

# 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***

8 October 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 in Operations Update no. 3 issued on 28 March, 2001 with the budget decreased to CHF 1,180,600 and the operational time-frame extended to 9 months. This appeal will now end on November, 2001, with a Final Report issued by February, 2002.*

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

*Beneficiaries: 147,100*

*Operations Update No. 4; Period covered: 6 June - 28 September; last Ops Update (No.3) issued on 19 June, 2001; Next Ops Update No. 5 (final) is expected in late December, 2001*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 41.1%*

*Related Appeals: 16/01 (Floods in Eastern Siberia); 01.59/2001 (Russian Federation Annual Appeal)*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 696,037*

*Summary/Update: While the programme is coming to an end, additional cash support would help to meet the full range of planned objectives to be implemented during the programme extension period.*

### ***Operational Developments:***

The major event during the reporting period was the Kiev Conference conducted from 5 to 8 June in the capital of the Ukraine to examine and discuss integration and development of 15 Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies of the former Soviet republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Estonia). Conference participants reviewed progress in the implementation of the Almaty Declaration (December 1996) and defined priorities for their contribution to the implementation of the Federation's Strategy 2010. They were updated on the Red Cross/Red Crescent emblem issue and heard about plans for more effective advocacy, listened to a report on development of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Strategy. Three working groups have convened to discuss volunteers and youth, governance, and financial issues. The conference ended with the publishing of the Kiev Declaration (available on the Federation's website).

**Red Cross Red Crescent action w**

According to the revised appeal, the programme focuses on the following activities: community canteen centers; distribution of seeds, fertilizer and fishing nets; hot meals at schools in remote areas and urban centers.

**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 - Nenetsk AO, Taimyr 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, 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.

**Community Canteen Centres w**

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

The RRCS community canteen center in Kamchatka opened on 18 July, a month later than planned due to the absence of hot water, and consequently the need to purchase a boiler. Repair works were completed and canteen equipment purchased and installed. According to the agreement, the local employment fund assigned 10 people to work in the canteen (a manager, two cooks, a waiter, a cook assistant, an accountant, a store man and three guards) and will pay their salary. Foodstuffs were purchased, beneficiary lists were prepared in co-operation with the social welfare department, and the distribution of food coupons is underway. The Federation transferred RUR 158,400 to carry out the hot meals operation there. The canteen’s daily capacity in July was estimated at 2,200 hot meals for 100 people. In August, the canteen increased its capacity, and provided 161 beneficiaries with hot meals every day.

As a result of the RRCS advocacy work in the local commercial sector, the canteen received 10,197 kg of in-kind donations to enable the provision of hot meals to the most vulnerable in November and December.

The local employment fund has further assigned four disabled people to work in the canteen on ravioli production. The room for ravioli production is currently being equipped. Other components of the community canteen centre are yet to be settled. Additional funding would be helpful to carry out all the activities planned in the centre.

**Hot Meals at Schools w**

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

Soup kitchens in Magadan and Tyva continued working during the reporting period. However the number of child beneficiaries decreased due to the summer holidays. A lot of children temporarily left the regions for the central and southern parts of Russia using privilege air and railroad tickets. Again, RUR 42,240 were sent to Magadan, and RUR 44,880 to Tyva to operate the feeding programme. In the beginning of July, the Magadan Red Cross committee opened the second soup kitchen. As of the end of August, the following results were reached:

Region	No soup kitchens	No beneficiaries	No meals
Magadan	2	100	3'080

Tyva	3	235	7'604
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Red Cross volunteers are organising entertainment events for the beneficiaries.

**Relief distributions w**

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

During the reporting period, seeds and fertilizer distributions were completed in Magadan with the following results:

Settlement	No sets	No families	No individuals
Magadan	2'600	2'600	4'200
Olsky	2'400	2'400	4'530
Omsukchansky	450	450	830
Severo-Evensky	450	450	850
Srednekansky	550	550	600
Susumansky	1'450	1'450	2'300
Tenkinsky	1'050	1'050	2'050
Khasynsky	2'220	2'220	3'000
Yagodinsky	1'300	1'300	2'200
Magadan Red Cross committee	1'453	1'453	2'300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13'933</b>	<b>13'923</b>	<b>22'860</b>

Sixty seven seed sets going to Magadan were damaged during transportation.

The Tyva Red Cross committee distributed their component of fertilizer and seeds at the end of April, providing 75,461 individuals with 20,000 sets. Please, see the previous operations update (No.3) for distribution details.

Kamchatka RRCS committee completed distributing seeds and fertilizer during the reporting period as follows:

Regions	No. sets planned	No. sets distributed	No. families	No. individuals
<b>Kamchatka Region</b>				
Petropavlovsk	4'250	4'250	2'763	7'934
Aleutsky	100	100	100	180
Bystrinsky	500	500	500	1'387
Elizovsky	3'750	3'750	3'750	9'704
Milkovsky	800	800	800	1'943
Sobolevsky	600	600	563	1'432
Ust-Bolsheretsky	600	600	600	1'538
Ust-Kamchatsky	600	600	598	1'297
Viluchinsky	600	600	600	1'602
Kamchatka Red Cross committee	200	200	-	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>12'000</b>	<b>12'000</b>	<b>10'274</b>	<b>27'017</b>

Distributions were also completed in Koryak, the reports were not received from two districts only due to the remoteness and poor communication. The interim distributions report looks as follows:

Settlement	No sets received	No sets distributed	No families	No individuals
Karaginsky	550	550	-	-
Penzhinsky	300	-	-	-
Olutorsky	500	500	500	1'493
Tygylsky	650	646	643	1'874

Now, the beneficiaries already enjoy the harvest of onions, reddish and dill. Monitoring shows that the project is extremely efficient and proved to be essential for the vulnerable population in the North.

**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 kits safely arrived to most of the regions during June - beginning of July. Delays in shipment to Yakutia and Chukotka, that received the kits in the middle of August substantially slowed down the distribution among beneficiaries. Now, when the navigation period is closed, one of the feasible ways to deliver the fishing sets to remote communities is air transportation, that is questionable due to a lack of funds; the other option is winter roads, that will soon start operating.

The Taimyr Red Cross branch representatives assessed the situation in the field for project implementation, met local authorities and communities. Some local administrations refused to act as guarantors for targeted distribution of surplus fish and/or proceeds among the vulnerable. Taking into consideration the observed situation it was decided to change the original distribution scheme (one settlement - one fishing set), and supply fishing kits only to those communities which are capable to meet project’s requirements, that is accumulate some portion of eventual catch for the vulnerable. Agreements have been reached with administrations of Vorotzovo, Ust-Port, Potapovo, Tukhard and Volochanka settlements, where besides meeting the project’s requirements local administrations are ready to take upon themselves local transportation costs.

The Yakutia Red Cross signed agreements with seven uluses and fisherman brigades. The Magadan Red Cross committee has experienced some difficulties in distribution of fishing kits, because the fishing season has already started, and most fisherman departed to the fishing sites in May-June. With a help of specialists, the Magadan Red Cross committee representatives drafted agreements for local administrations. Other local Red Cross committees have already signed all necessary papers, and distributions have started as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>No kits received</b>	<b>No kits distributed</b>	<b>No kits left</b>
Kamchatka	20	18	2
Koryak	10	2	8
Magadan	20	20	-
Tyva	10	10	-
Taimyr	15	12	3
Nenetsk	15	14	1
Yakutia	20	4	16
Chukotka	10	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>

In Kamchatka, 2,803 most vulnerable were already provided with fresh fish under the project. Also, the RRCS community canteen center was provided with 200 kg of fish.

In Tyva, a part of fish catch was supplied to a Red Cross soup kitchen for child-beneficiaries suffering from rachitis.

**Logistics w**

Most of the logistics operations were fulfilled by the Delegation’s relief team in April - May: seeds, fertilizer, and fishing kits were sent and received by the regions. Please see operations update No.3 for details. Currently, the local committees in close co-operation with local authorities are figuring out the best ways to distribute fishing sets.

**Federation Delegation w**

The Federation’s Moscow office is currently in need of human resources. The Delegation’s relief/logistics team consists of two people - the relief programmes manager and relief officer. They are providing effective support to the targeted areas, together with their RRCS counterparts. 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.

### **Co-ordination**

The RRCS and Federation continue to develop working relationships with regional and local administrations as well as with social welfare departments.

This programme is a valuable addition to the efforts of the Russian Red Cross to respond to humanitarian needs in Russia. The other relief programme being currently implemented is the Siberian Floods operation carried out in Yakutia and Irkutsk.

### **Outstanding needs**

The programme is coming to an end, however additional cash support would help to meet the full range of planned objectives.

*For further details please contact: Grasyana 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 Mobilization 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>.*

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<b>Russian Federation: relief assistance</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 24/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			08.10.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'180'638</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 41.1%</b>
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	
LATVIA - PRIVATE		984	USD	1'660	18.04.2001	
LATVIA - PRIVATE		584	USD	1'036	06.08.2001	
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				485'637	CHF	41.1%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%