

PROGRAMME 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

10 May, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.59/2001

Appeal Target CHF 5,295,000

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - March, 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 97% (current; before budget revision).

Related Appeals: 24/00; Severe Poverty for Northern Territories

Outstanding needs: pending the completed budget revision.

Summary/Update: The budget for this appeal is being revised due to the generous support provided by the American Red Cross amounting to CHF 4,025,057 (USD 2,472,394) for emergency foods aid and intervention in the Russian Federation. This component was included in the overall programme subsequent to the launch of this annual appeal, and accordingly a budget revision is being prepared to accurately reflect this activity. This explains the support and funding needed to cover the remaining Outstanding Needs specified in this Programme Update. The revised budget will be reflected in a follow-up Programme Update to be issued shortly.

The context

Russia, the world's largest country covers one sixth of the planet's land surface. It has an extremely heterogeneous population of over 140 million people spread across 12 time zones. The growth in poverty now means that over 40 million Russians are living on less than USD 1 per day.

Russia's previous economic system initiated a strategy of development of the Far North and Far North East regions based on the centrally managed transfer of resources to the Northern territories for geopolitical reasons. This resulted in a large population attracted by government subsidies, incentives and privileges who worked in state supported industries. Now almost all commercial and state enterprises have collapsed leaving behind the results of gross environmental mismanagement. Official unemployment rates are virtually meaningless, when many salaries were not paid for years. The long winter nights, short growing season and permafrost prevents any growing of food in much of the region. The home growing garden or dacha, the usual coping mechanism in Russia, is not an option for most people in these regions.

The Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS), supported by the Federation has, during the last year, provided humanitarian assistance to five million of the country's most vulnerable people under internationally-funded emergency programmes. The challenge was immense. Working within an

infrastructure which was poor even in Soviet times and is now almost non-existent, results are impressive. The remote areas in which the RRCS operates precluded any opportunity to work with partners on the ground as in many of the regions the only NGO able to operate is the Russian Red Cross Society. However programmes implemented so far have forged strong partnerships and close co-operation between the RRCS and regional authorities.

The Russian Red Cross Society has 100 regional and 1,321 district committees or branches, as well as over 18,000 grass-root organisations.

Latest events

The Russian President Vladimir Putin conducted a cabinet reshuffle in March, 2001, appointing a civilian to the post of the Defence Minister and a woman to the post of his first deputy; the Interior Minister was also replaced. Underscoring his commitment to liberal reforms, the President said that his first year in office had brought stability to Russia, but the hard work of pulling the country out of poverty was still to come. He promised legal reforms, greater transparency in business and privatisation of state industry. While still in the economic doldrums, Russia's economy has enjoyed 7% growth in the last year, much of it due to tax revenues. President Putin is enjoying 75% approval ratings.

The Russian State Statistics Committee reported that at the end of January the cost of the food basket out of 25 basic food products was equivalent to RUR 784 (some USD 25), which is 4.6% higher than during the previous month. The most expensive region has proved to be Magadan, where the minimum food basket costs RUR 1,349.3 (USD 47.3), followed by Yakutsk RUR 1,259.4 (USD 44) and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski RUR 1,200.4 (USD 42). Inflation in January was 2.8% in comparison with 1.6% in December, and 2.3% last January. Food prices increased 3.1% compared with 1.9% during the previous month. According to the Ministry for Emergency Situations, almost 80,000 Russians suffered electricity outages on 5 March after 50 centimetres (1.5 feet) of snow fell overnight, interfering with power lines. The head of the Federal Centre on AIDS Prevention reported at the end of March that the centre's projections show the number of AIDS deaths in Russia reaching one million by 2010. He added that the true number of HIV-infected persons in Russia is some 650,000 - six times higher than the official number. He noted that the largest number of HIV cases is in the Moscow region, the city of Moscow, Irkutsk, and St. Petersburg, but pointed out that HIV cases are now registered in 86 out of the country's 89 regions.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Disaster Response •

Population Movement (PM) Programme

Some 801 psychological consultations were held in 12 RRCS regional reception points in Tambov, Voronezh, Sochi, Orenburg, Oryol, Kirov, Omsk, Belgorod, Kursk, Kaliningrad, Veliki Novgorod, and Novosibirsk during the reporting period. Over 7,682 people, including 5,362 forced migrants received relief assistance in the form of 3,843 family food parcels (FFPs), 2,376 hygiene kits, 2,337 bed linen sets, and 2,421 medical kits. Also, 1,377 legal consultations were held in the reception points. The RRCS Central Committee reception point for forced migrants assisted 458 people, including 381 migrants with 232 hygiene kits, 96 medical kits, and 261 sets of second hand clothes. Over 170 legal consultations were held.

A social and medical assistance centre in Pskov region held 652 consultations, including 298 with forced migrants during the reporting period, 113 psychological consultations were held. Two centres of medical and social assistance in Moscow conducted 233 psychological consultations during the three months. Some 1,175 applications for assistance were received, including 895 from forced migrants.

Emergency legal support points for forced migrants at Chita, Orenburg, and Kuibyshev rail way stations assisted 981 people, including 504 migrants. Legal support points for migrants operating in

Nizhni Novgorod, Pskov, Ivanovo, St. Petersburg, and Stavropol conducted 997 consultations, including 642 with forced migrants.

A working seminar was held on 8 December to discuss the results of summer-camps for child-migrants held in Ivanovo, Oryol, Vologda, St. Petersburg and Pskov with the participation of 22 people, representatives of regional Red Cross committees. A seminar for seven legal advisors was held in Pskov in February. A seminar on psychological counselling for 35 participants was conducted from 12 to 14 March in Moscow under the Russian Red Cross programmes "Population Movement" and "Emergency Assistance to IDPs in the Northern Caucasus and South Russia". The representatives of the Dutch RC, Yugoslavia RC, Bosnia and Herzegovina RC, Bulgarian RC Societies, Minsk Delegation, a Belgrade organisation of psychologists and social workers, and a Stockholm Red Cross centre for refugees were facilitating the seminar.

Health and care •

Visiting Nurses Training Centres

Training centres continue functioning in the regions with Russian Red Cross internal resources. In the frames of RRCS co-operation with IOM, three seminars on home care for Belgorod and Tambov visiting nurses were organised for them to meet the needs of migrant population highly concentrated in the mentioned regions.

Visiting Nurses Service/Tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS

Final reports under the ECHO/British Red Cross and ECHO/Danish Red Cross funded projects are being prepared. Further funding is extremely needed to continue fighting tuberculosis and raising awareness of TB among Russia's population.

Nutritional support through daily food parcels and hot meals continued according to programme guidelines. During the reporting period some 3,000 adults with TB received food assistance, either in the form of hot meals, or daily food parcels within this programme across the targeted regions. Second hand clothes, distributed in Pskov, Kemerovo and Buryatia, provided an invaluable, low cost, incentive to TB patients, especially to released prisoners visiting Red Cross centres of medical and social assistance upon release. A total of 1,659 TB patients received food and hygienic kits in the Siberian regions under the programme. Over 990 Siberian children received daily support in the form of hot meals and protein kits.

The RRCS and Federation teams visited Astrakhan, Murmansk and Pskov during the reporting period to monitor programme implementation.

The main event in the regions took place in March with World TB day. The regions proved to be proactive in organising local events, and generally finding ways to promote the causes and consequences of TB within their local communities, as well as raising awareness of the work currently being undertaken by the Red Cross. At the central level, both RRCS and the Federation actively participated in the press conference, national drawing competition and other media-related events. Information materials continue to be distributed within relevant target group. Regional Red Cross Committees continue to work hard to get media coverage of their work locally and create their own information leaflets. The key issue of looking at ways to develop a more coherent information strategy will be undertaken during its third phase, starting May 2001. Part of this lies in the need to assess the impact of the Red Cross's information work during the mid-term review, and part lies in the need to further develop the Red Cross's HIV/AIDS information awareness activities.

In March-April, the 'White Camomile' action took place, primarily in Tomsk and Buryatia, to tie in with the World TB Day. In total, 3,500 people took part in the actions in these two regions. Over RUR 75,000 were also collected towards TB-related activities.

There are 103 visiting nurses currently working with TB patients across the targeted regions, 70 of whom are covered by ECHO funding and the remainder paid for through a mixture of local authority and Red Cross funds. During this period, all new nurses, and those who had not yet been trained, took part in the Home care/TB training course. In addition, further 'training of trainers' workshops for

VNS instructors took place. Volunteer workshops were also conducted. Visiting nurses kits and MSR kits continue to be of great use within the programme. They are being used in a very sensible manner which means that their life span may be longer than originally anticipated. RRCS estimate most supplies will last until 2002. The new or refurbished MSRs are now firmly established - in Pskov Archangelsk and Murmansk, they have or will have new premises in the centres of the main cities, which help them to serve a wide client base in the largest population centres, but the initial MSR kits were large and items have been distributed throughout the local Red Cross network of MSRs.

Institutional and Resource Development •

During January, a meeting of the Russian Red Cross Central Committee Board was held to hear reports on activities conducted in 2000. On 25 January, the RRCS Central Committee Presidium conducted a visit to the RRC Moscow western district branch to monitor and assess their work and current activities. The branch was recognised one of the best Russian Red Cross committees in the Russian Federation.

On 29 January, the President of the Russian Red Cross Society sent a letter to the representatives of the Russian President in the seven zones across the country, suggesting co-operation in the humanitarian field and asking for their support to the Russian Red Cross zonal offices and activities.

On 27 February, a Russian Red Cross Central Committee Presidium Bureau meeting took place to overview the progress of the Central zone office activities.

A meeting of the Russian Red Cross Central Committee Presidium took place on 29 March to discuss the issues of ongoing Russian Red Cross activity, look at the organisation's budget for 2001, and consider the electoral campaign. Meetings to hear reports and elect new officials were held in Buryatia, Karelia, Leningrad, Mari-el, Nenetsk, Samara, Chechnya, Yakutia, Yaroslavl, Rostov, Tomsk, Nizhni Novgorod regional RRCS committees, Moscow, Sverdlovsk and Krasnoyarsk rail way RC committees. As of 29 March, conferences were held in 22 Russian Red Cross regional committees.

Preparations were undertaken for the XIII RRCS Congress that will take place in November, involving a plan for the RRC Central Committee report was drafted as well as a budget for holding the Congress.

Co-ordination and Management •

Following discussions between the Relief co-ordinator, Programme co-ordinator and Data base officer the data base project will change direction. Originally devised as a project encompassing all of Russia the data base officer has now produced a new proposal which will transfer the project to regions. Here the project will concentrate on mapping Red Cross activity, introduce ideas for a vulnerability and capacity assessment and how to collect, collate and disseminate information gathered. The data base officer undertook a field trip to Irkutsk and Magadan during the reporting period to meet the new above mentioned objectives of the project. A draft data base is now being produced for the RRCS to approve.

Outstanding needs

Most of the appeal programmes remain unfunded. In particular, cash is extremely needed to continue the tuberculosis programme previously funded by ECHO.

HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education programme also requires donor support with the level of HIV infection growing in Russia (see Latest Events for details).

No funds were received as yet under the Humanitarian Values programmes, while information is one of the key tools of fund raising and resource development.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Grazyna Samsel, Phone: 41 22 730 4324; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: samsel@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.

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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| Russian Federation | | | | | | ANNEX 1 |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|------|------------------|------------|--|
| APPEAL No. 01.59/2001 | | PLEDGES RECEIVED | | | | 05/03/01 |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| CASH | | | | | | |
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 5,295,425 | | TOTAL COVERAGE 97.9% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN - GOVT/RC | | 2,472,394 | USD | 4,025,057 | 29.01.01 | EMERGENCY FOOD AID INTERVENTION |
| AUSTRALIAN - RC | | 17,500 | AUD | 15,139 | 30.04.01 | FINANCE DELEGATE COSTS |
| BRITISH - RC | | 40,000 | GBP | 96,400 | 31.01.01 | RRCS VN/TB PROGRAMME |
| BRITISH - RC | | 45,000 | GBP | 108,450 | 04.04.01 | 2ND TR. TB PROGRAMME |
| DANISH - RC | | 23,000 | DKK | 4,738 | 15.02.01 | TRAVEL COSTS DRC DELEGATES |
| DANISH - RC | | 500,000 | DKK | 103,000 | 14.03.01 | LEGAL BASE REFORMS OF RRCS |
| NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC | | 500,000 | NOK | 94,150 | 20.04.01 | TB PROGRAMME MURMANSK |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | | 490,000 | SEK | 85,113 | 16.02.01 | INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 700,000 | SEK | 121,590 | 02.03.01 | COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT, RELIEF DATABASE PROJECT |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 600,000 | SEK | 104,220 | 02.03.01 | HEALTH & CARE |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 1,000,000 | SEK | 173,700 | 02.03.01 | REFORM PROCESS (IDRD) |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 4,931,557 | CHF | 93.1% |
| KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL) | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| Netherlands | Delegate(s) | | | 24,805 | | |
| Canada | Delegate(s) | | | 34,332 | | |
| Great Britain | Delegate(s) | | | 64,229 | | |
| Sweden | Delegate(s) | | | 22,176 | | |
| USA | Delegate(s) | | | 21,026 | | |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 500,000 | SEK | 86,850 | 02.03.01 | PROGRAMME COORDINATOR |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 253,418 | CHF | 4.8% |
| ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |
| THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL: | | | | | | |
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