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## Information bulletin

# Russia: Population movement

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>IB-22072014-RU</b>	<b>Date of issue: 22 July 2014</b>
<b>Host National Society: Russian Red Cross</b>	
<b>Point of contact: Mr Sergey Kobets, Head of International Department, Russian Red Cross</b>	
<b>Number of people affected: almost the entire population of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 110,000</b>
<b>N° of other National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): ---</b>	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): ---</b>	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. Currently the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation which is subject to the developments of the situation on the ground. The Russian Red Cross will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.*

## The situation

The deterioration of the security situation in the south-eastern part of Ukraine has caused a massive flow of Ukrainian citizens who have been looking for safety and shelter in the territory of the Russian Federation. According to the Russian Federation's Migration Service (FMS), 110,000 people have crossed the Ukrainian-Russian border due to the military actions; more than 30,000 of them have applied to the Russian FMS for asylum and refugee status.

Currently more than 30 regions of Russia (Rostov, Bryansk, Belgorod, Orel, Voronezh, Volgograd, Krasnodar, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Vologda, Yaroslavl, Moscow region and others) have been receiving displaced persons from Ukraine. The largest concentration of people from Ukraine looking for shelter in the Russian Federation, around 20,000 people, is observed in the Rostov region which has the most extended border with Ukraine - about 660 km. Most of the displaced people are staying with host families or with their relatives.

Around 25,000 displaced people are accommodated in the temporary shelters opened by local authorities and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation. By 16 July 2014, the Russian authorities have opened 260 temporary shelters in 30 regions of Russia where around 20,000 Ukrainians are accommodated. 44 temporary shelters in the Rostov region have received about 3,500 displaced people.

According to the Rostov regional government, local authorities are currently providing more than 1,000 displaced people with basic assistance including health and care services. The regional authorities have also requested additional financial assistance in the total amount of 350 million roubles (around CHF 9.2 millions) from the Federal Government of Russia to cover the urgent needs of the population. The Federal Government has already allocated 240 million roubles (CHF 6.3 million) for the Rostov region.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the first week of June 2014, a special task force was set up at the Russian Red Cross Headquarters to lead and to ensure a proper response to the humanitarian requirements arising from the massive flow of displaced people from Ukraine to Russia.

- The RCRC Movement coordination mechanism has been activated. The Russian RC is operating in close collaboration with the Moscow-based IFRC Regional Representation for Russia and the ICRC Regional Delegation in Moscow for Russia, Belarus and Moldova.
- On 19-20 June 2014, the joint RRC/IFRC/ICRC team visited the Rostov region to assess the humanitarian situation and the assistance needs related to the massive population movement from Ukraine.
- A public resource mobilisation campaign launched by the Rostov regional branch of the Russian Red Cross to support the needs of the displaced people from Ukraine has resulted, at 10 July 2014, in the collection of almost 50 million roubles (around 1.3 million CHF). Those funds are allocated to address the needs in terms of food, non-food and hygiene items of the most vulnerable categories of displaced people from Ukraine accommodated in the temporary shelters in the Rostov region.
- 2 million Russian roubles, raised by the Russian RC Headquarters, has been channelled to more than 15 regional branches to support the displaced people from Ukraine who have been hosted in these regions.
- During the last two weeks the following types of humanitarian assistance have been provided by the RRC's regional branches:

	<b>Type of assistance</b>	<b>No. of people assisted</b>
1.	Humanitarian aid	11,641
2.	Legal and social counselling	794
3.	Restoring Family Links	19
4.	Psychosocial support	744

In order to organize the assistance process in a proper way, the Russian Red Cross has prepared, jointly with IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow, operational guidelines for the RRC's regional branches under the title "The Issues of Providing Support to Displaced People" that contains basic Russia-specific and international legal information on forced migration with contact details both of Russian Red Cross counselling offices in Moscow and Saint Petersburg for migrants and the responsible state authorities and organizations which deal with migration issues. These guidelines have been distributed by now among RRC regional branches and their interested partners.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.