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Annual report Russian Federation

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers the
period 01/01/2011 to
31/12/2011.**

*Photo caption and credits:
Russian Red Cross TB public
awareness campaign, Arkhangelsk.
2011/RRC.*



In brief

Programme outcome

The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Russian Federation are in line with the Strategy 2020 strategic aims to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; and to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programme summary

- In 2011 Russian Red Cross, in close collaboration with and technical support from IFRC, continued implementation of the program “Strengthening Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for More Effective National Response to MDR TB Spread” supported by USAID in 11 regions of Russia. Total budget of the program for the period October 2010-March 2013 is **3,800,000 USD (CHF 3,584 540)**. For period October 2010-December 2011 the overall spending – **USD 2,422,000.00 (CHF 2,178,000.00)**.
- In addition, in 2011, the cooperation with Eli Lilly was further strengthened: in the framework of the Global IFRC/Eli Lilly Partnership, Russian Red Cross, with IFRC technical support, implemented the project “Enhancement of community involvement and social mobilization on MDR-TB prevention” aimed at wide advocacy and social mobilization activity in five regions of Russia. Total budget of the grant is **CHF 51,851 (the overall expenses in 2011 for Eli Lilly is CHF 49,162.00)**.

- In 2011, Russian Red Cross enhanced its cooperation with EMERCOM. After signing Cooperation Agreement between Russian Red Cross and EMERCOM, the parties identified their roles and responsibilities: Russian Red Cross developed draft of a joint Plan of Action and several Red Cross branches signed similar Cooperation Agreements at regional level that allows acting together in emergencies. In addition to it, Russian Red Cross with IFRC technical support conducted three workshops with participation of regional Russian Red Cross and EMERCOM representatives that contributed to strengthen the coordination during disaster preparedness and response.
- In the reporting period Russian Red Cross disaster response capacity was enhanced: five Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (**DREF**) operations were implemented or launched in Russia with overall budget of **CHF 296,518 (the overall expenses in 2011 for 5 DREFs is CHF 295,459.00)**. The National Society had also finalized the multi-year program “Strengthening Community resilience Program in Beslan” with total budget in 2011 **CHF 40,720.42 (the overall expenses in 2011 for Beslan is CHF 39,528.00)** (Norwegian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies)
- In first half of 2011, IFRC provided technical support to Russian Red Cross on the development of new Statutes and Strategic Development Plan 2020. Total amount of expenditures for 2011 **CHF 26,742**.
- New migration project supported by UK’s Department for International Development (DfID), started in July 2011 with the budget for 2011-2012 of **CHF 113, 423 (the overall expenses in 2011 for DFID is CHF 47,487.00)**
- In the second half of 2011 – the first year of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 launched in May 2011 – the Russian Red Cross got engaged in humanitarian advocacy work to influence decision makers and opinion-leaders to contribute to a reduction in death and injury on the roads.

Financial situation

Financial situation: Total budget for 2011 is **CHF 4,243,184** out of which **CHF 2,380,421 (56 per cent)** is covered. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was **CHF 2,380,651** of the total funding.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached

In total **59,780** people have directly benefited from the programmes supported by the International Federation.

Program	Target beneficiaries	Number of people we helped
Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB patients and their relatives, • Medical staff, • People LWHIV (Am RC) • Daily meal for children in social institutions (Norw Red Cross) 	TB patients – 3,016 TB doctors and nurses -238 RC nurses – 42 General public – 9,382 RRC volunteers -9685 HIV people- 12,913 people Children in welfare institutions - 6,300
Disaster Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People affected by Beslan crisis and other disasters (through DREF operations) 	People affected by Beslan crisis and other disasters -130 DREF beneficiaries – 16, 874 RRC volunteers attracted to DREF operation 200

Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most vulnerable labor migrants in Moscow and Moscow region 	Labor migrants – 1,000
Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Police, EMERCOM and local authorities representatives, trained in FA sessions in Lipetsk 	Direct beneficiaries, indirect 500 colleagues, partners and decision makers became more focused on road safety crisis

Our partners

In 2011 Russian Red Cross cooperated with five partner National Societies, USAID, UK's Department for International Development (DfID), Eli Lilly, 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), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, EMERCOM, Federal Migration Service, Road Police Department, Federal Service of Sentence Execution and its divisions at regional level, as well as state authorities at the federal and local levels, universities, medical research centres, educational institutions, mass media, international and local enterprises.

Context

Russia has seen sharp fall in poverty over the past decade, and the percentage of population below poverty line now stands at 30.9. Insufficient and often inadequate social services, healthcare, combined with meager salaries and pensions are a sad reality and elderly people in particular have found themselves suffering morally and psychologically from the collapse of the Soviet Union. With low birth rate in recent years, the country has seen a rapid increase in proportion of older people which currently stands at 20.6%. Along with older people, children remain a highly vulnerable group, suffering from the effects of alcohol and drug addiction, high unemployment and low wages of their parents, inadequate social services, and social isolation. There are up to 200,000 street children in Russia. Since 2009 the Russian government has been raising alarm on the road safety crisis that in 2011 killed 27,953 people and left more than 251,000 seriously injured in Russia alone presenting a serious challenge for the national economy and health care system.

The current economic crisis significantly limits the Russian government's ability to deal with demographic trends through policy intervention. The problems that appear most amenable to policy intervention are those related to the health-care system. Thoroughly crafted health-care reform components are essential; an ill-designed benefit package, hasty decentralization, and overreliance on the private sector will only aggravate the situation. At the same time, promoting healthier lifestyles among Russians – reduced smoking and alcohol consumption, better diets, safer road situation – could improve health substantially.

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of Russia's major public health threats. Russia ranks twelve among 22 high TB burden countries worldwide. The estimated number of TB cases in Russia forms 38.1% of all estimated TB cases in European region. Growing rates of multidrug resistant (MDR) TB poses a transnational threat to the region and globally. The MDR TB ratio is increasing, reaching 15.5% among new smear-positive cases in 2009, of those 6-10% are extensively drug resistant (XDR), placing Russia third among 27 priority MDR countries worldwide. Tuberculosis is the most common cause of death among infectious diseases in Russia – about 83% of all deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, about 25,000 per year. As a result, Russia is a "priority country" for international donors and technical agencies in addressing TB.

Despite of the efforts by the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russia (MHSD), which have brought to the stabilization of TB situation in some regions of the country, TB remains heavily stigmatized, leading to delayed diagnosing and unsatisfactory treatment compliance. TB incidence rate in Siberian and Far Eastern regions is significantly higher compared with the rest of the country. Thus, if the average rate of TB incidence in Russia is 82.6 cases per 100,000 people in 2009, in the

same period in Buryatia – 168,3, in Khakassia – 117.8, in Khabarovsk Kray – 143,5, in Jewish Autonomous Oblast – 169.4. HIV/TB co-infections have been on the rise since 2003. As of 2006, about 6% of prisoners were co infected by these two diseases.

Based on UNAIDS estimates, approximately 980,000¹ people are living with HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation. Over 636,979 HIV/AIDS cases are officially registered at State institutions including the 62,000 new cases reported in 2011 (in 2010 total number of new cases was 58,000). Extensive research indicates that the reliability of HIV/AIDS data from the Russian Federation is low, and the real number of infections may be as high as three times the official statistics and even higher in certain regions of the country. The most affected age group is between 18 and 24 years old. Currently HIV epidemic in the Russian Federation is at the concentrated stage with the principal drivers being injecting drug use and unsafe sex.

In 2011, the Russian government continued its efforts to support the capacity building of the Russian Red Cross and strengthening its national and international role. Russian EMERCOM² signed Cooperation Agreement with Russian Red Cross, which identifies fields of partnership in disaster preparedness and response actions. Regional IFRC Representation is involved in the process by providing technical support in developing new Strategy and Statute of the National Society.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters

Programme component 1: Development of risk reduction activities

Outcomes:

- Disaster risk reduction and disaster response strategy is developed and regularly updated
- Effective cooperation with EMERCOM and international organizations is established

Achievements

In February 2011 **Russian Red Cross** with advisory support from IFRC **signed Cooperation Agreement with Russian EMERCOM** which has identified fields of cooperation between the Russian Red Cross Society and EMERCOM at federal and regional levels. Agreement provides unique opportunity to the National Society to become equal partner to the state emergency agency to carry out timely relief assistance to the people affected during different disasters and emergency situations as well as enhance its capacity in disaster preparedness activity at regional level.

During reporting period **Russian Red Cross** with the technical support from Federation **developed disaster risk reduction and disaster response strategy** as an integral component of the Russian Red Cross Strategic Development Plan 2020. During January – June 2011 IFRC facilitated process of broad discussion about Disaster risk reduction and Disaster preparedness Strategy among National Society branches. In April 2011 representatives of 18 Russian Red Cross branches participated in the round table discussion organised by IFRC jointly with ICRC, where the main directions of RRC Disaster Management Strategy were discussed. To further develop disaster management activity, particularly cooperation with EMERCOM, Russian Red Cross developed a Joint Plan of Action that was disseminated and implementation started at federal and regional levels.

¹ <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/russianfederation/>

² Emergency Committee - Federal State Establishment "Agency for Support and Coordination of Russian Participation in International Humanitarian Operations" (EMERCOM Agency) of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergencies of the Russian Federation

During the reporting period **Russian Red Cross provided support to the international disaster response action** to tsunami and earthquake in **Japan**, aimed at resource mobilization to help affected population. In the period March - May 2011 Russian Red Cross jointly with the largest Russian State Bank - SBERBANK launched donation campaign for earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. Total amount of donations collected from the beginning of the campaign is CHF 1,435,660. In April 2011, in response to possible negative impact of tsunami and earthquake in Japan on the Far East region of Russia, Russian Red Cross HQ in close collaboration with EMERCOM established regional emergency stock. Basic non-food relief items were provided by Turkish Red Crescent in total amount 216,000 USD, in the framework of bilateral agreement with Russian Red Cross.

The National Society **Psychosocial Support project Center in Beslan continued its functioning** supported through the Project «Community-based psychosocial support to Beslan children with limited abilities» (supported by the Netherlands and Norwegian RC NSs in the total amount of 21,525 CHF). The Project goal is to promote integration and adaptation of disabled children into society through psycho-pedagogical support (art work sessions). The Project has been realized by the RRC North Ossetia Republican Branch. 50 disabled children (children affected by the terrorist act and disabled children in the state of psychological crisis, 6 - 17 years old) have received psychological support. 135 children participated in art sessions (110): puppet theatre, modelling, knitting, origami.

During 2011 **five Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operations** of urgent relief aid provision to the vulnerable people of Russia affected by disasters carried were out by RRC.

- DREF operation launched to support 5,000 beneficiaries affected by the **heavy floods in the Krasnodar region** in October 2010 was completed in the end of February 2011. The Russian Red Cross provided assistance to 600 households (5,000 people) through delivering basic food and non-food relief and providing psychosocial support to the affected elderly. The operation was implemented during a period of four months.
- In June 2011 another **flood** hit the region and Russian Red Cross launched a DREF operation for supporting 1,800 affected families (6,300 people) **in the Republic of Adygeya and Krasnodarskiy region** through delivering basic food and non-food relief items. The operation involved 40 volunteers of the respective branches and will be finalized by September 2011.
- Because of worsening forest fire situation, in the middle of June IFRC European Zone office and Russian Red Cross launched **DREF and raised 33,015 CHF for starting an IFRC preparedness mission to Russia**. This DREF allocation aimed to support the Russian Red Cross in assessing the necessary preparedness activities and reinforcing their capacity to develop a plan of action that would be timely activated in case the forest fire situation became critical. The team conducted a series of field visits to four regions (Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Krasnodar and Voronezh regions) where they had meetings with the regional Russian Red Cross branches and local authorities. Meetings with EMERCOM, USAID, in EU and ICRC were held in Moscow. As a result of the mission a plan of action was prepared, translated and presented to the Russian Red Cross President. The team has also developed a list of 23 recommendations for overall strengthening the National Society DM capacity.
- In September 2011 **Chechnya was hit with heavy floods**. In order to provide assistance to the affected population of these regions Russian Red Cross launched a DREF operation having provided aid to 950 families (5,174 people) in five regions of the Republic. 12 volunteers and 4 staff members of the Russian Red Cross regional branch (RRC RB) took part in the relief aid distribution. Upon the assessment conducted after the operation has started, extra relief aid was provided to 55 families (338 people) in 3 districts of Chechnya. In order to raise the potential of preparedness and disaster response of the Chechen RB RRC a **seminar on “Management of Disaster response”** was organized on November 9-10, 2011 in accordance with IFRC international recommendations. The seminar was attended by 22 member of the regional branch (9 volunteers and 12 members of the Chechen RB RRC staff) and also an officer of the ICRC office in Grozny.
- From July 2011 through January 2012 the psychologists of the Tatar Regional Russian Red Cross Branch were providing **psycho-social support to the families affected by the**

“Bulgaria” Boat Accident in Tatarstan. In the framework of this operation these volunteers have visited 216 people at their homes; conducted 353 consultations about PSP; provided help in solving everyday problems to 131 families; organized 68 social events with children; provided 38 group consultations, 146 consultations with the survivors and 265 consultations with relatives of the affected people. The work of volunteers was supported by the consultants through supervisions and a PSP induction course.

Constraints or Challenges

The main challenge the Russian Red Cross is facing, is the lack of funding for systematic disaster preparedness program at national and regional levels. At present time USAID expresses high interest to collaborate with IFRC/RRC in line with recently signed Cooperation Agreement with EMERCOM and assume civil society participation in state disaster preparedness and response activity.

Unfortunately the National Society disaster management capacity is limited, the DM department at the headquarters level is represented by only one person, also few people are trained in disaster management issues working on the regional level. Moreover, few branches are successful in DM-related local fundraising activities; even fewer have sufficient technical resources available to ensure timely and effective response operations (warehouses, means of transport etc.). Some branches do their own situation and needs assessment during emergencies, entirely relying on data provided by EMERCOM or local authorities. Training for staff and volunteers is not systematic; therefore building basic DM knowledge on the regional level is a main focus. The main constraint the branches involved to DM activities is still trying to overcome is procrastination of the local authorities who had long ago pledged to provide the branch a facility to have their PSP Centre on permanent basis.

Recommendations that were developed after the forest fires imminent crisis mission are attempting to fill all the gaps mentioned above, such as improving volunteer management and logistic infrastructure in the regions, increasing human resources capacity of DM department on the HQ level, reviewing and updating the existing Contingency plan and helping the National Society to identify its niche in DP/DR activities, thus making the agreement between EMERCOM and Russian Red Cross operational.

Health and Care

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

Programme component 1: Tuberculosis

Outcomes:

- DOTS plus program successfully implemented in the following program sites: Adygeya and Khakassia republics, Khabarovsk kray, Belgorod, Jewish Autonomous, Pskov oblasts, Buryatia plus four sites that will be selected in 2010, are enrolled in the program for replication of developed models;
- Detection of new TB cases among “risk groups” improved as a result of RRC staff and volunteers activities: 100% of TB cases are registered in the program sites;
- TB treatment default rate reduced due to the RRC activity: Default rate (treatment interruptions) in all program sites does not exceed 8% (less than 10% everywhere) in average
- Awareness of population on TB prevention and their attention to stigma and discrimination issue towards TB patients in 25 regions of Russia increased

- Systems of collaboration and ensuring of treatment continuity and adequacy between civil and penitentiary sectors, TB and HIV services are established and legalised in all program sites.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and its visiting nurses service (VNS).

Achievements

During the reporting period the Russian Red Cross Tuberculosis **Program covered 11 regions** of the Russian Federation (Adygeya, Buryatia and Khakassia republics, Khabarovsk kray, Belgorod, Kaluga, Kostroma, Nizjni Novgorod, Jewish Autonomous, Pskov and Vologda oblasts) with expansion of various elements of the program activities to additional six regions: Arkhangelsk, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad, Karelia, Murmansk Orel. The main focus of the program activities was at the establishment of close cross-sectoral relationships between civil, penal TB institutions and Russian Red Cross as well as with other stakeholders at regional level to ensure more effective response to MDR-TB spread.

The analysis of results, achievements and challenges of the program has demonstrated, that direct observation treatments (DOTS and DOTS plus) have been established and successfully implemented, cross-sectoral interrelations between civil, penal TB institutions, Russian Red Cross, important stakeholders have been set up in most of the regions (Republic of Adygeya, Republic of Buryatia, Republic of Khakassia, Khabarovsk krai, Jewish Autonomous Oblast Belgorod and Pskov regions).

There were no DOTS and DOTS plus experience in Vologda, Kaluga, Kostroma and Nizjni Novgorod regions before the start of the program in October 2010 (excluding Kostroma region, where TB institutions has some experience on DOTS implementation). Registration and recording system did not correspond to DOTS and DOTS plus due to the:

- lack of proper definitions,
- lack of collection and analysis of statistics,
- problem of the resistance to antibiotics being underestimated,
- lack of understanding of infection control at all levels,
- cross-sectoral interrelations between civil, penal TB institutions, Russian Red Cross, primary health and care system and other important stakeholders is an important subject of the program intervention.

During the reporting period, RRC/IFRC following activities were implemented:

Cycle of trainings, workshops, and exchange visits were organized for 238 TB specialists from civil and penal institutions as well as general health system, to enhance their professional skills and knowledge and achieve better response to MDR-TB spread. The results of the trainings showed good knowledge of participants on TB control measures, epidemiology of TB/HIV infection.

Red Cross Training & Resource Center for nurses on tuberculosis in Belgorod city was established and opened? The Center is established by the Russian RC under IFRC technical support jointly with the Belgorod Regional TB dispensary and the Medical Department of the Belgorod State University. The Center will provide from 2 to 3 certified extensive trainings per year for TB nurses and visiting nurses of the Russian Red Cross according to the approved curriculum with official Certificate.

Exchange visit of representatives of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society to Belgorod Center where they introduced different TB-related activities such as: forming of adherence to treatment for TB and MDR TB patients, psychosocial support to most vulnerable groups of TB patients, TB patients clubs activity, advocacy, and cooperation with state authorities and mass media and etc.

42 Red Cross nurses conducted a total of 8,798 home visits: 4,157 visits to 639 patients with sensitive TB and 4,641 visits to 229 MDR TB patients. The main purpose of these visits was to control the use of TB medication especially the compliance with the daily doses, and attracting patients with failures of regimen to the controlled therapy.

Psycho-social support was carried out to 3,284 beneficiaries as following:

Category of beneficiaries	Total	Out of them		
		Finished treatment	Defaulted	Out
TB patients	1,994	1,794 (90%)	60 (3%)	140 (7%)
MDR-TB patients	1,022	817 (80%)	36 (3,5%)	169 (16,5%)
TB patients family members	169	-	-	-
Russian RC nurses	99	-	-	-
Total	3,284	2611	96	309

TB patients clubs started actively functioning and attracting more than 200 TB patients in **Belgorod region, Republic of Khakassia, Republic of Buryatia, Khabarovsk Kray, Jewish AO, Pskov region**. Most of the TB patients actively participate in social mobilization and advocacy activities. This helps TB patients to avoid social isolation, provides support to the defaulting TB patients, and involves them into all events of the Russian Red Cross and its interaction with mass media.

A series of public awareness actions of various types were conducted: 596 lectures for general population, 4,651 meetings, discussions and round tables, which **covered total of 9,685 people**. In the framework of its country-wide TB advocacy campaigns RRC has organized a series of photo exhibitions “Your health in your hands” in five regions of Russian Federation in the premises of various organizations including State Duma (Russian Parliament), which allowed to attract attention of more than 50,000 representatives of state authorities, mass media and general population through the more than **12 types (260 000 pcs)** information leaflets and posters. Russian Red Cross puts special emphasis to strengthen the interaction of the National Society regional branches with mass media in order to increase their interest in TB control issues. In general and to ensure correct wording of TB-related messages, 106 pieces of information (articles, web articles, TV and radio broadcast) were published on the Internet and local mass media during the reporting period.

During “**White Chamomile**” **public awareness campaigns** conducted within the reporting period Russian Red Cross provided necessary assistance to tuberculosis services on new TB cases detection through X-ray examination of general population. **Total coverage – 5,989 people with 13 new TB cases and 106 other non-tuberculosis lung diseases detected.**

1,286 volunteers were attracted to the TB programme by Russian Red Cross branches in permanent basis and **1,489** people were attracted to the RRC activities in temporary basis during public campaigns, actions, and events. **Total number – 2,775.**

Constraints or Challenges

Despite of the progress achieved during the multi-year program intervention, some issues, related to sustainability of TB control approaches and integration of international standards to Russian national norms, still remain challengeable. Due to the fact that Russian national standards of MDR TB treatment are still not developed, TB research institutions cannot provide adequate recommendations to TB specialists of the program regions, that in many cases results contradictions with internationally recognized standards of MDR TB treatment that make impossible to further develop a sustainable TB and MDR TB control activity without permanent external support.

Programme component 2: Extension of support and service to people affected by HIV /AIDS (Bilateral programme with the American Red Cross)

Outcomes:

- Skills on the disease management formed among PLHIV, the program clients in Irkutsk, Tula, Orenburg, Sochi, Belorechensk and Leningrad regions.
- Stigma and discrimination of PLHIV from their close environment (health staff, family members, friends, program staff) reduced.
- Risk of HIV transmission from mother to child reduced
- Mental and physical development of children born by HIV positive mothers improved to normal.
- Access to palliative treatment and care for PLHIV in advanced stages of the disease enhanced.
- Dissemination of successful experience and best practices among RRC Regional branches improved

Achievements

In 2011 Russian Red Cross jointly with American Red Cross implemented program "**Expanded Care and Support for people affected HIV in Russian Federation**" in four regions, including St. Petersburg, Tula, Sochi, Belorechensk, Irkutsk regional branches and Russian Red Cross headquarters. The program includes two HIV prevention projects for studying youth in Sochi and Belorechensk, with psycho-social component for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and caregivers in Belorechensk. Care and support project in Irkutsk for PLHIV and caregivers contains the following components:

- ICC "Steps" services to provide the whole range of consulting (psychologists, a lawyer, a peer counselor, and a pediatrician); to support Hot Line, the peer support group and PLHIV support group.
- Visiting Nurse Service to monitor the state of health of children born to HIV-positive mothers and to provide assistance in caring for PLHIV in advanced stages of HIV-infection, to provide people with concurrent diseases of HIV+TB with DOTS.
- Services of the "Rainbow Flower" Family Health Center, which functions as an Early Development School for the Program children-clients.

Care and support project in Tula contains Information Counseling Center and Visiting nurses service for PLHIV and in most cases for PLHIV with TB.

St. Petersburg branch implemented the survey on PLHIV needs and problems in medical and psycho-social services. Saint-Petersburg State Medical University named after I.P. Pavlov became a key Project implementation partner of the survey. It's the biggest educational, research and treatment medical center of the northwest Russia. Lioznov D.A., Doctor of Medical Sciences, Head of the Chair of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology, was invited as scientific consultant and analyst for this Project.

All projects are implemented in close collaboration with AIDS Centers, local authorities, Health and Educational Departments, local NGOs.

In July of 2011, the RRC authorities approved the "Statute of the Resource Center" (hereinafter referred to as RRC RC), which was developed and submitted for the review by the experts of the Irkutsk region branch of the Russian Red Cross. Since then, the **first officially approved Resource Centre** of the National Society has been functioning in the framework of the Regional Initiative. It's considered not as separate structural program subdivision or stand-alone project, or a National Society structure, but a mechanism of providing technical and methodological support to the regions and neighboring National Societies. The specialists of the Resource Centre conducted training of trainers workshop for teachers and project staff in Sochi Red Cross branch, training of trainers

workshop for volunteers and "Care and support" training for visiting nurses in Ukraine, Project/proposal planning training for the personnel of Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society.

Russian Red Cross began the correspondence with Organizing Committee of the XXII Olympic winter Games Sochi 2014. The main reason for that is to establish cooperation in fulfillment several kinds of prevention activities. These activities can be implemented in Sochi in the frame of HIV prevention project.

Results in HIV prevention activities:

1. **4,621** direct beneficiaries (studying youth aged 14 - 24);
2. **6,015** indirect beneficiaries (teachers, parents, working population).

Results in care and support for PLHIV:

1. **1,672** direct beneficiaries (PLHIV);
2. **605** indirect beneficiaries (caregivers).

Total number of covered beneficiaries - 12,913 people

Total budget of the program for the period January – December 2011 is **420,212.01 USD**.

Constraints or Challenges

Despite constraints faced by the Russian RC in getting acknowledgement as a strong player in the sphere of HIV programming, all regional branches are well recognized and supported by local authorities and medical institutions.

Programme component 3: Child Welfare programme (Bilateral programme with the Norwegian Red Cross)

Outcomes:

- Child and youth vulnerability in six North-Western regions of Russia: (Arkhangelsk, Karelia, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, Saint-Petersburg) is reduced through the provision of social-psychological support by the Russian Red Cross.
- Local community, civil society and RRC capacity for efficient and sustainable service delivery is increased through promotion of volunteering, enhanced interaction between state and non-state actors, advocacy and community empowerment.

Achievements

In 2011, Russian Red Cross jointly with Norwegian Red Cross implemented social welfare programme in 6 North-Western regions of Russia: Saint-Petersburg city, Republic of Karelia, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Novgorod and Pskov oblasts. The main target group of the NRC-RRC programme are vulnerable children living in own families, but also children living without guardians and shelter, that is, street children. Currently the programme is focusing on provision of daily hot meals for **6,300 vulnerable children** and socio-pedagogic activities for a selection of these children. Norwegian Red Cross has also been cooperating with the Russian Red Cross in the implementation of a youth peer education programme aiming at fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) plans to continue its support to the programme in the coming years, however, with gradual reductions in NRC funding and hand-over of responsibility of the programme implementation and funding to the RRC. Therefore, in 2012, it is planned to revise the programme scope in accordance with recommendations of the 2011 review, focusing on capacity building efforts around the twinning cooperation between Norwegian Red Cross and Russian Red Cross district branches.

Constraints or Challenges

In May, 2011, internal audit, carried out by the Norwegian Red Cross, revealed major under-transfer of the Norwegian Red Cross earmarked funds to Child Welfare Programme participating Russian

Red Cross regional branches. The Russian Red Cross headquarters has committed to eliminate the debt and has indeed reimbursed to the NRC half of the amount. However, the second half remains unreturned up to now, putting significant hindrances to implementation of Child Welfare Programme. Signing of Cooperation Agreements have been repeatedly delayed, leading to occasional interruptions of programme activities at the district level. Despite constraints faced by the Russian Red Cross in transferring earmarked Child Welfare Programme funds to its district branches, cooperation between the National Societies shall continue. Having negotiated the situation, the Russian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross have agreed to renew their cooperation agreement under new terms and with clear solutions, leading to closure of all outstanding issues in the nearest possible future.

Organizational Development/ Capacity Building

Programme purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1: Support Russian Red Cross to create a modern and sustainable well functioning National Society able to provide effective service to the vulnerable nationwide.

Outcome:

- Russian Red Cross received technical support with regard of development of a new Strategy and Statutes

Achievements

Initially, the main objective of this component was to conduct a series of workshops and meetings on Statutes and Strategy 2020 issues in Far East of Russia, which was supported by the project funded by the Japanese Red Cross. During the reporting period Russian Red Cross, based on the project's progress and after consultations with IFRC Moscow Office, has reviewed the project strategy and expanded the project scope to organize these events not only in Far East but in more than 20 regions of Russia. The revision of the overall project strategy has led to developed impulse was enough not only to draft the new Statutes and Strategic Development Plan 2020, but also to adopt these documents.

The following activities were implemented with support of the funding provided by the donor:

- A series of meetings, round tables and workshops has been organized for the Russian Red Cross HQ and branches' representatives to discuss the drafts of the Russian Red Cross Statutes and Strategic Development Plan;
- The process of adoption of the New Russian Red Cross Statutes by the XV Congress of the Russian Red Cross with its further adoption by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been facilitated;
- Russian Red Cross has published its Five Year Report including financial statements for the first time in its history.

The following results have been reached:

- New Statutes and Strategy 2020 were approved and adopted by the XV Congress (General Assembly) of the Russian Red Cross in August 2011.
- New Statutes was registered by the National Ministry of Justice in the quality of official State registration in November 2011, entering thus into legal force.
- RRC Strategy 2020 both Russian and English versions have been adapted for printing.
- RRC Strategy 2020 English version has been printed and disseminated to all the parties concerned. **Totally 165 colour copies were printed and distributed.**
- RRC 5-years Report on activities and achievements (2007 – 2011) has been prepared both in Russian and English versions, printed and disseminated to all the parties concerned. **500 copies**

Constraints or Challenges

- Inter-Ministerial Commission on modernisation of the Russian Red Cross is not active in the process of modernisation and got involved only in the end of 2010. IFRC jointly with Russian RC has to increase awareness of this commission to give more information about possible ways of the Russian Red Cross development, focused on the development and adoption of the Russian Red Cross law, identifying roles and responsibility of the National Society and its relationships with State.
- Huge territory of Russia and large number of regional branches of the RRC require significant investment of IFRC or sister National Societies into facilitation of discussions at regional level (including organization of series of workshops and meetings) and provision of technical assistance for the Russian Red Cross capacity building.
- IFRC has to mobilize significant amount of funds and attract interested partner National Societies to achieve visible results on Organisational Development and Capacity Building at HQ and branches level.

Programme component 2: Road Safety

Outcome:

- Effective cooperation between the Russian Red Cross, Russian government bodies, Global Road Safety and other National Societies in the field road safety established

Achievements

In 2011, together with the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) the **Russian Red Cross became an active participant in the RS10** (Road Safety in 10 countries), programme funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies (2010-2015). In this framework the National Society had conducted a series of **negotiations with the Russian Ministry of Health** on adaptation of the Russian Red Cross first aid course for the programme. In 21-24 December 2011 **first aid training was conducted for 24 road police officers** in Lipetsk.

On 10th July 2011 Russian Red Cross discussed possible steps to be taken to further develop partnership with Global Road Safety Programme (GRSP) in the view of the upcoming Congress of the Russian Red Cross and General Assembly, Russian Red Cross showed commitment to implement road safety component in its activities in 2011. In preparation for the road safety workshop at the 18th General Assembly the Russian Red Cross conducted a survey among its regional branches identifying the experience and skills in the field of road safety. 10 branches were identified as most active in various actions addressing road safety. It was also concluded that the the National Society would need additional training in road safety advocacy work should it continue and support the Russian national road safety strategy. The issue of the growing road safety crisis in Russian Federation was discussed at the XV Russian Red Cross Congress and the National Society determination to engage more with this work was reflected in the new Russian Red Cross Strategy 2020 adopted at the Congress.

In November 2011 two Russian Red Cross vice-presidents participated in the first workshop on advocacy in road safety for National Societies in Geneva. It was particularly important for the RRC as the Russian Government was an active promoter of the UN Resolution on the Decade of Action for road safety 2011-2020. The National Society used the knowledge received at the workshop at the 18th IFRC General Assembly, where it took an active part and spoke at the road safety workshop calling other National Societies to accept the road safety crisis as a humanitarian imperative and get more engaged in seeking solutions. It was reflected in the General Assembly documents.

In November 2011, the **Russian Red Cross has signed a Pledge on road safety** to the Red Cross Red Crescent International Conference and committed to report on the achievements in this field at the 19th General assembly. After the Conference it also started negotiations with the Russian ministries for getting their signature on the Pledge as a beginning of cooperation in road safety. A

focal person has been appointed to coordinate the growing road safety activities and prepare a project proposal.

Based on the experience gained in 2011, the Russian National Society prepared a proposal on further development of the road safety advocacy work and participation in RS10 programme for the Russian Red Cross Governing Board.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion

Programme component 1: Migration

Outcomes:

- Vulnerability of the targeted groups of migrants in Russia reduced through RRC legal, psycho-social support
- Stigma and discrimination of migrants at community level reduced through increasing awareness of local communities on migration issues.

Achievements

The most significant achievement in 2011 was that **the project** “Enhanced support to the most vulnerable migrants’ community of Moscow region through providing better access to legal support and social care” **attracted attention of the national government bodies** to medical and social problems of labor migrants and advocated for the wide dialogue with state authorities to solve these problems. The project managed to gather representatives from over 30 partner organizations and attracted representatives from the Ministry of Health and Care, TB prevention Centre, Migration Service of Russia for discussion. This kind of dialogue provided a possibility to elaborate concrete recommendations and to stress several issues that should be worked out additionally and in the very nearest future (e.g. interested partner NGOs and governmental authorities agreed to work jointly on the list of insurance companies that can provide their services to migrants at a low rate and make this list available for migrants. This will be followed by the work on the list of medical units that are ready to provide migrants with free of charge TB and HIV diagnostic services to ensure a sustainable system of HIV and TB prevention among migrants).

It was agreed to establish a network with participation of the embassies of Central Asian countries in Russia and Red Crescent National Societies of Central Asia for a complex informational campaign for migrants (including those who are going to work in Russia), providing them with information about where they can get all necessary medical, social and legal support, how they should get in case of human trafficking and violence. It is expected that in the framework of this campaign migrants will also get information about the importance of medical insurance and will be assisted in getting it before their leaving for Russia.

Almost 1,000 vulnerable migrants have received legal and social assistance in cooperation with a partner NGO. Informational materials have been designed, printed, and distributed among targeted migrants. Information provided in the materials included health issues (such as TB and HIV prevention with telephones and addresses to apply to in case of such problems), information about tracing service and about the hotline to apply to in case of emergency. Information was published in the native languages of migrants as well (Tadjik, Kyrgyz and Uzbek), which is important since many of migrants do not speak Russian. A special booklet for migrants was also published and all these materials included the best practices and experience of partner Red Crescent National Societies from Central Asia.

Constraints or Challenges

Working with local national communities that sometimes are not so open as to admit any outside interference, including even humanitarian support, has turned out to be a challenge. This can be explained also by the fact that many labour migrants in Russia have illegal status, and are therefore afraid of the Federal Migration Service and are prejudiced against anything that could recover their status. For that reason the project team decided not to use the official RCRC and RRC symbols (e.g. uniform) not to provoke migrants' fears. This situation has also revealed the need of a closer dialogue with national Diasporas and other NGOs so that to be fully recognized and trusted by the beneficiaries.

A more active awareness campaign on medical and social issues of labour migrants is needed. The Russian society today has certain negativity in their attitude towards labour migrants that to some extent influences their access to medical and social services, by making barriers for it. There is an obvious lack of media coverage of the problem of labour migrants with an accent that these people are the members of our society and therefore need to be medically and socially supported.

More efforts are needed in negotiations with the authorities responsible for social and medical care and medical insurance for labour migrants to discuss with them all the possible ways to avoid administrative obstacles, make additions and changes to the legislation that will be beneficial to the whole system of support for labour migrants.

Working in partnership

During 2011, Russian Red Cross enhanced its collaboration with IFRC, ICRC, partner National Societies (American Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent) as well as with institutional donors: USAID, Eli Lilly, Global Fund. Partnership with different international and state stakeholders (WHO, UNAIDS, EMERCOM, Ministry of Health) has also been enhanced.

In 2011 IFRC facilitated collaboration of the Russian Red Cross with different academic institutions - such as Diplomatic Academy - on possible involvement of IFRC and Russian Red Cross into the educational process on humanitarian aspects of disaster management, conflict resolution, and migration. IFRC also supported involvement of students of Medical Universities located in Moscow into the Health Promotion issues, and advocated for Russian Red Cross involvement into the activities conducted by TB research institutions in order to further strengthen TB control measures. With the support of IFRC, in the framework of its bilateral activities with Norwegian Red Cross, Russian Red Cross expanded its collaboration with the Institute of Enterprise Issues (Saint-Petersburg), Independent Social Research (Saint-Petersburg) Kola Center to conduct social research on child welfare issues.

Contributing to longer-term impact

To monitor further progress of the Russian Red Cross on its institutional development, IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow jointly with the Organizational Development Coordinator of IFRC Europe Zone Office and IFRC Secretariat in Geneva will observe implementation of the new Statutes and the Russian Red Cross Strategy 2020. In 2012, in the framework of Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, the IFRC National Society and Knowledge Development Division will conduct an OCAC assessment in six branches of the Russian Red Cross, where the existing capacity of the Russian Red Cross will be evaluated.

To achieve better results of activities, implemented through the long term programs and disaster relief emergency funds operations, during the reporting period IFRC/RRC used the following instruments for monitoring and evaluation:

- **Situational reports** (quarterly statistical and narrative, and monthly financial) prepared by the regional Russian Red Cross branches. The reports provided to Russian Red Cross

headquarters and IFRC office in Moscow for review and follow up on project progress, track compliance with the plan and timely identify constraints/risks to be addressed.

- **Regular monitoring visits** carried out by TB services, Russian Red Cross branch representatives at regional level, and at headquarters level carried out by IFRC and Russian Red Cross headquarters representatives. Representatives of the donor were invited to participate in the visits. During the visits the progress of project activities and their impact was analyzed through interviews with the National Society staff and volunteers, other relevant stakeholders at regional level covered by project activities, interviews with the beneficiaries, analysis of individual cases and the statistical data as morbidity, mortality, default rates, treatment success as well as media coverage, etc. The feedback received from beneficiaries during the monitoring demonstrated that they found the assistance provided and the presence of the Red Cross staff and volunteers in their daily lives very useful and highly appreciated it.

IFRC/RRC pays special attention to gender equality through involvement of female beneficiaries to the program activities, provide them equal opportunity and access to trainings and information-education campaigns.

To achieve sustainability and long-term impact of its project activities, Russian Red Cross in cooperation with International Federation and American Red Cross has developed a network of Centers of Best Practice (Information and Coordination centres) in the sphere of TB with a Center at Russian Red Cross headquarters serving as an overall resource center. The goal of this network is to serve as an educational platform for local TB facilities and Russian Red Cross branches, providing opportunities for sharing best practices and experience. The number of regions participating in the network is expected to reach 25 by the end of the program

Looking ahead

The Russian Red Cross is at the beginning of a complex process of reforms that was started by adoption of the new Statutes and Strategic Development Plan. This is expected to be followed by the Russian Red Cross adjusting its organizational structure to the new statutory documents. The following areas are now considered by the Russian Red Cross as priorities in this sphere:

- Establishment and further development of the institutes of the vice-presidents of the Russian Red Cross: according to the new statutes, the Russian Red Cross President will have six vice-presidents in each federal district of Russia, which will contribute to the delegation of responsibility from central to regional levels;
- Development of Russian Red Cross management structures at all levels of the National Society: from HQ to the regional and district branches.
- Strengthening of the dialogue between the Russian Red Cross and the Russian Federation's state institutions to enhance its auxiliary role in the country and working further for a Red Cross law.

Russian Red Cross will continue its collaboration with USAID on joint implementation of MDR-TB program with strong advocacy, social support and community mobilization component. In 2012 the National Society will enhance its Disaster Management capacity through strengthening its cooperation with EMERCOM: joint Plan of Action at regional and headquarters level will be put into practice. Russian Red Cross will invest efforts to attract country based institutional donors: USAID, European Commission, as well as state funding to enlarge its disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity at national and regional level.

The Red Cross Society will expand its activities addressing migration in Russia, establishing working relationships with state migration services, international organizations (IOM, UNHCR) as well as national diasporas to provide complex legal and health & care support to the most vulnerable migrants as well as promote tolerance and anti-discrimination among general population.

Russian Red Cross as a member of IFRC Governing Board will facilitate dialogue with Russian Government to mobilize resources promoting Russian Language as IFRC working language in practice. Russian Red Cross with IFRC (Moscow and EZO) support advocate International Disaster Response Law and Risk Reduction, Migration Issues in Russian based CIS regional cooperation bodies: Inter – Parliamentary Assembly of CIS countries, Eurasian Economic Community, Russian State Agency of regional cooperation.

How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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