

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Russia

Appeal No. MAARU001

31 August 2010

This report covers the period 01/01/2010  
to 30/06/2010.



Red Cross volunteers participating in TB week events in Belgorod. Photo: Russian Red Cross

### In brief

**Programme(s) summary:** In the first half of 2010, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) supported by the International Federation's regional representation continued to implement in the Russian Federation the Tuberculosis programme that is aligned with the Global Agenda Goals.

A modification of the TB programme supported by USAID was prepared for further continuation and expansion. All remaining regions received approval of the Green Light Committee (GLC) for providing second-line drugs to treat MDR TB patients.

**Financial situation:** Total budget for 2010 is CHF **3,066,997.48** out of which 124 per cent is covered. The expenditure reached 43% of the budget and 37% of the funding. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also [Russian Federation country plan for 2010-2011](#)

**No. of people we help:** In total 45,850 people directly and indirectly benefited from the programmes supported by the International Federation.

| Programme       | Target beneficiaries   | No. of people we helped  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Health and Care | TB patients and their relatives, medical staff, people affected by Beslan crisis | TB patients – 1,595<br>TB doctors and nurses 115<br>people affected by Beslan crisis 108<br>Teachers 4<br>RC nurses – 28 |

|  |  |                         |
|--|--|-------------------------|
|  |  | General public – 44,000 |
|--|--|-------------------------|

**Our partners:** The Russian Red Cross cooperated with five partner National Societies, USAID, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies operating in Russia, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, different non-governmental organizations (NGOs), various governmental organizations at the federal and local levels, universities, medical research centres, educational institutions, mass media, international and local enterprises.

## Context

Even though Russian economy in 2010 started to show signs of recovery from the global economic crisis and the national government managed to keep all its social programmes, country's capacities are not yet sufficient to address all the needs of the most vulnerable people.

Russia has one of the worst Tuberculosis problems in Europe. According to the Russian Ministry of Health about 320 cases of TB are detected in Russia every day and 72 people die because of it. About 117,227 new cases of TB were recorded in 2009. The multi-drug resistant form of this disease accounts in 2009 for about 5 per cent of the total number of cases.

According to the statistics of the Federal AIDS Centre, Today over 516,167 cases are officially registered.<sup>1</sup> But the UNAIDS 2006 report gives the figure of 940,000.

In 2009, Russian government has committed itself to building capacities of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and strengthening its national and international role. In December 2009 Russian Government subsidised RRC and provided about USD 9 million for HIV prevention activities. In the framework of this grant, the Russian Red Cross is during 2010 in close cooperation with local NGOs of PLHIV tasked with establishing schools of patients in 47 regions. In case of successful implementation of this program, Russian Government is planning to increase volume of subsidising for the RRC in 2011.

Regional IFRC Representation is involved in the process by providing technical support in developing new Strategy and statutes of the National Society.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Health and care

#### **Programme purpose**

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from disasters and public health emergencies

#### **Programme component 1: Tuberculosis. Component outcomes**

- Registered Tuberculosis patients in the following regions of Russia: Pskov, Belgorod, Khakassia, Jewish Autonomous Region, Arkhangelsk, Orel, Orenburg, Karelia, Adygei and Buryatia are covered by the Russian Red Cross social support
- Detection of new TB cases among "risk groups" improved as a result of Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers activities
- Tuberculosis treatment default rate reduced due to the Russian Red Cross activity

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Federal AIDS Center [www.hivrussia.ru](http://www.hivrussia.ru)

- Awareness of population on Tuberculosis prevention and their attention to stigma and discrimination issues towards Tuberculosis patients in 25 regions of Russia increased

During the first six months of 2010 in the framework of the Tuberculosis programme after the approval from the Green Light Committee, the treatment of 1,117 patients started in all the listed sites. It is planned for the remaining 478 MDR-TB patients to be enrolled in the programme by the end of 2010.

Capacities of the government's TB department to fight TB were increased in the project territories as a result of trainings for TB specialists in infection control, DOTS, DOTS plus, psychosocial support and modern lab techniques. A computer database of TB cases was set up and used daily by TB facilities for registration and reporting.

In addition, according to the plan of action, the selection process of new territories started. Four new territories will be selected from nine candidate regions: Murmansk, Nizhni Novgorod, Velikiy Novgorod, Tula, Kursk, Bryansk, Smolensk, Vologda and Kostroma. The main selection criteria are: TB incidence rate, level of functioning of TB health facilities: staff, lab service, readiness to cooperate with the Federation/ Russian Red Cross on TB control programme, commitment of local authorities and practical support of the TB service in its further activities.



Russian Red Cross enhanced the effectiveness of social support to Tuberculosis and Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis patients in close coordination with TB services through the use of traditional and new approaches like psychosocial and legal support to patients, and facilitating TB patients' clubs activities (about 90 TB patients attracted). In the reporting period 541 TB patients, including 366 MDR TB patients were covered with social support by the Russian Red Cross, funded by different sources: USAID, Global Fund, regional state budgets (in Republic of Khakassia, Belgorod and Pskov) and financial contributions of Russian Red Cross branch in Belgorod. During the reporting period, in seven project sites 28 Russian Red Cross nurses and volunteers provided 5,649 visits to the patients in order to monitor their therapy (taking of the daily dose of TB drugs), and attract patients who failed to stick to the therapy schedule to the controlled, monitored therapy. Along with it, 753 TB

and MDR-TB patients and 272 family members received psychosocial support mainly related to diagnostics of TB related mental health problems, consultation, correction, education of TB patients, their relatives and family members.

At the same time advocacy, community and social mobilization activities increased: 20 important meetings with representatives of state authorities were conducted, 62 articles in different mass-media were published. During the conducted public events TB awareness of 14,000 people from the general public increased, more than 30,000 people received information about TB through mass media, more than 400 volunteers among students and youth were attracted to the Russian Red Cross TB activities in the project territories. On 18 March 2010, the Russian Red Cross organized a selection meeting of all-Russian poster competition "*I help to overcome tuberculosis*" among schoolchildren. More than 60 schoolchildren from 25 regions of the Russian Federation submitted posters devoted to TB spread and prevention. This event became very attractive and involved a wide range of schoolchildren from the different regions of Russia. Panel of experts consisted of the representatives from partner organizations; WHO, USAID, Ministry of Health and Social Development and TB research institutes participated in the selection.

Due to the establishment of a comprehensive and integral approach for general and penitentiary TB services, representatives of penal TB service participated in the trainings and exchange visits. An agreement was reached on cooperation on inmate-TB patients after their release from penal institution, to provide them with complex social support including psychosocial intervention by

Russian Red Cross psychologists. The manual “*Prevention of HIV and tuberculosis in penitentiary institutions*” was developed and agreed with Federal Service of Sentence Execution (FSSE). The manual will be distributed to the staff of penal institutions and Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers involved in the activities with inmates and released persons.

### Constraints or challenges

The biggest challenge remaining in the Russian Federation is absence of precise national normative base and protocols directed to MDR TB intervention. Taking into account, that TB morbidity rate in Khabarovsk is one of the highest (2.5-1.7 times more than average in Russia), also a large number of defaulters and poor management in the regional TB facilities, serious technical support and advising should be carried out to improve the situation.

### Programme component 2: Strengthening Community resilience in Beslan

**Component outcomes:** Emergency and long term psychological needs of the affected population (as an auxiliary to existing interventions) are addressed through a community centre aimed to support rehabilitation of the affected population and through schools.



Theatre performance in the Beslan center.  
Photo: Russian RC

Based on the assessment, and in agreement with the Russian Red Cross headquarters, a psychosocial programme was launched by the North Ossetia regional Red Cross branch. Its overall aim was to provide the affected population in Beslan with psychosocial assistance to cope with human losses and anxiety. Children were suffering from exclusion and Beslan Red Cross Centre was practically the only place where they could meet friends, socialise and feel welcome.

The main activities of the programme included home visits, counselling and group sessions, leisure club activities, parties and community events. The home-care element of the programme lost its importance as most families have more or

less recovered from the crisis and the work was redirected towards Beslan Centre activities.

Children continued to attend the centre and participate in the activities in the puppet theatre club, playing studio, computer club and speech therapist’s classes. The psychosocial support programme workers’ main task was to gradually decrease their involvement in children’s lives in order to make the closure of the programme less painful and abrupt.

### Constraints or challenges

The main challenge the local Branch is facing now is lack of funding, difficulties with finding permanent premises for the Red Cross Child Centre and far too vaguely articulated governmental support to the Red Cross work with disabled children, though the latter has been gradually improving over the last two years.

## Working in partnership

The Russian Red Cross and the Federation Regional Representation in Moscow cooperate with the Russian health authorities, TB institutes, USAID, WHO and GFATM. Providing GFATM social support to TB patients treated under USAID project can be an example of collaboration between

different organizations with the same main goal – to treat and provide care and support to TB patients in the Russian Federation. RRC together with the Regional Representation continues to be an active member of Multi-sector High Level Working Group (HLWG) on TB. In the reporting period the cooperation with the Federal Service of Sentence Execution (FSSE) was strengthened. RRC and the Federation staff provided monitoring and evaluation of penitentiary TB services and laboratory.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Participation in international meetings contributes to increased skills of the Federation and National Society staff:

The Federation regional health coordinator and Russian Red Cross TB programme coordinator participated in the Global Red Cross Red Crescent TB Working Group meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The representatives of more than 14 National Societies participated in the meeting. The Russian and the Finnish Red Cross Societies co-chaired a panel discussion on the role of psychosocial support programmes in TB. The main topics of the meeting were: TB/HIV and MDR-TB programme design, definition of psychosocial support in relation to TB, nutritional support, advocacy activities, MDR-TB – Red Cross Red Crescent response, integration of TB with community-based health programming. The Russian Red Cross TB programme coordinator made a presentation on psychosocial support in TB programme - *Russian Red Cross approaches*. As a result of the panel discussions general recommendations on psychosocial support activities in TB programme were developed. The Russian Red Cross was included in the working group on the revision of nutrition support component of the TB guidelines.

The Programme work emphasised equity and worked towards empowerment of disabled children. Children attended Beslan Centre in mixed groups consisting of former hostages affected or having both mental and physical disabilities, children with disabilities since early childhood (and nothing to do with the hostage crisis) and healthy children (brothers, sisters and friends of the beneficiaries).

Beslan Centre psychologists have established ties with and provided counselling to the parents and teachers of the children which is to have a long-term impact on the conditions these children will have to live in the future.

The Programme has created a strong and trustworthy image of the local Red Cross branch, Russian Red Cross and the concept of Red Cross work and movement in general. The Branch's activities are visible and appreciated by local communities, administration and are interesting for the local media.

## Looking ahead

In the framework of Global Federation/ Eli Lilly Company MDR-TB partnership, the Federation and Russian Red Cross together submitted a project proposal "Enhancing of social mobilization and community empowerment on MDR –TB prevention in Russian Federation". Project includes cycles of round tables with representatives of local authorities on developing political adherence to TB and photo exhibitions in four territories of Russian Federation with high TB and MDR-TB rate. This will allow to stimulate governmental participation in TB control activities in Russia by increasing of financial support for TB services and achieve sustainability of TB control measures currently implemented by the Red Cross.

## How we work

*All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

- **In the Russian Red Cross Society:** Raisa Lukutsova, Chair person; email: [mail@redcross.ru](mailto:mail@redcross.ru), phone: +7 499 126 75 71; fax: +7 126 42 66
- **In the Regional Representation for Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine:** Jaap Timmer, Regional Representative; Moscow, email: [Jaap.Timmer@ifrc.org](mailto:Jaap.Timmer@ifrc.org); phone: +7 495 937 52 67; fax: + 7 495 937 52 63
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Anitta Underlin, Director Europe Zone, phone: ++36 1 8884 501; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: [anitta.underlin@ifrc.org](mailto:anitta.underlin@ifrc.org)