

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: AVALANCHE IN NORTH OSETIA***

23 September 2002

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*DREF Allocated: No funds have been allocated as yet*

*This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through the Federation's Emergency Appeal no. 20/02 - Floods in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia.*

### ***The Situation***

Last Friday (20 September), an avalanche occurred on a mountainside in North Osetia, one of the regions affected earlier in June by floods. The avalanche was caused by a 150-meter-tall chunk of glacier which broke off and slid down the mountain. Moving at more than 100 kilometres an hour, the avalanche slid 33 kilometres and stopped 10 kilometres from the town of Vladikavkaz. The path of destruction was nearly 300 meters to 400 meters wide. The avalanche sent a mass of ice, rocks and mud through nearby settlements. Karmadon George, just outside of the Republic's capital Vladikavkaz, was most affected. Initial reports indicate that some 22 people have been reported killed, and over 100 are missing. Among the missing include a well known Russian film producer and an actor (Sergei Bodrov Jr.) along with 49 film crew. Emercom officials believe that the death toll could mount to 150. Officials are concerned about many tourists who were likely to be in the area during the weekend.

Over 500 Emercom workers and 100 units of equipment, including helicopters, are involved in tracing activities, and are communicating via a telephone hot line. Twenty six people were saved by the rescuers. The villages of Koban and Gornaya Saniba remain isolated by the mass of ice.

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

The North Osetia committee of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) is working in close co-operation with the local Emercom department, participating in tracing activities and assessing the affected territory. They plan to send 180 8.5-kilogram family food parcels, provided by the ICRC, to the affected people in isolated settlements in addition to a ton of flour from their emergency relief stock. Each parcel contains: sugar, grains, tomato paste, tea, butter and cheese. Based on the assessment results, further Red Cross assistance might be considered. The Federation is planning to provide support to disaster victims under Appeal 20/02 - Floods in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia, that already includes North Osetia as one of the targeted territories.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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