

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

24 September 2004

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 over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.82/2004; Programme Update no. 2,

Period covered: 1 April 2004 to 30 June 2004;

Programme Update no.1 issued 16 June 2004

Click below for appeal:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf

Click below for live contributions list:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/1-2-3%20-%20ap018204.pdf

Appeal target: CHF 4,963,082 (USD3.9 million / EUR 3.2 million)

Related Emergency Appeals: Hostage crisis in Beslan (Appeal 19/2004)

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/1904.pdf

Programme summary: Due to a reduction in some core staff of the Russia International Federation delegation in June 2004, Federation support to Russian Red Cross disaster management activities will be limited to the population movement programme. In the remaining core areas of Health and Care, Humanitarian Values and Organisational development, the Russian Red Cross and the Federation continue to implement programmes described in the original appeal 2004. Elements of the health and care programme, in particular TB and HIV/AIDS, will remain the priorities. The Federation Delegation and Russian Red Cross continue to raise the profile of the Red Cross and to promote the humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

For further details please contact:

- Russian Red Cross: Phone 7 095 126 5731; Fax 7 095 230 2868; email mail@redcross.ru
- Russia Delegation: Phone 7 095 937 5267; Fax 7 095 937 5263; email Moscow@ifrc.org
- Miro Modrusan, Desk officer, Secretariat. Phone 41 22 730 4324; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email miro.modrusan@ifrc.org

This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based

on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Disaster Management •

Programme objective: The Russian Red Cross organisational and management capacity in disaster management is strengthened at HQ and regional levels (at least 5 regional branches) through enhanced disaster preparedness capacity, long-term support in rehabilitation of vulnerable people and continuous support to migrants.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: Population Movement (funded by Swedish Red Cross); Children's Playrooms in Ingushetia (funded by British Red Cross); Food Security (funded by Japanese Red Cross). The RRC and International Federation continue to seek funding for all programmes within the framework of the annual appeal 2004: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf/

Although disaster response and preparedness capacity remain minimal, RRC in cooperation with the Federation Delegation continues to manage and coordinate disaster response operations and assist vulnerable people affected by natural and manmade disasters throughout the Russian Federation. Ongoing activities in the regions maintain and build upon existing capacities, through training of staff and developing closer cooperation with RRC Headquarters and Federation Delegation Relief and Logistics experts. Efforts continue in the regions to sustain existing programmes while further funding is sought.

Children's playrooms in Ingushetia

The camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ingushetia have been closed. The remaining funds provided to support children's playrooms in these camps have been used to support a kindergarten for 136 internally displaced children – 43 from Chechnya, 67 from North Ossetia, 26 from local villages - on the border of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Funds were used to purchase and deliver the following equipment for the school – 70 beds and bed linen (children stay at the kindergarten all day and have a 2-3 hour nap daily); kitchen equipment; school furniture; hygienic and medical kits and vitamins (for the kindergarten's small medical point).



Playground equipment was transferred from the playrooms in IDP camps in Ingushetia, repainted and installed outside the kindergarten in Northern Ossetia.



In addition to psychological counselling, children enjoy traditional games and activities at the newly furnished kindergarten.

A Russian Red Cross psychologist provided psychological training for teachers and counselling for children. Regular counselling was provided to all those children aged 3 – 6 (a total of 116; the remaining 20 were under three years old and considered too young for this kind of support). The psychologist supported teachers in using methods to increase and develop children’s creative, memory and perception skills. Art and games therapy continues to be used throughout kindergarten activities. Psychologists also offered counselling to the teachers, themselves IDPs from North Ossetia.

Russian Red Cross continues to monitor the programme and assess its impact. The teachers now provide the majority of psychological care to the children, although a Red Cross psychologist continues to visit the kindergarten on a less regular basis to support and advise teachers on their teaching/ counselling methods.

Ongoing assessments of the Red Cross playrooms in Ingushetia demonstrated the success of the programme – it was appreciated by children, by the teachers and parents of the children, and the community as a whole. Psychological support visibly helped children to adapt to their surroundings and cope with the pressures of internal migration. Similar results are expected from the assessment for the kindergarten programme in North Ossetia.

The only problem experience in programme implementation was a time delay – as a result of unrest in the region, the project started two weeks later than originally planned.

Population Movement

Over 11 million people have entered and 5 million have left the Russian Federation since 1989, according to the Governmental Committee on Migration Policy. During the same period, over 30 million people have been displaced. The scale of support required continues to escalate, and Russian Red Cross and the International Federation continue to seek funding to enable ongoing provision of assistance to the many vulnerable involuntary migrants.

During May – June 2004 Russian Red Cross, with support from the International Federation, continued implementation of the following population movement projects funded by the Swedish Red Cross:

1. Regional reception points for involuntary migrants (in Nizhny Novgorod and Orenburg (from 5 May) and Kemerovo (from 1 June).
2. Emergency legal counselling points for involuntary migrants (at Novosibirsk railway station (from 5 May) and Smolensk RRC regional branch (from 1 June).

Swedish Red Cross funds will also be used to hold two summer camps for children of internally displaced persons (IDP) families.

During implementation of the above mentioned programme RRC regional branches worked with involuntary migrants on the basis of a cooperation agreement between the Russian Federal Migration Service and Russian Red Cross dated 11.08.1998. This agreement has prompted regional Red Cross branches to sign or prepare respective agreements with local Ministry of Interior Migration Departments.

Programme objectives:

1. Provide professional legal, psychological and social support to involuntary migrants and vulnerable groups of local residents on the regional level free of charge.
2. Take part in implementation of the Russian Federation Federal special programme “Developing ways of tolerant perception and extremism prophylaxis in Russian society” by conducting tolerance trainings at schools.
3. Strengthen coordination between RRC and governmental structures working in the migration sphere (Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Interior Passport-Visa Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health).
4. Attract attention of civil society to the problem of involuntary migration.
5. Strengthen organisational capacities of RRC regional branches and clearly show RRC as a neutral and impartial organisation.

Beneficiaries:

Forced migrants; refugees; people seeking asylum in Russian Federation; internally displaced persons; labour and economic migrants; ecological migrants; undocumented migrants; the most vulnerable categories of local residents.

Regions where migrants arrive from:

- Internal unstable zones (Chechnya),
- NIS and Middle Asia Countries,
- Other foreign countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, China, Vietnam etc.)

During the reporting period project assistance was provided directly at the RRC regional branches (for migrants and vulnerable residents of the regional centres) and during regular field actions conducted together with representatives of territorial Migration Departments (for the rest of people living in the region). 540 persons (including 394 migrants) visited RRC regional reception points and were provided with legal, psychological and social consultations; 110 persons (including 87 migrants) visited and were provided with consultations by RRC legal consultants at the railway stations.

Table 1. At a glance: Number of people and visits to RRC regional and emergency reception points during the reporting period May – June 2004.

	Total			Total		
	Number visits	Migrants visits	% migrants	Number people	Number migrants	% migrants
Orenburg	317	215	67.8	274	192	70.1
Nizhny Novgorod	265	214	80.8	190	154	81.1
Kemerovo	86	47	54.7	76	48	63.2
Smolensk	5	4	80.0	5	4	80.0
Western Siberia railway	105	83	79.0	105	83	79.0
Total	778	563		650	481	

Table 2. At a glance: Type of assistance provided to people at RRC regional and emergency reception points during the reporting period May – June 2004.

Assistance								
	Legal		Psychological		Social		Group Session support	Humanitarian aid (in kind)
	visits	people	visits	people	visits	people		
Orenburg	109	107	103	95	105	103	4	85
Nizhny Novgorod	139	133	6	6	120	118	3	96
Kemerovo	24	19	17	17	45	40	1	7
Smolensk	5	5	-	-	-	-	0	3
Western Siberia railway	105	105	-	-	-	-	1	180
Total	382	369	126	118	270	261	9	371

Psychological support

The most important role of RRC and government agencies working with forced migrants is to assist their adaptation to new social-cultural circumstances. In addition to social and material assistance, professional psychological support is necessary. The majority of internally displaced people have experienced chronic stress and RRC psychologists provide assistance in coping with symptoms of post-traumatic stress. During programme implementation, RRC psychologists met the programme objectives and strengthened the regional psychological network using the following methods:

- dissemination of information amongst forced migrants about possibility and importance of psychological assistance (via local mass media and at RRC regional reception points- information leaflets about RRC activities)
- discussion on basic psychological problems of forced migrants – lectures, discussions, seminars with forced migrants
- using different methods of psychological support aiming to provide psychological assistance to involuntary migrants to overcome crisis situations and enable easier social adaptation.

These activities were carried out among adults and children using different methods depending on specific problems:

- individual consultations ; family consultations ; group training sessions ; educational activities (used to implement the project “tolerance as a way of mutual adaptation of local residents and involuntary migrants”)

In addition to providing counselling at reception points, RRC psychologists participated in field trips to areas with a high proportion of migrants. They conducted educational talks and lectures, organized group work and training, and raised awareness about the existence and benefits of psychological assistance.

The programme builds on substantial Russian Red Cross experience and success in this field of work. Previous analyses of similar programmes have demonstrated a reduction of psychosomatic symptoms; improvement of beneficiaries’ mood, sleep patterns, vitality, self confidence, and increased optimism following visits to RRC psychologists; increased client motivation to find a way out of current crisis situations. In many cases one session with a psychologist increases beneficiary’s self confidence to the extent that he/she is motivated to find solutions to problems. The current programme is still in the early stages in some regions but is expected to experience similar positive results across the board in the future.

One of the main reasons for psychological problems amongst the migrants is the attitude of the local population, which is often intolerant and hostile towards migrants. To combat this intolerance, psychologists

conduct tolerance trainings aimed at children to encourage cooperation and friendly relations between migrant and local children. As a result decrease tension levels in class and provide a more positive atmosphere for effective learning. In turn, children's improved outlook influences family members at home. Work with children also increases awareness of the Red Cross support network among migrant families and encourages vulnerable people to seek timely assistance.

In the future, RRC intends to provide psychological training and distribution of training manuals for staff in the coming months to ensure provision of the most efficient and effective support possible. Red Cross psychologists also recognise the need for publications providing details on self support - on how to find a job, accommodation etc. – including details specific to programme implementation region. In addition, further education of the general public on the reason for involuntary migration is needed to relieve some of the pressure faced by migrants and motivate locals to support these vulnerable groups.

Throughout programme implementation the RRC worked in cooperation with Moscow State University faculty of psychology, scientific and practical centre of psychological assistance, social services, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and State migration service. These established relations will benefit future RRC programme activities in similar fields.

RRC legal network

Within the population movement programme, RRC legal counsellors provide support (via personal and group consultation) to beneficiaries in the following fields:

- Status of forced migrants – rights and responsibilities; housing issues; allowances and loans for property purchase/construction
- Procedure of application for Russian citizenship
- Appeal procedure against State officials
- Job placement
- Pensions and restoration of lost documents, exit visas from Russian Federation

All RRC legal advisers pay particular attention to assisting undocumented migrants, those without forced migrant status and those without Russian citizenship. RRC programme personnel demonstrate strong organisational skills, efficiency and competence in assisting beneficiaries, the majority of whom are internally displaced people and labour migrants.

As in the psychological part of the programme, beneficiaries themselves have commented on the usefulness of the RRC services.

"Tell me about your troubles," Lidia Vlaskina, Russian Red Cross psychologist says to her visitors. "The more you tell me, the fewer will stay with you." Valentina, her patient, came from a village 50 km away, for a consultation with the Red Cross. Migrants from Kazakhstan, her family of 8 is seeking some legal status in Russia. She and her husband are desperately looking for a job outside their village where they do not get understanding or support from the local authorities. With an average salary of \$60 a month and an average rent for a one room apartment - \$50 - the migrant families cannot dream of buying even a modest house for an average of \$ 6-7,000.



Social assistance

Social assistance was provided in the following forms:

- social consultations on medical, social, educational, job placement and housing issues (including temporary accommodation provided for involuntary migrants and counselling on departure from Russia to visit relatives graves.)

- Humanitarian aid (second hand clothes and shoes collected locally; food parcels; children's presents; hygiene kits; wheelchairs etc.)
- Assistance in accessing free of charge medicines and medical treatment

During the reporting period, most visitors to the reception centres applied for humanitarian aid. Procurement and distribution of this aid is not provided for within the programme budget, and RRC branches conduct local fundraising activities to collect and distribute humanitarian goods. All branches work in close cooperation with territorial Ministry of Interior Migration departments, and other local NGOs providing assistance to undocumented migrants. All RRC activities were widely broadcast in the local mass media.

In addition, RRC social workers, legal advisers and psychologists in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Interior migration department conducted field trips to areas with high concentration of involuntary migrants. Such field trips included operation of a "charity train" that travelled from Novosibirsk railway to remote areas. During all trips RRC representatives met with local authorities to discuss cooperation in supporting migrant populations.

Problems encountered during the reporting period:

- Smolensk emergency reception point only had a small number of visitors.
- Humanitarian aid provided was not enough to meet needs, in particular availability of food parcels and hygiene kits
- Reporting formats were criticised as being too complicated
- No training provided for new RRC staff
- Insufficient information materials on relevant issues for staff and beneficiaries

Achievements :

Analysis of RRC programme implementation during the reporting period reveals an effective network established to support the flow of migrants entering the Russian Federation. However, it also demonstrates the need to increase effectiveness of regional reception points through increasing capacity in the regions and supporting the branches to overcome problems noted above.

Programme implementation has had a positive impact on the organisational development of RRC regional branches, improving RRC material and technical bases through new staff and training, and establishing of legal database and monthly reporting mechanisms. RRC image and authority in the sphere of assisting forced migrants has been increased through widespread dissemination of information on RRC activities and establishing contacts with State organisations.

Strengthened links with State organisations have resulted in an improved professional level of services provided to migrants and will facilitate implementation of further RRC programmes to assist migrants in the region. In particular, all field trips are conducted by RRC and Ministry of Interior representatives and RRC branches have established relations with the regional departments of the following State services: Social protection of people; Education; Health; Labour.

Furthermore, well publicised work of the Red Cross psychologists, legal advisers and social workers has led to increased recognition and the opportunity to develop working relations with non -government institutions dealing with social issues.

In general beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the RRC and donors for their assistance, and expressed a wish that the programme continue. Bearing this in mind RRC and the International Federation continue to seek funds to sustain programme implementation.

Recommendations:

- To further attract public attention to the problem of involuntary migration using methods successful in previous population movement programmes.
- To continue to provide voluntary migrants with free daily professional social, legal and psychological services

- to broadcast information on RRC activities in the region more widely in mass media (new spapers, radio, television)
- to continue to organise a number of field trips to areas with a large number of involuntary migrants
- to continue to strengthen links with State departments, local authorities and other public organisations working in the sphere of involuntary migrancy

Food security

Maintenance of food security of vulnerable groups of the population in Magadan region

Magadan region, with a population of 180,000, is in the North East of Russia. It lies in one of the remotest areas of the Russian Federation - transport to and from the region is only possible by air and too expensive for the majority of the population - and faces serious socio-economic hardships as a result. During the 8 month winter, temperatures can fall to 50 below zero and oxygen supplies fall dramatically.

To support the vulnerable local population, who are reliant on the regional produce and industry, Russian Red Cross conducted a food security programme October 2003 – April 2004 specifically targeting the small indigenous population in the North. The original programme implementation period was extended due to delays caused by bad weather.

The following activities took place to meet the programme objective and expected results as outlined in the annual appeal 2004. *Please refer to the International Federation website for further details:*

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf

RRC conducted procurement and distribution of 20 fishermen sets (including addition clothing and equipment for fishermen) for needy fishermen teams, and 4000 seed sets for distribution to approximately 17,350 beneficiaries (the original number of beneficiaries was 20,000, reduced to 14,000 due to budget restrictions). The original plan to distribute 25 fishermen sets and 6000 seed sets was revised to meet budget restrictions.

Beneficiaries of fishermen sets were fishermen teams and reindeer breeders living in small villages and were selected by the local administration and fishermen department. Each set should last at least three years, and in return for receipt of these sets fishermen are required to contribute a number of fish to the most needy populations in their home village. Seed sets – containing fertilisers and seeds to enable food security during summer time- were distributed to the most vulnerable population in Magadan population. Beneficiaries included multi-children families with total income below minimum income and lonely invalids and pensioners living below the poverty rate.

RRC also provided new computer equipment to the local Red Cross committee which significantly increased its project reporting and monitoring capacity.

Impact

The Moscow delegation Relief officer commented that despite setbacks in programme implementation (unforeseen increases in cost of goods, leading to reduction in total number of seeds and fisherman sets; bad weather delaying transportation of seed and fishermen sets) the operation was completed successfully. In particular, in an interview with the head of one of the beneficiary communities, the Relief officer learned that the sets distributed met beneficiary needs to a much greater extent than the sets distributed within a Federation/ Russian Red Cross programme three years ago. This is because lists of items to be included in the sets were compiled in Magadan region, in close proximity to the beneficiaries and by local people with specific knowledge of the real needs, whereas in the previous programme the list of items was compiled in Moscow.

The programme's distribution of new computer equipment and close cooperation with local authorities contributed to local Red Cross capacity. Red Cross intervention in the region was well publicised, increasing the Red Cross profile as a result.

While full programme impact will only be visible in the future at the end of the fishing season and once harvests from the seed sets have been gathered, the activities have clearly had a positive effect on the lives

and socio-economic circumstances of vulnerable populations in the Magadan region. In addition to increasing food security levels through provision of equipment for traditional survival methods (fishing and agriculture), Red Cross cooperation with local authorities has opened up the possibility to further regenerate these traditions through processing of fishing licences.

Throughout programme implementation, Magadan RRC continued to implement a series of local projects to assist the local vulnerable population. The activities include:

- collection and distribution of second hand clothes, shoes and domestic items
- medical-social assistance provided on RRC branch premises
- working in cooperation with the State employment centre to locate job opportunities for people with limited capabilities
- providing assistance to former prison inmates
- broadcasting of RRC first aid programme in local mass media
- promoting health lifestyles
- conducting activities to celebrate “the decade of disabled people” and New Year.
- Local fundraising

Humanitarian Values •

Programme objective: Red Cross / Red Crescent humanitarian values and fundamental principles are promoted within the Russian Red Cross, its volunteers and partners and disseminated to the general public.

During the reporting period activities conducted in accordance with the appeal 2004 logical framework were limited due to funding constraints. However, the Federation delegation and Russian Red Cross participated in a number of activities/ public events to raise the Red Cross profile and advocate for support to Red Cross programmes and fundamental principles.

18th Anniversary of Chernobyl disaster. During 21-23 April 2004 in connection with the 18th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, a large group of television and print Western and Moscow-based journalists (from UK, Ireland, Canada, Russia, USA, SKY NEWS international) visited the Red Cross Chernobyl programme which operates in regions affected by the disaster in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. The group visited a mobile diagnostic clinic in Zhitomir region of Ukraine looking for suspected thyroid cancer cases, one of the main chronic health problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster.

Journalists interviewed patients examined the clinic doctors and people living in the villages affected by the disaster. Red Cross representatives from Kiev and Moscow also accompanied the group to areas abandoned following the Chernobyl disaster and the Chernobyl plant. As a result of this trip, the journalists highlighted the assistance provided by Red Cross to the most vulnerable people living in contaminated areas, as well as progress in CHARP programme implementation. All news stories and a copy of the SKY news broadcast are available from the Kiev representative office and the Moscow delegation of the International Federation (contact details at the beginning of this programme update). A news story was also posted on the Federation website and translated for use by various Red Cross national societies. *For more information on the Chernobyl programme please go to our website. <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=1>*

World Blood Donor Day. On the 10th of June, Russian Red Cross announced an extension of its blood donor campaign in order to attract more donors, particularly younger people, and to promote voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations. Every year thousands of people in Russia are in demand of blood but recent statistics (2002) indicate that only 15 donors per 1000 were registered whereas the actual need amounts to 40-60 donors of 1000 people.

The campaign also had a special focus on blood donor days where representatives from the State Duma (the Russian Federation parliament), and federal ministries, city and local authorities will come forward and give blood.

Red Cross Red Crescent Day. In Russia, the 8th May (Red Cross Red Crescent day) took place on the weekend of Victory Day - Red Cross activities were in many places combined with support to war veterans.

In Moscow, thousands of people gathered in a central park where the local Red Cross branch put up tents for visiting nurses offering free test of blood pressure and diabetes as well as information on HIV/AIDS. First Aid training was supplied by special instructors.

Greetings were offered to war veterans, many of whom had been serving during the WWII as Red Cross nurses. 9 district branches of Russian Red Cross added social support, such as food parcels, clothes and household goods. 3,493 elderly also got help from young volunteers in cleaning their apartments.

In the region of Astrakhan, former and disabled visiting nurses of the Red Cross were provided with food parcels and medicine. 321 young volunteer took special care of invalids and, as part of the tuberculosis programme, offered cleaning help to 124 vulnerable families.

In Nizhny Novgorod, 2 500 people were receiving Red Cross food and hygiene parcels. Through the cooperation of the optic firm Carl Zeiss, 24 blind or nearly blind were given the opportunity to have their sight tested and get a pair of glasses for free.

In St Petersburg, the local branch focused on recruitment of new members and information about the Red Cross. Food parcels and clothing were provided to war veterans, and doctors were offering their services for free.



International Memory Day of People who have died from AIDS. On 14th May a number of organisations, among others the Russian Red Cross Youth and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, gathered to put forward the message of prevention and treatment for those 100,000s of HIV positive Russian citizens. One by one hundreds of balloons were let up in the skies above Bolotnoi Square in the middle of Moscow each in memory of a loved one, lost to AIDS.

Russian Red Cross volunteers hang banners and posters to raise awareness of the problem of HIV/AIDS in Russia, and the Red Cross role in the fight against this killer virus.

Peer education

Russia is currently facing one of the fastest growing rates of HIV/AIDS worldwide. The rate of newly infected people has doubled every 6-12 months since 1995. Over a quarter of a million people were registered as living with HIV/AIDS in Russia in 2003¹, but unofficial estimates put the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS at over one million.

While injecting drug use remains the most common method of transmission – Russia has a staggering estimated 3 million injecting drug users - there is now a worrying trend towards sexual and mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and a related increase in the registered number of infected women. As TB – the leading killer of people infected with HIV – continues to spread across the country, Russia is now facing the very real threat of a dual epidemic. Crucially this epidemic is hitting the younger generation (aged 15-30) hardest and if left unchecked, is predicted to reduce the country's GDP by 14% in 2045².

RRC is contributing to the fight against HIV/AIDS through its peer education programme aimed to increase awareness of HIV and drug abuse among youth in Krasnodar Krai, and Tver, Voronezh and Lipetsk regions running May 1 – October 31, 2004.

Key activities during the reporting period include:

¹ Federal Scientific and Methodological Centre for AIDS Prevention statistics

² UNDP report February 2004 [Reversing the Epidemic: Facts and Policy Options](http://www.undp.org) www.undp.org

- Selected peer education instructors (18) were trained by RRC staff and professionals (including AIDS centre staff, professional psychologists) to work in all the selected regions. Seminars for youth on HIV/AIDS prevention were arranged and conducted to increase HIV/AIDS awareness among the younger population in educational institutions, youth camps and detention centres.
- 3 peer education seminars in Tver and Krasnodar were observed and monitored by a team from the Moscow delegation/ RRC headquarters. Following the seminars, the monitoring team and peer educators took part in an in depth discussion on the quality of the seminars and training provided.
- The RRC / federation monitoring team visited key RRC persons in the regions to discuss RRC regional committee capacity to implement harm reduction programmes.
- British Red Cross organized a meeting of HIV/AIDS coordinators from Russia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, to discuss new approaches to peer education and analysis of existing programmes, with an aim to improving the effectiveness and impact of future programmes.
- In Tver region RRC staff continued work on development and revision of an HIV infection prevention project among sex workers. RRC staff discussed the project with a representative of the Netherlands Red Cross, a partner in the project.
- 13 meetings were held on methodological and professional support to instructors (trainings, discussions)
- RRC in Tver, Krasnodar and Moscow participated in public activities to promote Red Cross work and HIV/AIDS prevention in coordination with the celebration of International Memory Day of people who have died from AIDS.
- 6706 information materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and the concept of peer education were disseminated to seminar participants and other educational institutions.
- RRC took advantage of the media to promote their project, broadcasting radio and TV spots and printing advertisements in local newspapers.

Impact

This programme is a logical continuation of the other peer education programmes implemented by RRC in the past. Youth awareness on HIV/AIDS preventive measures, drug addiction and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) - and as a result their potential to avoid contracting HIV and STIs - has been improved thanks to training seminars and activities conducted by Red Cross youth peer educators. Questionnaires conducted pre and post seminar indicate increased levels of awareness of HIV/AIDS and related issues among the seminar participants. Of 1993 young people participating in 114 seminars, awareness levels were increased from 41% to 79% according to analysis of these questionnaires.

RRC work on HIV/AIDS preventive measures has attracted new young volunteers, increasing RRC capacity to continue inexpensive HIV/AIDS prevention work in the future. Negotiations and cooperation with local authorities and organisations working in similar fields has also developed the RRC profile and led to further acknowledgement of the Red Cross role in HIV/AIDS prevention in the implementation regions

Finally, knowledge of RRC and its humanitarian work in Russia has been increased through the programme, through media broadcasts and the activities themselves (seminars, public events etc.).

Recommendations

RRC experience and methodology developed over the years of peer education work has been successfully used in training procedures but needs to be upgraded on regular basis (through training-for-trainers seminars) especially in the fields of professional health issues and presentation techniques. RRC representatives of all participating regions have expressed their wish to continue programme implementation after external support ceases using their own capacity and resources.

Original programme objectives (no. of volunteers attracted, number of young people targeted, no. of information materials distributed etc.) are expected to be met during the next reporting period.

Outside the appeal:

The American Red Cross continues its care and support programme for 11,500 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Irkutsk oblast. The programme was launched in January 2003 by the local RRC

branch with management and technical support from American Red Cross delegation staff in Moscow and Irkutsk. The objectives are as follows:

- improved community support to children affected by HIV/AIDS
- improved access by HIV + mothers to interventions to reduce mother to child transmission
- improved sustainability of community based care for PLWHA
- increased access of PLWHA to appropriate care and support

During the reporting period, RRC in Irkutsk have continued to run the following activities:

- Support telephone hotline for HIV+ people, operated by RRC specialists
- Prevention of HIV mother to child transmission, including educating HIV+ mothers and provision of food kits, vitamins and milk formulas to children of HIV+ mothers.
- Peer support groups
- Information dissemination (brochures, leaflets, posters etc.)
- Visiting nurses home visits to families with HIV+ members
- Psychological and legal counselling provided by RRC specialists at the counselling centre
- Vitamins provided to HIV+ pregnant women

Russian Red Cross is using this programme as a base to launch other HIV/AIDS related support programmes in the Irkutsk region, with support from IREX (International Research and Exchange Board, a USA ngo)/ USAID and Tides foundation (another ngo).

Health and Care •

Programme Objective: Targeted vulnerable population of Russia benefit from high quality social care and support in health sphere through services provided by the strengthened Russian Red Cross.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: Development of the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service; support to most vulnerable TB-patients undergoing DOTS (Directly Observed Therapy, short course); HIV/AIDS prevention through peer to peer learning; HIV/AIDS prevention among intra-venous drug-users through harm reduction initiatives; social and psychological support to vulnerable children.

Support to most vulnerable TB -patients undergoing DOTS treatment

Table 7. Donor support and implementation timeframe of TB activities

Regions	Donor Support	Implementing timeframe
Tomsk, Buryatia, Kemerovo	British Red Cross/ DFID	May 2001 – August 2004
Pskov, Belgorod, Khakassia	USAID	October 2001 – September 2007
Khabarovsk	USAID	To be confirmed

The programme complements regional TB services, particularly in health education and promotion, involving the Visiting Nurses Services of the RRC in monitoring DOTS, and using social and nutritional support as treatment incentive for the most vulnerable patients. The programme continues to strengthen diagnostic capacities by supporting trained staff, new laboratory equipment and procedures. There is also a strong focus on raising public awareness of TB and HIV.

It is important to note that although external funding for the TB programme in Oryol oblast ceased in April 2003, the programme continues to support TB patients in the region through local administration funding. RRC has successfully transferred responsibility of TB treatment control to Russian Federation State organisations, as was originally intended, and the three remaining visiting nurses concentrate on tracing DOTS defaulters and distributing social support to TB patients meeting the beneficiary criteria. RRC hope to reflect this result in all regions where the TB programme is operating and eventually allow RRC visiting nurses to concentrate solely on social support, providing care at home to traditional patients and disseminating information on healthy lifestyles.

During the reporting period all regional Red Cross branches continued the realisation of programme activities to meet programme objectives and target the group identified in the Annual appeal 2004. Please refer to the Appeal for further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf. In all regions the RRC efforts in TB control are highly appreciated by local authorities and TB services.

Tomsk, Buryatia and Kemerovo

Due to reallocation of funds by DfID (Department for International Development, Great Britain), the programme will be terminated in August 2004, earlier than originally planned. While other Red Cross DfID funded projects within the Western Siberia project have already been closed, the TB programme will continue until all patients accepted onto the RRC programme have finalised treatment. The main priority now is to ensure treatment completion by all patients accepted onto the RRC TB programme before external funding ceases in July 2004. At the same time, it is necessary to seek different funding sources to continue support to TB patients in these regions.

The Red Cross programme is still regarded as essential in all the territories. During the reporting period local Red Cross branches continued TB programme activities, strengthening cooperation with TB services and increasing number of target group beneficiaries through more effective utilization of programme funds and local fundraising efforts. The main difficulties of the programme implementation remained the same: long distances and poor communication with remote rayons, and limited funds to reimburse TB patients' transportation expenses (from home to the point of directly observed treatment (DOTS)).

For full details on the programme during the reporting period, please contact the Moscow delegation at moscow38@ifrc.org.

USAID funded TB programme in three regions of Russia

During the reporting period, the original grant supporting TB programmes in three territories over three years grant has been extended to the end of September 2007 and expanded to a new territory in Far East, Russian Federation. The grant supports a programme that aims to develop an effective, comprehensive, sustainable and replicable model of TB control in three regions (Pskov, Khakassia and Belgorod and Far East) in partnership with the regional authorities.

The project has five objectives:

- a) Assisting regional authorities to develop an effective TB control system;
- b) Assuring access to care and follow-up for the most vulnerable TB patients, using social/nutritional support as incentives to increase adherence to treatment;
- c) Facilitating improved links between prison and civilian TB services;
- d) Increasing preventive awareness among the general population of TB, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- e) Strengthening the institutional capacity of Russian Red Cross (RRC) and its Visiting Nurses Service.

The programme complements the Appeal objective, working in cooperation with regional TB services to provide TB programming support to the most vulnerable people in the region. During the reporting period, the programme in Pskov, Khakassia and Belgorod regions continued. The main achievements for the reporting period (April – June 2004) are as follows:

- Russian Red Cross together with Moscow delegation representatives presented a newly developed training model for improving communication with TB patients at the WHO Europe office, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The USAID project has been extended until September 2007, and expanded to a fourth territory.
- The use of new reporting forms for tuberculosis services across the Russian Federation was authorised by the Ministry of Health.
- Data from the first half of 2003 of 2003 were analyzed and first results linking social support as incentive and treatment outcomes were recorded. The results were presented on the poster section at the 3rd Congress of European Region International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (IUATLD), Moscow, Russia.

- Total number of patients accepted on the RRC programme for three territories (Pskov, Khakassia, Belgorod) for the reporting period was 887
- In Pskov region a new informational/ teaching model was developed for inmates in prison. The topics included in the model are related to tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases. Four trainings were held during the reporting period.
- Equipment has been installed in the TB dispensary laboratory in Khakassia Republic.
- Total number of volunteers involved in the project (in Pskov, Belgorod and Khakassia) was 685

For further information on the USAID funded programme - information activities, legal, psychological and social support and logistical operations, including distribution of social support in the form of food parcels and protein kits, and tender for laboratories equipment- please contact the Moscow delegation at Moscow@ifrc.org

Development of the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service

Support for visiting nurses service of Taimyr Red Cross branch

Goal: Expansion of scope of activities of the Taimyr Regional RRC branch by creation of the Visiting Nurses Service, introduction of new forms and technologies on rendering of medical-social, psychological, preventive and information-educational help to lonely elderly people, invalids, sick people, including citizens-victims of disasters, man-caused accidents and other extreme situations.

Although the programme officially started in April 2004, Red Cross staff and volunteers have been working to establish working relations with the local authorities since the beginning of 2004. Programme activities have been ongoing since the beginning of April. Monitoring and analysis of the medico-social services offered by Taimyr RRC branch was conducted, and a programme implementation team created (including a coordinator (the head of VNS), 3 nurses, 5 junior nurses, 1 financial manager). Senior and junior nurses have been providing care to the beneficiary group with close involvement of volunteers. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all staff and the services they provide, the programme team has scheduled workshops on the basics of home care for visiting nurses and volunteers for July 2004

Finally, the programme team has been fundraising to support further development and strengthening of the visiting nurses service and developing media relations to guarantee unbiased coverage of all visiting nurses activities spread awareness and recognition of the Red Cross role in healthcare.

Provision of social help to the needy elderly population of the Ryazan and Bryansk regions

The programme is due to run June - July 2004. Through programme implementation the RRC intends to improve the social status of lonely elderly people, invalids and war veterans in Bryansk and Ryazan regions of Russia through social re-adaptation and strengthening and improving of medical – social services provided by the two participating RRC branches. Further details will be provided in the next programme update.

Support to the Visiting Nurses Service in Smolensk and Nizhny Novgorod regions of the Russian Federation.

Programme goal: Improvement of the health and social status of lonely elderly people and invalids in Smolensk and Nizhniy Novgorod regions of the Russian Federation

This programme started in March 2004 and will run until October. Through implementation of the programme activities, the RRC will strengthen its visiting nurses service, increase the capacity of the participating branches' medical-social services and as a result increase the number of programme beneficiaries. Since programme implementation began visiting nurses service capacity has increased, with local nurses now supporting an increased number of beneficiaries.

In Smolensk, the nurses have been supporting the local community through activities outside the programme - collecting second hand clothing and books for children, assisting local Red Cross staff in promotion of World Blood donor day etc.

In Nizhny Novgorod the Red Cross branch has started tender for purchase of new medical social room equipment. The nurses also conducted a new-for- old wheelchair exchange for 28 disabled children – by the end of programme implementation the nurses hope to have distributed 250 new wheelchairs in total.

Nurses participated in celebrations for International children’s day, helping disadvantaged and orphaned children to sell produce grown at children’s homes handmade crafts. All proceeds went to equipping children’s homes with necessary equipment. Nizhny Novgorod RRC also held events to promote World Donor Day, and worked in partnership with a local eye clinic to diagnose and prescribe free of charge glasses for 24 lonely elderly people.

Recommendations and achievements of programmes designed to strengthen the RRC visiting nurses service

The three programmes described above are designed not only to strengthen the participating RRC branches and their visiting nurses service through purchase of new equipment and training, but also to promote the role of the Red Cross in the field of medical social care and advocate for more substantial support for the activities from local authorities. In the activities conducted so far, improvement to the nursing services is already evident in the increasing number of beneficiaries and volunteers, and will develop following the upcoming provision of technical equipment and training. Promotion of these activities and public events held to celebrate World Donor day etc. contribute greatly to raising the Red Cross profile in the region and meetings with local authorities have results ranging from acknowledgement of the importance of the Red Cross role to guaranteeing government support of programmes in the future.

Finally, through programme implementation RRC fulfills the international Red Cross Red Cross mandate to support the most vulnerable populations and draws attention to the need of any civil society to support such groups of people.

Activities targeting HIV/AIDS prevention among intra-venous drug-users through **harm reduction** initiatives and **social and psychological support to vulnerable children** have not been initiated due to the lack of funding. Russian Red Cross continues to fundraise both through the International Federation, international and local donors to enable their implementation.

Organizational Development •

Programme objective: The organisational capacity of the Russian Red Cross headquarters and selected 3-5 regions strengthened through improved coordination, strategic priorities, improved financial management, mobilisation of local resources, increased training capacities, introduction of active membership systems, and increased involvement of youth and volunteers.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: RRC Strategic Development; Strengthened coordination role of RRC headquarters vis-à-vis the branches; Financial Management Improvement; Financial Resource Mobilisation; Capacity building at all levels; Development of youth activities.

The following activities have been implemented by the Russian Red Cross organisational development department within reporting period:

- Refining the model of a so-called “RRC Humanitarian Passport of the Region” as a comprehensive statistic and comparative database on Russian Federation regions (population, proneness to disaster etc.) and respective Russian Red Cross regional branches (their capacity, experience etc.);
- Drafting a unified set of guidelines for the regional branches on how to plan and draft humanitarian and development projects;
- Participation in the tendering committee for youth project proposals from the Northern Caucasus regional branches (reviewing, discussions and selection of projects);
- Drawing up Russian Red Cross organisational development plan of actions, including organisational analysis, self-assessment and strategic planning at the regional branch level.

In May, a Project Planning Process was conducted in Russian language in Kaliningrad. This process aims to enhance quality of programme management at all stages of implementation. The workshop was attended by the representatives of eight RRC branches located in the North-West region, as well as headquarters Organisational Development department, and facilitated by the Federation Delegation and RRC Irkutsk branch officers.

RRC also finalized preparation of its organizational development work plan which will be implemented as of July 2004. The plan has the following objectives:

1. Consistent and systematic organisational analysis, self-assessment, strategic and project planning is introduced into RRC regional branches' practice;
2. Coordination between RRC Headquarters and regional branches is enhanced through improved communication and information sharing;
3. Financial management and resource mobilization in RRC regional branches is improved.

Activities include PPP, strategic planning and financial management workshops, branch capacity assessment as well as design and installation of a Russian Red Cross web-site and intranet to improve communication between the branches and the headquarters.

Coordination and Management •

Programme objective: Efficient support is provided to the Russian Red Cross through coordination of partnerships and available resources, as well as in supporting the national society in developing its strategic and programme directions within the core areas defined by the Federation's Strategy 2010.

Delegation structure. Significant financial constraints have led to restructuring and downsizing of the Russia delegation. Disaster management, organisational development, and administrative support services have been cut. The new structure maintains a minimal administrative and technical capacity required to uphold the delegation's commitment to support the Russian Red Cross. The disaster management officer remains in the region, based at Minsk delegation.

Coordination. During the reporting period, the 4th round Global Fund application for support to HIV/AIDS programmes was successful. RRC with support of the Federation delegation will continue to seek opportunities to become a sub-contractor in implementation of the intended 5-year work plan, which has a total budget of 112 million US dollars.

RRC representatives participated in the annual Barents meeting, hosted this time by Norway. The meeting focused on the organisational principles and practices of respective Barents Red Cross districts as well as on the forthcoming self-evaluation of the Barents cooperation.

British Red Cross desk officer visited Russian Red Cross with an objective to discuss further cooperation frameworks, ensuring that relationships and knowledge developed within West Siberia project implementation will act as a platform on which to build future cooperation.

On 14 April 2004, the regular meeting of the International Chernobyl Co-ordination Committee (ICCC) was held in Moscow. The participants of the meeting discussed the first results of implementation of the new management concept of CHARP. The conclusion was positive. The new management structure has been successfully implemented and is operational in all three operating national societies. The ICCC has also taken a decision to organise the 3rd International Conference of Red Cross on CHARP, which is planned for September 2005, in Moscow. This important event will be linked with the 15th anniversary of CHARP implementation and with the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster (April 2006). At the conference the national societies of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and the Federation will summarise the results of implementation of CHARP and define further ways of development of this unique and important Red Cross Programme.

The partnership meeting for the regional Operating National Societies, Participating National Societies, ICRC and Federation delegations took place in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2004. The National Societies present were: Ukrainian RC; Belarus RC; Moldova RC; Russian RC; American RC; Austrian RC; British RC; Danish RC; German RC; Irish RC; Norwegian RC; Swedish RC; Swiss RC. Also present were representatives from the Kyiv, Minsk and Moscow Federation delegations, from the Geneva Secretariat, and from ICRC Kiev. The purpose of the meeting was to share joint strategies of working in the region and to have a follow-up discussion both on achievements in the four countries, but also on the collective challenges ahead. The technical themes of the meeting focused on health issues – specifically the enormous challenges in TB and HIV/AIDS, both problems being major humanitarian disasters in the region, as well as migration issues and trafficking of human beings and exploring the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in alleviating this problem.

In May, representatives of the American anonymous foundation visited the American Red Cross-funded children support and care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS programmes. The overall trip was successful and as a result future financial support to American Red Cross programmes in Russia is likely.

Over the reporting period the Russian Red Cross and the Federation Delegation were visited by Netherlands and German Red Cross representatives, who discussed both current cooperation and future perspectives. The Swedish Red Cross Youth Press Officer visited the Delegation to exchange experience with the Information officer and other Federation staff members.

Heads of the Federation and the ICRC Delegations in Russia participated in the launch of a consolidated Inter-Agency appeal 2004 for Chechnya and neighboring republics, coordinated by UN OCHA. The appeal, presented by UN agencies, ICRC and other international NGOs, seeks funding to provide both relief and recovery assistance to alleviate suffering, while building capacity of local civil society and government structures.

In April, Russian Red Cross representatives took part in the regular Federation Governing Board meeting. In June, the head of the Russia Delegation attended annual Head of Delegations meeting, providing feed-back on the past year's achievements and challenges and discussing strategic priorities to be tackled in the nearest future.

Russian Red Cross representatives and the Federation Delegation TB Programme Manager participated in a WHO conference on TB (please see TB section for further details).

The delegation welcomed the Swedish Red Cross press officer for three months (April – June 2004) to share her professional experience with the delegation's information department and help promote ongoing RRC/Federation programmes.

International Representation/Advocacy/Public Information •

The Federation Delegation continued to raise the profile of the RRC through inter-agency cooperation. During the reporting period, meetings were held with the following agencies: USAID, DFID, UNESCO (international workshop "Challenges of the XXI century: HIV/AIDS prophylactics through youth and children educational programmes"), WHO (hosting High-level Working Group on TB), World Bank (hosting Extended Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS), UNAIDS (hosting UN Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS), TRAA (Transatlantic partners against AIDS). On the eve of the Partnership meeting in Kiev, the head of delegation also paid a courtesy visit to the Ambassador of Ukraine in Russia, to brief him on the main purpose of the meeting as well as Red Cross activities in the region.

Regular cooperation meetings with ICRC continue to take place. Further joint involvement in international and public events is foreseen to advocate for emerging needs of the country's population and promote the role of the national society with regard to the government, non-governmental national and international organisations.

Outside the Appeal:

American Red Cross programmes for children were finalised in January 2004. During February - March 2004, the Russian Red Cross conducted competitions among Red Cross branches nationwide to select suitable children's projects for implementation in 2004. Implementation of 6 children's programmes started during the reporting period.