

# 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: SCHOOL FIRE TRAGEDIES***

*11 April 2003*

*Information Bulletin N° 1/03*

*Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 15,000*

- This bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update. On-line funding: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org).*

### ***The Situation***

Severe fires in two schools in the past four days have killed several Russian children. In Makhachkala, Dagestan, 28 children were killed at a boarding school for invalid children. In the second tragedy, 22 died at a secondary school in Sydybyl settlement, Yakutia. The Ministry of Emergency Situations extinguished both blazes.

***Dagestan:*** 166 children were sleeping at the school for deaf and dumb students, when the fire broke out at 2am. Twenty eight children, aged between 7 to 14 years, were killed and 113 others were hospitalised with severe burns, traumas and asphyxia. The two-floor building of the boarding school was burned down. Today, a Ministry of Emergency Situations cargo plane brought humanitarian aid to victims. State health authorities and other related services are providing assistance. April 11 has been made an official day of mourning in the Republic.

***Yakutia:*** the fire broke out at 9:15am just as children started classes. Over one hundred students and nine personnel were in the building. Twenty two children, aged 10 to 18 years, were killed, and 39 were hospitalised with burns and asphyxia. The school premises were burned down.

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

***Dagestan:*** the chairperson of the Dagestan branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) visited the disaster scene with ICRC employees soon after. The local Red Cross branch organised blood donations from students and volunteers of the local Red Cross youth movement. Medicine is urgently required to treat many of the fire victims. Red Cross representatives are on site, assessing needs.

**Yakutia:** Executive Director of the local branch of the RRC made a preliminary assessment of the situation with the local department of the Ministry of Health. Medicine, bandages, hygienic items and cash is urgently needed to assist fire victims. Yakutia RRC committee volunteers and staff are collecting donations in money boxes. A special account has also been opened for public donations. Food aid for the families of affected children has been given.

Below, is a table of needed items in Yakutia:

Item	Quantity	Cost (RUR)
Albumin 10%, 100 ml	100	95,000 (3,070 USD)
Elastic bandage No.4	600	900 (30 USD)
Elastic bandage No.6	600	1,340 (43 USD)
Elastic bandage No.3	600	1,520 (50 USD)
Medicine	800	41,880 (1,350 USD)
Other bandages		20,000 (645 USD)
Hygienic parcels		15,000 (484 USD)
Total:		RUR 175,640 (5,672 USD)

The RRC central committee announced a fund-raising/donations campaign for both Dagestan and Yakutia fire victims.

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

*For further details please contact :*

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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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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

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