RUSSIAN FEDERATION: KORYAKIA EARTHQUAKE

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 8 July to 15 August, 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 150,000 allocated from the Federation’s DREF on 26 April, 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation.
- This operation was expected to be implemented over 3 months, and completed by 31 July, 2006. Nevertheless, due to the difficulties related to the sea transportation, the Russian Red Cross will be able to finalise the operation by the 31st of August, 2006; accordingly, a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 November, 2006).

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation’s mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation’s Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation’s website at http://www.ifrc.org.
Background and current situation

The region affected by the earthquake
On Friday, April 21, in the Koryak autonomous region of Kamchatka in the Far East of the Russian Federation, an earthquake occurred, registering 7.8 on the Richter scale. The epicentre is situated near the Oltutorski cape on the eastern shore of the Kamchatka peninsula at a depth of 20 kilometres. Underground tremors were perceptible in the Olyutorsky and Karaginsky regions of Koryakia. 11 settlements with a combined population of over 11,800 people are situated in the disaster area.

The heaviest damage occurred in the settlements of Tilichiki, Korf, and Khailino, where 4,200 people are currently living. 38 people were injured during the earthquake; fortunately, none were killed. In total, 1,300 people (including 701 children) from 6 affected villages were evacuated to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (the capital city of Kamchatka), Bystritskyi, Elizarovskyi districts of Kamchatka and the settlement of Palana of Koryakia.

According to the data of the Far-Eastern regional centre of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry, approximately 100 aftershocks occurred in the month following April 21.

The official estimate of the damage is 2.5 -3 billion rubles (approximately 114 – 137 million CHF) to the region. Damage included structural damage to apartment buildings and facilities, including schools, kindergartens, and the local airport’s runway, as well as loss of power and water supplies in several villages.

The period of the emergency situation on the territory which was affected by the earthquake continues. The period has been fixed up to 21 September, 2006.

The Government of the Russian Federation has decided to completely eliminate existing settlements in Korf and Tilichiki to create new cottage-type settlements. However, currently, the construction of new settlement is at the initial stage despite the early winter: none of the houses have been built, and only a few ditches have been dug. Yet, in spite of the non-availability of housing, by 5 August, 715 evacuated people (including 208 children) had returned to the region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the third month after the earthquake, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) continued the planned relief operation and assisted 1,025 people including those who were evacuated as well as those who stayed in the disaster zone. The RRC distributed 1,500 blankets, 10,000 sets of disposable dishes, and 100 heaters. The RRC also provided 8,060 meals and arranged the delivery of 1,500 sets of clothes and 1,500 ready-to-eat meals to the disaster zone via sea transport.

Direct assistance activities carried out within the relief operation include the provision of nutrition and non-food aid. Other activities include water and sanitation initiatives, such as the provision of hygiene parcels to the most vulnerable people for one month.

RRC staff and branch volunteers, themselves affected by the disaster, played a key role in relief activities such as conducting distributions of food and non-food aid. 38 volunteers participated in the charitable programme. The emergency response is coordinated with local government, Russia’s Ministry of Emergences and Ministry for Social Development.
Relief distribution (food and basic non food items)

Goal: To reduce the vulnerability of the populations affected by the earthquake.

Objective: The populations affected by the earthquake have received food and non-food aid and their living conditions have improved.

Result 1: Access to minimum energy/dietary requirements is secured for some 260 evacuated children and 900 pensioners in the disaster area, living in temporary shelters.

During the reporting period, the RRC provided 260 evacuated children in the summer camp “Albatross” (near Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy) with hot meals for lunch. In total, 5,980 meals were provided (about 1,000 kcal per person, once per day).

The Kamchatka branch of the RRC has also transported 4,500 food parcels (ready for eat meals) by sea ship to Tilichki. Delivery of this humanitarian aid was free of charge for the RRC through the support of the local government. Distribution of these parcels began on 14 August among lonely elderly and disabled people.

Result 2: Access to minimum hygiene requirements is secured and living standards improved for some 1,700 vulnerable families (approximately 2,500 beneficiaries) affected by the disaster in Far East of the Russian Federation.

The RRC has purchased and distributed non-food items such as 1500 wool blankets, 10,000 disposable dishes, and 100 heaters. This humanitarian aid was distributed to 440 of the most vulnerable families (765 beneficiaries), who were staying in affected areas in the settlements of Khailino, Korf and Tilichiki.

The following table shows the geographical distribution of the humanitarian aid items as of 31 July, 2006:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlements</th>
<th>Blankets</th>
<th>Heaters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tilichiki</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korf</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khailino</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution was carried out among 201 lonely elderly and disabled people, 17 multi-child families (86 beneficiaries), 153 single-parent families with children (306 beneficiaries), 69 low-income families (172 beneficiaries) in 3 settlements (Khailino, Korf and Tilichiki) in the disaster area by the employees of Kamchatka Regional RRC branch.

The other non-food items, such as 1,500 sets of warm clothes - 700 for children, 400 for women, and 400 for men - were purchased and delivered by sea ship to Tilichiki (disaster area) by 10 August, 2006. Distribution of the clothing began on 14 August, 2006.
Monitoring
Monitoring of project implementation is conducted by the Coordinator of the Emergency Program together with the staff of local Red Cross branches. Control over the distribution of humanitarian aid is carried out by the employees of Kamchatka Regional RRC branch.

The RRC Disaster Management manager conducted several meetings with local government, Departments of Emergency Ministry at all levels (settlements, districts, and Koryak autonomous region), RRC branches, NGOs and the affected population in disaster areas, as well as evacuation places during the monitoring visit to Kamchatka and Koryakia in the beginning of August 2006.

Data on the distribution of humanitarian aid among the beneficiaries and a current evaluation of the effectiveness of project implementation are regularly reported at the working groups’ meetings.

Impact
The assistance rendered contributed to the reduction of social and economic tension in the region.

Business contacts with leaders of Koryak Autonomous Region and Kamchatskaya Oblast, organizations and public associations of Kamchatka were established. Leadership of Koryak Autonomous Region administration and recipients of humanitarian aid expressed words of gratitude pointing to the quality and timeliness of the RRC’s relief efforts.

Activities of the Kamchatka Regional RRC branch under the programme “Emergency relief to the affected people of the earthquake in Koryak Autonomous Region” is regularly covered in mass media, by 16 radio programs and 6 TV programs. As a result, image of the Russian Red Cross has improved.