



Health Spotlight Session

1. Introduction

For the past two years, National Societies in the region and the IFRC have been engaged in the COVID response in a broad variety of ways. This humanitarian engagement throughout the pandemic demanded adaptation to new needs and new roles for National Societies.

Responding to health, mental and socio-economic concerns that the pandemic brought about, transformed and in many cases strengthened National Societies. This ability to adapt will be further needed to meet new requirements triggered by the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine.

The further spread of COVID and other infectious diseases (polio, cholera and measles) is among the health risks in relation to the armed conflict in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries which impact safety of personnel and affected populations.

The movement is responding to health-related needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries with emergency medical services. A new and well-coordinated approach is essential to provide effective help at full scale and to manifest the Red Pillar as a trusted partner in health.

The escalation of a conflict in the heart of Europe is driving a rise in mental health issues and public anxiety. The IFRC-wide response should take this seriously in a population already weary with economic, climate and pandemic threats. The uncertain circumstances are putting (mental) health under stress, psychological concerns affect all age groups in different ways.

Triggered by the pandemic and the conflict, the socio-economic prognosis for Europe is worrying. Estimates indicate that over 40 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty, a deep recession is lurking in Europe. This will have severe implication on humanitarian funding.

Under most scenarios in relation to the conflict in Ukraine, the prognosis for financing is not good. Global efforts to advocate and strengthen relations with existing and traditional donors are essential. However, this alone will be insufficient particularly as the impacts wear on. Humanitarian financing is already strained. A purposeful strategy to engage development banks, donors and new actors and financing mechanisms should also be explored. For the Red

Pillar this means that we need to look at new partnerships and innovative methods of fundraising to be able to sustain funding for our social and health programmes.

2. General objective

Learn from innovations NS have developed during the COVID response and use them to respond to health needs in relation to the conflict in Ukraine.

Cultivate an agile mind-set and mainstream new approaches also for our domestic health response in relation to the special topic.

Create a broad understanding and general awareness on health risks that are related to the conflict in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries crises

3. Expected outcome

A fruitful and open conversation among NS leaders on a coordinated and at the same time local health response in Ukraine, the neighbouring countries and at home that covers all dimensions of health (from physical to mental well-being) taking into account preparation for different escalation scenarios.

As a concrete outcome we envision a shared way forward on how we are dealing with health risks related to the conflict in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries crises.

4. Methodology and design of the session

4.1 Introduction: 50 min

- *Welcome by the chair & interactive exercise (10 min)*
- *Keynote from external speaker: **Intervention by Dr. Hans Kluge, WHO Europe Regional Director (tbc – pre-recorded or online participation)** addressing health risks that are related to the conflict in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries crises (10 min)*
- ***Presentation by Sarah Harrison, Technical Team Lead, IFRC Psychosocial centre online – (10 min)***
- *Introduction by the table hosts on their topics and what they envision to be discussed at their tables.(4x5 min each)*

4.2. Roundtables hosted by NS: (35 min)

“elevator pitches” from NS showcasing innovations achieved during COVID – or to present on innovative approaches they are taking in relation to supporting refugees from Ukraine
Participants are invited to join the pitches in form of round table discussions. For each presentation one NS is chairing one table.

4.3. Way forward: (30 min)

Come back to the plenary to reflect, short reflections with highlights from each table

Formulate/develop a shared way forward – what should be in the “Tbilisi commitments” (see expected outcomes above) – moderated discussion

5. Guiding questions for NS preparation for the workshop

- What can we do to minimize the health risks linked to the conflict in Ukraine?
- Are we ready to lead health responses in our very local contexts? What does it need to be authorities in localisation and an effective, coordinated Red Pillar? How can we create a movement narrative/picture?
- What are (reputational, financial, organisational) risks we anticipate for our NS? What are the (health) risks for staff and volunteers?
- What concepts will we need to counter increasing poverty and with that increasing pressure on our services?
- How can we make use of our heightened influence of our auxiliary roles and in the public we gained during the COVID response for humanitarian access and the benefit of vulnerable groups? Are we prepared to reach out to new partners?
- Are we inclusive enough to respond to needs of marginalised/overlooked groups like elderly/disabled on the move?
- Are we prepared for addressing mental health needs and do we have inclusive pathways ready for affected people from all age groups to foster social cohesion?

Composition of the Spotlight Session

Chair/Moderator: Gabriela Poller-Hartig, Austrian RC

Table hosts:

Ms Sabina Ibraimova, Head of Health Department, Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

Ms Amelia Mazal, Head of International Cooperation and Relations, Italian Red Cross

Mr Kaan Saner, Director of International Policies and Relations, Turkish RC

Ms Tiina Saarikoski, Director of International Operations and Programmes, Finnish RC

Rapporteur: Walter Hajek, Austrian RC

Keynote Speakers: *PS reference centre Sarah Harrison*

- Table hosts from NS on innovative approaches on the following perspectives:
Health in emergencies with special focus on the ongoing response and the needs and risks we see in Ukraine and neighbouring countries (including COVID outbreaks).

Host: *Finnish Red Cross, Tiina Saarikoski*

Mental Health with special focus on an inclusive approach covering all age /gender groups and preparedness aspects. *MPHSS in Community Resilience*

Host: *Turkish Red Crescent, Kaan Saner*

COVID with special focus enlarged influence/mandate of NS, building capacities in NS during COVID, elements of success, how to gain trust and build on it, challenges.

Host: *Italian RC, Amelia Marzal*

Socio-economic consequences for Europe region. Socio-economic consequences and cooperation with business sector, new partnerships

Host: *Kyrgyzstan RC, Sabina Ibraimova*

6. Equipment needed and room layout for the Workshop

Small Podium + groups of chairs or tables to accommodate 10 pax each

4 Flipcharts

PC and screen for online participation and presentations

Conclusion and reporting back from rapporteurs

- 1. Main issues raised during the workshop**
- 2. Conclusions of the workshop**
- 3. Recommendations/recommendations for decisions**