

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

28 February 2004

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Appeal N° 01.84/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 5,837,438

Programme Update N° 4;

Period covered: 1 October – 31 December;

Last Programme Update no.3 issued 12 December 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: Please click on the link below for an update on appeal coverage:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap018403.pdf

Related Appeals: 01.82/2004 Russian Federation; 01.81/2004 CHARP (Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia)

Operational Developments •

During the reporting timeframe, the International Federation continued to support the Russian Red Cross (RRC) in accordance with the objectives outlined in the Annual Appeal 2003. The Strategic Plan of Development 2010 was adopted by the RRC in February 2003. Core activities remain the elements of the health and care programme, in particular TB. The Federation Delegation and Russian Red Cross continue to raise the profile of the Red Cross and to promote the humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

Disaster Management •

Programme objective: The organisational and management capacity of the RRC at all levels is strengthened in all disaster management areas through closer integration of the Federation's logistics and relief experience. The transfer of Federation's experience to the RRC in these regards and via the realisation of projects entailing hands-on service delivery, are carried out by the regional committees of the RRC and coordinated by its headquarters.

The disaster preparedness component of this appeal has been reduced due to lack of funds received. RRC in cooperation with the International Federation will focus on the following projects during the remainder of 2003: Population Movement (funded by British and Swedish Red Cross); Children's Playrooms in Ingushetia (funded by British Red Cross); Food Security (funded by Japanese Red Cross); Disaster Preparedness (funded by British Red Cross). The Swedish Red Cross funded programme came to an end in December 2003. The RRC and International Federation continue to seek funding for all programmes within the framework of the annual appeal 2004: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf/

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

Children's playrooms in Ingushetia

On September 28, 2003, activities in Bella camp playroom ceased due to the official closing of the Bella Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC). The majority of former camp residents have moved to nearby TAC Satzita. Re-registration of children at this camp was conducted in September – the total number registered was **328**.

While activities in Sputnik camp continue to run as outlined in programme update no. 3: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01840303.pdf, the number of children attending playrooms is decreasing. The local RRC branch is conducting an evaluation of the situation in Ingushetia to detect potential sites for continuing the playrooms project.

Achievements

Despite decreasing numbers of children attending, regular RRC playroom staff continued to run the Sputnik playroom. Teachers conducted games designed to advance development of children's motor skills and social adaptation, and the RRC psychologists continued to evaluate children's cognitive and emotional behaviour and their ability to interact with class mates and family members. Playroom activities designed to develop children's skills, increase attention spans, memory, perception, speech etc. included well structured, intellectually challenging games. In addition, RRC staff, children and their families continued to celebrate various public holidays and events e.g. New Year.

During the reporting period, RRC staff also held meetings and lectures for parents on children's school and family-related problems, and other issues affecting families as a whole. RRC staff continues to rely heavily on the role of parents in the ongoing process of children's development, and there is frequent dialogue between families and staff to facilitate information and experience exchange. Teachers, playroom staff and parents assist in developing and implementing recommendations on how to improve activities.

Analysis of activities shows an ongoing improvement in children's behaviour, reduction in stress levels and achievements in physical and psychological preparation for school. School teachers in particular comment on camp children's successful adaptation to new school environments.

Table 1. Number of Children attending playrooms in "Sputnik" and "Bella" camps

2003	Number of children attending the playrooms		
	"Sputnik"	"Bella"	Total
October	1,920	0	1,920
November	1,720	0	1,720
December	1,691	0	1,691
Total	5,331	0	5,331

In addition, the following activities took place during the reporting period:

- Ingush RRC conducted tender and procurement of New Year presents for **328** children.
- Children attending playrooms performed a New Year concert.

For further details on playrooms activities and analysis of the impact on the children attending playrooms, their families and other camp residents, please refer to previous programme updates at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=142>

Disaster preparedness

Programme activities during the reporting period continued to develop according to the project plan and primarily focused on identification of disasters of natural and man-made origin occurring most frequently in the Russian Federation and on assessment of branches' capacity to tackle disaster response and preparedness issues, as well as capacity building through regional programmes implemented in West Siberia, North-West and North Caucasus zones.

The following activities took place during the reporting period to meet the programme objective and expected results as outlined in the annual appeal 2003. *Please refer to the International Federation website for further details:* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/018403.pdf

- During the reporting period Russian Red Cross responded to 3 disasters, including the earthquake in Altai Republic, and large-scale earthquake in Iran (December 2003). Representatives of RRC headquarters visited disaster sites in order to conduct situation and needs assessment in the West-Siberian region.
- In order to improve RRC Disaster Management (DM) programme planning, RRC DM Unit supported by the Federation Delegation designed and commenced implementation of the vulnerability and disaster response capacity assessment project, run jointly with the Ministry for Emergencies. Project activities included collection of information on the following topics:
 - Disaster response and preparedness capacity assessment among 89 RRC regional branches, including a review of existing organizational structures, logistical base and community-based activities;
 - Degree of proneness to various natural and man-made disasters among 89 regions of Russian Federation.
 Project activities included a number of meetings with the representatives of various departments and units of the Ministry of Emergencies, as well as RRC regional branches. Similar meetings were held during the field trips undertaken jointly by the representatives of RRC DM Unit and the Federation Delegation staff;
- Efforts have been made towards pre-positioning of emergency stocks in West-Siberia region;
- Disaster preparedness capacity building and first aid training included: procurement of training mannequins, design of the training curriculum and hand-out materials, training of trainers in West-Siberia region.

Achievements and problems encountered

Objective 1 To develop and draft a RRC DP / DR Concept and DP / DR National Plan

Data on proneness of territories to various types of natural and man-made disasters has been obtained and processed to serve as a basis for development of RRC Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (at the national, regional and oblast levels).

In addition, 7 risk maps have been developed as an annex to the DP/DR Plan, illustrating natural (earthquakes, floods, land slides, snow slides, wild fires) and man-made (industry explosions and fires, road accidents) disasters throughout most-at-risk areas.

Collection and processing of information of branches capacity to tackle disaster response and preparedness issues was finished. RRC disaster response capacity has been assessed and will be included into the following chapters of DP/DR Plan: “RRC Disaster Response System”, “Training” and Annexes providing description of DP/DR capacity. In order to develop a systematised approach towards implementation of activities, the disaster response preparedness capacity self-assessment questionnaire has been designed, consisting of 7 sections with 70 qualitative and quantitative indicators, in accordance with the indicators of a Well-prepared Red Cross National Society and the elements of Disaster Preparedness.

However, it has to be noted, that planned processing of RRC disaster response capacity self-assessment data will not be fully complete and fully representative of the current situation, as 40% of the branches either failed to submit information, or gave incorrect data.

Objective 2 To improve DP / DR strategies and management

Implementation of the project objective during the reporting period included pilot testing of standard disaster preparedness and response operational procedures set by the RRC, as well as the International Federation.

The following difficulties were encountered during the implementation of the project objective:

- Emergency stocks pre-positioning in West-Siberia region: despite prolonged preparation period (since April 2003) required to clarify issues of stocks volume and location, procurement process conducted by RRC Omsk regional branch was not finalized due to violation of basic comparative bid analysis procedures.
- RRC Altai Republic branch failed to inform RRC headquarters of the disaster in time, and to conduct adequate situation and needs assessment (emergency situation was announced throughout 5 out of 7 regions of Altai Republic, with over 11,000 affected). Furthermore, despite assistance provided by the Federation Delegation in conducting a situation and needs assessment, RRC failed to produce comprehensive disaster response plans of action both at the stage of initial response, and at the rehabilitation stage. The RRC disaster response operation was limited to two small-scale interventions: provision of supplementary feeding to 130 evacuated children (which may not be considered as an adequate response to initial needs of the earthquake-affected population) and distribution of 300 kg of locally-collected used clothes among 300 affected community members. Financial support, provided by the Mormon Church at the end of December, enabled RRC to procure and distribute winter clothing and shoes, first aid kits and vitamins among the earthquake-affected population (a total of 350 beneficiaries), which does not entirely meet the needs of the affected community.

It is recommended to develop better knowledge of standard operational documents and procedures among RRC staff, and continue delivering disaster management training.

Objective 3 To restructure current and to develop new RRC Rescue Services and to establish clear system and mechanisms of their activities

In Omsk, a competition was conducted within the Youth Division of the RRC branch of candidates for training as rescuers/volunteers in the Civil Defence/ Emergency Headquarters Educational centre.

Objective 4 To train and upgrade RRC staff and volunteers involved in DP / DR activities through workshops

During the reporting period, first aid training of trainers course for West-Siberia region has been organized in Tomsk for 18 First Aid instructors from 3 RRC regional branches. Six RRC branches in West-Siberia region were provided with training materials (10 training manuals, 16 Training of Trainers manuals, 1,200 manuals for community-based training) and mannequins (a total of 36 pieces) to conduct first aid training. During the reporting period RRC DM Unit and Federation Delegation DP officer also designed and prepared DM workshop curriculum for North Caucasus region.

Information Activities

The Tomsk RRC Regional Branch (West Siberia) distributed 8000 copies to the urban population of “Instruction on community reaction in case of an earthquake”.

Main challenges hampering the implementation of project activities and development of disaster management initiatives include:

- Lack of appreciation of importance of the programme components (disaster response and preparedness), and understanding of RRC auxiliary role in disaster response vis-à-vis well-developed governmental structures of Russian Federation;
- Resistance to reforms and new approaches towards disaster response and preparedness promoted by the International Federation Strategy, in particular, related to development of own disaster response preparedness capacity at all levels;
- Excessively ambitious attitude of RRC branch chairpeople.

Recommendations :

- To intensify awareness and promote application of standard International Federation documents, in particular, Disaster Management Policy;
- To strengthen training component of the Programme;
- To intensify knowledge sharing and exchange of experience with other National Societies with prominent experience and achievements in this programme area (exchange visits, participation in joint workshops, cross-border cooperation).

Population Movement

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

During the reporting period Russian Red Cross, with support from the International Federation, continued implementation of the following population movement projects in eight regions of the Russian Federation:

Swedish Red Cross funded programmes (the programme ended in December 2003. The International Federation and RRC continue to seek funding to ensure the sustainability of this programme):

1. RRC Regional Reception Points for involuntary migrants in Nizhny Novgorod and Voronezh oblast.
2. Emergency Legal Counselling Points for involuntary migrants at Orenburg railway station.
3. Summer health-improving camps for children of involuntary migrants in Orenburg, Belgorod and Ivanovo regions.

British Red Cross funded programmes (implementation began in April 2003. Funding will end in March 2003. The International Federation and RRC continue to seek funding to ensure the sustainability of this programme):

1. Regional reception points for involuntary migrants (in 3 regions of the Russian Federation – Omsk, Novosibirsk and Altai Krai oblasts).
2. Emergency legal counselling points for involuntary migrants at railways stations (at railway station in Novosibirsk)

The following activities took place during the reporting period to meet the programme objective and expected results as outlined in the annual appeal 2003. *Please refer to the International Federation website for further details:* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/018403.pdf

During the reporting period:

Table 2. Total number of field trips conducted Oct. – Dec. 2003

	Voronezh	N- Novgorod	Altai	Novosibirsk	Omsk	Orenburg	W- Siberian Railway
No. of field trips	6	9	4	6	6	5	3

Table 3.

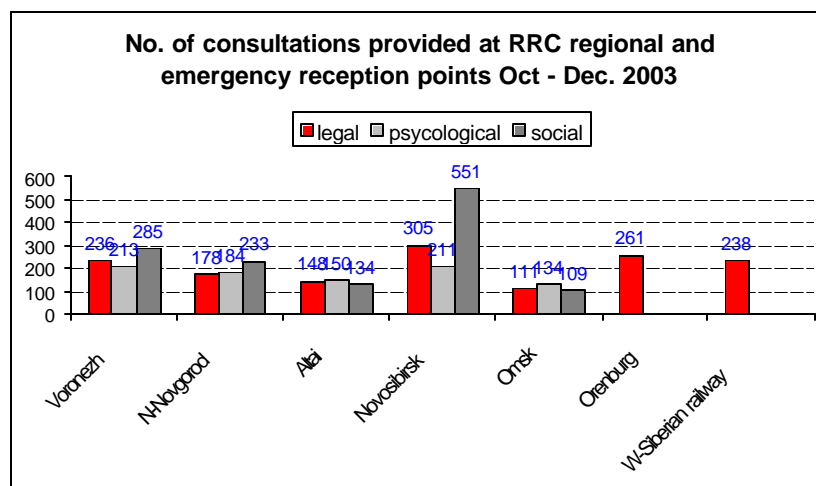
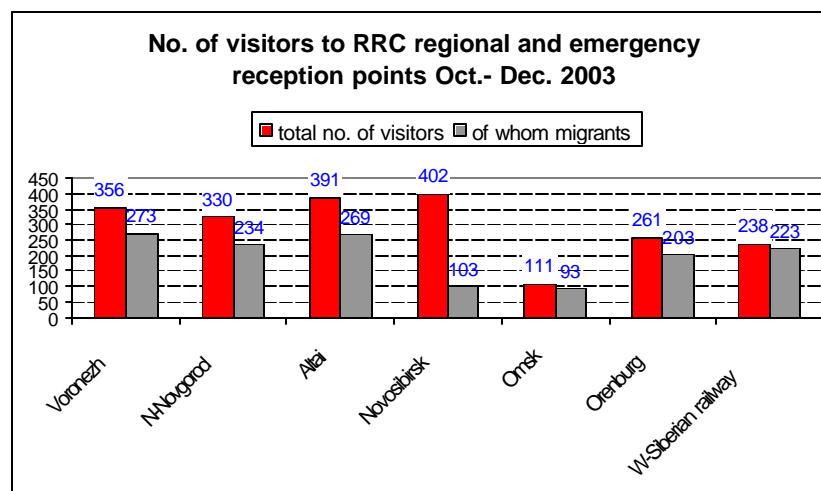


Table 4



Psychological support

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

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

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

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



Red Cross provides free of charge psychological counselling to migrants and vulnerable local population

In addition to providing counselling at reception points, RRC psychologists participated in field trips (see **table 2** above) to areas with a high proportion of migrants. They conducted educational talks and lectures, organized group work and training, and raised awareness about the existence and benefits of psychological assistance.

Psychologist reports and beneficiaries themselves noted a reduction of psychosomatic symptoms; improvement of client’s mood, sleep patterns, vitality, self confidence, and increased optimism following visits to RRC psychologists; increased client motivation to find a way out of current crisis situations. One of the main reasons for psychological problems amongst the migrants is the attitude of the local population, which is often intolerant and hostile towards migrants. In many cases one session with a psychologist increases beneficiary’s self confidence to the extent that he/she is motivated to find solutions to problems.

Furthermore, the increased number of visitors to reception points in all regions (shown in **tables 5 and 8** below) indicates that the RRC psychological network disseminated information about the project among the beneficiary community and successfully convinced forced migrants of the benefits of psychological assistance.

The level of training and experience of psychologists in this sphere of work is an important factor in providing the best service possible. In December 15-18, an inter-regional seminar was held in Omsk for RRC specialists in Omsk, Tomsk and Kemerovo and representatives from State authorities in the participating regions. Seminar participants discussed specifics of programme implementation and legal and psychological aspects of working with migrants.

Red Cross psychologists have also recognised the need for a publication providing details on how to find a job, accommodation etc. where details are specific to the region. In addition, further education of the general public on the reason for involuntary migration is needed to relieve some of the pressure faced by migrants and motivate locals to support these vulnerable groups.

Throughout the programme implementation the RRC worked in cooperation with Moscow State University faculty of psychology, scientific and practical centre of psychological assistance, social services, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and State migration service.

Nizhny Novgorod, Voronezh, Orenburg

- **397 consultations** with psychologists in total, October – December 2003

The psychologist working at Voronezh RRC reception point pays particular attention to work with children.

Omsk, Novosibirsk, Altai Krai

- **495 consultations** with psychologists in total, October – December 2003

Impact and Analysis

Analysis and evaluation of the programme concludes that the RRC has successfully attracted beneficiaries to reception centres for counselling. Initially, only small numbers of migrants visited psychologists. This can be partially explained by so –called “Russian” mentality – that is, the reluctance to rely on others. However, psychologists overcame this problem by approaching potential beneficiaries directly, rather than waiting for them to contact RRC reception points.

A number of migrants face problems at the community level – feelings of exclusion from society as a whole. Psychologists observed that group work, where migrants could share experiences, was the most appropriate and effective method of counselling and establishing cooperation between RRC staff and beneficiaries.

Tolerance trainings (20 conducted from July – December 2003 in Voronezh) were aimed at children. RRC staff found that training sessions encouraged migrant and local children to play together and strengthened their relations. As a result, teachers recorded decreased tension levels in class and a corresponding more positive atmosphere for effective learning. In turn, children’s improved outlook influenced family members at home.

In general, RRC psychological assistance reduced stress and feelings of hostility amongst the local and migrant population and established the prerequisites for solving other migrant-related problems.

RRC legal network

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

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

Nizhny Novgorod, Voronezh, Orenburg

During the reporting period (Oct. – Dec. 2003) **675** consultations were conducted by RRC legal advisers at regional branch and emergency reception points. RRC legal advisers also conducted several field trips (see **table 2** above).

All RRC legal advisers paid particular attention to assisting undocumented migrants, those without forced migrant status and those without Russian citizenship.

Omsk, Novosibirsk, Altai Krai

During the reporting period (Oct. – Dec. 2003) **802 consultations** were conducted by RRC legal advisers at regional branch and emergency reception points. RRC legal advisers also conducted several field trips (see **table 2** above).

All RRC legal advisers paid particular attention to assisting undocumented migrants. During the reporting period:

- programme personnel continue to demonstrate strong organisational skills, efficiency and competence in assisting beneficiaries
- RRC headquarters programme coordinators met at Novosibirsk branch to discuss implementation of the programme and related issues, including reporting requirements and legal and methodological materials.
- RRC psychologists and legal advisers participated in an inter-regional seminar in December in Omsk with representatives of local authorities. Participants discussed issues faced when assisting migrants and shared experiences.
- the majority of beneficiaries are internally displaced people and labour migrants

Impact and analysis

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

Social assistance

Social assistance was provided in the following forms:

- social consultations on medical, social, educational and job placement issues.
- Humanitarian aid (second hand clothes and shoes collected locally; food parcels etc.)
- Free of charge medical assistance

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

Social workers provided material support mentioned above; assistance in accessing medicines and medical treatment; assistance in job placement; advice on housing problems; counselling on departure from Russia to visit relatives graves etc.



A Red Cross social worker delivers much needed humanitarian aid to migrants in Voronezh

Nizhny Novgorod, Voronezh, Orenburg

During programme implementation (July – December 2003) **844 people** received professional advice from RRC social workers during **982 counselling sessions**. **1,206 people** received humanitarian relief items. During field trips conducted by RRC staff and representatives of the State Migration service, RRC consultants provided legal, social and psychological support in areas heavily populated by migrants.

- In **Nizhny Novgorod**, RRC distributed locally collected goods to **390 people** – foodstuff, clothes, footwear, furniture, bedding, medicines, hygiene kits.
- In **Voronezh**, RRC collected and distributed to **441 people** food and hygiene kits, second hand clothes and footwear, medicines. The social worker (a senior visiting nurse) completed medical prescriptions and measured blood pressure. In addition, informational materials on RRC legal and psychological assistance were distributed via RRC branches.
- In **Orenburg**, RRC branch distributed clothes, shoes and food parcels.



A Red Cross visiting nurse measures a beneficiary's blood pressure in Voronezh

During programme implementation, RRC staff together with representatives of territorial migration departments visited areas with high population of migrants to provide legal, psychological and social support. In total, **34 field trips** took place throughout programme implementation (July – December 2003). All trips were publicised in local mass media. RRC staff met with local authorities and discussed potential cooperation in providing assistance to migrants.

Omsk, Novosibirsk, Altai Krai

During the reporting period (October – December 2003), **794 consultations** were provided at RRC regional reception points.

- In **Altai Krai**, **50 people** received humanitarian aid in the form of clothes, footwear and food parcels.
- **Novosibirsk** RRC branch did not organise such local fundraising activities during the reporting period.
- In **Omsk**, humanitarian aid (warm clothes and food parcels) was provided to **26 people**.
- At the Western – Siberia railway station **63 people** received humanitarian aid.

Summer health improving camps for children

For full details and analysis of summer camps activities please refer to programme update no. 3 at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01840303.pdf

RRC Regional Branch	Project duration	Number of children in the camp		Funds allocated for the camp, RUR			Total amount, RUR
		Migrants' children	Local children	RRC (Program me budget)	Regional authorities	RRC branch's own resources	
Orenburg	03-24 July, 2003	40	20	50,115.08	210,000	—	260,115.08
Ivanovo	04-24 July, 2003	10	140	50,115.08	193,600	13,090	256,805.08
Belgorod	08-28 August, 2003	20	81	52,000	5,962.46	39,093	97,055.46

Problems encountered during the reporting period:

- No training for reception point personnel
- Insufficient number of legal and psychological materials for migrants
- Lack of funds for administrative expenses
- Humanitarian aid provided was not enough to meet needs, in particular availability of food parcels and hygiene kits
- Reporting formats were criticised as being too complicated

Achievements:

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

Programme implementation has had a positive impact on the organisational development of RRC regional branches, improving RRC material and technical bases through new staff and training, and establishing of legal database and monthly reporting mechanisms. RRC image and authority in the sphere of assisting forced migrants has been increased through widespread dissemination of information on RRC activities and establishing contacts with State organisations. Strengthened links with State organisations have resulted in an improved professional level of services provided to migrants. In particular, all field trips are conducted by RRC and Ministry of Interior representatives and RRC branches have established relations with the regional departments of the following State services:

- Social protection of people – regarding pensions, allowances, accommodation for elderly
- Education – regarding childrens' schooling and admission to pre-school institutions
- Health – regarding medical issues
- Labour – regarding job placement and training

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

Throughout programme implementation improvements were made in conducting social, legal and psychological counselling for forced migrants and alleviating pressures experienced by these groups, in particular during the first months after arrival in the Russian Federation. Beneficiary reports recorded by programme counsellors indicate success in meeting the programme objectives. Forced migrants themselves comment that their adaptation to new surroundings was speeded up due to support of RRC services, and RRC counsellors indicate their satisfaction with the awareness of the RRC support network in the eight regions. In addition, the attitude of the local population towards migrants has been positively influenced by information dissemination and RRC seminars and lectures on the problem of forced

migration and associated discrimination and tolerance. This attitude change will improve forced migrants' feeling of wellbeing and acceptance in their new communities.

Nizhny Novgorod, Voronezh, Orenburg

Table 5. No. of visitors and consultations July – September; October – December 2003

	No. of visitors to reception points		Total no. of consultations received
	total	of whom migrants	
July – September 2003	763	532	1,411
October - December	947	710	1,590

Table 6.

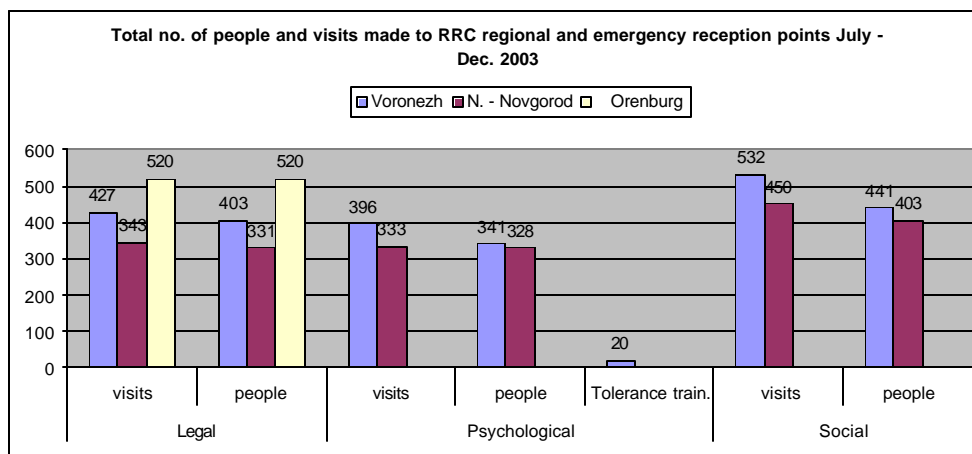
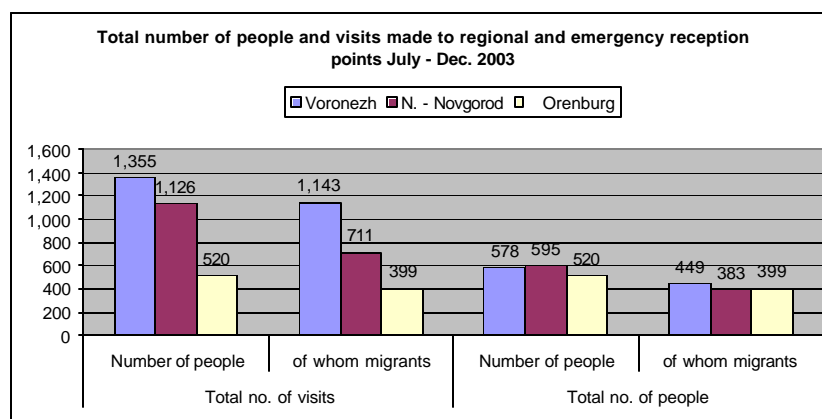


Table 7.



As indicated above, the programme implementation allowed strengthened relations between the participating RRC branches and local authorities, which will in turn facilitate further RRC programmes to assist migrants in the region. In particular, improved relations with local militia have enabled RRC to provide more effective support to migrants at Orenburg railway legal counselling point.

Throughout programme implementation, participating RRC branches organised seminars to share experiences among RRC staff and discuss programme priorities and sustainability. The programme has assisted migrants in knowing their basic rights on the territory of the Russian Federation, in improving their quality of life and raising awareness and reducing stigma among the local population. Vulnerable groups were able to visit highly qualified RRC staff and apply for free legal, psychological and social

assistance, and figures in **table 5** above demonstrate the success of the programme in attracting increased numbers of beneficiaries.

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

Omsk, Novosibirsk, Altai Krai

The increase in the number of people visiting regional reception points is clearly visible in **table 8** below. These increases indicate the success of the programme in the region. RRC has apparently publicised well the benefits of its services to the target population and persuaded migrants to revisit its reception centres.

Table 8. Total number of people receiving support/ visits made to RRC regional and emergency reception points in Omsk, Altai, Novosibirsk and Novosibirsk railway station

	No. of people receiving consultations		Total no. of consultations received
	total	of whom migrants	
April – June 2003	416	284	887
July – September 2003	913	724	1,569
October - December	1142	688	2,091

During the next quarter, RRC plans the following activities:

- To further attract public attention to the problem of involuntary migration
- To continue to provide voluntary migrants with free daily professional social, legal and psychological services
- to broadcast information on RRC activities in the region more widely in mass media (newspapers, radio, television)
- to organise a number of field trips to areas with a large number of involuntary migrants
- to strengthen links with State departments, local authorities and other public organisations working in the sphere of involuntary migrancy

Food security

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

Within the programme, RRC will conduct procurement and distribution of 20 fishermen sets (including addition clothing and equipment for fishermen) for needy fishermen teams, and 6000 seed sets for distribution to approximately 20,000 beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of fishermen sets are fishermen teams and reindeer breeders living in small villages and are selected by the local administration and fishermen department. Each set should last at least three years, and in return for receipt of these sets fishermen will be required to contribute a number of fish to the most needy population in their home village. Seed sets – containing fertilisers and seeds to enable food security during summer time- will be distributed to the most vulnerable population in Magadan population. Beneficiaries include multi-children families with total income below minimum income and lonely invalids and pensioners living below the poverty rate.

The following activities took place during the reporting period to meet the programme objective and expected results as outlined in the annual appeal 2003. *Please refer to the International Federation website for further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/018403.pdf*

During the reporting period: RRC headquarters, Magadan RRC branch and other organisations concerned signed agreements to initiate programme implementation. Contracts for staff employed within the framework of the programme were signed, and repair work on the warehouse to store purchased equipment for fisherman and seed sets was begun. RRC staff has carried out tender and procurement procedures for purchase and delivery of RRC branch office equipment (2 computer monitors, one computer, telephone/fax, spares for car maintenance) and fishermen sets. Office equipment has since been delivered and installed at the branch and the first consignment of fisherman sets has been delivered.

Procurement of seed sets has been delayed due to the lack of response from appropriate companies. However, completion of tender and procurement procedures is expected in January 2004.

Beneficiaries of seed sets have been identified by the Russian Federation Social Protection department in Magadan. The Association of Natives of the North is expected to complete a fisherman set beneficiary list in January 2004.

Problems

- The programme began at the end of October due to delays in signing the programme contract.
- Programme staff is put under additional pressure to fundraise locally for the programme driver's costs.
- The warehouse for storing purchased equipment was not fully prepared due to central heating system failure. Estimations of the cost of repair have been prepared but the work has been put on hold until after winter. In the meantime, RRC staff has been working in cold temperatures which has negatively impacted morale; in addition, electricity bills have increased adding an extra financial burden to branch administration costs.

In addition to activities outlined in the project plan, Magadan RRC continues to implement a series of local projects to assist the local vulnerable population. The activities include:

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

During the next reporting period, tender and procurement of seed sets will take place, and the second consignment of items for fisherman sets will reach RRC. RRC staff will assemble both types of sets and plan and implement distribution.

Humanitarian Values •

Programme objective: The institutional capacity and public profile of the Russian Red Cross in society and in governmental circles is improved through advocacy in the areas of humanitarian values, and the Movement's fundamental principles, ideals and values are developed in order to assist in the formation of a strong civil society in Russia.

The humanitarian values section of the annual appeal has been revised. The Russian Red Cross (RRC) with the support of the International Federation will focus on raising the profile of the RRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement for the remainder of 2003 and has added a programme on reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma. Please see *reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma* in programme update no. 3 at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01840302.pdf for further details. Although volunteer mobilisation and RRC magazine projects have been removed from the current appeal, the International Federation continues to seek funding to enable implementation of these projects within the framework of the annual appeal 2004.

Reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma

During the reporting period, RRC and the Federation continued to promote humanitarian values and the public profile of the RRC, in particular with regard to the RRC role in improving health and reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma. Volunteers continue to support this work at branch level but ability to attract and keep new volunteers remains poor. The Federation and RRC particularly focused on reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma on World AIDS Day, 1st December 2003.

Peer education

This programme was initiated in October 2003 in Krasnodar, Kaliningrad and Tver and is due to run until 31st January 2004.

Objectives:

1. To provide HIV/AIDS peer education training to youth in the three regions of Moscow oblast by trained peer leaders.
2. To arrange and conduct youth HIV prevention events.
3. Programme monitoring and research on possibilities of Harm Reduction programmes' implementation.

To meet the first objective, peer education instructors were trained in the regions. Seminars for youth on HIV/AIDS prevention were arranged and conducted to increase HIV/AIDS awareness among the younger population. The total number of seminars held and participants attending was as follows:

Table 9. Information data on peer education programme Oct. – Dec. 2003

	No. of seminars	No. of volunteers trained during the programme	No. of youth participants	No. of informational materials distributed
Krasnodar	12	18	259	1799
Kaliningrad	28	3	610	1370
Tver	8	3	97	750

To meet the second objective, youth HIV/AIDS prevention activities were carried out to celebrate World AIDS Day and disseminate information about HIV/AIDS prevention among the general public as detailed below.

It is important to note that volunteers previously trained in peer education also participated in the programme, training new volunteers; conducting seminars in schools and colleges; and helping to organise World AIDS Day activities. The disparity in new volunteer numbers is explained by individual RRC branch methods of counting volunteers (some branches included only permanent new volunteers, others included volunteers active only on a short term basis). Furthermore, the discrepancy in numbers of seminars and participants is due to the difference in RRC branch strength and capabilities e.g. Kaliningrad is a particularly strong branch with a number of different activities and therefore more scope to attract new volunteers, whereas Tver is a much smaller branch.

In order to meet the third objective, monitoring trips were carried out to assess the possibility of implementing harm reduction programmes in the regions. The team – Health Officer, International Federation Moscow delegation; Head of organizational and development department RRC, Project coordinator RRC – visited Krasnodar in November and Kaliningrad in December. During these trips the following stakeholders were visited: Local authorities, AIDS Centre, Narcological Dispensary, Regional Committee on Drugs control, other NGOs dealing with HIV/AIDS. The overall reaction to RRC harm reduction proposals was more negative than positive. Representatives of the institutions mentioned above prefer prevention activities rather than Harm Reduction programmes. All the findings from monitoring trips will be analyzed on a round table meeting that will take place in February 2004. Results will be detailed in the next programme update.

World AIDS Day/ HIV/AIDS prevention

During programme implementation, staff members of the International Federation Moscow delegation and Russian Red Cross coordinated reprinting of HIV/AIDS awareness materials for distribution in Moscow, 20 regions of the Russian Federation and Belarus and Ukraine. These informational materials (listed below) have been and will continue to be used during HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaigns:

Address books illustrated with a famous Russian cartoon character, Masyanya – 45,000
 Bookmarks illustrated with a famous Russian cartoon character, Masyanya – 75,000
 “You cannot get AIDS by....” stickers – 53,000

“You cannot get AIDS by...” posters – 30,000
 HIV/AIDS prejudice tests – 75,000 (of which 18,750 were distributed in both Belarus and Ukraine)

An additional number of informational materials were printed with remaining project funds, again for distribution through the 20 regions of the Russian Federation. These included:

International Federation logo calendars – 30,000
 “You cannot get AIDS by...” calendars – 25,000

To promote World AIDS Day on 1st December, the Moscow delegation and RRC organised printing and distribution of HIV/AIDS related materials. Held on an annual basis, World AIDS Day aims to bring to the forefront of current affairs the ongoing struggle against HIV/AIDS. This year, it was held under the slogans “the Truth about AIDS...Pass it on” and “Live and let Live” – slogans encompassing widening of opportunities for those living with HIV/AIDS and their families and calling for the public to break down the stigma barriers to effective prevention and treatment.



A billboard on the Moscow airport road “You cannot get AIDS when you work ...The truth about AIDS... pass it on”



Moscow delegation health officer shares experiences with volunteer peer educators in Tver.

RRC and the Federation published and distributed “you cannot get AIDS by...” flycards in 9 cities in the Russian Federation and in Minsk and Kiev. In cooperation with UNAIDS and people living with HIV/AIDS, six “you cannot get AIDS by...” billboards were posted on the airport road on the outskirts of Moscow and smaller posters were put up at 12 metro stations around Moscow in the run up to World AIDS Day. Billboard advertising space was provided free of charge, and the posters and billboards remained on view for one month. While advertising space for the smaller posters was not provided free of charge, the company concerned extended the display time without cost for one further month where no other organisations express an interest in renting the advertising space. In addition, representatives of the Moscow delegation attended and arranged distribution of HIV/AIDS informational materials at a press conference to promote World AIDS Day held on 26th November 2003 organised by UNAIDS and the Russian Federation Ministry of Health.

Funds were distributed to **16 branches** in the Russian Federation to cover the costs of local HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaigns. The RRC branches concerned (Oryol; Kaliningrad; Krasnodar; Karelia; Irkutsk; Pskov; Buryatia; Tver; Yakutsk; Komi; Khakasia; Archangelsk; Riazan; Veliki Novgorod; Astrakhan; Vologda) conducted various large scale activities to celebrate World AIDS Day.

Activities included the following: HIV/AIDS themed performances; concerts; discos; prize raffles; distribution of HIV/AIDS awareness kits and informational materials; condom distribution; HIV/AIDS themed poster and essay writing competitions; round table meetings; seminars and conferences conducted by RRC staff, visiting nurses and volunteers in schools, universities and at local authorities; documentaries shown at cinemas; press conferences; questionnaires on HIV/AIDS and related issues; questionnaires on drug abuse; ice skating discos; an information bus distributing informational materials; broadcasting on regional television and radio of two Red Cross produced social videos on HIV/AIDS related stigma videos etc.

In Oryol RRC branch, the project focused on providing help to HIV+ women and their families and targeted HIV+ women, in particular those with children; their families; and 70 law students. RRC visiting nurses and youth volunteers conducted talks and lectures in schools and distributed materials and together with the local women's organisation "Future without AIDS" conducted activities to support children born from HIV+ mothers.

The majority of these activities aimed to raise public awareness of HIV/AIDS. RRC branches targeted the young population in particular, informing about HIV/AIDS related issues and prevention; finding out young people's attitude towards people living with HIV/AIDS; promoting healthy lifestyles and attracting volunteers through disseminating information about RRC activities. All activities were widely broadcast in local and regional mass media in the form of advertisements, radio and television spots and interviews.

Overall, **15,518 people** participated in **40 public activities** were held in the **16 regions**, with further audiences targeted via radio and television broadcasts and newspaper articles. **34,414 information materials** were distributed within these regions, with an additional 5,200 copies issued, and **3060 people** attended **101 workshops** organised within the frames of the project.

From the results of project evaluation we can conclude that RRC activities were successful in meeting their established goals and increasing general awareness and interest of the population in HIV/AIDS and related issues.

- Branches already implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programmes (Irkutsk, Krasnodar and Archangelsk) conducted particularly successful activities (attracting large numbers of people and publicity).
- Pre and post seminar questionnaires showed an increased participants' knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues;
- increased volunteer numbers demonstrate the effectiveness of RRC in attracting youth;
- the profile of the RRC has increased in the participating regions, not only through widespread dissemination of activities but also via the involvement and cooperation of local authorities and other organisations working in the field of HIV/AIDS;
- the widespread broadcast of all activities in mass media, including direct involvement of local mass media (e.g. in the judging of poster competitions), significantly increased the target audience. Furthermore, several mass media groups have approached RRC branches with regard to future cooperation in covering HIV/AIDS related stories, thus continuing RRC work in attracting attention to the growing problem of HIV/AIDS;
- The company producing "You cannot get AIDS by..." flycards commented that the cards were the most popular of all their postcards in 2003, indicating successful attraction of the general public to the Red Cross anti-stigma campaign.
- funds collected during World AIDS Day public events will support RRC branches to continue activities.

However, it is clear that the need for information dissemination on HIV/AIDS remains high, at general and official level. For example, in Irkutsk RRC conducted a seminar for representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Sentence Executive department on "how to decrease the risk of infection at professional level" – the seminar facilitator commented on the lack of knowledge and information on HIV/AIDS prevention at a professional level. The local RRC branch has proposed to the local Department of Internal Affairs to organise a number of seminars for the staff there on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Finally, RRC shared HIV/AIDS experience region-wide through distribution of informational materials to National Societies in 5 Russian speaking Central Asian countries and in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Each National Society received 1000 "Masyanya" bookmarks, 1000 "you cannot get AIDS by...." stickers and 1000 posters.

Outside the appeal:

The American Red Cross secured funding for a 3-year care and support programme for 11,500 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Irkutsk oblast. The programme was launched in January 2003 by the local

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

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

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

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

Health and Care •

Programme Objective: The Russian Red Cross is able to provide support to the most vulnerable in the area of basic health and care through activity aimed at strengthening the capacity of the regional committees and volunteer networks of the RRC.

The TB programme continues to run successfully in the pilot regions. Dropout rates of TB patients leaving the Directly Observed Treatment Strategy programme (DOTS) remained significantly low at the end of 2002, indicating the effectiveness of the DOTS strategy implementation. Work has begun to expand RRC activities in the sphere of HIV/AIDS. There are tentative plans to replicate existing HIV/AIDS outreach and awareness projects, depending on the outcome of an assessment to be conducted of the bilateral operation in Irkutsk (run by the RRC in cooperation with the Soros Foundation). Results of this assessment are expected in February 2004. For further information on HIV/AIDS programmes please refer to the **humanitarian values** section of this programme update.

Regarding cooperation with State institutions, the Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) Development Concept is encouraging recognition by the Ministry of Social Welfare of the role of the RRC VNS in providing social support. All health programmes continue to operate in cooperation with local, national and international organisations.

TB activities

Table 10. Donor support and implementation timeframe of TB activities

Regions	Donor Support	Implementing timeframe
Oryol	WHO	September 2001 - April 2003
Tomsk, Buryatia, Kemerovo	British Red Cross/ DFID	May 2001 - ongoing
Pskov, Belgorod, Khakassia	USAID	October 2001 - ongoing

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

It is important to note that although external funding for the TB programme in Oryol oblast ceased in April 2003, the programme continues to support TB patients in the region through local administration funding. RRC has successfully transferred responsibility of TB treatment control to Russian Federation State

organisations, as was originally intended, and the three remaining visiting nurses concentrate on tracing DOTS defaulters and distributing social support to TB patients meeting the beneficiary criteria. RRC hope to reflect this result in all regions where the TB programme is operating and eventually allow RRC visiting nurses to concentrate solely on social support, providing care at home to traditional patients and disseminating information on healthy lifestyles.

During the reporting period all regional Red Cross branches continued the realisation of programme activities to meet programme objectives and target the group identified in the Annual appeal 2003. Please refer to the Appeal for further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/018403.pdf In all regions the RRC efforts in TB control are highly appreciated by local authorities and TB services.

Tomsk, Buryatia and Kemerovo

During the reporting period the social and economic situation in targeted regions remained difficult. In Tomsk and Kemerovo Oblasts wages arrears and increase of municipal services costs are the most acute social problems. Living standards are progressively decreasing: one third of the population belongs to vulnerable groups. In Kemerovo Oblast more than four thousand people have a monthly income of 800 roubles; at present the minimum living wage is 2,297 roubles for employed people and 1,481 roubles for pensioners.

TB incidence in targeted regions remains high: in Buryatia – 141.2 per 100,000 people, in Tomsk – 113 per 100,000 people, in Kemerovo – 132.9 per 100,000 people. In comparison with the previous year there is a stabilisation of TB incidence rate registered in Tomsk; increase of TB incidence rate in Kemerovo; and decrease in Buryatia. At the same time there is an increase of TB incidence among children and a high TB death rate.

However, in one of the most unfavourable territories of Buryatia Republic, Selenginsky rayon, where Red Cross programme has been running for more than 4 years, a positive decrease in TB incidence has been registered: from 213.1 to 167.5 per 100,000 people.

Programme goal: By effectively utilizing the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service and the Red Cross institutional capacities to complement the regional TB service efforts to improve the TB/HIV/AIDS-related health of the population in selected sites.

Target group:

The target group remains the same (see previous programme report) but more often includes non-bacillary patients at intensive phase of treatment in ambulatory conditions.

Progress to date

The social manager of the Red Cross programme in Kemerovo Oblast has been replaced; working meetings for programme personnel took place in all target rayons to introduce new reporting and record cards for distribution of social support among TB patients.

A round table discussion about treatment continuity for inmates with TB after their release and relevant Red Cross activities was organized for the leadership of civic and penitentiary TB services. Tomsk regional branch has developed and presented Programme Exit Strategy Plan for 2005.

Achievements and difficulties

The main achievement during the reporting period was that the Red Cross programme obtained further recognition among local authorities and TB services: all regional branches were awarded financial support for the programme for the next year from the local state budgets. The Russian Red Cross received letters of gratitude from administrations and TB services of the target regions with high appreciation of the Red Cross impact and request for programme continuation.

The main difficulty of the programme implementation remains the same: long distances and poor communication with remote rayons and not enough funding to reimburse transport expenses for TB patients and Red Cross visiting nurses travelling to and from the point where directly observed treatment is provided.

Objective 1. To raise public awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS through providing the general public, TB patients and risk groups with public health information on TB prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion of healthy life style.

During the reporting period the RRC branches continued education activities among the following target groups: TB patients and members of their families, students, schoolchildren and teachers. The Red Cross personnel also conducted lectures for industrial enterprises' staff. While developing materials for lectures the Red Cross visiting nurses and volunteers use various magazines, brochures, newspaper articles and articles prepared by TB doctors. In addition, Red Cross staff used methodologies of pre- and post-lecture testing to measure the level of auditorium's awareness and effectiveness of the Red Cross educational activity. Data collected shows an average 50% awareness of the audience on ways of TB prevention before lectures and 90% after lectures.

Many schoolchildren demonstrate an interest in the history of the Red Cross movement, which has now been incorporated into a school course "the World around you". Teachers and Red Cross staff agree that children are more receptive if information is provided not by school staff but the Red Cross workers themselves.

Information materials printed centrally and locally were distributed to the population and beneficiaries during lectures, seminars and various informational events. During the reporting period, all regional branches also received an additional number of various informational and educational materials on TB prevention from the Russian Red Cross headquarters.

Finally, several training seminars were held in all target territories to increase staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills base: for visiting nurses on new reporting formats; for Red Cross volunteers on TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and Red Cross activities; and for chairpersons of rayon branches on the RRC reform process

In general, the result of the educational and informational activities is raised awareness of the population on TB prevention and healthy life styles, especially among youth.

Buryatia

During the reporting period the following new information materials were developed and printed locally:

- A booklet "HIV and TB – a deadly duo" (**300 booklets**)
- All previously developed materials have been reprinted (**100** of each type)

Tomsk

- Distribution of information materials took place at public actions, seminars and lectures. Informational materials were shared with social services, family planning centres and polyclinics for children. During the reporting period **5,500** of the following information brochures and leaflets were distributed: «All about TB» (**3,000**), «Early TB detection – information for parents» (**1,000**) and "HIV prevention" (**1,500**).
- **4,000 postcards** and **3,500 bookmarks-calendars** with information on HIV/AIDS prevention were distributed during activities devoted to World AIDS Day. The bookmark is very popular among youth and the Red Cross has ordered a further **4,000 copies** for distribution.
- **Radio spot** on HIV prevention was developed and broadcast on five radio stations on December 1st, World AIDS Day.
- **Five TV programmes** with the Red Cross volunteers' participation were aired on local TV and radio to promote World AIDS Day. The Red Cross branch was very active working with the media: ten articles on such topics as "TB prevention", "HIV prevention" and "History of the Red Cross" were published in local newspapers.

Kemerovo

- Informational materials received from the Red Cross headquarters were distributed among the general population, TB patients and members of their families – **3,155 copies** in total. (“Attention TB” – **550**, “TB can be cured” – **500**, “Early TB detection-info for parents” – **300** and «About TB” – **1,300**).
- Chairpersons of rayon branches and visiting nurses were provided with new registration journals to keep record of TB patients.
- Informational materials and health bulletins on ways of TB prevention were placed in medical points, polyclinics, shops, cinemas and clubs.
- A press-conference “The Red Cross role in TB and HIV control” was held in Novokuznetsk City.
- Articles on Red Cross programme activities were published in local media.
- Several programmes (**12 TV** and **22 radio programmes**) on TB prevention, directly observed treatment and the Red Cross activity have been prepared.

See next page for:

Table 11. Information activities in Tomsk, Buryatia and Kemerovo during the reporting period

Region	Lecture topics	Audience characteristics	Number of lectures	Lecturers
Tomsk	Prevention of TB and other infectious diseases	Schoolchildren, teachers, parents, Staff of various enterprises (1,100 people)	29 lectures 3 lectures 10 lectures	Information Officer, Medical coordinator, Red Cross volunteers
	TB patient in a family	TB patients, members of their families (150 people)	15 lectures	Red Cross volunteers (TB service doctors)
	“What you need to know about TB” “TB and women” “TB Q/A”	TB patients (116 people),	66 lectures	Medical coordinator
	“About TB treatment” “Sanitary rules”	TB patients, members of their families (495 people)	495 talks	Red Cross visiting nurses
Buryatia	TB is an infectious disease	Students, teachers, medical personnel, military personnel, local administration personnel (145 people)	4 lectures	Visiting nurses
	TB and prevention	Social service personnel, TB patients (68 people)	3 lectures 150 talks	Medical coordinator, visiting nurses
	About the Russian Red Cross TB control programme	Students and teachers (90 people)	1 lecture	Medical coordinator, visiting nurses
	“TB and HIV: a fatal duet”	Schoolchildren (180 people)	3 talks	Medical coordinator, visiting nurses
	Activity of the Red Cross youth branch	Schoolchildren (90 people)	1 lecture	Red Cross youth leader
Kemerovo	TB prevention History of the Movement	Schoolchildren, risk groups and others (2,300 people)	67 lectures	Visiting nurses, Red Cross volunteers
	Attention, TB	Schoolchildren, students (800 people)	19 lectures	Red Cross volunteers (TB service doctors)
	TB can be prevented	Coalmine workers (40 people)	1 lecture	Visiting nurses
	Healthy life style, TB prevention	TB patients, members of their families (380 people)	1,826 talks	Visiting nurses
	Total		5,684 people	222 lectures 2,471 talks

Objective 2. To improve treatment adherence among socially vulnerable TB patients through providing Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) and care at home during the ambulatory stage of treatment by the RRC Visiting nurses, combined with health education, legal and psychological counselling, nutritional and social support as incentives for patients and their families during the entire treatment period.

985 TB patients were covered by the RRC programme during the reporting period. **386 TB patients** were included into the project during October - December, and **599 TB patients** were transferred from the previous treatment stages.

Table 12. TB data recorded during the reporting period

Regions		Buryatia		Tomsk		Kemerovo		Total	
Total number of patients	transferred from the previous stage	303	188	241	138	441	273	985	599
	Included during the reporting period		115		103		168		386
Number of patients who received DOT and RRC social support	DOT under VNS observation	303	115	241	104	441	427	985	646
	DOT carried out by of TB service and Feldsher points staff		188		137		14		339
Number of visiting nurses participating in the programme	covered by the programme	10	8	12	9*	17	6	39	23
	covered from other sources		2		3		11		16
Number of patients excluded from RRC social support in the reporting period	completed treatment	118	103	107	91	164	125	389	319
	interrupted treatment (defaulters) withdrawn from the programme		2		1		10		13
	died		2		-		2		4
	transferred to TB Dispensary		11		15		27		53
Number of TB patients visited in-home by RRC visiting nurses/ general number of home visits	Number of patients having problems with health / number of home visits	125/369	122/351	109/247	5/69	453/1226	18/114	687/1842	145/534
	Number of patients with problems of disciplinary character/ number of home visits		3/18		24/70		9/22		36/110
Number of traditional patients, visited by RRC visiting nurses		16		11		49		76	

Number of patients excluded from RRC social support during the reporting period was **389**. This figure includes **13 TB patients** (3.3%) excluded from social support. Main reasons for exclusion included: change of place of living, departure to unidentified location.

The Red Cross visiting nurses provided directly observed treatment to **646 TB patients** (65.6%). The remaining 34.5% of TB patients received treatment under control of Feltcher points and TB service personnel, and social support provided by the Red Cross visiting nurses.

Social support of TB patients remains the most effective tool for improving treatment compliance of programme beneficiaries. This social support was provided in the form of hot meals in canteens; protein kits;

food parcels; hygienic kits; and reimbursement of transport expenses (to reach the point of DOT). During the reporting period the following distribution points were functioning in three Siberian territories: **6 canteens** for hot meals distribution (Buryatia – 2, Kemerovo - 4) and 28 points of protein kits distribution (Buryatia – 10, Tomsk -11, Kemerovo – 7).

Table 13. Social support in Buryatia, Tomsk and Kemerovo

Region		Buryatia		Tomsk		Kemerovo
Number of the patients receiving social support		303		241		441
Number of patients receiving:	Hot meals	102		-		187
	Protein kits	149		211*		246
	Food parcels	52		30		80**
	Hygienic kits	380		241		209
	Payment of transport charges for patients / visiting nurses	28	4	-	9	114/21
Number of distributed protein kits		2,855		9,700		8,659
Number of distributed food parcels		240		120		267
Number of the distributed hygienic kits		380		241		285
Number of patients receiving reimbursement of transport expenses		28		-		114

* 9 TB patients in Molchanovsky rayon receive protein kits funded by local oblast budget

** some TB patients have been transferred from protein kits to food parcels

The total number of social support beneficiaries in three regions was **985**. Average daily cost of a hot meal was 26.28 RUR in Kemerovo and 27 RUR in Buryatia. Average cost of a protein kit was 26.67 RUR in Kemerovo, 27 RUR in Tomsk, and 54 RUR in Buryatia. The protein kits contained products rich in protein: cheese, yogurt, butter, cottage cheese, milk, canned fish and beef, noodles, etc. Content of kits were regularly changed. Details on contents and distribution of hot meals, protein and hygiene kits are available in the 3rd quarterly update at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01840303.pdf

All distribution points are furnished and equipped. All points have a daily menu and a list of products included in protein kits. There are various informational and educational materials (posters, leaflets, booklets) on TB/HIV and healthy life styles in the distribution points, as well as information about the programme itself and donors providing financial support.

During the reporting period **150 children** in TB hospital received support from Tomsk Oblast branch of the Russian Red Cross. It was possible to provide additional nutrition to children due to local sponsor, “Gazprombank”, funds. Social support delivered to nine TB patients in Molchanovsky rayon was fully covered by oblast budget, and in addition **160 TB patients** on treatment under Red Cross supervision received additional nutrition on Saturdays (23.8 RUR per meal).

In Kemerovo the Red Cross branch distributes second hand clothes and footwear to TB patients and members of their families. The priority is still to provide assistance to the most vulnerable – former prisoners and homeless people with TB.

D) Legal and psychological counselling

Table 14. Legal and psychological support

Region	Received support	Total number of patients	Total number of TB patients receiving support		Number of non -TB patients
			Number of patients (civil society)	Number of patients (penitentiary system)	
Buryatia	Consultation of a jurist	58	51	6	1
	Psychological support	80	51	0	29
Tomsk	Consultation of a jurist	36	19	0	17
	Psychological support	-	-	-	-
Kemerovo	Consultation of a jurist	141	125	0	16
	Psychological support	199	185	0	14
Total	Consultations of a jurist	235	195	6	34
	Psychological support	279	236	0	43

Legal counselling

Kemerovo

In Kemerovo it was noted that during the reporting period the number of TB patients applying for legal advice was increasing. During the reporting period 17 beneficiaries applied for assistance for the second time.

Buryatia

Legal counselling out in the field was organized in Buryatia only. Legal advisers visited TB dispensaries and the remotest rayons (Zaigraevsky rayon and Tatarsky Klutch) 2-3 times a week to provide legal assistance to TB patients. During these actions legal counsellors distributed booklets "Rights and responsibilities of TB patients" among beneficiaries.

Special attention was paid to work with former inmates with TB. These people were advised on the following: on all rules concerning registration; on receiving necessary documents for concluding a contract with an employer; on legislation changes concerning allowances for pensioners. In addition, the Red Cross specialist, supported by local administration, helped clients to draw up passports.

Legal advisers state that among their clients there are many people from the most vulnerable layers of the population (homeless, handicapped people, pensioners, migrants and unemployed). The most frequent questions concern social services for pensioners and the labour code. During the reporting period there were **86** such beneficiaries (**23** in Buryatia, **39** in Kemerovo and **24** in Tomsk).

The main form of legal counselling provided to beneficiaries is individual consultation. Red Cross in Kemerovo also assists in preparing petitions and letters of inquiry upon the request of their clients.

Main questions asked (in order of priority):

- rights and responsibilities of TB patients and principles of providing TB services
- housing related legislation, resident registration, process of getting passport
- passports' restoration
- legal labour relationship and privileges for socially vulnerable people
- legal family relationship and provision of pensions

Psychological counselling

Total number of clients received psychological assistance during the reporting period was **279 people**, including **236 TB patients**. Main reasons for psychological support are: emotional problems; insomnia; irritability; as well as problems of social adaptation, conflicts at work or inside the family.

Psychologists from Buryatia and Kemerovo took an active part in providing assistance to TB patients and their neighborhood during working visits to remote rayons participating in the programme. In Buryatia the Red Cross specialist conducts very important work on preventing defaulting among inmates with TB who are due to be released. Red Cross psychologists also check all the possible addresses an ex-prisoner may go to and talk with relatives about the importance of treatment and prevention.

The main method of providing psychological assistance is by individual consultation. On occasion, with the permission of patients, group consultations and relaxation sessions were held on the premises of medical social rooms.

Objective 3 To strengthen institutionally the Russian Red Cross as part of civil society and its Visiting Nurses service as community-based, multifunctional primary health care service.

39 visiting nurses are involved in the programme, 23 of whom receive full salary from the programme budget (nine visiting nurses in Tomsk received additional payment on top of the salary from local administration), and 16 of whom receive salary from locally raised funds.

During the reporting period **76 traditional Red Cross beneficiaries** were receiving care at home rendered by visiting nurses. The majority of these people are lonely elderly or critical patients requiring obligatory extraneous care. Visiting nurses provided sanitary and hygienic care, supervised fulfillment of all medical prescriptions, insured bandaging and feeding of the patients, provided bedsores prevention measures. In some cases, they carried out functions of social workers (buying food, cooking, cleaning an apartment, etc.).

The Red Cross visiting nurses also provided services in medical-social rooms (MSR), where they conducted not only reception of TB patients and members of their families, but other beneficiaries requiring assistance as well. Apart from directly observed treatment and social support distribution, visiting nurses organise parties and other celebrations for TB patients and members of their families.

Table 14. Number of volunteers participating in the Russian Red Cross TB control programme:

Region	Red Cross volunteers (constant)	Red Cross volunteers (once-only)	TOTAL no of Red Cross volunteers
Buryatia	11	63	74
Tomsk	82	50	132
Kemerovo	159	719	878
TOTAL	252	832	1,084

Conclusions and recommendations:

During the reporting period local Red Cross branches continued TB programme activities, strengthening cooperation with TB services and increasing number of target group beneficiaries through more effective utilization of programme funds and local fundraising efforts. Activities carried out in the field need regular supervision and better coordination from the RRC administrative centre. Although new reporting standards are followed by all the programme territories, not all branches provide data in time which influences deadlines of the reporting to the donor and implies certain difficulties in overall programme coordination.

Taimyr Visiting Nurses Service

During the reporting period, efforts were made to finalise a project proposal to support VNS in Taimyr, to be funded by the Icelandic Red Cross. The project plan includes covering the salary of 8 visiting nurses, 3 with a medical background and 5 with legal training. However, programme implementation has been stalled due

to a change in local authority staff responsibilities and corresponding withdrawal of government funding (20% of total programme costs in year 1 of the programme; 40% year 2; 60% year 3; 80% year 4; 100% year 5) that would ensure programme sustainability. RRC and the International Federation are currently waiting for confirmation that Taimyr local authorities are committed to providing this funding.

Outside the Appeal:

USAID granted the Federation three- year funding to support the Federation and RRC activities in the Russian Federation. The grant supports a programme that aims to develop an effective, comprehensive, sustainable and replicable model of TB control in three regions (Pskov, Khakasia and Belgorod) in partnership with the regional authorities.

The project has five objectives:

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

The programme complements the Appeal objective, working in cooperation with regional TB services to provide TB programming support to the most vulnerable people in the region.

Table 15. TB activities in Khakasia, Pskov and Belgorod

Regions		Khakasia		Pskov		Belgorod		Total	
Total number of patients	transferred from the previous stage	330	199	213	109	209	113	752	421
	Included during the reporting period		131		104		96		331
Number of patients who received DOT and RRC social support	DOT under VNS observation	330	159	213	61	209	75	752	295
	DOT carried out by of TB service and Feldsher points staff		171		152		134		457
Number of visiting nurses participating in the programme	covered by the programme	24	10	12	10	8	8	44	28
	covered from other sources		14		2		-		16
Number of patients excluded from RRC social support in the reporting period	completed treatment	108	70	100	82	96	81	304	233
	interrupted treatment (defaulters) withdrawn from the programme		6		1		3		10
	died		4		4		-		8
	transferred to TB Dispensary		28		13		11		53
Number of TB patients visited in-home by RRC visiting nurses/ general number of home visits	Number of patients having problems with health / number of home visits	23/336	2/52	48/539	16/382	68/235	8/141	139/1110	26/575
	Number of patients with problems of disciplinary character/ number of home visits		21/284		32/157		6/40		59/481
Number of traditional patients, visited by RRC visiting nurses		123/2208		10/184		45/1847		178/4239	

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

Organizational Development •

Programme objective: To assist the Russian Red Cross in developing its organizational capacity through joint planning, consultation, and coordination in the areas of strategic, legal-normative, financial management, fundraising development, and strengthening of its existing legal network.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: RRC Strategic Development; LegalNormative documents; Financial Management Improvement; Financial Resource Mobilisation; Strengthening of the RRC Legal Network.

As of November 2003, organisational development officer within the structure of the RRC headquarters has been recruited to pursue the following objectives:

- to conduct internal capacity assessment and performance evaluation at both HQ and branch levels;
- to facilitate adoption of 3-year Operational Plans for development;
- to contribute to resource mobilisation and capacity building (also linked to introduction and promotion of PPP);
- to ensure coordination and harmonisation among RRC activities (supported through different sources).

During the reporting period, the following activities took place:

- In November, a summary evaluation of the RRC organizational development activities in 2003 and drafting of the OD Section for the RRC President's Report to the RRC Governing Board was completed.
- Preparation of the Conceptual Frameworks for RRC Headquarters organizational development objectives, activities and functions was completed, including terms of reference and areas of involvement of the RRC HQ OD officer.
- The OD officer participated in the resource generation review project detailed above. This participation included the drafting and compiling of an interview questionnaire for participating RRC regional branches, other local non-profit organizations and potential donors; preparation of the Agreements on the project between RRC and IFRC, RRC HQ and participating regional branches; reviewing and analyzing additional materials on the local resource generation subject-matter (Internet and publications); drafting of the respective section for the aggregated Final Analytical Review within the Project; reviewing the existing RRC statistical reporting forms and IFRC methodological guidelines and recommendations on Red Cross National Society self-assessment work
- The OD officer participated in designing of a model "RRC Humanitarian Passport of the Region" as a comprehensive statistic and comparative database on the Russian Federation regions and respective RRC regional branches
- The OD officer drafted an informational letter to the RRC regional branches and respective mini-questionnaire to find out and collect the regions' expectations of the RRC HQ Organizational Development department.

Throughout the reporting period, the OD officer has assisted the RRC in the process of internal capacity assessment and performance evaluation and contributed towards further preparation, implementation, monitoring and review of its policies, strategic and operational plans, in particular with regard to the ongoing review of Russian non-profit organizations' experience detailed above. Through this work the OD officer has contributed to the development into a well-functioning National Society that can successfully mobilize resources and enhance efficient, effective and sustainable service delivery at all levels. Furthermore, the OD officer has provided coordination services between the RRC and the Federation, Partner National Societies and other national and international organizations with regard to the Review detailed above and region wide expectations of the RRC OD department.

Russian Red Cross supported by the Federation Delegation continued implementation of the fundraising review, through the following activities:

- Project Agreements between the RRC Headquarters and the IFRC Moscow Delegation, as well as between the RRC Headquarters and RRC regional branches participating in the Project (Tomsk, Irkutsk and Pskov) were drafted and signed.
- Working questionnaires were elaborated for the RRC participating branches; regional NGOs; local authorities and business communities. The questionnaires were adapted following a preliminary analysis of RRC branch regional reports and discussion with Tomsk, Omsk and Pskov branches.
- Guidelines were developed for the RRC participating branches with respect to carrying out reviews in their respective regions.

During the field trips a project consultant supported respective RRC branches in project implementation; staff members responsible for reviews, interviews and reporting were briefed; and branch leaderships interviewed. In accordance with the project proposal, staff members involved in the project include youth coordinators and volunteers. Their direct involvement in project implementation will develop skills in collecting and analyzing information related to resource generation.

In December, candidates for interview were selected from regional NGOs, business communities and local authorities. In total, 38 NGOs, 12 local authorities and 10 representatives of business communities were interviewed face to face, in hour-long interviews consisting of over 90 questions. Data collected has been processed and preliminary results of data analysis, being conducted by an independent sociological agency, are expected in January 2004. In addition the project team reviewed 45 websites of NGOs, philanthropic foundations and international humanitarian organizations; 11 books and publications. This review enabled the team to complete a clearer more comprehensive picture of the Third sector in Russia, its outlooks, and the problems and challenges it faces. Furthermore, the data collected has improved understanding of the potentialities of the internet and websites to enhance the efficiency of NPO resource generation efforts. During the review details of some 1100 national and international trusts, foundations and agencies were collected and systematized for future reference and use by RRC at headquarters and regional level.

In the coming months, project implementation will continue as outlined in the initial proposal. In place of repeat field trip visits to the regions, a project update and evaluation meeting will be held at RRC headquarters for representatives of all participating branches and the project team active at national headquarters.

Difficulties encountered:

Due to the changes in funding situation Federation Delegation had to stop the recruitment for seconded position of health officer within Russian RC structure.

Due to increased workload at the end of the fiscal year, project proposal for financial management development has not been finalised. Russian RC and the Federation Delegation financial departments are working on development of comprehensive plan of actions to initiate project activities.

Coordination and Management •

Programme objective: *Support is provided to the Russian Red Cross in its development, particularly with respect to coordinating interaction with partner national societies, other donors and agencies and to providing support to the Russian Red Cross in realization of its objectives in the core areas of the Federation's strategy 2010.*

Following two assessment missions conducted by Danish Red Cross (on relevance and possibility of implementing a programme of psycho-education activities in Ingushetia and youth initiatives in the North-Western area of Russia), RRC, Federation and ICRC Delegations were visited by the Danish Red Cross desk officer, who held a number of discussions on both subjects with all parties involved. Outcomes of the visit are still to be finalised. During the same period of time, results of the youth assessment have been presented

to the representatives of Belarus, Russian, Ukrainian and Moldova Red Cross Societies with involvement of both Regional and Russia Federation Delegations into discussions.

Sir Nick Young, British Red Cross Secretary General visited West Siberia project site and concluded his trip by a round table with RRC core staff working at headquarters level. The following points have been highlighted during the discussion: it is important for RRC headquarters to enhance its support to branches, specifically in terms of information sharing, capacity building and experience exchange (replicating best practices country-wide); balance needs to be sought between having close relationships with the government authorities and advocating for community needs.

American Red Cross desk officer visited Russia for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the ongoing care and support to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) project in Irkutsk meeting with the key stakeholders in area and discussing possibilities for cooperation in HIV/AIDS and possible expansion of the project.

Federation Senior Health Officer attended the meeting of the high-level working group to discuss the forthcoming donor conference and possible contribution from technical agencies into implementation of the World Bank loan within the 5-year plan, as well as future inter-agency cooperation in general.

An agreement between Belarus, Ukrainian, Russian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies was signed at the General Assembly which will inject one million Euro to the Federation's Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme (CHARP) over the next three years. Funds are provided by the Dutch National Lottery, through the Netherlands Red Cross. Netherlands Red Cross has traditionally been a prominent donor to the CHARP programme, also providing technical support in purchasing the mobile diagnostic laboratories. RRC also concluded Agreement on General Cooperation with Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian and Danish Red Cross Societies for the following four years. During the General Assembly RRC and the Federation representatives attended Arctic Council meeting, uniting also representatives of the Canadian, American, Norwegian, Finnish and Icelandic RC Societies. During 2004-05 RRC shall represent the Federation at the Arctic Council and Russian Federation government shall host Arctic Council meetings.

Regular links with partner National Societies and the Federation Secretariat have also been ensured through telephone conferences (e.g. with Europe Department, and Russian-Nordic cooperation group) and correspondence.

Federation Delegation structure has been reinforced through recruitment of administrative officer, responsible for office administration and human resource development issues.

International Representation/Advocacy/Public Information •

The Federation Delegation continued to raise the profile of the RRC through joint involvement in inter-agency cooperation. During the reporting period, meetings with the following agencies have been held: World Bank (extended HIV/AIDS thematic group), UNAIDS, WHO and Danish Refugee Council (discussions on Internally Displaced Persons camps in Ingushetia). Regular cooperation meetings with ICRC continue to take place. Further joint involvement in international and public events is foreseen to advocate for emerging needs of the country's population and promote the role of the National Society with regard to the government, non-governmental national and international organisations.

Outside the Appeal:

American Red Cross continues to run four of six childrens' projects within the framework of the programme "Support to vulnerable Russian Children" initiated in February 2003 in 6 regions of central Russia. These projects are as follows:

1. **World of Communication (Pskov).** This project aims to improve communication of disabled children (mostly wheelchair bound) via a multi faceted approach. Beneficiaries are trained in computer technology.

2. **Open opportunity (Irkutsk).** Within this project RRC offers basic computer training to disabled children to increase their capacity and increase their accessibility to college/ university/ the job market.
3. **Early Intervention (Novgorod).** This project aims to prevent abandonment of severely disabled children aged 0-8 years, and to assist children to reach their full potential in all spheres of life. RRC staff also assists parents and families (often single parent, low income) of disabled children within the sphere of this project.
4. **Sweet Home (Krasnodar).** Within this project RRC supports foster families in order to improve family life and prevent re-abandonment of children to State institutions.

For further details please contact:

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

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.