

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

24 April 2003

Appeal No. 20/2002

Launched on 19 July 2002 for CHF 1,267,000 (USD 870,790 or for EUR 864,669) for 8 months. Due to a lack of donor interest, the appeal budget was revised to CHF 171,500.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 50,000.

Beneficiaries: 12,500.

Operations Update No. 4. Period covered: 11 January 2002 - 14 April 2003 (last Ops Update No. 3 was issued on 16 January 2003) Final report is expected on May 30.

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 35.0%

Related Appeals: 2002 and 2003 Annual Appeals for the Russian Federation (nos. 01.42/2002 and 01.49/2003)

Outstanding needs: CHF 818,962 (please refer to the updated list of contributions for this appeal available on the Federation's website).

Summary: The RRC continues to work in close co-operation with Emercom, the Ministry of Health and social welfare departments at the regional and central levels to deliver the planned relief and assistance, but due to a lack of funds it was not possible to provide assistance to 3,000 beneficiaries in Stavropol Krai and 3,000 beneficiaries in Karachaevo-Cherkessiya, Kabardino-Balkaria, Ingushetiya, and North Osetiya.

Operational Developments

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, Ingushetia, North Osetia, Chechnya, Dagestan Republics, Stavropol region, and Krasnodar Krai) within the southern Federal Okrug of the Russian Federation. Emercom reports indicate that over 335,000 people have been affected by the flooding in 377 settlements, and 195 people were killed. The floods damaged 25,499 houses, while 12,573 houses were completely washed away. Local infrastructure has been severely affected. The material loss is estimated at 15,891 million Russian Roubles (nearly USD 504 million).

The initial disaster was followed by second series of severe floods on 8 August caused by torrential rains and accompanied by landslides in Krasnodar Krai. Thirty six people were killed. Severe damage resulted in 15 cities

(including Novorossiisk, Anapa and Krymsk) and 62 settlements on Kuban, Belaya and Urup rivers. Over 26,700 houses were inundated; 5,538 destroyed completely and 16,103 damaged. Twenty bridges and over 87 kilometres of road were destroyed by the water. Forty two people - holidaymakers, who had been camping on the shores of the Black Sea- remain missing. The material damage is estimated at 3,514 million Russian Roubles (over US 112 million dollars).

Another disaster raged in the Northern Caucasus on 20 September. An avalanche came down a mountainside in North Osetia, one of the regions affected by the June floods, sending a mass of ice, rocks and mud to the nearby settlements.

The tragedy was further exacerbated by the poor response to the disaster by local officials, who received much criticism from Russian President Putin for their insufficient preventive measures, slow reaction to the disaster and inability to meet the most essential needs of people.

On 19 July 2002, the International Federation and the RRC launched an appeal for assistance to flood victims in all eight affected areas that did not attract much donor interest. In October 2002, the budget was revised, and it was decided to provide assistance to three regions only - Krasnodar Krai, Adygeya Republic and Dagestan (under ECHO funding).

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

With the support of the International Federation, ICRC and donor national societies, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) continues to assist flood victims. Distribution of relief items to beneficiaries was completed during the reporting period, with the help of local RRC volunteers, local administration and social welfare departments.

Please see previous operations updates for details of procurement and transport of relief items to the targeted regions, and for information on DREF assistance.

Bilateral support: The US Embassy, via the American Red Cross, contributed USD 50,000 for the procurement of 2,100 mattresses; 2,100 food parcels; and 2,100 packs of detergent for over 8,500 beneficiaries in eight regions of Dagestan Republic. Details of the procurement and distribution of these relief items are available in previous operation updates. The operation has been fully completed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

In-country support for flood victims was provided by Sochi, Vologda, Astrakhan, Taimyr, Moscow city RRC committees and RRC headquarters in the form of 50 tonnes of relief items (food products, sweets and toys for children, clothes, footwear, hygienic parcels, detergents, blankets, pillows, mattresses, bed linen sets, rubber boots, plastic basins, buckets and dishes, kitchen utensils, clean water, medication, school items, irons and radios), that were distributed among the victims of June and August disasters in Krasnodar Krai, Adygeya Republic and Stavropol region under the supervision of the RRC zonal office for the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia.

All relief items were collected from the local population, organisations and enterprises.

RRC volunteers took an active part in helping the staff to sort second hand clothes, load and unload relief cargo, and distribute items to the vulnerable.

Relief distributions w

ECHO: During the reporting period, relief goods were distributed in accordance with the established plan. In total, 750 blankets, 750 bed linen sets, 750 sets of children's clothes, 5 medical (FAP) kits, 750 school sets, 150 stoves, and 2,250 hygienic kits were distributed to 1,459 families (6,577 beneficiaries). The number of beneficiaries reached was greater than originally planned (1,200 families/5,500 beneficiaries). At the initiative of the local RRC the planned size of distribution per household was reduced to allow more vulnerable people to benefit from relief items. The decision was made in an attempt to prevent potential psychological stress resulting from unequal distributions in the same neighbourhoods.

Table 1: distribution of relief items (excluding 2,250 hygienic kits also distributed) in Daghestan

Rayon	No. of settlements	School kits	Clothes sets	Bed linen sets	Blankets	Detergents	FAP kits	Heating stoves
Akhvakhsy	2	90	90	90	90	250	1	20
Dakhadaevsky	4	165	165	165	165	500	1	35
Kurakhsky	2	90	90	90	90	250	-	20
Sergokalinsky	3	135	135	135	135	390	1	25
Kayakinsky	3	135	135	135	135	390	1	25
Gunibsky	3	135	135	135	135	390	1	25
Total	17	750	750	750	750	2'170	5	150

For details of procurement and distribution, please see previous operation updates.

Objective 1. 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.

This objective was partially implemented through the DREF donation: 7,250 bed linen sets have been distributed to the population of eight districts in Krasnodar Krai and one in Adygeya Republic. In addition, tenders and procurement of 650 stoves and 750 bed linen sets took place, and local and national fund-raising efforts, including those of the Russian Red Cross, succeeded in collecting 50 tonnes of relief items. Please see previous operation updates for details of items and distribution.

During the reporting period, distribution of all items previously delivered to distribution points across the targeted region was completed. Relief items were distributed in accordance with the beneficiary lists discussed with local social welfare departments. The number of items distributed to beneficiaries corresponds with the number of items received at the distribution centres.

In Krasnodar Krai, distributions were completed as follows:

Table 2: distribution of relief items in Krasnodar

Rayon	Stoves	Hygiene kits	Children's clothes	FAP kits
Gulkevichsky	100	800	200	3
Uspensky	-	-	-	7
Novokubansky	100	1'000	200	3
Novorossiysky	-	-	-	1
Kurganinsky	100	700	200	0
Armavirsky	100	1'000	200	1
Total	400	3'500	800	15

Distribution was completed with the assistance of local RRC volunteers and representatives of the local authorities and social welfare services. Assistance was provided to 2,450 families (total 7,592 persons), and full distribution reports were completed and submitted to the RC Krai branch.

In Adygeya, distribution and distribution reports were completed as in Krasnodar. Assistance was provided to 627 families (total 2,528 persons), as follows:

Table 3: distribution of relief items in Adygeya

Rayon	Stoves	Hygiene kits	Children's clothes	FAP kits
Krasnogvardeisky	50	1'100	100	6
Shovgenovsky	10	50	20	2
Koshekhabsky	15	250	30	4
Maikopsky	15	70	30	3
Maikop	10	30	20	-
Total	100	1'500	200	15

Some regions received significantly less RRC humanitarian aid than others. This is due to the fact that Emercom (the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations) was already present in these regions and had distributed relief items. Russian Red Cross therefore allocated relief items to areas where State support was not already in place, to avoid duplication of distribution.

Objective 2. Provision of children's clothes and stationery for schoolchildren.

Under this objective it was planned to provide 2,500 6-10 year old children with stationery by the beginning of the school year in September, and warm clothes / footwear for the winter months. Delays in external donations did not allow the procurement to start on time. However, all goods have now been distributed as indicated in the tables above.

Objective 3. Medium-term provisions of family food parcels (FFPs) and hygienic kits.

It was planned to provide 5,000 affected families with FFPs and hygienic kits three times during the programme implementation (in October, December and February) with a special focus on lone elderly, multi-child and single-parent families. During the reporting period 7250 hygienic kits were distributed to beneficiaries in the targeted regions.

Due to financial restraints of the project and the existing presence of ICRC food distributions in the area, it was decided not to distribute FFPs to the vulnerable.

Objective 4. To provide medical aid to rural population affected by the floods.

Under this objective it was planned to provide 25 medical kits to medical outposts (FAP) destroyed or damaged by the floods. Distribution of 35 kits procured in Moscow to first aid points in the targeted region was completed during the reporting period, as detailed in tables 1, 2, and 3 above.

Objective 5. Rehabilitation of flood victims.

Under this objective it was planned to provide qualified psychological support to 2,000 flood victims, and professional legal counselling to 2,000 flood victims who lost their housing. During the reporting period, 2 fully qualified psychologists from the Krasnodar Krai RRC branch made regular visits to the following areas suffering from the floods: Kropotkin, Krymsk, Belorchensk, Gul'kevichi, Ust'-Labinsk, Slavyansk, Saratovskaya.

Psychological support in the form of individual and family consultations and group work has been provided to 550 persons (213 adults, 337 children). Psychologists from the local RRC branches, trained under the population movement programme and working through the RRC with migrants in the region, worked on relief of stress and developing emotional stability. The main problems encountered among the affected population were increased fear and anxiety.

Active work was carried out in schools and children's rehabilitation centres where the greatest concentrations of children affected by the floods were found. Teachers, heads of the centres and psychologists mention the following problems among children: feeling socially outcast; decreased motivation to study; increased aggressiveness; conflicts between boys and girls. All activities conducted have been aimed at creating a stable emotional environment, and it has been noted that even one-time psychological support has had considerable positive results.

Logistics w

By the middle of December 2002, all relief items had reached the targeted regions, and were received by the representatives of local RRC committees as detailed in previous operation updates. All distributions to beneficiaries were completed during the reporting period as detailed above.

During the reporting period, Krasnodar Krai RC branch completed procurement of a vehicle for transportation of goods, in accordance with standard tender and procurement procedures. The vehicle will continue to be used by the branch after the current operation has been completed.

Co-ordination

RRC works in close co-operation with Emercom, the Ministry of Health and social welfare departments at the regional and central levels. The latest statistical and progress data is being provided by Emercom; and beneficiary lists continue to be confirmed with welfare departments. Local administration has assisted RRC committees with delivery and distribution.

Outstanding needs

Due to a lack of funds, it was not possible to provide assistance to 3,000 beneficiaries in Stavropol Krai and 3,000 beneficiaries in Karachaevo-Cherkessiya, Kabardino-Balkariya, Ingushetiya, and North Osetiya.

For further details please contact: Miro Modrusan; Federation Desk Officer; Phone 41 22 730 43 24; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email: modrusan@ifrc.org

All International Federation 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.

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's website.

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