

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: FLOODS IN EASTERN SIBERIA

7 September 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 16/01

Launched on 28 May 2001 for CHF 480,000 for 8 months.

DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000

Beneficiaries: 15,000

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 21 June - 31 August (last Ops Update No. 1 issued: 04 July 2001); Next Ops Update No. 3 expected on 30 October

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 92.7%

Related Appeals: 01.59/2001 (Russian Federation Annual Appeal)

Outstanding needs: CHF 34,774

The Disaster/Situation: Timely donor support has enabled the Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS), supported by the Federation, to effectively deliver assistance to the intended beneficiaries.

Operational Developments:

In May, severe floods in Eastern Siberia inundated 10 districts in Yakutia and several towns in the Irkutsk region and Tyva Republic, damaging land, infrastructure, and housing. According to the Government of Yakutia, material damages are estimated at RUR 7,4 billion (some USD 250 million). Over 46,700 people suffered in Yakutia, and 16,000 in Irkutsk.

On 25 May, the Government of Yakutia issued Resolution No. 305 establishing an interagency commission to take charge of humanitarian aid and reconstruction. The decision was supported at the federal level on 28 May when the Russian Government established a commission to oversee the reconstruction of housing, utilities, and social sector assets.

Most of the planned assistance has been delivered (or will be delivered by the end of September), including 1,000 families provided with new housing (500 families covered by the Yakutia Government budget allocations, and 500 provided with housing certificates in other Russian cities outside Yakutia. While the implementation of the assistance is seven days late, the Minister for Emergency Situations has provided assurances that the assistance will be delivered on time.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

Joint Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 50,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start relief activities. The Federation's emergency appeal for support to the victims of flooding in Yakutia and Irkutsk has been nearly 93% covered (see attached list of contributions). The Canadian Red Cross and Canadian Government also provided support to the Yakutia RRCS committee to purchase electric stoves, multi-fuel stoves, burners, boilers, electric kettles, and gas stoves, as well as household soap, washing powder, bed linen, blankets and pillows.

Bilateral action

The American Red Cross and American Government action continued during the reporting period. In August, an additional USD 50,000 were sent to the RRCS Eastern Siberia zone to purchase relief items. The American Red Cross 'Food for Progress' programme has also provided food supplies to the flood victims. The following table reflects the scope of American assistance to the programme:

Relief Items	Quantity	No. Beneficiaries	Distribution Area
Baby food	2.8 tones	600 children	Kirensk, Irkutsk region
Hygienic kits	1,392 pcs	1,392	Northern and southern districts Irkutsk region
Warm jackets	754 pcs	754	Ust-Kut and Kirensk, Irkutsk region
Felt boots	670 pairs	670	Ust-Kut, Irkutsk region
Food parcels	552 pcs	552	Irkutsk and Yakutia
Winter jackets	500 pcs	500	Lensk, Yakutia
Warm blankets	500 pcs	500	Lensk, Yakutia
Winter shoes	500 pairs	500	Lensk, Yakutia
Hygienic kits	250 pcs	250	Yakutia
Bed linen	1,000 sets	1,000	Yakutia
Pillows and blankets	100 pcs	100	Yakutia
Warm sweaters	250 pcs	250	Yakutia
Warm socks	1,000 pairs	250	Yakutia
Sport suits	265 pcs	265	Yakutia
Warm coats	250 pcs	250	Yakutia
'Food for Progress' commodities	1,906 parcels	1,906	Irkutsk and Yakutia
'Food for Progress' commodities	59 tones	2,600	Lensk, Yakutia

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

The RRCS response to the disaster has been led by the Eastern Siberia zonal office, in particular by the Irkutsk and Yakutia committees. The representatives of the two committees conducted local fund-raising campaigns, and attracted volunteers to help the most vulnerable. Over 200 people in Yakutia, and nearly 60 individuals in the Irkutsk region have donated their time and efforts to assist in the programme implementation. Red Cross volunteers built dikes in Yakutsk during the flooding, collected funds for the vulnerable, helped to load and unload relief items, visited evacuated children, participated in tracing activities, sorted second hand clothes, and helped to distribute humanitarian aid.

The Irkutsk RRCS committee raised RUR 796,178 (USD 27,500) locally which was used as follows:

Relief Items	Quantity	No. Beneficiaries	Distribution Area
Stationary school sets	3,000 pcs	3,000	Southern districts of Irkutsk region
Second hand clothes	8,000 kg	1,200	Northern and southern districts of the region
New clothes	1,757 pcs	1,200	Northern and southern districts of the region

Medicaments	80 kg	100	Kirensk, Irkutsk region
Mattresses	25 pcs	25	Kirensk, Irkutsk region

The Yakutia RRCS committee collected RUR 914,840 (USD 31,500), and purchased the following commodities for the flood victims:

Relief Items	Quantity	No. Beneficiaries
Foodstuffs	27.3 tones	1,500
First aid kits	400 pcs	400
Blankets and pillows	212 pcs	212
Hygienic kits	540 pcs	540
Children's clothes	20 sets	20

The RRCS committees have responded quickly to the disaster, and supported the Yakutia Red Cross committee in helping the vulnerable as follows:

RRCS committee	Kind of Assistance
Bashkiria	RUR 1,115 (USD 40)
Khakassia	RUR 13,350 (USD 460)
Magadan	RUR 3,488 (USD 120)
Astrakhan	RUR 5,000 (USD 172)
Novosibirsk	RUR 10,000 (USD 345)
St. Petersburg	1 tone of dried soup
Jewish	Second hand clothes
Khabarovsk	Second hand clothes
Primoriye	Second hand clothes
Buryatia	Second hand clothes
Kamchatka	17,500 cans of fish; 200 bed linen sets; 200 blankets and pillows

Relief distributions w

The Federation's Russia Delegation and the RRCS relief/logistics team has prepared a river vessel to ship humanitarian aid to the flood victims of Yakutia. The vessel will depart at the beginning of September. The relief officer is currently in Ust-Kut involved with loading and organising the shipment, and will remain on the vessel for the whole trip to manage and monitor distributions and the overall programme implementation.

Objective 1. To provide 1,300 beneficiaries with multi-fuel stoves.

Eight hundred multi-fuel stoves were procured in Moscow and sent to Ust-Kut in July-August. Fifty items will stay in the local warehouse to be further distributed among the flood victims in Ust-Kut. The rest of the consignment will be transported to Yakutia on a river vessel for distributions in four districts.

Objective 2. To provide 7,500 beneficiaries with kitchen sets: possible contents two plates, a pot, a saucepan, and two cups.

One thousand kitchen sets, containing a sauce pan, a frying pan, a kettle, two plates and two cups were procured in Moscow, and sent by rail to Ust-Kut in July-August. One hundred sets will be distributed in Ust-Kut among the most vulnerable flood victims. The rest will go to Yakutia by a river vessel, and will be distributed among the beneficiaries of six districts.

Objective 3. To provide 6,000 beneficiaries with a sleeping pack, containing sheets, blankets, pillow cases, and for those beneficiaries sleeping on the floor, 2,000 folding beds.

During the reporting period, 2,000 bed linen sets were procured in Moscow, and sent to Ust-Kut together with other relief commodities. Two hundred sets will be distributed in Ust-Kut, and the remainder will be sent to Yakutia by the river vessel to be distributed in eight districts.

The Icelandic Red Cross has sent 1,850 warm blankets to be distributed in the flooded areas. The cargo is currently enroute to its destination (it will most likely not arrive in time to be loaded on the river vessel and sent to Yakutia together with other commodities. The blankets will be sent to the regions later, and the plan of transportation will be developed upon their arrival).

Objective 4. To provide 900 children with footwear and a clothing set (probably hats, gloves, woollen socks and other warm clothing).

One thousand three hundred and ten warm jackets and 1,400 felt boots were procured in Moscow and sent to Ust-Kut by rail in July-August. A hundred and sixty warm jackets and 160 felt boots will be distributed there, and the rest will be shipped to Yakutia by the river vessel for distribution among the flood victims in eight districts.

Objective 5. To provide 200 families with baby food.

No additional baby food was procured during the reporting period. The objective was met in June, when 240 kg of baby food was distributed among 200 children with the support of DREF funding, and 2.8 tones of baby food was distributed to 800 children with the American Red Cross support (*please refer to the Operation's Update No. 1.*)

Additional support, that was not initially planned in the Federation's appeal was provided as follows:

- In response to the outstanding needs among the flood victims, described by the RRCS Eastern Siberia zonal director, 2,000 school sets for children were purchased in Moscow, and sent to Ust-Kut. Two hundred will be distributed among the beneficiaries in the Irkutsk region, and 1,800 will be shipped to Yakutia with other relief commodities and distributed among the children in eight flooded districts.
- The Swedish Red Cross Society have donated 49 tonnes of second hand clothes to the programme beneficiaries. The cargo is on its way to be loaded on the vessel and shipped to Yakutia together with other relief items.
- Six thousand hygiene kits were procured in Moscow and sent to Ust-Kut by rail. Three hundred will be distributed among the flood victims there, and the rest will be shipped to Yakutia.

Logistics w

Objective 1. To identify and utilise the most cost and time-effective means of delivering humanitarian assistance to the affected regions.

The Delegation's relief/logistics team has used a multi-model method of delivering the humanitarian cargo to the affected areas. All relief items were procured and completed in Moscow, stored in the suppliers' warehouses and then to Ust-Kut (Irkutsk region) by rail and road in four 20-foot containers (one rail way carriage, five 5-foot and two 3-foot containers at the Federation's expenses). At the end of August, supplies were loaded on a river vessel rented by the Federation. The vessel will carry the humanitarian cargo to the remote districts of Yakutia along the Lena river, and possibly Aldan river. Due to a very hot summer, the level of water in local rivers decreased, and therefore the navigation period might end quicker than expected resulting in the vessel not being able to continue its mission and deliver the humanitarian cargo to the settlements along the Aldan river.

Local Russian Red Cross branches and administrations will conduct distributions at their own expense, and report to the RRCS Central Committee and the Russia Delegation.

Federation Delegation w

Currently, there are only two people working in the Federation's Moscow office relief/logistics department (a relief programme manager and a relief officer, both locally hired). Along with the RRCS counterparts, they provide effective support and assistance to the targeted areas. The American Red Cross programme co-ordinator, health department, information department, IT department and administration staff provide vital support to relief operations both in Moscow and in the field.

Coordination

Local RRCS committees are regularly co-ordinating their activities on the ground with the Ministry for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM), and other respective local services. EMERCOM planes and helicopters have been made available to the Red Cross at the initial stage of the operation to enable the transport of humanitarian assistance.

Both federal and Yakutian governments are taking measures to restore the infrastructures in the affected regions.

Outstanding needs

Currently, the outstanding needs are related to rehabilitation in the flooded areas. The local population is not prepared for the approaching winter period, and there is a need for further housing repairs (roofs), heating supplies (particularly in the villages), and an additional quantity of multi-fuel stoves.

The flooding damaged crops (particularly in the southern districts of Irkutsk region), and there will soon be severe problems with food supplies, particularly among the vulnerable families living in rural areas.

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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.

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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Eastern Siberia floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 16/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				07.09.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				479'489		TOTAL COVERAGE 92.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRIAN - RC		36'336	EUR	54'922	06.07.2001	
CANADIAN RC		20'000	CAD	21'964	22.05.2001	
GERMAN - GOVT		30'310	DEM	23'636	04.07.2001	TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE,
JAPANESE - RC				15'840	02.07.2001	
MONACO - RC		50'000	FRF	11'630	29.05.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		539'374	NOK	102'516	25.07.2001	YAKUTIA REGION
SWEDISH - RC		250'000	SEK	41'375	04.07.2001	RELIEF AND TRANSPORT COSTS
SWISS - PRIVATE				150	14.06.2001	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		5'000	usd	8'875	13.08.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				280'908	CHF	58.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN - GOVT		133'120	DEM	103'807	04.07.2001	BED LINEN SETS, COOKING SETS, HYGIENE PARCELS
SWEDISH - RC				60'000	29.06.2001	60 MT SECOND HAND CLOTHES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				163'807	CHF	34.2%
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:						
PRU517						