the-spot «fine needle» biopsies in the field on suspected cases of thyroid cancer, giving a reliable and rapid diagnosis – essential if lives are to be saved.

Даже те, кто давно работает в Красном Кресте, могут удивиться, что Чернобыльская Программа Гуманитарной Помощи и Реабилитации – это самая продолжительная программа Международной Федерации. Войны на Балкане, экономическая дислокация в бывшем Советском Союзе, массовая миграция в районе Большого Озера в Африке, землетрясения и ураганы в Америке, катастрофы и наводнения в Азии, все это были крупнейшие программы в своем роде.

Красный Крест старается улучшить положение вещей. Благодаря его вмешательству, восстанавливаются механизмы борьбы за жизнь, и жизнь продолжается. Но что касается Чернобыля, тут правила меняются. Тысячи людей, облученных в 1986, нуждаются в ультразвуковом обследовании на предмет поражения раком. Ученые продолжают исследовать влияние Чернобыля, пытаясь найти подтверждение очевидным, но еще не доказанным истинам.

Основанная в 1990 году Чернобыльская программа Красного Креста акцентирует внимание, прежде всего, на группах высокого риска (тех, кому было до сорока лет во время аварии), а также на тех, кто до сих пор живет в зараженных регионах. За последние годы помощь была получена из Недержландского, Японского, Австрийского Обществ Красного Креста и Отдела Международного Развития Британского Правительства. Но, к сожалению, интерес спонсоров к этой уникальной программе постепенно падает, несмотря на то, что показатели свидетельствуют об увеличении заболеваемости раком щитовидной железы.

Недавние крупномасштабные катастрофы, получившие широкий резонанс в СМИ, отодвинули Чернобыльскую катастрофу на второй план. Но Красный Крест продолжает совершенствовать диагностические возможности. Например, передвижная диагностическая лаборатория (ПДЛ) в Западной Беларуси теперь может выполнять на выезде тонкоигольную биопсию в случае подозрения на рак щитовидной железы, обеспечив надежный и быстрый диагноз, что жизненно важно.

14

The Red Cross mobile laboratory visiting rural eastern Belarus

Предоставлено лаборатория Красного Креста не входит в список отдельных лиц в соответствии с меткой.
DL clients are first checked by palpation, or touch, for signs of an enlarged thyroid gland. In the picture opposite, CHARP endocrinologist Ludmilla Khomenko checks 42-year-old Nadezhda in the Northern Ukrainian village of Laski.

Nadezhda was born in the area and her enlarged thyroid was noticed some years back. «Now I’m being monitored,» she says. «I feel fine normally, but sometimes I get nervous or dizzy. When it’s warm I am uncomfortable, I always feel hot. I thought about moving away but I have a family here now, two daughters. The oldest one, born in May 1987 has an enlarged thyroid too.»

Laski is in the area recommended for resettlement but for economic, social or sentimental reasons many people chose to stay. They get an allowance of two grivna and ten kopeks (about US 0.50). «That’s not even enough to the nearest town» says Nadezhda and everyone within earshot laughs in ironic agreement.

She gets her results. Some iodine pills and a further examination needed at the Zhitomir diagnostic centre. The relief is written all over her face. «I feel better now I know it’s nothing too serious. I need to take some treatment, that’s all.»

В начале пациентов проверяли на признаки увеличения щитовидной железы. На фотографии против, эндокринолог программы Людмила Хоменко осматривает Надежду, 42 летнюю жительницу деревни Ласки, что на севере Украины.

Надежда родилась в этом районе, и уже несколько лет тому назад у нее было выявлено увеличение щитовидки. Сейчас меня постоянно проверяют, — говорит она. — Обычно, я чувствую себя нормально, но иногда я начинаю нервничать, или у меня кружится голова. Я чувствую себя некомфортно, когда на улице тепло: меня кидает в жар. Я думала переехать, но здесь моя семья, две дочери. Старшая родилась в 1987 году. У нее тоже увеличена щитовидка».

Деревня Ласки находится в зоне «рекомендованной для эвакуации», но по причине экономического, социального или личностного характера, многие предпочли остаться здесь. Этим людям выплачивается ежемесячное пособие – две гривны и десять копеек (около 0.5 доллара США). «Этих денег даже не хватит на то, чтобы доехать до ближайшего города», — говорит Надежда, и каждый, кто слышит ее слова, горько усмехается.

Надежде сообщили результаты обследования. Врач прописал ей йодосодержащие таблетки и направил на дальнейшее обследование в диагностический центр в Житомире. На лице женщины написано облегчение. «Сейчас, когда мне сказали, что нет ничего серьезного, я чувствую себя лучше. Мне только надо принимать препараты.»

15 Bringing the human touch. Nadezhda's thyroid is checked

Гуманное прикосновение. Щитовидная железа Надежды обследована
Natoly Maestrovich was 29 at the time of the disaster. He was a healthy teenager, mad about football, and found work as a welder. «I had to spend a lot of time on my knees in the dust, and a bout a year after the explosion I started to feel bad. I must have inhaled a lot of radioactive dust. That’s when the thyroid problem was noticed. Back in Israel they told me I had serious liver and kidney disease as well and I might be dead in three months. They worked on me for a long time, sometimes 16 or 17 hours a day but I survived. But my genetic branch is strong, my grandfather lived to be 114. I was lucky I moved. Many of my generation died. If I had stayed here I wouldn’t be talking to you today.»

Planned by his wife Anya and daughter Yafa, he realised his good fortune and promised to publicise CHARP among his countrymen overseas. «This programme saves lives, it helps people, adults and children. Anything I can do to help my people I will do. There are many Ukrainians abroad, and we worry about our country and want to help.»

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«If I had stayed here I wouldn’t be talking to you today.»
Natasha Schvetskovskaya, 30, from Brest, masseur for children with spinal conditions: «I was born in Grodno region in a village that was considered clean but nevertheless... on the day it happened we were at home the sun was shining and we were playing in the open air and no one knew what was going to happen.»

Я сама родом с Гродненского района, из деревни, которая считалась чистой. Но в день, когда все это случилось, мы сидели дома, солнце светило, и мы играли на улице. Никто не подозревал об опасности. Две недели мы ничего не знали. Я решила, с какой стороны лучше смотреть на вещи, чтобы все устроилось за нами, и что из этого получится.»

I was a liquidator (someone who worked in Liquidation (liquidation of contaminated areas), 57, from the Brest region, driver: «I was a liquidator who worked in Liquidation (liquidation of contaminated areas). That was my job to bring soldiers up to the edge of the exclusion zone and tell them what was the plan».

Я был ликвидатором (человек, который работал в очаговом районе), 57, житель Брестской области, водитель: «Я был ликвидатором, который работал в очаговом районе. Моя задача была привести солдат на границу зоны отчуждения и сказать, что там будет происходить.»

When the accident happened, I was a soldier in the Chernobyl Liquidation Zone. I was told that three days would pass before we would be evacuated. I was working in the area and I was afraid to leave. When we were told we were going to be evacuated, I told my wife that we had to go. I told her: «We have to go.»

Когда случилась авария, я служил в Чернобыльской очаговой зоне. Мне сказали, что нас будут выселить через три дня. Я работал в этом районе и был обеспокоен. Когда нас сказали, что нас будут выселить, я сказал моей жене: «Мы должны уходить».
The CHARP teams can only visit a certain number of localities in any given week or month. When the local authorities announce the date, hundreds of people line up at village health centres for screening. The Brest MDL, the only one which currently does biopsies has recently bought a van which allows it to investigate ‘on the road’ giving it even greater access to rural communities. If more funds come on stream the International Federation would like to equip all CHARP teams with similar equipment, making them truly mobile diagnostic laboratories.
Medvedevo, Bryansk, Russian Federation: The MDL is visiting the village for the first time, and large numbers have shown up for screening. The team is aiming to screen 70 people a day, to put some minds at rest, but to give others the bad news that they have an abnormal thyroid gland and that their metabolism will be affected without further treatment. In the worst-case scenarios, goiters, nodules and enlarged thyroids can signify cancer, and surgery is recommended to remove all or part of this butterfly-shaped gland.

Медведево, Брянск, Российская Федерация: Передвижная лаборатория в этой деревне впервые, и много людей собрались на прием. Команда планирует обследовать 70 человек в день. Некоторые уйдут с хорошими новостями, другим придется сообщить нерадостную новость, о том, что у них заболевание щитовидной железы, а это, если эти люди не будут лечиться, у них нарушится обмен веществ. В худшем случае, зоб, узлы или увеличение щитовидной железы может быть признаком рака. Тогда рекомендуется хирургическое вмешательство для полного или частичного удаления этой железы, похожей на бабочку.

Bringing comfort and information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CHARP’s goal is simple: to improve the health of the population affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. It does this by providing effective medical, social and psychological assistance to targeted individuals in the six regions affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

If the required funds arrive on time, the six mobile diagnostic laboratories will continue to screen 90,000 people annually for thyroid gland pathologies, and refer those detected to medical institutions for treatment. Psychological support aims to reach out to 15,000 people annually, while each winter 24,000 children will receive a boost to their immune systems with distributions of multivitamins.

Over time the International Federation intends to continue handing over more programme responsibilities to the local Red Cross and gradually integrate activities into the health care systems of the three affected countries.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Making a difference

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Артур Григорович, главный врач передвижной диагностической лаборатории в Брестской области Западной Беларуси, гордится тем, что он делает. Держа в руках ультразвуковой сканер, он говорит: «Эта штука проверила 100 000 человек». Его пациенты, в большинстве своем женщины, всегда нервничают, когда заходят к нему в кабинет. Но их переживания быстро улетучиваются, благодаря профессионализму Артура и его непринужденности. Они даже не успевают понять, что к чему, пока Артур незаметно вводит 1.65 миллиметровую иглу им под кожу, в щитовидную железу, берет анализ на биопсию и передает образец своей коллеге и жене Алине, которая читает анализ. «Вся процедура – ультразвуковое исследование, биопсия, чтение анализа и сообщение результата – занимает 30 минут».

Алина рассматривает анализ под микроскопом, предлагает и нам взглянуть на него. Перед нашими глазами калейдоскоп крошечных голубых квадратиков, внутри которых розовые, зеленые, оранжевые и коричневые пятна. «Это рак», говорит Алина. Нам трудно понять, как такая смертельная вещь, может выглядеть так красиво, так невинно. К счастью, рак был обнаружен на ранней стадии и прогнозы после лечения благоприятны. Но кто знает, что бы было, не будь передвижной диагностической лаборатории?
One of the most positive features of CHARP is that it reaches places where the local authorities have few facilities. As such, it provides vital moral support. The Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory has come to the tiny Russian hamlet of Medvedovo, some 140 kilometres from Chernobyl, but right in the middle of the path taken by the radiation cloud. The clinic, in the village health centre, is busy with people of all ages. «We screen children as well if the parent's ask, says MDL head Victoria Hotsakova. «We are the Red Cross, what else can we do?»

Also taking time to have her thyroid checked is Anna Hetmanenka, 52, a biology teacher. Although she says «we work hard and we don’t have time to listen to our diseases,» she also confesses «people constantly think about the consequences of the disaster and the possibility of new leakages.»

«Сегодня люди располагают большей информацией, но прошло от трех до пяти лет, прежде чем они осознали все последствия. Приехала лаборатория и сделала замеры. Нам сказали, что не следует работать на улице. Потом мы стали получать небольшую материальную поддержку и экологически чистую еду: консервированное мясо и колбасу. На них были такие красивые этикетки, мы таких никогда не видели!»

Anna says there have been changes in the health status of local people. Children and adults are weak and get ill very often. «I was here 20 years before the disaster, and I've been here 20 years since, so I can safely say people were healthier in the past.» Her own thyroid is not enlarged but the Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory's ultrasound machine has detected a tiny cyst, just four millimetres in diameter, in the left half of the gland. The staff prescribe iodine tablets as prophylaxes, and ask Anna to get checked again in six months.
Children at the village school in Narodichni, Ukraine, are among 24,000 children living in highly contaminated areas who receive multivitamins containing C, D and B group with iron, folic acid and stable iodine from the Red Cross. This gives their immune system a vital boost, especially in winter. Over the 15 years of the programme’s existence, Red Cross workers have distributed 122 million vitamin tablets to children in the affected areas.

Укрепление иммунитета

Ученики школы в селе Народи-Чын, Украина, и многие из 24,000 детей, живущих в сильно загрязненных районах, получают от Красного Креста мультивитамины, содержащие витамины группы С, D и группы B, а также железо, фолиевую кислоту и йод. Ви- манолы значимо укрепляют иммунный статус детей, особенно в зимний период. За 15 лет существования программы Красного Креста было раздано 122 миллиона витаминов для детей из пострадавших районов.
Blood and urine tests are carried out at the Red Cross MDLs if the doctors consider them necessary. Although they don’t show up any diseases that are directly attributable to the Chernobyl accident, Dr Vladimir Sirt, head of the Zhitomir MDL believes they provide vital psychological support to people in remote areas.

“People here feel like they are doomed, and when they are doomed they don’t care so much, they are coming to the end. It’s a big psychological problem. If even they are told they will be provided with some treatment to make them feel better, they don’t believe it, as they often don’t go for further treatment. We counsel everyone who comes here, and that’s important when 80 per cent of scans are showing some abnormality. We explain things to people, sometimes we have a laugh with them. You can even see that people are coming out in a better mood because they have information. The very fact that the MDL comes shows them they are not forgotten.”

“Люди чувствуют себя обреченными”

Аналити крови и мочи по-прежнему являются частью работы передвижных диагностических лабораторий Красного Креста. Хотя, по результатам этих анализов невозможно выявить заболевания, напрямую связанные с Чернобылем, доктор Владимир Сирт, глава Житомирской передвижной лаборатории, уверен, что, оказывая такую услугу населению, Красный Крест тем самым оказывает необходимую психологическую поддержку жителям отдаленных районов.

“Эти люди считают себя обреченными, а раз они обречены, они о чем-то особенно не переживают, думают, что их мучит бессонница. Это большая психологическая проблема. Даже когда им говорят, что их подлечат, чтобы они себя лучше чувствовали, они этому не верят, и поэтому часто просто не обращаются на дальнейшие процедуры. Мы консультируем всех, кто сюда приходит, и это очень важно, принимая во внимание, что 80 процентов анализов УЗИ показывают отклонения от нормы. Мы всем объясняем людям, обсуждаем их. Вы наслышаны, что люди уходят из нас в лучшем расположении духа, потому что, они получают необходимую информацию. Даже тот факт, что передвижные диагностические лаборатории присутствуют в них, говорит о том, что они не забыты.”
The Federation and national societies have close connections with the ministries of health and emergencies (or corresponding ministries) in each country. The Ministry of Health coordinates its activities with mobile diagnostic laboratories. Good relations have been established with medical institutions and leading scientists dealing with Chernobyl-related issues in the three countries and abroad.

A UN report, «The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident: A Strategy for Recovery», proposes that the international community give individuals and communities control over their own future. The report underlines that the international community must accept a share in the responsibility for the future well being of those whose lives were blighted by the accident.

In line with that ethos legal documents were signed on 2004 with health authorities to provide an appropriate legal basis and clearly defined roles for all parties involved in the programme. In addition, there are agreements between Red Cross regional committees and regional medical institutions to regulate patient care: first, from EARHP field screening and diagnostic, second, treatment in clinics and specialised government dispensaries in the three countries, and third, post-treatment rehabilitation and medical support. These agreements increase the potential for the sustainability of CHARP via gradual handover and integration into public health systems.
Between 1990 and now, CHARP has assisted almost three million beneficiaries. It has distributed 122 million multivitamin tablets to children in the contaminated areas. Over 90,000 patients have received social and psychological assistance. The mobile diagnostic laboratories have examined 938,000 people. One-third of those checked were referred to medical institutions for further examination or treatment.

During the past few years there has been a surge of interest in finding a technical solution to the problem of the Chernobyl plant. The tragic impact of the disaster on lives requires constant international advocacy work. In addition, the role of the Red Cross in response to the long-term effects of the disaster needs to be constantly highlighted to ensure better political and financial support.

For their sake, CHARP must continue.
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people. By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The International Federation, the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.