

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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: SEVERE POVERTY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES

19 June 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 24/00

Launched on 19 September, 2000 for CHF 17,617,400 for 12 months. The appeal was revised and a new document was issued on 28 March, 2001, with the budget decreased to CHF 1,180,600 and the operational time-frame to 9 months.

DREF Allocated: No DREF allocations were made towards the appeal.

Beneficiaries: 147,100.

Operations Update No. 3 Period covered: 28 March - 4 June, 2001 (last Ops Update issued: situation report No. 2 on 24 January, 2001 before the revised appeal was issued); Next Ops Update No. is expected at end-July 2001.

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 40.9%

Related Appeals: 01.59/2001; Russian Federation

Outstanding needs: CHF 697,697

The Disaster/Situation: Despite the significant budget revision and the initial timely support provided by some donors, this appeal remains extremely underfunded. Further contributions are urgently needed to assist the Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS) meet the planned objectives, including the setting up of feeding programmes for the vulnerable children in schools in the remaining six targeted regions of the appeal; and establishing and supporting community canteen centres.

Operational Developments:

During the reporting period, the revised programme appeal was prepared and issued. Initially the programme intended to assist 209,000 beneficiaries, mainly children in institutions with food and clothes. The programme also included a development component to involve the vulnerable northern people into small-scaled economic projects. While activities related to the community canteens in four regions were begun, limited financial support inhibited the procurement of relief supplies and the implementation of soup kitchens for children. The limited response to the appeal has necessitated a programme review, resulting in the revised appeal. The budget was decreased to CHF 1,180,600 and the number of beneficiaries was limited to 147,100 individuals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

According to the revised appeal, the programme will focus on the following reduced activities: community canteen centres; distribution of seeds, fertilizer and fishing nets; hot meals at schools in remote areas and urban centres. Due to the priority needs and limited financial resources, no health, water sanitation, tracing, and shelter activities will be implemented.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

Responding to the humanitarian needs in the Russian North, Far East and Siberia, the Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS) supported by the International Federation, has implemented several large-scale humanitarian programmes across Russia over the last three years, providing humanitarian assistance to over 5 million of Russia's most vulnerable citizens. The previous winter appeals were designed as broad-spectrum, emergency aid programmes intended to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable through the long, cold winter months. The challenge has been immense, but by mounting this response the RRCS have gained valuable experience and lessons about the type of aid needed and the timing of such aid.

This appeal was designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people of the isolated Northern Territories and Far Northeast - Nenetskiy AO, Taymyr AO, Yakutia (Sakha) Republic, Magadan, Kamchatka (including Koryak AO), Chukotka AO and Tyva Republic. There is a relief team in each RRCS committee headed by national co-ordinators in Yakutia and Kamchatka, RRCS Central Committee representative in Chukotka and chairpeople in the remaining regions. A wide network of over 400 volunteers across the targeted regions, including state representatives and the higher bodies of commercial companies provide significant support to the programme, mainly with distributions, loading, unloading and transportation.

To give a better response to disasters and to improve assistance to the most vulnerable, the Russian Red Cross is implementing structural changes within the Society to strengthen the executive branch of power. The country has been divided into eight zones: North West, Central, North Caucasus, Volga, Ural, West Siberia, East Siberia and Far East. Local directors were elected to head each zonal department, and among other duties to ensure implementation of regional and federal programmes, assess and evaluate local committees' activities.

Community Canteen Centres w

Objective 1. Establish Red Cross owned community canteen centres and explore opportunities for Russian Red Cross income generation.

The RRCS community canteen centres project is now underway with the first canteen opening in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on 13 June. The Kamchatka RC committee received strong support from the local administration related to issues of funding, material support, and important help with the local taxation issues. Premises were found in the centre of the city with approximately twelve rooms of various sizes and a substantial cellar. An agreement was signed with the local administration giving ownership of the premises to the Red Cross for 15 years. In the community centre, there will be a canteen serving hot meals to 75 vulnerable people: 10-15% of elderly and 85-90% of children. The children beneficiaries were chosen through school social co-ordinators. An agreement was signed with the local employment fund, which will assign 10 employees to the canteen and pay their salary. A room of medical and social assistance in the community centre will serve as a permanent base for the visiting nurses service (VNS) and a first aid point, where the vulnerable will be able to measure their pressure, receive medicine and other respective assistance. It is planned to continue repair works and open a therapeutic centre for the vulnerable elderly. There are no funds for this activity now, but if it will start to function, the Kamchatka Red Cross chairlady plans to partly put it on commercial basis to gain sustainability. Negotiations are ongoing with local psychologists to establish a point of psychological consultations in the community centre.

Due to a lack of agreement with local administrations and limited funds, it was impossible to establish community canteen centres in Magadan, Tyva and Taymyr.

Hot Meals at Schools w

Objective 1. Improve the level of food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable children in remote areas and urban centres.

Due to a lack of funds, feeding programmes for children in schools were begun only in two regions: Tyva Republic and Magadan. RUR 42,240 were sent to Magadan and RUR 44,880 were sent to Tyva to start the

feeding programme. The same sums of money will be sent to the respective regions every month until September. As of the beginning June, the following results were reached:

Region	No. soup kitchens	No. beneficiaries	No. meals	Money spent, RUR
Magadan	1	70	1,120	26,880
Tyva	3	423	4,055	44,880

Relief distributions w

Objective 1. Distribute seeds and fertilizer sets to 144,000 beneficiaries encouraging self-sufficiency and improving nutritional intake.

Fertilizer and 48,000 seed sets were delivered to the three targeted regions of Magadan, Kamchatka and Tyva during the reporting period. Beneficiaries are comprised of single pensioners, multi-child families, single-headed families, invalids, and children in institutions. Local distributions were finished in the Tyva RC committee at the end of April with the following results:

No.	Settlement	No. sets	No. families	No. individuals
1	Bay-Tanginsky	300	300	1,450
2	Barun-Khemchinsky	600	600	2,870
3	Dzun-Khemchinsky	800	800	4,580
4	Kaa-Khemsky	1,000	977	4,383
5	Kyzylsky	2,350	2,350	10,121
6	Kungurtuk	100	100	560
7	Mongun-Tayginsky	100	100	536
8	Ovyursky	100	100	480
9	Piy-Khemsky	800	800	2,450
10	Sut-Kholsky	550	550	2,749
11	Tandinsky	1,000	1,000	2,310
12	Tes-Khemsky	500	500	2,123
13	Todzhinsky	400	400	1,230
14	Ulug-Khemsky	1,500	1,500	5,349
15	Erzinsky	400	400	1,150
16	Chaa-Kholsky	400	400	1,903
17	Chedi-Kholsky	500	500	2,110
18	Ak-Dovurak	300	300	1,050
19	Kyzyl	8,000	8,000	27,382
	Tyva RC Republican committee	300	300	675
	TOTAL	20,000	19,977	75,461

Kamchatka Red Cross committee sent an interim distributions report on 8 May, including Koryak AO and covering the following information:

No.	Regions	No. sets planned	No. sets distributed	No. families	No. individuals
Kamchatka Region					
1	Petropavlovsk	4,250	4,250	2,763	7,934
2	Aleutsky	100	-	-	-
3	Bystrinsky	500	500	500	1,387
4	Elizovsky	3,750	3,750	3,750	9,704
5	Milkovsky	800	800	800	1,944
6	Sobolevsky	600	600	-	-
7	Ust-Bolsheretsky	600	600	-	-
8	Ust-Kamchatsky	600	600	368	840
9	Viluchinsky	600	600	600	1,602
	Kamchatka RC committee	200	200	-	-
	Sub-Total	12,000	11,900	8,781	23,411
Koryak AO					
1	Karaginsky	550	-	-	-

2	Penzhinsky	300	300	-	-
3	Olutorsky	500	500	-	-
4	Tygylsky	650	650	-	-
Sub-Total		2,000	1,450	-	-
TOTAL		14,000	13,350	8,781	23,411

Distributions continue in Magadan, reports are expected to be sent in the nearest weeks.

Objective 2. Establish 100 fishing teams in all regions of the appeal, creating employment to some 300 beneficiaries, and providing additional food to 2,000 beneficiaries.

Fishing teams from the vulnerable population were prepared in all the targeted regions, projects of agreements were sent to all the regions by the RRCS Central Committee. A total of 120 fishing kits, containing plain net, plain fishing rope, fishing threads, fishing line in skein, fisherman boots, winter camouflage jacket, summer camouflage jacket, stove, tarpaulin, knives, gloves and first aid kit were sent to the regions as follows:

Region	No. fishing kits
Nenetsk AO	15
Taimyr AO	15
Yakutia (Sakha) Republic	20
Magadan region	20
Kamchatka region	20
Koryak AO	10
Chukotka AO	10
Tyva Republic	10

Logistics w

Objective 1. Procure, deliver to the targeted regions and distribute among the beneficiaries seeds and fertilizer sets.

A total of 48,000 seeds and fertilizer sets were procured in Moscow. All transportation costs were included into the cost of production, and the supplier conducted the logistics related to despatching the seed sets to branches. Local Red Cross committees with a significant support from administrations delivered the goods to the settlements and distributed seeds and fertilizer among the targeted beneficiaries.

Objective 2. Procure, deliver to the targeted regions and distribute among the fishing teams 120 fishing sets.

A total of 120 fishing sets were procured in Moscow by the local supplier. The Delegation/RRCS team sent a total of 3,600 kg of goods to the targeted regions in eight containers using combined despatching: rail road/sea; and rail road/rivers. As soon as the goods will arrive to the regions, local Red Cross committees and administrations will distribute them among the beneficiaries in the settlements.

Telecommunications w

Due to a lack of funds, no telecommunications equipment was purchased.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation has a strong relief and logistics component in the Moscow office consisting of a Federation delegate as relief co-ordinator, relief programmes manager and relief officer. Alongside the RRCS counterparts, they provide effective support and assistance to the targeted areas. In the absence of the head of Delegation, the relief co-ordinator was assigned to the post of the acting head of Delegation. Information delegate, population movement delegate and ECHO delegate completed their missions during the reporting period and left the Delegation. A finance consultant arrived in May to review the Delegation's financial system, including relief programmes financial issues. The American Red Cross programme co-ordinator, health department, information department, IT department and administration staff provide vital support to the relief operations both in Moscow and in the field.

The Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Netherlands, and German Red Cross Societies manage bilateral programmes in various parts of Russia while maintaining good working relationship with the Federation Delegation.

Co-ordination

The RRCS and Federation have built up an excellent relationship with local authorities in the programme areas, and have regular contacts with such organisations as CIDA, DFID, ECHO, and various embassies in Moscow.

The administration of the Kamchatka region is planning to donate the local Red Cross committee a building of a former kindergarten situated on the thermal springs for the Red Cross to establish a rehabilitation centre for the vulnerable children of Kamchatka, Magadan and other northern regions.

Outstanding needs

The Severe Poverty in the Northern Territories appeal is extremely underfunded. Cash is urgently needed to meet the objectives of the appeal, including the setting up of feeding programmes for the vulnerable children in schools in the remaining six targeted regions of the appeal; and establishing and supporting community canteen centres.

For further details please contact: Grazyna Samsel; Phone: 41 22 730 4324; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; e-mail: samsel@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilisation Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department

Russian Federation: relief assistance						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 24/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			19.06.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'180'638		TOTAL COVERAGE 40.9%
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		1'000	USD	1'774	24.10.00	
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	63'250	14.12.00	
FINNISH - RC		50'456	EUR	75'891	10.01.01	
JAPANESE - RC		10'000'000	JPY	156'610	25.09.00	
MONACO - RC		40'000	FRF	9'316	19.09.00	
SWEDISH - RC		1'000'000	SEK	176'100	13.12.00	SEEDS AND TOOLS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				482'941	CHF	40.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						