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## 6. Final remarks

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159. CHARP directly helped hundreds of thousands of people to overcome fear and anxiety, to address their health problems, to live a better life in the aftermath of Chernobyl disaster. It provided much-needed information, advice and assistance. Most importantly, it showed people living in the Chernobyl-affected areas that others *cared* about their situation and their needs. This alone cannot be overestimated.

160. CHARP clearly demonstrated that commitment, intelligence, sound and timely judgement and good will would always prevail over constraints and adverse circumstances. Despite all its shortcomings, its inconsistencies, some wrong decisions, the lack of strategic planning, the management and funding problems, CHARP by far achieved its main purpose – to help hundreds of thousands of people *survive* and *live* a better life in the aftermath of the worst nuclear disaster in human history.

161. CHARP was only made possible thanks to the selfless work of hundreds of Red Cross staff and volunteers, the chairpersons and staff of Red Cross central and local committees, visiting nurses, the medical staff of MDL teams, trainers and instructors, IFRC delegates and secretariat staff, and the staff in donor National Societies who arranged for funding and supplying much-needed equipment, vehicles, vitamins and medicines. CHARP succeeded thanks to their selfless efforts, commitment and devotion. This cannot be overestimated either.

162. The best tribute to this selfless work would be using CHARP experiences documented in the present report to make better operational and programme decisions in the future. The CHARP review is not an academic document. CHARP experiences are meant to serve as guidance for programme managers who will, sooner or later, be confronted with making decisions that their predecessors were confronted with after the Chernobyl accident. The recommendations in the review are meant to help them take the best decisions possible.

