

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***RUSSIAN FEDERATION: FLOODS IN THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA***

Appeal no: 20/2002  
19 July 2002

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries.*

*For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***IN BRIEF***

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,267,000 (USD 870,790 or EUR 864,669) IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST 20,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR EIGHT MONTHS***

### ***Situation***

Heavy rains in the second half of June, the worst in 70 years, resulted in floods that caused landslides in nine regions (Adygeya, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Igushetia, North Osetia, Chechnya, Dagestan Republics, Stavropol region, and Krasnodarski Krai) within the Southern Federal Okrug of the Russian Federation. Over 335,613 have been affected by the flooding in 343 settlements, and 94 people are reported dead due to flash floods. The floods have damaged some 45,733 houses, and 7,519 were completely washed away.

The local infrastructure has been severely affected with 498 bridges, 1,927 km of road, 404 km of electric power lines and 143 km of gas lines severely damaged or destroyed. The material damage is estimated at 13,751 million Russian Roubles (over USD 443 million).

According to the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations, as of 3 July over 96,000 people had been evacuated. Damage to infrastructure, residences and other private property will require a considerable reconstruction effort further down the line.

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) has indicated that the long-term consequences of the flooding will not only affect the region, but the whole country. The water washed away fertile soils, and crops, and the reduced harvest will affect food availability over the coming winter.

In Krasnodar Krai (one of the most affected areas) eight people have been killed and over 94,000 are suffering from the consequences of the flooding in 58 settlements. Over 25,000 houses are damaged, and over 4,000 were washed away due to the disaster.

### **Immediate Needs** w

Assessment of needs: The representatives of RRC local committees are reviewing the affected territories. RRC representatives meet with the flood victims, collect and analyse information, and report to the RRC Executive Commission in the headquarters. From 4 to 10 July, an assessment field trip was conducted jointly by the RRC and the International Federation. The RRC's zonal office, in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia zone, is actively involved in dealing with the disaster and with coordination. In addition, the ICRC has representative offices in Naltchik, Dagestan and Ingushetia.

While carrying out emergency relief activities, the RRC has started to look into longer-term relief and rehabilitation needs, for activities that will be implemented from August 2002 through March 2003. The most vulnerable settlements, those that do not get enough state assistance, are being identified as well as target groups of the most vulnerable for future support such as, single parent families, multi-child families, lone elderly and the disabled.

The identification of beneficiaries will be based on the results of RRC assessment missions (produced by each local RRC branch) conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities. The intention is to select the most affected settlements in the regions which have not received full support from the state. Once the settlements are selected lists of beneficiaries identified using the criteria mentioned above will be compiled.

### **Anticipated Later Needs** •

According to RRC's current estimates, some 10-15% of the flood-affected population, around 35,000 people, (especially in the remote areas) will be in urgent need of the following items for the period covering September through December:

- Food products
- Hygiene items
- Children's clothes and footwear
- Bed linen, blankets, pillows

## ***The Response so far***

### **Government Action** w

On 24 June, a Governmental Commission, headed by the Minister for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM), was established to coordinate post-disaster activities, including the repair of critical infrastructure,. In each of the affected regions, Flood Commissions are now functioning, that include representatives from EMERCOM, regional welfare departments, technical services, administrations, and regional RRC branches.

Over 26,000 civilians, military and police servicemen are working to address the consequences of the disaster in all the regions, using over 2,000 machines, five aircraft and specialist equipment.

To date, 1,438 houses; 79.1 km of gas lines; 255 bridges (car, railway and walking), 347 km of electric power lines and 332,3 km of water supply lines have been restored. Nearly 40,000 people have returned to their homes.

Although Russian authorities have not officially applied for the international community assistance, EMERCOM is ready to cooperate with international partners to assist the victims of the disaster.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Action** w

The International Federation has allocated CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to procure 7,000 sets of bed linen for Krasnodar Krai and Adygeya Republic. The US Embassy, via the American Red Cross, contributed USD 50,000 for the procurement of mattresses and food parcels for approximately 5,000 beneficiaries in Dagestan. These funds were transferred to the RRC, and procurement processes are underway.

On the regional level, the RRC is a member of the Flood Commissions. In Moscow, on 24 June, an Executive Commission on assistance to flood victims was established. The Commission is leading operational activities in the affected areas, and coordinating the inputs of the RRC, ICRC and the International Federation. Humanitarian

relief items, collected from the general public, organisations and enterprises are being sent to the regions. So far over 50 tonnes of relief cargo has been sent, including clothes, bed linen, food, hygiene items and furniture. Fund-raising activities are being carried out at central and regional levels. Negotiations are ongoing with several big commercial companies, that are ready to donate underwear, bed linen, and medicines. A telephone hotline has been established as well as a special account for donations and an appeal for assistance was sent to the mass media. Meanwhile the Dagestan Red Cross Rescue Centre is participating in rescue operations in the Republic.

From 25 June, regional RRC committees in the affected areas have received over 270 tonnes of relief items from the ICRC, worth over USD 400,000, including food and hygienic parcels, tents, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, stoves and second hand clothes.

An approval of a USD 45,000 donation from the American Red Cross has been received, earmarked for 2,000 mattresses and 2,000 food parcels for Dagestan. Bilateral support from the Netherlands Red Cross is now under consideration by the National Society.

Joint assessments were carried out by ICRC/RRC and RRC/International Federation with the participation of the Russia Delegation HoD. Emergency needs were identified for the coming period of 6-8 months.

### **Coordination w**

The Russian Ministry dealing with emergency situations, EMERCOM, has played a key role in coordinating the emergency assistance to the affected population, and UN OCHA has also been involved in coordination between international humanitarian organisations. Several NGOs based in Ingushetia have been providing humanitarian aid to the IDP population in both Ingushetia and Chechnya.

Coordination activities related to the work of state agencies, local RRC organisations and other agencies in the regions are being carried out by the Flood Commissions. On the central level, the RRC headquarters report regularly to the Russian government on ongoing operations and further plans.

## ***Proposed Operation***

The RRC is planning to provide medium-term assistance in eight out of the nine affected regions, except Chechnya where the ICRC will provide assistance, for at least 20,000 beneficiaries. Assistance will be distributed ,approximately, as follows:

- Krasnodar Krai 10,000 beneficiaries (50%)
- Stavropol Krai 3,000 beneficiaries (15%)
- Dagestan 3,000 beneficiaries (15%)
- Karachaevo-Cherkessiya, Kabardino-Balkariya, Ingushetiya, Adygeya, North Osetiya-Alaniya 3,000 beneficiaries (15%)
- RRC unforeseen emergency reserve up to 1,000 beneficiaries (5%)

### **Objective 1: Medium-term domestic supply support**

To provide the beneficiaries with medium to long-term relief assistance, support them during the most difficult autumn and winter period and help them return to a normal life.

- Activity 1: Provide 1,000 families (3,000 beneficiaries) with multi-fuel stoves (one time distribution in November).
- Activity 2: Provide 2,500 families (7,500 people) with bedding including mattress, blanket and bed linen (one time distribution in November).

### **Objective 2: Provision of children's clothes and stationery for schoolchildren**

- Activity 1: Provide 2,500 6-10 year old children (primary school) with stationery by the beginning of the school year (one time distribution in August-September), and warm clothes/footwear for the winter time (one time distribution in December).

### **Objective 3: Medium-term provisions of beneficiaries by Family Food /Hygiene parcels**

- Activity 1: Provide family food and hygienic parcels for 5,000 families (15,000 beneficiaries). Distributions will be made to the beneficiaries three times, October, December and February to the target group - lonely elders, multi-children and single-parent families. The assistance is intended to help beneficiaries to survive the winter, and improve the sanitary and epidemiological situation.

### **Objective 4: To assist with medical aid to the population in the countryside mostly affected by the flood**

- Activity 1: Provide 25 medical kits to First Aid Posts destroyed or damaged by the flood.

### **Objective 5: Rehabilitation of flood victims.**

- Activity 1: Give qualified psychological support to 2,000 flood victims (around 10% of target group - the figure based on RRC experience in previous emergency programmes) in order to alleviate emotional and physical suffering and reduce trauma.
- Activity 2: Provide professional legal counselling to 2,000 flood victims who lost their housing in the flood.

Legal and psychological support are obligatory components in all the RRC emergency relief/rehabilitation programmes since 1999.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

### **Preparation Phase: August 2002**

- finalising the definition of the target groups of beneficiaries
- development of a control and reporting system for distributions of assistance.
- workshop for RRC branches
- tender with suppliers and goods procurement
- first aid legal and psychological support for flood victims

### **Phase One: September - October 2002**

- goods procurement
- organisation of distribution points
- distribution of humanitarian aid to flood victims
- workshop for lawyers and psychologists
- legal and psychological support to flood victims

### **Phase Two: November - December 2002**

- goods procurement
- distribution of humanitarian aid to flood victims
- legal and psychological support to flood victims
- intermediate evaluation mission

### **Phase Three: January - March 2003**

- goods procurement
- distribution of humanitarian aid to flood victims
- legal and psychological support to flood victims

### **Phase Four: March - April 2003**

- Preparation of the narrative and financial completion report

### **Capacity of the National Society w**

The staff in the RRC headquarters, and in the previously mentioned regional RRC branches have been trained in the RRC/ICRC/IFRC programme "Assistance to IDP's in the Northern Caucasus and the South of Russia". The staff has the basic knowledge about procurement, distribution and financial reporting according to the international donor requirements. A network of Red Cross psychologists and lawyers work in these regions with the methodological support of the RRC headquarters and the Moscow State University.

### **Present Capacity of the Federation in Russia w**

The Federation's Delegation in Moscow currently has five delegates, and a strong relief department headed by the Relief Manager.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation w**

Experienced RRC monitors will be located in all of the regions and will report on a regular basis.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

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*All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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