

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: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN NOVOROSSIISK

12 August 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/02

Disaster relief Emergency Funds (DREF) Allocated: N/A

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. The Russian Red Cross (RRC) is already implementing a flood relief operation in the area affected, with support provided by the Federation (Emergency Appeal 20/2002 issued on 19 July for Floods in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia). Any further assistance delivered in response to the latest flooding will be provided under this appeal. Operations Update no. 1 is expected shortly, and this will serve to articulate any further operational needs and/or a revised budget.

The Situation

As a result of heavy rains, water levels in the Dyurso, Cemes, and Bakanka Rivers and the Abrau-Dyurso Lake have increased, leading to severe flooding and landslides in seven settlements near the Districts of Novorossiisk and in Krymsk (Abrau-Dyurso, Dyurso, South Ozereevka, Glebovskoye, Vasilyevka, Cemdolina and Krymsk city). An emergency situation was declared on 8 August.

In just over two days, 58 people were killed and over 300 were reported missing. Rescue workers continue their activity, focusing particularly on unregistered visitors on vacation at the seaside and for whom there is little reliable information. According to official estimates, the flooded area covers some 30,000 people and 12,000 households. Over 3,000 houses were damaged and 330 destroyed completely; 20 bridges were heavily damaged. Approximately 2,000 people were evacuated, and 32 rescued by Emercom workers. Over 800 kilometres of rail and 5.5 kilometres of roadway were inundated; transport and communications with Novorossiisk were cut for four days. Vaccinations for infectious diseases has started, and tourists and the local population have received disinfectant materials.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

In response to Appeal 20/2002, Floods in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia, the RRC has collected local donations within Moscow and Vologda, and has received substantial amounts of second hand clothes from the Swedish Red Cross. These commodities (nearly 2 tons of food products and 12 tons of second hand clothes) were sent by truck to the RRC zonal office in Stavropol on 8 August for further distribution to the affected people. Beneficiary lists will be discussed with local social welfare departments. The Novorossiisk branch of the RRC collected and distributed food products for 1,300 people, second hand clothes for 1,500 people, and conducted medical and psychological consultations.

From 9 to 11 of August, the RRC Press secretary and Zonal representative conducted an assessment in the flooded areas. The preliminary findings indicate further needs in the form food products, clothes, bed linen,

stoves, heaters, hygienic items, mattresses, medication, and tents for approximately 15,000 people. Further information is anticipated shortly and will be reflected in the upcoming Operations Update no. 1

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

- *Miro Modrusan, Federation Desk Officer; Phone 41 22 730 4324; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email modrusan@ifrc.org*
- *Rea Ivanek, Officer Assistant; Phone 41 22 730 4323; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email ivanek@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>

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

John Horekens
Director
Division of External Relations

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department