

# ***RUSSIA: SUBMARINE DISASTER; SUPPORT TO FAMILIES***

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## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

On Saturday, August, 19, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk, conducting manoeuvres in the Barents Sea, sank some 375 feet to the seafloor, reportedly either from a collision with another vessel or an internal explosion. Despite over a week of intensive efforts to save the crew of the submarine, it has been confirmed that all are dead.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) is assessing the needs of the families, most of whom are in Murmansk. The most probable assistance is psycho/social support to the families, an area in which the RRC has a fairly large programme assisting displaced persons. The Government has also indicated efforts to provide support to the families. The RRC has considerable experience over the past years in many aspects of psycho-social support, for example the Visiting Nurses Programme (VNS) comprises 2,000 nurses who operate medico-social centres who provide easier access to basic care for vulnerable persons as well as providing care for TB patients in their homes.

### ***Needs***

The RRC anticipates that the family members will have psycho-social needs, and they may also require immediate assistance for travel costs and emergency living costs. The mid to long-term needs will be discussed with the family members of the victims and the authorities to find the most appropriate and supportive programme for these families. The RRC expects to have a clearer idea of such support in the coming days, and more detailed information will be made available shortly.

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