

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

CHF 5,468,000

Programme No. 01.41/98

The Moscow Delegation supports the Russian Red Cross across the 21 republics, 49 oblasts, six krai and ten okrugs that make up the Russian Federation. At the end of 1997, a total of four expatriates were employed in the Delegation, including a Relief Co-ordinator for the Winter Emergency Appeal, and ten local employees, including a Regional Finance Manager.

The Delegation also serves as a regional financial management base for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and supplies logistical and information support to other Federation Delegations and NSs in the CIS. The Chernobyl Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP - see separate entry) is also assisted from Moscow.

Despite continuing underfunding, the Delegation, working alongside the Russian Red Cross (RRC) achieved some of the objectives set out in the Emergency Appeal 1997. With funding and expertise from donor Societies, the First Aid Training of Trainers programme was completed in eight regions, as were Visiting Nurse Training seminars. The Financial Management Project providing computerisation of accounts and training in three RRC Committees (Central Committee, Moscow City Committee and Moscow Oblast Committee) was brought to a close. Seminars on population movement and Community Based First Aid got underway at the end of the year. The Small Grants contests, held in Chelyabinsk and Abakan, were concluded. Work on the legal status of the RRC, and of the Delegation, progressed throughout the year, with particular emphasis on assisting the RRC to define and secure its long-term role.

Relief deliveries in 1997 consisted mainly of second hand clothes, which were directed straight to the oblasts, thus avoiding delays with customs in Moscow.

The RRC has drawn up a plan for the next three years. Strategic planning has been going on since March 1997, with particular emphasis on the Red Cross law, the separation of governance and the executive as well as the planning of establishing eight sub-regions. Subject to approval by a RRC

plenum in January 1998, work will proceed on an Action Plan (due in 1998) and implementation during 1998-2000.

Although the Delegation's work has shifted in emphasis from relief to development, the continuing socio-economic upheaval throughout Russia and neighbouring countries has brought about a silent disaster, driving growing numbers of people into extreme poverty (some 40 million Russians are below the minimal living standard) and causing massive population movements. The Federation's Winter Emergency Appeal, launched on 7 October, targeted approximately one million of the most vulnerable in four countries, including Russia.

Although the decline in Russia's gross national product has apparently levelled out, and inflation remains fairly stable at 20% (compared with 21.8% at the end of 1996 and projected to fall to 16% in 1998), there is little likelihood of an improvement in living standards for the majority of Russians.

Despite the government's pledge to "overhaul the social welfare programme and target support better", the health service remains in a state of steep decline, with underfunded hospitals unable to feed patients or supply bed linen, let alone treat them with the drugs they need. "Social" diseases such as TB are on the increase and there is an explosion in sexually transmitted diseases — especially AIDS, due to growing drug addiction.

Objectives in 1998

- | To assist with the National Society's strategic plan and reinforcement of a legal base, through the Institutional Development Programme;
- | to assist the National Society (NS) in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable, including refugees and migrants;
- | to continue support to the First Aid and Visiting Nurse programmes with a view to ensuring long-term sustainability;
- | to provide support to health care institutions and services with a particular focus on AIDS/HIV.

Programmes in 1998

RRC Strategic Development Programme

The Federation aims to assist the RRC to organise and implement a process of democratic changes. The project foresees the creation of seven standard programmes in management, finance, human resources, fundraising, youth, PR and information as well as programmes on a federal (i.e. country-wide) level, including Visiting Nurses, Blood Donation, First Aid, Disaster Preparedness and Tracing Service.

A mechanism of control/supervision — with quarterly reports — will be developed. The project envisages a re-organisation of the RRC management structure and the establishment of a basis for implementing the Strategic Plan, during the second half of 1998.

It is expected that the Russian Parliament will adopt the Red Cross Law in the first half of 1998, as well as establishing the Federation's status.

New income sources for the RRC will be explored by providing support for ten fundraising mini projects.

A membership recruitment target of 300,000 members has been fixed for 1998. A membership database will be created and an accounting system for membership cards set up. This should result in a significant income for the RRC from membership fees.

Training (in seven standard programmes, mentioned above): Because of the geographic peculiarities of Russia, and its large number of regional branches, eight regional centres have been created: Centre, Eastern Siberia, Western Siberia, Northern Caucasus, Volgo-Vyatsky, North-West, Urals and Far East. The work of the centres will be headed by trained Red Cross managers. The programme also envisages the creation of a volunteer trainers' database and information system. It is hoped that in 1998, 1,500 volunteers and Society members will have received various kinds of training. The personnel training will be supervised by the RRC Training Council.

Visiting Nurses Programme

The 1,900 RRC Visiting Nurses provide a unique service to 128,000 sick and elderly, handicapped and house-bound people who are not generally supported by the social welfare services. However, the service itself faces difficulties due to underfunding. A Health Delegate is presently developing a strategic health plan to improve the situation. In the past two years, a revised and updated training curriculum was developed, a core of trained caregivers and trainers established and four regional training centres set up in Astrakhan, Ulan-Ude, Kemerovo and Ulyanovsk.

In 1998, the programme will seek to:

- | enhance the RRC's capacity to provide services to vulnerable groups including the elderly, handicapped, refugees and displaced, and AIDS victims through an expanded pool of trained and certified nurses;
- | establish a national structure to co-ordinate and monitor the VN training programmes, establish federal level goals and guidelines and facilitate cost recovery initiatives;
- | continue to support the four existing training centres and establish ten additional centres;
- | conduct ten two-week seminars for training 15 people per session;
- | conduct five one week instructor-training seminars for 15 people per session;
- | conduct one one-week training session for five instructor-trainers;
- | develop a supplemental training module on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in co-ordination with the Youth CBFA and HIV/AIDS programmes.

Community Based First Aid (CBFA) Programme

Over the past two years, the Federation, Canadian RC and RRC have worked together on a CIDA-funded project to create a Russian language manual, adapted to the Russian context; 130 FA instructors and instructor trainers have been trained in eight oblasts. Public training sessions have started. A training manual was approved and authorised by the Ministry of Health: 55,000 copies, printed in the USA, are due in Russia in December 1997; 2,275 copies of the Instructor manual, printed in Moscow, have been distributed to the RRC. The training curriculum has reached European RC standards, thus validating the RRC FA certificate throughout Europe.

The ability to adopt healthy lifestyles and treat emergencies within the family, workplace or community is considered the vital initial link in any nation's health system. By extension, the same link can be made with disaster preparedness.

The ICRC is funding an extension of the FA project into five oblasts in the north Caucasus and the US government has funded a population movement project which will bring FA training into 10 additional oblasts, targeting the training to refugees and IDPs.

In 1998, the CBFA programme seeks to:

- | co-ordinate between old and new oblasts on the programme, as well as old and new instructor-trainers. Three co-ordination workshops are planned, to bring together staff and volunteers to discuss planning and other issues. The Moscow Delegation, through a FA Delegate working in the Population Movement Programme, will also play a FA co-ordination role within the CIS;
- | provide a basic ID course in each of the ten additional oblasts, prior to FA training;
- | conduct FA instructor-trainer sessions in each of the ten oblasts, training 15 people per session;
- | reprint 100,000 manuals;
- | supply the eight original oblasts with funding for a FA co-ordinator, with the aim of raising enough funds over 18 months to cover future costs. A Co-ordinator and an Assistant will be funded at RRC HQs, both to be responsible for establishing links with other programmes and ensuring that the methodology and lessons learned under the original project are applied as appropriate throughout Russia;
- | provide Federation support in clarifying tax laws and authorisations at regional and local levels so as to encourage revenue generation - which in turn will facilitate changes at the RRC.

Population Movement Programme

The programme builds on the 1996 CIS Involuntary Population Movement Conference (CISCONF) and its follow-up steering group meetings, the Almaty Conference and European Conference. In 1997, the Federation assisted the NIS National Societies in recruiting qualified Population Movement Officers to monitor NS activities regarding all categories of unstable populations, and to co-ordinate these activities with relevant government bodies in their respective countries, UNHCR, IOM and OSCE, plus other national NGOs assisting unstable populations.

After three regional training workshops for NS population movement officers in late 1997, the plans for 1998 are to:

- | hold ten workshops for RRC branch committees in ten regions of Russia to inform the branches about RRC strategy and tasks in assisting unstable populations, as well as strengthening their capacity in this field;
- | conduct the ten workshops in collaboration with the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of Russia and the local Migration Services, other local executive bodies, UNHCR Regional Office in Moscow, IOM Moscow Office, and OSCE;

- | produce a RRC 1998 Plan of Action for each region;
- | ensure attendance of the Regional Programme Co-ordinator on Population Movement (Federation Delegate) at all ten workshops.

Health/AIDs/HIV/Red Cross Youth Activities

The RRC began HIV/AIDS activities in 1990. A RRC/Federation pilot project (1994-95) focused on youth peer education techniques, and the production of a training manual. The RRC plans to continue and expand its AIDS prevention efforts; working within the framework of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) policies, it will complement the Ministries of Health and Education in information, education and communication on STD, HIV and AIDS. Youth is seen as being most at risk from STDs and HIV/AIDS, since 90% of newly AIDS infected people in Russia are intravenous drug users, mainly in the 15-30 years age group. Improving AIDS education will have major health and social benefits. HIV prevention programmes for young people both in and outside school will also favour peer education.

Plans for 1998:

- | The Delegation will assist not only in financial management, but also in planning and implementing the various project components, which will be carried out in selected areas through existing or newly established RC youth centres/clubs as well as through the VN Programme (see above).
- | The target areas (Moscow, St Petersburg, Kaliningrad, and Krasnodar, with its nearby port of Novorossisk) have been selected because of their high incidence of HIV/AIDS.
- | The project will be implemented by the RRC Central Committee, with the Delegation's assistance. The RRC will put in place a HIV/AIDS desk within the health department, a project co-ordinator and a core group of professional trainers.

Information and Dissemination

An image survey on the RRC, conducted in 1996, showed that although the National Society was a familiar organisation, the public was unclear about its precise role. The RRC needs a policy that will strengthen both the organisation's internal and external communications as well as enhancing the RC image. At present, much of the work of information and dissemination is handled by the RRC branch chairpeople who have little or no time for this role and receive little guidance from headquarters.

Plans for 1998:

- | Hold a one week seminar in Moscow for up to 20 RRC staff — mainly from the Central Committee, the City Committee and the nearest regions — to provide training in contacts with the media, fund-raising, image-building, and donor relations.
- | Provide funding for one year's salary for an assistant to the current RRC CC Information Officer, thus establishing a fully operative information department at HQs level.
- | Supply desk-top publishing equipment and training to enable the RRC to take over production and publication of the Newsletter, currently produced by the Federation.

- | Supply fax machines to ten regional committees, to improve communications within the RC organisation.
- | Provide funds for RRC leaflets and posters.

Financial Management

More transparent financial information is needed by the RRC. To meet these needs and local legislation requirements, RRC committees need appropriate accounting software and computer hardware. The selection of this hardware and software, and training, has already taken place for three Moscow committees.

Plans for 1998:

- | Expand the project into eight regions — as per the RRC Strategic Plan for Regional Training Centres.
- | Co-ordinate the project through a member of the Moscow Delegation local staff who has been working on the 1997 project. He will be assisted by RRC financial staff, especially those in the three Moscow committees who have received training.
- | Provide for an accountant from either the Federation or a PNS, to visit Russia at regular intervals throughout the year to review progress and advise on the way forward.
- | Hire local external consultants to carry out implementation and training. Their terms of reference will require them to install the hardware, software and network, and to provide computer literacy, spreadsheet and word processing and accounting software training.