

Annex 5

CHARP timeline, 1986–2015

Year	World events	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	CHARP	Other actors
1986	26 April 1986. An explosion in reactor 4 at Chernobyl nuclear power plant results in massive radioactive contamination in the USSR and neighbouring countries, becoming the major technological catastrophe in the history of humanity			
		May 1986. Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR (Alliance) creates a Chernobyl Commission to coordinate involvement in the assistance to the populations in the affected areas		
		October 1986. The 25th International Conference of the Red Cross adopts Resolution XXI “ <i>Disaster Relief in Case of Technological and Other Disasters</i> ” calling on governments to cooperate in such cases and to use the capacity of National Societies		October 1986. IAEA General Conference adopts <i>Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident</i> and <i>Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency</i>

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1986–1990	1986–1990. Soviet government manages rescue and relief operation, evacuation from affected areas and later resettlement programme	1986–1990. Alliance assists Soviet authorities in evacuation and resettlement; basic relief assistance (funds, clean food) is supplied to the affected areas		
1987				1987. WHO sets up REMPAN
1988	7 December 1988. Armenian earthquake in Spitak. Soviet authorities accept international humanitarian assistance for first time since 1921	December 1988. League launches one of its biggest relief and reconstruction programmes in Armenia, the first of its kind in the USSR		
1989				June 1989. WHO sends a team of experts to the USSR to assess the situation in Chernobyl-affected areas
		October 1989. 7th General Assembly of the League adopts <i>Strategic Work Plan for the Nineties</i>		October 1989. USSR requests IAEA to organize international assessment of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the protective measures taken
		December 1989. Alliance calls for a League initial-needs assessment mission in the most affected areas in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia		
1990		January 1990. League assessment mission visits the affected areas in the three countries		
1990				February 1990. International Chernobyl Project (CEC, FAO, ILO, UNSCEAR, WHO, WMO) formally established to assess the quality of the response so far

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		March 1990. League assessment mission report suggests focusing on providing accurate information to affected people, counselling to help alleviate psychological problems, providing radiation monitoring equipment, encouraging cooperation between scientists, supplying medical equipment		
		April 1990. Alliance decides to appeal to the League “for help in mobilizing the international assistance to supplement the Alliance’s efforts”		April 1990. IAC agrees on the its work plan for 1990–1991
			June 1990. League launches its first <i>Appeal</i> on CHARP for 4,900,000 Swiss francs. The appeal’s 2-year plan of action includes providing accurate information on the effects of radioactive contamination on health; strengthening the health education programme for the population in contaminated areas; exchanging of experience and information on coping with the consequences of nuclear and other technological disasters; upgrading health and social institutions involved in treating and rehabilitating the affected population.	

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1990		August 1990. Alliance Special Coordination Board for Chernobyl is established	August 1990. League delegation opens in Kiev	August 1990. Sasakawa Health Co-operation Foundation (Japan) sets up a 33 million US dollar programme providing medical assistance in the affected areas (medical equipment, medicines, reagents for tests, vehicles with diagnostic and radiometric devices, expertise of Japanese physicians, training of medical staff in Japan)
			October 1990. 350 ALNOR dosimeters received and distributed among Red Cross staff and trained volunteers	
			November 1990. League <i>review</i> of the technical, scientific, medical and organizational issues results in producing a detailed CHARP implementation plan. First workshop for Red Cross staff and volunteers on using dosimeters held in Kiev	
			December 1990. Monitoring of radiation levels in the environment using the received dosimeters starts. Radiation monitoring points managed by local Red Cross staff and volunteers are created in large settlements	
1991				March 1991. IAC Report confirms generally low levels of environmental contamination, stating that no health disorders could at that stage be attributed directly to radiation; confirms high level of anxiety- and stress-related disorders; evokes a <i>possibility of increased thyroid gland pathologies in the future</i>

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1991			April 1991. Alliance and the League secretariat sign an agreement on cooperation for the CHARP	April 1991. Chernobyl Centre for International Research focusing on epidemiological surveillance and biological dosimetry opens following an agreement between the USSR and IAEA
			June-July 1991. IFRC Technical League delegate arrives in Kiev. 30 LB200 Becquerel food monitors (from Germany) are received and distributed to the Ukrainian, Belarus and Russian Red Cross societies. Food monitoring starts	
		October 1991. League changes its name to <i>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</i>		
	December 1991. Gorbachev resigns as President of the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union the CIS is founded		December 1991. MDL teams (24 people) formed and trained by the German Red Cross in Hamburg, Germany. 6 MDL vehicles (Mercedes 410), equipped with whole body gamma-ray monitors, blood and urine analysers, desktop and laptop computers, and printers, are received and deployed in Briansk and Kursk (Russia), Gomel and Mogilev (Belarus), Rovno and Zhitomir (Ukraine)	
1992				January 1992. International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident is launched by WHO: pilot projects on thyroid gland, haematology, brain damage in utero, oral health and epidemiological registry
	March 1992. Economic crisis and severe disorganization of health services in Ukraine, Belarus and Russian Federation		March 1992. MDLs start screening and health check-ups in 6 affected oblasts	

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1992		May 1992. Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR is dissolved	May 1992. Inter-Republican Coordination Committee (later ICCC) of Russian, Ukrainian and Belarus Red Cross Societies takes up the coordinating role for CHARP. The three National Societies agree to continue CHARP as a “single entity”	
			July–December 1992. Refresher technical training for MDL teams in using the medical equipment	
			August 1992. IFRC delegation formally opens in Kiev	
			October 1992. IFRC launches its second appeal for CHARP for 880,000 Swiss francs	
				November 1992. Governments of Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine sign an agreement with the UN on coordination of Chernobyl health-related programmes, identifying priorities until 2000
				December 1992. The first cases of radiation-induced thyroid gland cancers among young children are reported in Belarus
1993			April 1993. ICCC is created to coordinate CHARP strategy and activities. It includes chairpersons of the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarus Red Cross societies and the head of the IFRC delegation	
			August 1993. One MDL is sent to Chelyabinsk region to assist in radiological monitoring of areas contaminated as a result of an accident at the Mayak plant (Techa River). After one month’s work no major anomalies are detected; MDL is redeployed for CHARP	

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1993			September 1993. MDLs are equipped with ALOKA 250 ultrasound scanners (from Japan), which allow diagnosis of thyroid gland pathologies at the early stages	
			October 1993. <i>First CHARP Evaluation</i> analyses the status and results of the programme in preparation for 1st International Red Cross and Red Crescent Symposium on CHARP in Kiev. Evaluation points out a number of technical and organizational difficulties in programme implementation and recommends handing over the programme to National Societies within the next two years	
			November 1993. <i>1st International Red Cross and Red Crescent Symposium</i> on CHARP in Kiev recommends starting a PSP. First presentations of the work carried out by the MDL teams. Monitoring of radiation levels in the environment is stopped; ALNOR dosimeters are returned and stored at each National Society HQ. Full body scans and food monitoring continues	November 1993. Sasakawa Foundation continues conducting environmental monitoring, but with reduced number of MDLs
1994			March 1994. First comprehensive report on CHARP, documenting CHARP experience 1990–1994, is produced, based on the outcomes of the first CHARP Symposium	March 1994. WHO Regional Office for Europe initiates an international project on <i>thyroid gland pathologies</i> (continued until September 2000)

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1995			May 1995. First cases of thyroid gland cancer detected by CHARP MDLs.	
		December 1995. 26th International Conference of the Red Cross adopts Resolution 4 “ <i>Principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection</i> ” calling upon states to take note of the guidelines on National Society involvement in technological disasters and encouraging National Societies to intensify their activities in favour of the victims		
1996			February 1996. <i>Second evaluation of CHARP</i> concludes that monitoring shows no significant increase in radioactivity levels. It suggests <i>focusing on detection of thyroid gland cancer in children</i> , introducing lighter MDL vehicles, pursuing monitoring of radioactivity, distribution of milk powder, vitamins and micronutrients, <i>developing a PSP</i> , advocating for long-term sustainability and greater involvement of the National Societies in the programme	
			February–April 1996. ECHO Evaluation of CHARP suggests <i>focusing on screening for thyroid gland cancer</i> , redefining the target population and increasing the number of MDLs	

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1996			April 1996. Second International CHARP Symposium (Gomel, Belarus) recommends stopping dosimetry due to generally low levels of radiation, <i>introducing lighter MDLs</i> , focusing on screening and detection of thyroid gland cancer among children, <i>introducing PSS as a pilot project</i> , continuing distribution of multivitamins and milk powder. One MDL is transferred from Russia (Kursk) to Belarus (Brest)	April 1996. Sasakawa Foundation stops its activities in Chernobyl-affected areas. CHARP remains the only programme continuing to medically screen local population in remote areas
			November 1996. IFRC completes needs assessment for the psychosocial component of CHARP. Psychosocial training delegate assigned to the Minsk Federation Delegation to train the local coordinator, organize the first training seminar and make recommendations on the PSS pilot programme	
1997		January 1997. <i>Sphere Project</i> is initiated by a group of NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement		
			May 1997. PSS pilot project starts in Belarus. First PSP ToT workshop for 16 trainers is organized in Gomel (Belarus)	May 1997. UN Evaluation Mission for the Chernobyl disaster's 10th anniversary visits Gomel and observes a CHARP MDL in operation
			June 1997. 6 new (lighter) VW MDLs are received in Brest, Mogilev and Gomel (Belarus), Zhitomir and Rovno (Ukraine) and Bryansk (Russia). MDL teams are trained in using new equipment for thyroid gland screening	

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1998			April 1998. Second workshop for all MDL teams focuses on exchange of experience and scientific updates	
			June 1998. <i>PSS assessment mission</i> in Belarus recommends formalizing the project, clarifying psychological needs, focusing training on more practical skills, reinforcing training methodology and contents, working more in schools and communities, cooperating with other organizations	
			Autumn 1998. 12 MDL medical staff trained for a month in Hiroshima Japanese Red Cross Society Hospital, Japan	
1999			June 1999. ECHO announces that it will stop funding CHARP	
			September 1999. <i>Third CHARP Evaluation</i> recommends continuing screening for thyroid gland cancer, <i>making rehabilitation of affected communities a priority</i> , developing PSS into a service delivery, considering distribution of L-thyroxin, multivitamins and milk powder as a second-rank priority	
		October 1999. IFRC General Assembly adopts <i>Strategy 2010</i> shifting its focus from relief-oriented systems towards empowerment of communities, capacity building, vulnerability and advocacy. <i>Health</i> is identified as a core area. It also adopts <i>Post-Emergency Rehabilitation Policy</i> calling for <i>complementing rather than replacing the activities of government services</i> and prioritizing community services		

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2000		Early 2000. Sphere handbook <i>“Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response”</i> is published		
		During 2000. Restructuring at the IFRC secretariat, Geneva		
2001			August 2001. ECHO funding for CHARP stops. Staff cuts in CHARP due to funding problems	
				November 2001. European Union within its TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) programme completes a project aimed at informing the public in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus about the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and recommendations on how to live safely in the affected areas
2002			Early 2002. Biopsy tests in the field introduced at the MDL in Brest (Belarus)	Early 2002. Publication of <i>Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident: A Strategy for Recovery</i> . UN 10-year strategy for Chernobyl launched
				March 2002. IAEA Board of Governors approves a safety requirements publication <i>Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency</i>
			July 2002. <i>Fourth CHARP evaluation suggests continuing screening for thyroid gland pathologies</i> for the priority target group (born in 1969–1987) and continuing discussions with authorities on increasing their financial contribution to CHARP	

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2002			Early 2003. Dutch National Postcode Lottery donates 1 million euro (1,470,000 Swiss francs) to the National Red Cross Society for CHARP. Together with the Japanese and British Red Cross contributions, funding for CHARP is thus secured for 2003–2005	Early 2003. IAEA, WHO, UNDP, FAO, UN Environment Programme, UN-OCHA, UNSCEAR, World Bank, governments of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine create <i>Chernobyl Forum</i> to obtain consensus on the health, environmental, and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl accident and to better understand and improve measures to deal with its impact
2003			April 2003. Data analysis of the ongoing medical screening concludes that the collected data cannot be used for scientific research	
			April–May 2003. <i>CHARP evaluation commissioned by the Netherlands Red Cross</i> following the donation of the Dutch National Postcode Lottery recommends continuing medical screening with minor improvements and to develop a programme strategy for 3 years aimed at achieving programme sustainability	
		May 2003. 7th Session of the Governing Board of the IFRC adopts <i>Psychological Support Policy</i> calling for integrating /mainstreaming psychological support into all relevant assistance programmes. IFRC becomes a member of ICRIN Steering Committee and starts participating in decision-making regarding the work of this network	May 2003. CHARP funding strategy for 2003–2005 and until 2008 is developed. The strategy declares the need for National Societies and governments to gradually take over the programme	May 2003. ICRIN is launched by IAEA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO to meet the priority information needs of affected communities and to translate the latest scientific information into practical advice for residents of the affected territories

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2003			Mid-2003. New equipment for MDLs (scanners, blood and urine analysers, disposables) purchased in the Netherlands. Locally purchased <i>Gazel</i> minibuses replace VW minibuses	
			September 2003. ICCC meeting in Brest approves CHARP funding strategy for the coming 5 years. The strategy focuses on organization and management of the programme, and its position in the institutional setting of the healthcare services in the countries concerned, and presupposes further integration of the programme into the health systems	
			November 2003. The Netherlands Red Cross formally pledges 1 million euro raised through the Dutch National Postcode Lottery and earmarked for CHARP for three years (2003–2005)	
2004			January 2004. Following the new CHARP funding strategy, programme activities are decentralized. Each National Society appoints paid full-time CHARP coordinators	
				March 2004. IFRC plays a leading role in the <i>Forgotten Crises</i> conference in Geneva, which has Chernobyl as a major theme

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2004				April 2004. UN transfers the responsibility for UN coordination of Chernobyl activities from OCHA to the UNDP, thus recognizing that the emergency phase is over. 2nd International Scientific Conference <i>Overcoming the Consequences of Chernobyl Disaster: Status and Perspectives</i> held in Gomel, Belarus
			November 2004. Last exchange of experience workshop for the staff of all MDL teams from the three countries organized in Kiev (later such workshops held in each country separately)	November 2004. UN General Assembly declares 2006–2016, the third decade since the Chernobyl accident, as the <i>Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions</i>
2005			February 2005. Gomel and Mogilev MDLs (Belarus) start performing fine needle biopsy tests for thyroid gland screening in the field. In Russia and Ukraine fine needle biopsy is performed at district hospitals as per local legislation	
			March 2005. Midterm CHARP evaluation recommends continuing screening for thyroid gland pathologies, developing programme strategy, considering possibility of introducing breast cancer screening	Chernobyl Forum produces report <i>Chernobyl's Legacy: Health, Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts</i> . The report recognizes the mental health impact as the “largest health problem unleashed by the incident” and outlines numerous possibilities to better rehabilitate the affected communities

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2006	26 April 2016. 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster		2006. IFRC delegation in Kiev starts active public relations campaign in connection with the 20th Chernobyl anniversary (intensive contacts with journalists, brochures, photo exhibitions, short documentary)	2006. Chernobyl Forum publishes the report <i>Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident and Special Health Care Programmes</i> prepared by its Expert Group on Health
2007				November 2007. UN General Assembly proclaims the third decade after Chernobyl (2006–2016) a decade of “recovery and sustainable development”. UN Resolution explicitly recognizes the role of CHARP
2008	2008. International financial crisis: industrial production in Ukraine drops by 15%		2008. Some MDLs start performing breast cancer screening using ultrasound scanners. Suggestions to add HIV/AIDS prevention to CHARP are discussed	2008. IAEA initiates the project <i>Radiological Support for the Rehabilitation of the Areas Affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident</i>
2009			July 2009. ICCC meeting recognizes a serious funding problem, suggests creating resource mobilization departments at the three National Societies, <i>introducing new programme components to attract donors</i> and summarizing CHARP experience for other National Societies in case of another nuclear accident	
				October 2009. IAEA publishes the study <i>Rural Areas Affected by the Chernobyl Accident: Radiation Exposure and Remediation Strategies</i>
2010			August 2010. The IFRC delegation produces photomaterials for the CHARP exhibition and a photo book on CHARP	
			December 2010. The 7th MDL is provided by the German Red Cross to be used in Volyn’ oblast (Ukraine)	

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2011	March 2011. Fukushima nuclear power plant (Japan) is hit by tsunami, resulting in the meltdown of 3 of its 6 power reactors			
			April 2011. IFRC Delegation and National Red Cross Societies organise round tables, journalists' visits, exhibitions, articles, interviews and other events for the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster	April 2011. International UN conference " <i>Twenty-five Years after the Chernobyl Accident: Safety for the Future</i> " is held in Kiev
			May 2011. A 6 minute documentary <i>Chernobyl: 25 Years On</i> , funded by the Norwegian and Japanese Red Cross societies and highlighting the work of CHARP MDLs, is presented at the <i>National Society Consultation Forum on Nuclear Weapons</i> (Oslo, Norway)	
			September 2011. ICCC meeting concludes that CHARP should be continued, and that <i>efforts should be made to raise funds internationally and locally</i>	September 2011. UN system-wide study on the implications of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant is released. The report contains references to the consequences of the Chernobyl accident food contamination, effects on biota, anxiety in the general population, lack of economic opportunities and information
		November 2011. 18th IFRC General Assembly adopts Decision 11/46 <i>Preparedness to respond to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear accidents</i> commending National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for providing "life-saving medical screening, social and psychosocial support" within CHARP and calling for more preparedness work with local communities		

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2011			December 2011. Last refresher workshops on PSS held in Mogilev (Belarus), Rovno (Ukraine) and Bryansk (Russia) for MDL medical teams and Red Cross staff and volunteers	
2012		February 2012. Ukrainian Red Cross is officially included in the state programme for responding to technological and natural disasters in Ukraine		
			March 2012. Last meeting of ICCC. IFRC and the three National Societies discuss how to further increase local input and how to “gradually hand over in future the programme to the governmental health care system”	March 2012. A UN inter-agency coordination meeting on Chernobyl (IAEA, Vienna) confirms that the overall shift to the development phase in Chernobyl-related programming has been working well
			April–May 2012. Last annual report (2011) for CHARP is produced. IFRC funding for CHARP project is stopped	
2013		February 2013. IFRC establishes a focal point for the Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies preparedness programme in Geneva		
				March 2013. OCHA releases a study on <i>linking humanitarian and nuclear response systems</i> including recommendation that the human dimension of nuclear accidents is taken into consideration in early recovery efforts
				April 2013. UNDP produces study <i>Recovery from Chernobyl and Other Nuclear Emergencies: Experiences and Lessons Learned</i>

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2013		August 2013. The first meeting of the reference group on Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness in Vienna, Austria		
			September 2013. IFRC representation in Kiev is closed	
		October 2013. IFRC becomes a corresponding member (observer) of IACRNE		
		October 2013. Red Cross Nuclear Disaster Resource Centre – Digital Archive, operated by the Japanese Red Cross Society, is launched		
				December 2013. 68th session of the UN General Assembly adopts resolution <i>strengthening international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster</i> , recognizing the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement contribution and encouraging support for recovery activities
2014		January 2014. Reference group on nuclear emergency preparedness meets at the IFRC secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting includes a half-day session on CHARP		

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2014				May 2014. Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl in Belarus chaired by the UNDP launches a discussion on a new conceptual framework for multilateral international cooperation on Chernobyl
		October 2014. Reference group on Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness meets in Fukushima, Japan		
2015		February 2015. CHARP review process is launched		
				March 2015. Governments of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus jointly present their Chernobyl experiences at the <i>UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction</i> in Sendai
		September 2015. Reference group on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness meets in Berlin, Germany. Launch of IFRC Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Guidelines: Preparedness, Response and Recovery		