



## BELARUS



AutRC project area:  
Vitebsk, Grodno, Minsk

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	Belarus	Austria
Area in km <sup>2</sup>	207,600	83,871
Population (millions)	9.7	8.3
Rural population in %	27	33
UNDP Human Development Index	68	14
<b>Society</b>		
Languages	Belarusian and Russian	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	Predominantly Russian Orthodox, 20% Roman Catholic	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
<b>Health</b>		
Life expectancy	69.0	79.9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	48	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	6.4	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	1.3	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	0.2	0.2
Access to safe drinking water* in %	100	100
Access to sanitary facilities* in %	93	100
	*in rural areas	
<b>Education</b>		
Literacy rates in %	99.6	~ 100
<b>Economy</b>		
Main export products	Machines, mineral products, chemicals, metals, textiles, foodstuffs	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	10,841	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	no data	0
Unemployment in %	1.6	3.9
Inflation in %	14.8	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



## AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

### BELARUS

The Chernobyl disaster from 1986 still shows severe long term effects. One fifth of the national territory of the Republic of Belarus was radioactively contaminated. In children, thyroid cancer is now up to 100 times more common than in areas of Europe which are not radioactively contaminated. Severe environmental contamination, poor living conditions, widespread poverty and alcohol abuse have negative impact on the health of the population. The country's development is additionally hampered through its current political situation and its geopolitical position between east and west. The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) is working in Belarus since 2005.

#### Chernobyl Aid

The AutRC supports a cross-national preventive programme carried out in the most radioactively contaminated areas in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. Red Cross mobile medical teams examine up to 90.000 persons a year and contribute thus to early diagnosis of carcinosis of people living in remote areas.

Project duration 2010-2012, Cost € 60,000

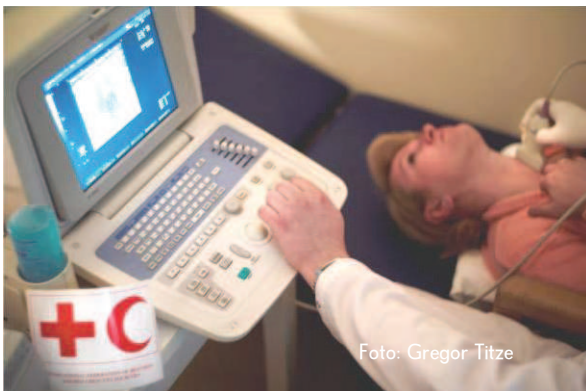


Foto: Gregor Titze

#### Home care

The Red Cross is the only provider of visiting nurses services for the whole country. Besides professional care

staff more and more volunteers begin to engage in this field. The development of qualified volunteer services is supported by the AutRC through a training programme.

Project duration 2011-2013 in planning  
Cost € 90,000



#### Children with disabilities

Families with disabled and chronically ill children are amongst those most severely affected by poverty. The parent responsible for the care, usually the mother, receives little support. A lack of childcare facilities means that they are unable to retain a job. AutRC has since 2009 been supporting a project for Community Care for Disabled Children in Grodno, a city next to the border to Poland. The project involves setting up a mobile multidisciplinary care team, the provision of a day-care facility, the involvement of family members and volunteers in the care process as well as the strengthening of self-help groups.

After the set up in the frame of the Austrian Development Cooperation the second project phase begins now in 2011.

Project duration 2011-2013, Cost € 260,000

Co-financed by: Medicor Foundation

The projects in Belarus are also supported by the AutRC Regional branch of Lower Austria

