



# UKRAINE

## National Programme for Disaster Prevention and Emergency Attention

### Disaster Context

In early March 2001, melting snow and heavy rainfall caused the Tisa River to flood areas of Transcarpathia Oblast in western Ukraine. The flood caused severe damage to buildings and property, forced more than 11,000 people to evacuate their homes and killed nine people. On 9 March, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma proclaimed the flooded areas to be emergency zones. In response to the disaster, a UN mission comprised of representatives from UNDP and UNICEF was assembled to visit the most damaged areas for an immediate assessment of needs. The mission saw a need for humanitarian assistance and recognized the following:

- There was severe damage to homes, as construction materials had collapsed when penetrated by water
- Food stocks held in basements and cellars were destroyed
- Agriculture, the main livelihood in the affected areas, had been devastated
- Road, rail and communication lines were heavily damaged
- Several thousand people had lost their homes and were residing in temporary accommodations

### Project Title

Transcarpathia: Disaster Response and Prevention

### Sector

- Social

### Funding

UNDP contributed \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds.

### Partners

- UNICEF
- Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine

### Programme Activities

The UN played a central role in coordinating national and international flood relief efforts. On 16 March, an information meeting was held among representatives of the Government of Ukraine, various embassies, and international institutions. The UN office in Ukraine identified an immediate need for medical supplies, hygiene, sanitation and water purification devices in order to help counter the outbreak of disease in flooded areas. Greater than \$300,000 worth of such supplies was amassed from 18 donor countries and institutions, including, greater than \$90,000 from UN sources – and was delivered to Transcarpathia by UNDP in early April. They were then passed on to the regional and oblast hospitals. The UN office in Ukraine is also supporting longer-term development measures in response to the Tisa flood, including the preservation of forests, reforestation, the improvement of monitoring techniques and early warning technologies and a public awareness campaign. It is hoped that such measures will limit future flood damage in Transcarpathia.

A DMTP subregional workshop for Moldova, Romania and the Ukraine occurred in June 2003. The focus was environmental and technological disasters.