

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

16 June 2004

Appeal No: 01.82/2004

Appeal Target: CHF 4,963,082

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: 1 January- 31 March 2004

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In Brief

Appeal coverage: 24.2%; for details please click below.

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/1-2-3%20-%20ap018204.pdf

Related Appeals: Chernobyl 01.81/2004

Operational developments: Due to a reduction in some core staff of the Russia International Federation delegation due in June 2004, the current appeal will be revised. In the meantime, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and the Federation continue to implement programmes described in the original appeal 2004. Current and future priorities will remain the elements of the health and care programme, in particular TB and HIV/AIDS. 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.

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Disaster Management



Russian Red Cross visiting nurses play a vital role in educating the general population about the fight against TB.

Programme objective: The Russian Red Cross organisational and management capacity in disaster management (DM) is strengthened at headquarters and regional levels (at least 5 regional branches) through enhanced disaster preparedness capacity, long-term support in rehabilitation of vulnerable people and continuous support to migrants.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: Population Movement (funded by British 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 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 (DR) and disaster preparedness (DP) 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. During the reporting period, the programmes funded by British Red Cross/DFID (Department for International Development) came to a premature end, due to funding reallocations by DFID.

Children's playrooms in Ingushetia

In accordance with orders from the Ingushetia Republic of Ministry Affairs, Sputnik camp will be closed as of 1st April 2004. This is the last of the camps to close where International Federation children's playrooms have been established. As a result, the International Federation/ Russian Red Cross programme has been closed. The remaining funds will be used to support a kindergarten for 136 internally displaced children on the border of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia.

During the reporting period, while activities in Sputnik camp continued 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 decreased from **328** in January to **236** in February.

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. Children needing specialist psychological assistance were supported by psychologists on an individual basis (27 children assisted in January, 25 in February, 18 in March).

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. Mother's Day, when children made presents for their mothers.

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 continued to rely heavily on the role of parents in the ongoing process of children's development, and there was frequent dialogue between families and staff to facilitate information and experience exchange. Teachers, playroom staff and parents assisted in developing and implementing recommendations on how to improve activities.

Afternoon snacks were also handed out to children as shown in **table 2** below.

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" camp

Sputnik 2004	Number of visits to playrooms
January	1538
February	1476
March	947
Total	3958

Table 2. Number of afternoon snacks provided to children

Sputnik 2004	Number of snacks
January	2624
February	1888
March	1320
Total	5832

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 management – programme development of RRC DP/DR system and management consultancy

Russia's socio-economic problems are aggravated by regular natural disasters as well as man-made crises. Although the number of large-scale natural and technological disasters was comparatively lower in the first quarter of 2004 than during the same period in 2003, this is not an indicator of improved disaster management on a national scale. During the reporting period, an increasing number of small scale emergencies all over the Russian Federation has impacted more community groups who are struggling to recover post-disaster (e.g. about 70% of people made homeless after the Altai earthquake in September 2003 are continuing to live in temporary shelter). Russian Red Cross is focusing on strengthening its disaster preparedness and response system, and at the same time enhancing the coping capacity of vulnerable populations through disaster awareness and first aid training campaigns.

The programme goal and objectives for 2004 closely interlink with the activities initiated last year within the Western Siberia project, implemented with support of British Red Cross Society, and with Russian Red Cross projects implemented in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). New approaches to further implementation of the Russian Red Cross Strategic Plan for Development 2010 in the field of disaster preparedness have been sought.

Target group:

- Russian Red Cross headquarters department of functional development;
- Russian Red Cross disaster management council;
- 89 Russian Red Cross regional branches;
- Over 300 000 people belonging to the most vulnerable community groups affected by the disaster.

Core activities during the reporting period:

Programme activities continued to develop according to the indicators and planned activities outlined in the annual appeal logical framework. Disaster management activities primarily focused on identification of the most frequently occurring disasters of natural and man-made origin in the Russian Federation and assessment of Russian Red Cross 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. Also a number of disaster management and First Aid (FA) training courses were conducted to compliment disaster management capacity building efforts.

Core events during the reporting period

1. Russian Red Cross responded to disasters and supported affected population during the rehabilitation phase;
2. In order to improve RRC disaster management programme planning, RRC disaster management Unit supported by the Federation Delegation finalized its vulnerability and disaster response capacity assessment;
3. The timetable was worked out for developing the Disaster preparedness and response plan of Russian Red Cross HQ and local branches in the South region. The Planning process entailed a series of coordination meetings among Russian Red Cross branches in South region.
4. Russian Red Cross released its emergency stocks for use during small-scale disaster response operations in two Federal districts;
5. 4-day first aid training course was held for Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers as a follow-up to the first aid training of trainers workshop conducted in Western Siberia. In total, 97 first aid training courses were conducted by Russian Red Cross branches country-wide.

Achievements and problems encountered

Expected result 1: Disaster Response capacity of RRC is increased through creating National Disaster Plan in conformity with Participating National Societies (PNS) principles and establishment of Regional DP/DR Centres (DM Regional Team, DP stock and First Aid Training Unit in the structure), training of staff and volunteers and adoption of DP/DR plans at all levels based on completed Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) at the regional level.

In order to improve RRC disaster management programme planning, RRC disaster management Unit supported by the Federation Delegation finalized its vulnerability and disaster response capacity assessment, run jointly with the Ministry for Emergencies. The final project report included an analysis of the following:

- Disaster response preparedness capacity assessment conducted among 89 RRC regional branches, also including review of organizational structures in place, logistical base and community-based activities;
- Degree of proneness to 8 main natural and man-made disasters among 89 regions of Russian Federation.
- Complex risk (vulnerable) maps for all districts and areas of the Russian Federation.
- Territories' proneness to disaster risks has been mapped and recommendations for development of activities have been composed for every regional branch of the North-Western Federal district. Similar documents for a further 6 districts of the Russian Federation and their RRC local branches are still in process.

With support of the Russian Red Cross headquarters disaster management department, Russian Red Cross branches in the South federal districts planned development of a regional disaster preparedness and disaster response plan. Disaster preparedness plans have been used by Russian Red Cross to implement activities in response to 4 major disasters (relief operation for 806 people affected by floods in Archangelsk oblast,

Republics of Dagestan and Altai, and Moscow) and in organization of blood donation. During the reporting period, approximately 30% of Russian Red Cross branches supported people affected by local disasters

During the reporting period, the Russian Red Cross headquarters disaster management department and the Federation Delegation disaster preparedness and Relief officers conducted a disaster management workshop (on) for the South region (including North Caucasus). During the workshop, 24 participants from 13 local branches studied disaster preparedness and response planning process, coordination and vulnerability and capacity assessment methodology with a field exercise conducted in accordance with standard Federation disaster response guidelines. The workshop was a follow up to a related workshop conducted in 2002. Comparison between pre and post test results completed by participants indicates an increase of knowledge in the field of disaster preparedness and management. Only 5 participants successfully passed the final test, which included questions based on both workshops (conducted in 2004 and 2002). This indicates poor circulation among the branches of information learned from the workshop held in 2002. It is intended that information disseminated in the 2004 workshop should reach a wider audience among Russian Red Cross branches.

The final first aid training of trainers course within the British Red Cross / DfID-funded Western Siberia project was held in Kemerovo for 18 first aid instructors from three regional RRC branches.

Russian Red Cross disaster preparedness stocks have been situated in two Federal districts (Western Siberia in Kemerovo; and South region in Nalchik). A proportion of the emergency stocks was distributed among 19 local branches for emergency response purposes. The total capacity of the newly pre-positioned disaster preparedness stocks consisting of 10 items is sufficient to meet the emergency needs of 2,000 affected people, of a total value around USD 100,000.

Expected result 2: Target groups of population in 5 disaster-prone areas identified and their coping capacity increased through awareness and First Aid Training campaigns.

RRC began to design awareness materials on floods preparedness for distribution throughout disaster-prone South regions. Currently Russian Red Cross is discussing possible financial support of printing of these information materials with the ICRC.

Following an earthquake in Altai Krai, Russian Red Cross and the Russian Federation Ministry of Emergencies worked together to compile information materials for Siberia and the Far East on response in times of earthquakes. Russian Red Cross has since revised its priorities, but the completed information is ready for printing in the future.

During the reporting period, Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers conducted 97 First Aid training courses for community members.

Challenges:

The analysis of the results of the Russian Red Cross disaster preparedness and response activities has shown that activities to attract volunteers from the local community to offer beneficial support to Red Cross branches have had little impact. Many RRC regional chair people have not received appropriate training in the field of disaster preparedness and response management, and there is a general lack of relevant expertise among RRC staff.

Development of a strategic plan has not happened, and there is little understanding of the need for planning of operational activities. These and other problems negatively influence preparation and planning of programmes at the regional level (including DP/DR management) - many proposals/ programs are created without feasibility studies, lack logical and organizational links, are not interlinked and do not offer sound basis for intervention. There is no Russian Red Cross accumulative database on DP/DR and project proposals are often based on Russian Federation State data without consideration of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement vision.

Recommendations:

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

Population Movement (PM)

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 3 regions of the Russian Federation funded by the British Red Cross/ DFID. Funding ceased in March 2004 and 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)
3. Summer camps for involuntary migrants children in Omsk

As of May 2004, Swedish Red Cross funded regional reception points will operate in Nizhny Novgorod, Orenburg, Kemerovo. Funds will also be used to hold two summer camps for children of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) families.

During implementation of the above mentioned British Red Cross/ DfID funded programme (April 2003 – March 2004), RRC regional branches worked with involuntary migrants on the basis of Cooperation Agreement between Federal Migration Service and Russian Red Cross Society dated 11.08.1998 aimed at providing assistance to involuntary migrants. On the basis of this Agreement, RRC regional branches by their own initiative signed or prepared for signing respective Agreements with territorial Ministry of Interior Migration Departments.

Objectives:

1. Provide professional legal, psychological and social support to involuntary migrants and vulnerable groups of local residents on the regional level free of charge.
2. Take part in implementation of the Russian Federation (RF) Federal special program «Developing ways of tolerant perception and extremism prophylaxis in Russian society» by conducting tolerance trainings at schools.
3. Strengthen coordination between RRC and governmental structures working in migration sphere (RF Federal Migration Service, RF Ministry of Interior Passport-Visa Service, RF Ministry of Labour and Social Development, RF Ministry of Health...).
4. Attract attention of civil society to the problem of involuntary migration.
5. Strengthen organizational capacities of RRC regional branches and clearly show action of RRC mandate as neutral and impartial organization.

Categories of beneficiaries:

Forced migrants; refugees; people seeking asylum in Russian Federation; internally displaced persons; labour and economic migrants; ecological migrants; undocumented migrants; the most vulnerable categories of local residents.

Regions where migrants arrive from:

- Internal unstable zones (Chechnya),
- NIS and Middle Asia Countries,
- Other foreign countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, China, Vietnam etc.)

During programme implementation of “Regional reception points for involuntary migrants” project, assistance was provided directly at the RRC regional branches (for migrants and vulnerable residents of the regional centres) and during regular field actions conducted together with representatives of territorial Migration Departments (for the rest of people living in the region). During the reporting period, **2,348 persons (including 1 384 migrants)** visited RRC regional reception points and were provided with legal, psychological and social consultations. Approximate proportion between migrants and local residents in Altai krai was 77% (migrants) and 23% (local residents), in Omsk oblast – 81% (migrants) and 19% (local residents), in Novosibirsk oblast – 30% (migrants) and 70% (local residents).

Within “Emergency Legal Counseling Points for the involuntary migrants at the railway stations” project, legal support was provided to the needy people directly on the premises of the railway stations provided to RRC free of charge. During the same reporting period, **781 persons (including 683 migrants)** visited and were provided with consultations by RRC legal consultants at the railway stations. Proportion between migrants and local residents in Reception point was 88% (migrants) and 13% (local residents).

Table 3. At a glance : Number of people and visits to RRC regional and emergency reception points in Omsk, Altai Krai, Novosibirsk and Novosibirsk railway station during the reporting period April 2003 – February 2004.

	Total			Total		
	Number visits	Migrants visits	% migrants	Number people	Number migrants	% migrants
Altai Krai	1,426	1,116	78.3	972	748	77.0
Novosibirsk oblast	2,142	737	34.4	936	278	29.7
Omsk oblast	1,431	1,213	84.8	440	358	81.4
W. Siberia railway	799	683	85.5	781	683	87.5
Total	5,798	3,749	-	3,129	2,067	-

Table 4. At a glance : Type of assistance provided to people at RRC regional and emergency reception points in Omsk, Altai Krai, Novosibirsk and Novosibirsk railway station during the reporting period April 2003 – February 2004.

	Assistance									
	Legal		Psychological		Tolerance trainings		Social		Group Session support	Humanitarian aid (in kind)
	visits	people	visits	people	No.	People	visits	people		
Altai Krai	449	431	522	420	44	546	408	391	11	234
Novosibirsk oblast	767	478	456	372	0	0	980	780	14	2

Omsk oblast	455	440	543	380	0	0	413	410	17	268
W. Siberia railway	799	781							4	2,304
Total	2,470	2,130	1,521	1,172	44	546	1,801	1,581	46	2,808

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 programme implementation, RRC psychologists met the programme objectives and strengthened the regional psychological network 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”)

In addition to providing counselling at reception points, RRC psychologists participated in field trips 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 throughout programme implementation (shown in **table 6** 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. Initially, only small numbers of migrants visited psychologists. However, psychologists overcame this problem by approaching potential beneficiaries directly, rather than waiting for them to contact RRC reception points.

The level of training and experience of psychologists in this sphere of work is an important factor in providing the best service possible. Between 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 and received documents on methodologies of working with the programme beneficiary groups. As a result of sharing experiences and information exchange,

psychologists working on the programme developed optimal methods of support. For example, psychologists developed more effective methods of meeting beneficiary needs based on their daily experience. A number of migrants face problems at the community level – feelings of exclusion from society as a whole and 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.

Red Cross psychologists also recognised the need for publications providing details on self support - on how to find a job, accommodation etc. – including details specific to programme implementation 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. These established relations will benefit future RRC programme activities in similar fields.

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, work with children increased awareness of the Red Cross support network among migrant families and encouraged vulnerable people to seek timely assistance.

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 provided 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

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

- programme personnel demonstrated 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
- field trips were conducted in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Interior migration department and passport/visa services.

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, job placement and housing issues (including temporary accommodation provided for involuntary migrants and counselling on departure from Russia to visit relatives graves.)
- Humanitarian aid (second hand clothes and shoes collected locally; food parcels; children's presents; hygiene kits; wheelchairs etc.)
- Assistance in accessing medicines and medical treatment (including free-of charge and reduced costs dental care in Omsk; free-of charge medical assistance and medicaments)

Most visitors to the reception centres applied for humanitarian aid. Procurement and distribution of this aid was not provided within the programme budget, and local branches conducted 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.

In addition, RRC social workers, legal advisers and psychologists in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Interior migration department conducted field trips to areas with high concentration of involuntary migrants. Such field trips included operation of a "charity train" that travelled from Novosibirsk railway to remote areas. During all trips, RRC representatives met with local authorities to discuss cooperation in supporting migrant populations.

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

Table 5. Number of children attending summer camp in Omsk, 9 -27 August 2003

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	
50	210	224,779			224,779

Problems encountered during the reporting period:

- 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.

The increase in the number of people visiting regional reception points is clearly visible in **table 6** 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 6. Total number of people receiving support/ visits made to RRC regional and emergency reception points in Omsk, Altai Krai, 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
January - February	674*	365*	734*

* the figures reported for January – February are significantly lower than during other reporting periods for two reasons –

- 1) this reporting period was shorter than previous reporting periods (only two months long as opposed to three months)
- 2) the programme was scaling down as part of its exit strategy during this period.

Programme implementation has had a positive impact on the Organisational Development (OD) 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

These strengthened relations between the participating RRC branches and local authorities will facilitate implementation of 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.

Furthermore, well publicised work of the Red Cross psychologists, legal advisers and social workers 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.

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.

Recommendations:

- 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 additional clothing and equipment for fishermen) for needy fishermen teams, and 4000 seed sets for distribution to approximately 14,000 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 2004. *Please refer to the International Federation website for further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf*

During the reporting period: all fishermen sets were assembled, a seeds supplier was selected and seeds kits procured, delivered and assembled, and lists of beneficiaries of seed sets compiled and approved in cooperation with regional, municipal and district Public Social Protection departments. So far 300 seeds sets have been distributed to RRC Omsukchan district. The remaining seeds sets are at local RRC branches ready for distribution.

The RRC programme coordinator and the International Federation Moscow delegation relief officer visited the programme site in March 2004 to monitor its implementation. The Relief officer commented that despite setbacks in programme implementation (unforeseen increases in cost of goods, leading to reduction in total number of seeds and fisherman sets; bad weather delaying transportation of seed and fishermen sets) the operation was running smoothly. In particular, in an interview with the head of one of the beneficiary communities, the Relief officer learned that the sets distributed so far met beneficiary needs to a much greater extent than the sets distributed within a Federation/ Russian Red Cross programme three years ago. This is because, in the previous programme, list of items to be included in sets were compiled in Moscow, whereas during this programme such lists were compiled in Magadan region, in close proximity to the beneficiaries and by local people with specific knowledge of the real needs.

Problems

- The second shipment of fishermen sets was delayed due to bad weather. As a result, the RRC branch has requested and received approval of a non-cost extension of programme implementation timeframe.
- Due to unexpected increase in costs, the original planned number of beneficiaries was reduced from 20,000 to 14,000.

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, distribution of all remaining seed and fishermen sets will take place. The project implementation period has been extended to the end of April 2004, due to delays caused by bad weather.

Humanitarian Values

Programme objective: Red Cross / Red Crescent humanitarian values and fundamental principles are promoted within the Russian Red Cross, its volunteers and partners and disseminated to the general public.

During the reporting period, activities conducted in accordance with the Appeal 2004 logical framework were limited due to funding constraints. The main activity was promotion of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on 24th March, outlined below. For information on **Reducing HIV/AIDS Related Stigma** please refer to the **Health and Care – Peer Education** section of this programme update.

World TB Day

World TB Day was celebrated in each region where the TB project is implemented as well as in Moscow, where Russian Red Cross and Federation representatives took part in a press conference in cooperation with WHO, the Russian Federation Ministry of Health and other non-governmental organisations working in the sphere of TB prevention. In addition, billboards on a highway leading to Moscow and stickers (on the Moscow metro) were posted to raise awareness of World TB Day. A poster competition was held among schoolchildren throughout Russia, and a charity concert in Moscow marked the World TB Day itself. Articles on the Russian Red Cross TB programme have appeared on the International Federation website <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04032305>

At the regional level, RRC branches organized activities as detailed in the **Health and Care** section below. The majority of these activities aimed to raise public awareness of the problem of TB. RRC branches targeted the young population in particular, informing about TB related issues and prevention; 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.



Billboards advertising World TB Day and bearing the USAID, Russian Red Cross, International Federation, EU and WHO emblems were posted on roads leading into Moscow and on the circle line in the Moscow metro.

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

Russian Red Cross is using this programme as a base to launch other HIV/AIDS related support programmes in the Irkutsk region, with support from IREX (International Research and Exchange Board, a USA NGO)/ USAID and Tides foundation (another NGO).

Health and Care

Programme Objective: Targeted vulnerable population of Russia benefit from high quality social care and support in health sphere through services provided by the strengthened Russian Red Cross.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: Development of the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service; support to most vulnerable TB-patients undergoing DOTS treatment; HIV/AIDS prevention through peer to peer learning; HIV/AIDS prevention among intra-venous drug-users through harm reduction initiatives; social and psychological support to vulnerable children.

Support to most vulnerable TB-patients undergoing DOTS treatment

Table 7. Donor support and implementation timeframe of TB activities

Regions	Donor Support	Implementing timeframe
Tomsk, Buryatia, Kemerovo	British Red Cross/ DFID	May 2001 – August 2004
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 Directly Observed Treatments (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 2004. Please refer to the Appeal for further details: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018204.pdf. In all regions the RRC efforts in TB control are highly appreciated by local authorities and TB services.

Tomsk, Buryatia and Kemerovo

Due to reallocation of funds by DfID, the programme will be terminated in August 2004, earlier than originally planned. While other DfID funded programmes have already been closed, the TB programme will continue until all patients accepted onto the RRC programme have finalised treatment.

The Red Cross programme is still regarded as essential in all the territories. A one-day training seminar for feltchers working at rayon FAPs (feltcher points) and one-day training seminar for therapists working in all city polyclinics (Ulan-Ude) were conducted in the Republic of Buryatia on the initiative of the local Russian Red Cross branch together with the regional State TB service. Seminars covered issues of close collaboration in TB detection and treatment and were highly regarded by RRC staff and local authorities alike.

The main difficulty of the programme implementation remains the same: long distances and poor communication with remote rayons, and limited funds to reimburse TB patients' transportation expenses (from home to the point of DOTS).

World TB Day on March 24th was celebrated in all the participating regions and RRC branches took the opportunity to conduct a wide-scale TB related information and education campaign.

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.

Achievements and difficulties:

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.

Education

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 (see the table below).

Table 8. 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 Staff of various enterprises (600 people) TB patients, members of their families	24 lectures 24 lectures 92 talks	Medical coordinator, information specialist, RRC volunteers
	About TB treatment Sanitary rules – TB patient in a family	Patients included into the programme (294 people)	294 talks	RRC visiting nurses Medical coordinator
	Stop TB – breath freely	Population (25–60 years old) of villages in Tomsk Oblast (400 people)	40 lectures	RRC visiting nurses
	TB/HIV prevention among youth	Schoolchildren of 15-17 years old (518 people)	25 lectures	RRC volunteers
Buryatia	TB prevention, ways of TB transmission, the Russian Red Cross role in TB control	Schoolchildren, medical personnel (428 people in total)	4 lectures	RRC visiting nurses
	Tuberculosis, reasons, prevention	Personnel of Social Defense Service and Veteran's Union - (18 people) TB patients	3 lectures 150 talks	RRC visiting nurses Medical coordinator
	TB and AIDS – a fatal duet	Schoolchildren (52 people)	2 lectures	RRC visiting nurse
	March 24 – World TB Day	Schoolchildren and students (390 people)	6 lectures	RRC visiting nurses Medical coordinator
	About work of Buryatia RRC youth group	Schoolchildren (90 people)	1 lecture	Youth leader
Kemerovo	TB prevention History of the International Red Cross Movement	Schoolchildren, workers, risk groups, etc. (3,078 people)	108 lectures	RRC volunteers, RRC visiting nurses
	Attention, TB	Schoolchildren, students (900 people)	27 lectures	RRC volunteers (TB dispensary personnel)
	Tuberculosis can be prevented	Schoolchildren (180 people)	9 lectures	RRC volunteers
	Healthy life style, TB prevention	TB patients and members of their families	1 358 talks	RRC visiting nurses
Total:		6 948 people	1 894 talks 273 lectures	

Information dissemination

During the reporting period all regional branches of the RRC conducted various events devoted to World TB Day as shown in table below:

Table 9. Information activities to promote World TB Day in Tomsk, Buryatia and Kemerovo during the reporting period

Region	Name of the event/activity	Place	Number of actions conducted	Approximate number of participants
Tomsk Oblast	Poster competition among schoolchildren	Tomsk City	1	280 people (9 winners)
	Distribution of information materials, collecting donations in the streets	Tomsk City and rayon centres	3	1,400 people
	Information about the RRC programme published in three oblast newspapers	Oblast	1	5,000 people
	Radio programmes about the project and the RRC activity	Oblast	8	10,000 people
	Video spot about the RRC TB control programme broadcast on the regional television	Oblast	5	17,000 people
	Relay-race “Zdoroviye” for children in sanatorium’s school	Kolpashevo City	1	200 people
	Questioning the population of the Oblast to measure awareness on TB and the RRC activity	Rayons	1	1,000 people
Republic of Buryatia	Educational and information materials have been reprinted (collection of children’s posters about TB, collection of schoolchildren’s poetry “AIDS with the eyes of a child”)	Republic	200 pieces	about 200 people
	Questioning of the population to measure its awareness on TB problem has been conducted	Ulan-Ude City	1	800 people
	Joint meeting for feldshers working at FAPs and therapists of city polyclinics about future collaboration within the programme has been conducted by the RRC and regional TB dispensary.	Ulan-Ude City	2	50 people
Kemerovo Oblast	Distribution of educational and information materials (leaflets, posters, memos) at various enterprises, medical institutions and crowded places	Oblast		1,200 people
	Participation in TV programmes devoted to the World TB Day		21	
	Developing and publishing sanitary bulletins, providing relevant information about the programme to the regional media		25 39 articles	
TOTAL (in three territories)				37,130 people

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.

Table 10. TB data recorded during the reporting period

Regions		Buryatia		Tomsk		Kemerovo		Total	
Total number of patients	transferred from the previous stage	300	185	267	169	446	278	1013	632
	Included during the reporting period		115		98		168		381
Number of patients who received DOT and RRC social support	DOT under VNS observation	300	106	267	133	446	424	1013	663
	DOT carried out by of TB service and Feldsher points staff		194		134		22		350
Number of visiting nurses participating in the programme	covered by the programme	11	8	12	9*	17	6	40	23
	covered from other sources		3		3		11		17
Number of patients excluded from RRC social support in the reporting period	completed treatment		97		92		124		313
	interrupted treatment (defaulters) withdrawn from the programme	115	2	112	1	178	4	405	7
	died		-		1		2		3
	transferred		16		18		48		82
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	117 / 395	115 / 387	138 / 294	8 / 36	200 / 387	21 / 192	455 / 1076	144 / 615
	Number of patients with problems of disciplinary character/ number of home visits		2 / 8		32 / 160		6 / 22		40 / 190
	Number of primary TB patients/ number of visits conducted before checkup				98 / 98		173 / 173		271 / 271
Number of traditional patients, visited by RRC visiting nurses/ number of visits		24		12 / 523		58		94	

Ensuring treatment regime of TB patients

The table above shows that the total number of patients who have been provided directly observed treatment and social support within the RRC programme during the reporting period was **1,013 (381 TB patients included into the project in January – March 2004 and 632 TB patients transferred from the previous stages)**. The number of patients excluded from RRC social support during the reporting period was **405**.

Social support

During the reporting period, social support of TB patients remained the main and effective tool for improving treatment compliance. Assistance was provided in the form of daily nutrition (hot meals at soup-kitchens or protein kits), distribution of food parcels and hygienic parcels, and reimbursement of transport expenses.

During the reporting period, there were six soup-kitchens functioning in three programme territories (two in Buryatia, four in Kemerovo) and 28 points of protein kits' distribution (ten in Buryatia, 11 in Tomsk and seven in Kemerovo).

Table 11. Social support in Buryatia, Tomsk and Kemerovo

Region		Buryatia	Tomsk	Kemerovo	Total		
Number of the patients receiving social support		300	267	446	1013		
Number of patients receiving:	Hot meals	100	-	175	275		
	Protein kits	147	217	221	585		
	Food parcels	53	50	50	153		
	Hygienic kits	267	267	206	740		
	Payment of transport charges for patients / visiting nurses	20	6	8	103	16	123
Number of distributed protein kits		2 745	9 450	8 255	20450		
Number of distributed food parcels		240	120	188	548		
Number of the distributed hygienic kits		267	519	272	1058		
Reimbursement of transport expenses (number of patients)		20	-	103	123		

During the reporting period, the total number of social support beneficiaries in three regions was **1,013**, including **860** TB patients who received hot meals or protein kits.

There were **10,213** hot meals and **20,450** protein kits distributed.

Average cost of a daily hot meal was 26.28 RUR in Kemerovo and 2 RUR in the Republic of Buryatia. Average cost of protein kit was 26.67 RUR in Kemerovo, 2 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 meat, noodles, etc. Contents of kits were regularly changed. The hot meals, protein kits, hygienic kits and food parcels were distributed on a regular basis as outlined in programme update 4: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01840304.pdf

The majority of soup-kitchens and protein kits' distribution points are supplied with all necessary furniture and equipment. All soup-kitchens and protein kits' distribution points provide daily menus or protein kit's content lists. Various information and educational materials are present in all the Red Cross distribution points: posters, leaflets, booklets about tuberculosis as well as about organizations running "RRC against TB and AIDS" programme and donors providing financial support to programme activities.

Legal and psychological counselling

Table 12. 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	43	18	13	12
	Psychological support	81	71	0	10

Tomsk	Consultation of a jurist	37	9	0	28
	Psychological support	-	-	-	-
Kemerovo	Consultation of a jurist	127	115	0	12
	Psychological support	152	151	0	1
Total	Consultations of a jurist	207	142	13	52
	Psychological support	233	222	0	11

The total number of psychological support beneficiaries during the reporting period was 233, including 222 TB patients and 11 non-TB beneficiaries requiring RRC assistance.

Regional RRC psychologists conducted:

- individual consultations with TB patients on private issues;
- educational talks with various categories of vulnerable layers of the population;
- working visits to remote cities of Kemerovo Oblast;
- distribution of informational materials on various topics.

The RRC specialists constantly run dialogues with clients in order to develop the positive motivation necessary for the continuation of their treatment. The main reasons of appealing for psychological support are loss of job as a result of disease, situational or personal internal anxiety, inability to control emotions, depression, psychosomatic symptoms.

Conversation is the main method used during psychological consultation and is popular among the clients. Many beneficiaries prefer these relaxation sessions to other forms of psychological support.

Co-operation with TB doctors working within “RRC against TB and AIDS” programme is developing. As a result, joint (RRC and TB service) educational activities take place at city TB dispensaries. In this way RRC is able to provide psychological assistance to TB patients who are not included into the programme but require psychological support.

As the table shows, legal support was provided to 207 people, including 155 TB patients and 52 non-TB beneficiaries requiring the RRC assistance.

A range of main questions (by priority) remains the same:

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

Objective 3 To strengthen institutionally the Russian Red Cross as part of civil society and its visiting nurses service as a community based, multifunctional primary health care service

During the reporting period there were **40** visiting nurses in all target territories involved in the programme activities, **23** of whom were paid from the programme budget and **17** of whom were covered by locally raised funds.

The Red Cross visiting nurses provided directly observed treatment to **663** TB patients (65.5%), the remaining **350** TB patients received treatment under the supervision of TB service and FAPs personnel. Social support was provided by visiting nurses.

During the reporting period **94** traditional Red Cross beneficiaries were receiving care at home rendered by visiting nurses. The most part of beneficiaries are lonely elderly and severe patients requiring specific care from outside.

Visiting nurses provided sanitary and hygienic care, supervised fulfilment of all medical prescriptions, gave injections, measured blood pressure, carried out bandaging, washing and feeding of the patients, provided bed sore prevention measures. In some cases, they carried out functions of social workers (buying food, cooking, cleaning apartments, etc.).

The RRC visiting nurses work in medical and social rooms with TB patients, members of their families and other people who need Red Cross support. TB patients are supported in a variety of ways. Besides the direct control over the intake of daily medications' dosage and provision of social support, visiting nurses conduct meetings and organize holidays for TB patients and members of their families, tea parties, events etc. For further information about the strengthening of RRC visiting nurses service please refer to **Development of the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service** section below.

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.

The main priority now is to ensure treatment completion by all patients accepted onto the RRC TB programme before external funding ceases in July 2004. At the same time, it is necessary to seek different funding sources to continue support to TB patients in these regions.

USAID funded TB programme in three regions of Russia

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, Khakassia and Belgorod) in partnership with the regional authorities.

The project has five objectives:

- a) Assisting regional authorities to develop an effective TB control system;
- b) Assuring access to care and follow-up for the most vulnerable TB patients, using social/nutritional support as incentives to increase adherence to treatment;
- c) Facilitating improved links between prison and civilian TB services;
- d) Increasing preventive awareness among the general population of TB, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- e) 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. During the reporting period, the programme in Pskov, Khakassia and Belgorod regions continued. The main achievements for the fifth annual reporting period (October 2003 – March 2004) are as follows:

- New schedule introduced for treatment and incentives for the TB patients during weekends and holidays. On Saturdays the service is provided in Red Cross premises and on Sundays in Emergency First Aid Centres.
- Opening ceremony of the laboratory in Pskov, January 2004. Equipment was provided within the programme, while local authorities funded renovation of the laboratory premises.
- Development of a training model for improving communication with TB patients.
- Identification of areas for wider involvement of Regional Red Cross branch psychological workers in work with patients in TB dispensaries.

- Arrangements with Novosibirsk and St Petersburg Research Institutes to organize the in-trainings for laboratory workers in respective territories.
- Introduction of the newly developed reporting form which groups patients who are receiving (or not) incentives and which is based on treatment results.
- Harmonization and co-ordination of the interventions between TB dispensaries and Red Cross Regional Branches.
- Doctors, nurses and Red Cross staff working within the program from Pskov, Khakassia and Belgorod regions participated in training seminars /courses

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Introducing the controlled treatment during weekend will shorten the total number of days required for finalizing the treatment
- Monitoring visits show that the recording/reporting system, standard therapy and treatment control are in place and there are fewer mistakes in this process than recorded during previous reporting periods. Improvement in project implementation is needed in case- finding by the microscopy method. At present, X-ray diagnosis remains the main method for TB diagnosis.
- An important program objective is to equip reference laboratories quality control in regards to microbiological analysis. Federal Research Institutes will play a key role in this sphere of activity.
- Further attention should be devoted to infections control. Within the current system, smear negative patients are mix should devote more attention to infection control. Within the current system smear negative patients are grouped with other TB positive patients. The separation based on results of the smear is still pending.
- The necessity of using masks and respirators has been introduced to medical staff and patients.
- The programme team will work on future development of the training for trainers course for RRC psychological workers who will be the focal point for trainings at branch level (for Red Cross and TB dispensaries nurses).
- To analyze the group of the patients who were defaulters and were not on the list for incentive support and to create solution for this problem.
- It appears that those patients who were on social support had better treatment compliance than those not receiving the social support.
- Opening of the laboratory organized by Local Authorities, and seminars with Local authorities are showing the level of political commitment to the project and the understanding of continuation of the funding when external funds will stop.

For further information on the USAID funded programme - 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.

Peer education

In January 2004 Russian Red Cross finalized implementation of activities within the framework of the “Youth and AIDS: peer education” project, covering three regions – Kaliningrad, Krasnodar and Tver for the period October 2003 - January 2004 and funded by Swedish Red Cross. In accordance with the emerging need for harm reduction programmes, Russian Red Cross and the Federation also conducted activities to determine whether the selected regions were prepared to accept harm reduction programmes; to evaluate the potential readiness of the Russian Red Cross regional committees to implement such a programme; and to find out whether the local authorities support such kind of activities.

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. To meet the second objective, youth HIV/AIDS prevention activities were carried out to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS prevention among the general public. Specific project outcomes are reflected in the tables below:

Table 13: Information data on programme activities and achievements

Region	No. of seminars	No. of volunteers trained during the programme	No. of youth participants	No. of informational materials distributed
Krasnodar	30	18	759	9323
Kaliningrad	34	5	790	1540
Tver	34	18	677	3210
Total	98	41	2226	14073

Table 14: Information on HIV prevention events

Region	No. of regional events held	No. of participants	No. of materials disseminated among youth and teenagers
Krasnodar	2	1400	9323
Kaliningrad	5	900	1540
Tver	3	1000	3210
Total	10	3300	14073

In general, analysis showed that the “Peer education programme” was successful (new volunteers, increase of general awareness of HIV/AIDS among youth etc.). 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.

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. This programme component experienced problems, primarily the reluctance of local authorities to implement such a project. A round table meeting was carried out to analyse results of the monitoring trips, and it showed that in spite of all difficulties and constraints the project was implemented successfully and all set objectives were met. *For further details, please refer to the final report on project activities available from the Russia delegation Moscow@ifrc.org*

Development of the Russian Red Cross Visiting Nurses Service

Within the reporting period, a project designed to support the visiting nurses service was launched in Smolensk and Nizhny Novgorod provinces of Russian Federation with support of Lars Amundsen foundation. Further negotiations on Russian Red Cross contribution towards co-financing of the visiting nurses support project in Taimyr are continuing with Icelandic Red Cross. Local administration of Taimyr province has committed to an increasing contribution of 20-30% over three years of project implementation. A cooperation agreement is being signed between the parties to enable commencement of activities. Another project supported by private donors is under preparation and due to begin shortly. The project proposal is being designed with regions and scope of interventions identified (Bryansk and Ryazan). All projects include support to isolated elderly through enhanced visiting nurses services as well as establishment of socio-medical rooms in Russian Red Cross branches.

Activities targeting HIV/AIDS prevention among intra-venous drug-users through **harm reduction** initiatives and **social and psychological support to vulnerable children** have not been initiated due to the lack of funding. Russian Red Cross continues to fundraise both through the International Federation, international and local donors to enable their implementation.

Organizational Development

Programme objective: The organisational capacity of the Russian Red Cross headquarters and selected 3-5 regions strengthened through improved coordination, strategic priorities, improved financial management, mobilisation of local resources, increased training capacities, introduction of active membership systems, and increased involvement of youth and volunteers.

Projects designed to meet the objective are: RRC Strategic Development; Strengthened coordination role of RRC headquarters vis-à-vis the branches; Financial Management Improvement; Financial Resource Mobilisation; Capacity building at all levels; Development of youth activities.

The following activities have been implemented by the Russian Red Cross organisational development department within reporting period:

- Analyzing organizational development questionnaires filled in by the regions with assessment of their priorities needing assistance and contribution of the Russian Red Cross organizational development department;
- Refining a Model “RRC Humanitarian Passport of the Region” as a comprehensive statistic and comparative database on the Russia Federation regions and respective Russian Red Cross regional branches;
- Participation in the resource mobilisation review project: reviewing and discussing analytical reports from the participating regions and the round table organised to review the assessment outcomes, conclusions and further actions;
- Drawing up analytical papers summarizing finding from the organizational development questionnaire review with recommendations to the organizational development department of the Russian red Cross headquarters;
- Participation in review of the youth project proposals from the Northern Caucasus regional branches, conducted in cooperation with the ICRC;
- Compiling a federal data base on trusts, foundations, NGOs, UN agencies and other potential grant-making organizations;
- Drafting a unified guidelines for the regional branches on how to plan and draft humanitarian and development projects;
- Drawing up Russian Red Cross organisational development plan of actions, including organizational analysis, self-assessment and strategic planning at the regional branch level.

Resource mobilisation review, initiated with support of the British Red Cross in September 2003, was finalized by the round table discussions with participation of the project working group and representatives of all Russian Red Cross branches involved into project implementation. Main review outcomes and conclusions have been incorporated into the final report, also containing overall analysis of resource mobilization techniques, sources of funds (local governments, businesses, private donations, etc.), priority target groups, trends and pre-conditions for successful fundraising within specific context. *Final assessment and project activities reports are to be issued shortly.*

Russian Red Cross is currently in process of revising allocation of funds received under Capacity Building Fund 2002. Initial project proposal focused on leadership training and strategic planning; however, planned activities have not been fully implemented due to re-occurring changes within Russian Red Cross. It is suggested to utilize remaining funds within implementation of the Russian Red Cross organizational development work plan, which also includes aspects of improved coordination and information sharing, capacity building and financial management.

Coordination and Management

Programme objective: Efficient support is provided to the Russian Red Cross through coordination of partnerships and available resources, as well as in supporting the national society in developing its strategic and programme directions within the core areas defined by the Federation's Strategy 2010.

Russian Red Cross and Federation Delegation representatives participated in preparation of the 4th round Global Fund application for Russia. Russian Red Cross has been included into the Global Fund working group, and its model on social support to TB patients undergoing DOTS treatment has been proposed for implementation in 20 regions of Russia, including 10 regions directly supervised by Russian Red Cross. Russian Red Cross has also been included into the list of potential sub-contractors for implementation of HIV/AIDS component of the proposal.

Due to funding re-allocations by DFID, Russian Red had to cease its project providing multi-faceted support to vulnerable populations of Western Siberia. Project activities included HIV/AIDS prevention, social support to TB patients undertaking DOTS treatment, support to youth initiatives and organisational development, including income-generating projects and development of the financial management systems. In order to enable TB patients receiving social support to finalise their treatment, British Red Cross negotiated continuation of this project component until the end of August. *For further details, please refer to the project final pledge-based report available from the Geneva Secretariat (see end of report for contact details)*

Russian Red Cross, ICRC and the Federation Delegation representatives met with Mr Jan Egeland, UN Deputy Secretary General, in the course of his visit to Russia. Issues of inter-agency cooperation in addressing the needs of the country's vulnerable population, specifically internally displaced people in the North Caucasus region, were discussed.

The Swedish Red Cross Desk Officer visited Russian Red Cross in order to follow up on activities implemented in cooperation with Swedish Red Cross and discuss further the direction of cooperation in 2004-2005. In the course of the visit issues related to continuation of twinning co-ordination and overall Russian-Nordic cooperation were also addressed.

Representatives of the Federation Delegation and ICRC were invited to the Russian Red Cross annual board meeting as observers. Issues discussed included a report on activities over 2003, approval of the budget for 2004, management, coordination and development of youth initiatives country-wide.

Federation Delegation representatives participated in screening of proposals within a youth projects contest for North Caucasus region, implemented in cooperation with the ICRC. As a result of joint Russian Red Cross, ICRC and Federation efforts, ensuring an integrated and transparent approach towards quality of interventions, two projects have been chosen for implementation.

The British Red Cross desk officer visited Russian Red Cross to discuss further cooperation frameworks, ensuring that the partnership between Russian Red Cross and British Red Cross is based on a transparent reciprocity of interests reflecting shared goals and shared learning. It is anticipated that relationships and knowledge developed within the Western Siberia project implementation will act as a platform on which to build future cooperation.

Norwegian Red Cross Secretary General and head of development division visited Russian Red Cross to discuss current and future cooperation. In connection with the ongoing Children Support programme and the fundraising campaign that creates the financial basis for this programme, the Norwegian Red Cross delegation also included representatives of the fundraising and reporting departments, who focused on the humanitarian situation in targeted regions.

The Federation Delegation programme coordinator attended the annual meeting of organizational development delegates, aiming to provide an update of the recent organizational development trends, share

best practices and establish inter-regional cooperation. All meeting outcomes and materials have been shared with Russian Red Cross colleagues. Moreover, Federation Delegation and Russian Red Cross organizational department specialists joined the Europe organizational development mailing group, established to ensure better cooperation, information exchange and support at the regional level.

.International Representation/Advocacy/Public Information

The Federation Delegation continued to raise the profile of the Russian Red Cross through joint involvement in inter-agency cooperation. During the reporting period, meetings were held with the following agencies: WHO (working group on Global Fund application), AFEW (AIDS Foundation East-West), Human Rights Watch, USAID.

Care and support project manager of the Russian Red Cross Irkutsk branch delivered a presentation on social, psychological and medical support provided to project beneficiaries at the UNICEF working meeting. The meeting addressed the approaches to provision of complex medico-social support to HIV positive children, new mothers and pregnant women, and hosted participants from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, WHO, USAID, IREX and UNICEF.

The Federation Delegation and American Red Cross Health Delegate attended a 2-day training workshop on the USAID new integrated HIV/AIDS strategy. The meeting participants reviewed the next five year HIV/AIDS strategy and conducted discussions aimed to establish a collaborative approach to addressing HIV/AIDS in Russia.

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 and non-governmental national and international organisations.

Outside the Appeal:

American Red Cross programmes for children were finalised in January 2004. During February - March 2004, the Russian Red Cross conducted competitions among Red Cross branches nationwide to select suitable children's projects for implementation in 2004. So far, 7 different project proposals with varying timeframes have been accepted. Implementation is due to begin in April 2004.

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