

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

RUSSIA: HOSTAGE CRISIS IN BESLAN, NORTH OSSETIA

Appeal No. 19/2004
4 May 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 7; Period covered: 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007; Appeal target: CHF 2,478,497 (USD 1,876,228 or EUR 1,583,704); Appeal coverage: 102% ([click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 6 September 2004 for CHF 864,844 (USD 680,000 or EUR 563,000) for 12 months to assist 2,000 beneficiaries.
- With operations update no.3, appeal budget was revised to CHF 1,867,348 (USD 1,612,625 or EUR 1,234,490) to assist 5,000 beneficiaries until August 2006.
- With operations update no.4, appeal budget was revised to CHF 2,341,334 (USD 1,880,705 or EUR 1,526,575).
- With operations update no.6, appeal budget was revised to CHF 2,478,497 (USD 1,876,228 or EUR 1,583,704) to assist 5,000 beneficiaries for three years.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Operational Summary: In 2006 the community-based programme of psychosocial rehabilitation in Beslan was aimed at strengthening community resilience by re-establishing the social involvement of the affected population. Russian Red Cross (RRC) visiting nurses trained in psychosocial support (PSS) continued to provide at-home individual assistance for affected people and began to involve them in community activities and events, including classes from digital photography to aerobics, Red Cross Day celebrations, children's summer camps, etc. Workshops in PSS were conducted for staff, volunteers and the public. A programme revision conducted in May 2006 with the support of the Danish Red Cross concluded that "the concept of the program could be an example for future emergency relief".

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

In September 2004, the three-day siege at School No. 1 with over 1,000 hostages inside ended in violent clashes that killed 331 people, including 318 hostages (186 children) and 13 police officers, and left 783 injured; a tremendous loss for the small town of Beslan (North Ossetia) with a population of 32,000.

Operational developments

Russian Red Cross (RRC) workers observed in the reporting period that people from affected families have started to seek social activity. In 2006, after the city marked the second anniversary of the siege, the cultural life in Beslan became more active. Colorful performances returned to the local "palace of culture" (which houses the RRC Rehabilitation Centre) and traditional loud music and dances, which were unthinkable in 2005, were once again part of local weddings. The birthrate increased as well. "*Families want to restore losses on the one hand, and on the other the standard of living is rising throughout the country*", explained V. Karginov, the chief doctor of the local hospital. However, the level of unemployment in Beslan has reached 11%, but unfortunately the city authorities do not provide opportunities for social work due to a lack of such traditions in the community, and there are hardly any public organizations in Beslan.

The screening of affected families started by the RRC in January 2007 showed that despite positive signs of recovery in the community, for some families the recovery process is going slowly. Parents continue to serve dinner and place flowers in front of the photos of perished children and spend a lot of time at the cemetery. Many teachers still do not have sufficient psychological knowledge and suffer from professional burn-out. According to RRC visiting nurses who work with the beneficiaries at home, child-parent relations in the families that lost children remain tense, developing a feeling of guilt in those children who survived.

Traditional responses (increased numbers of medical personnel, psychologists and psychiatrists, material aid, etc.) were not always adequate to tackle problems which had been unknown before. In January 2005 the head of the local administration appealed to stop monetary donations as they led to dependency, conflicts, abuse and competition. Apart from treatment and benefits, the people of Beslan need individual attention and understanding. According to the RRC Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) estimations, about one third of their beneficiaries in psychosocial support (PSS) in 2006 will continue to receive support in 2007.

One of the major rehabilitation factors in Beslan today is the local support of efforts to provide support to those who still cannot overcome the psychological shock and find the rehabilitation process difficult. Involvement of volunteers from the local community in the RRC Centre work in 2006 proved effective for both the beneficiaries and the volunteers themselves, who included former hostages. Talks with local people reveal a great, sincere interest in psychosocial knowledge. This increases the belief that training for the population in the field of basic PSS has a lot of potential for community development.

Responding to the need, in November 2006, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) started a community-based psychological training programme with the aim of preparing volunteer

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instructors. The dissemination of psychological knowledge will be supported by a network of volunteers and eventually integrated into the regional strategy of disaster preparedness. Five regional ministries recognized the problem of psychological illiteracy of the population, expressed appreciation for IFRC efforts to improve psychological education and coordination in terms of disaster preparedness, and signed an agreement on cooperation with the RRC in this field in 2007.

In November 2006 the RRC Congress highlighted the achievements of the IFRC and RRC programmes in North Ossetia. Through the PSS programme the RRC managed to involve a significant part of the population (5,000) in social activities that in many cases prevented suffering and aggression. The new leaders of the RRC understand the necessity and value of PSS for the NS's disaster preparedness plans and are considering the possibility of a coordinator of this work at a federal level.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Appeal Revision

Based on situation development in Beslan, on the state of health of former hostages and their relatives, and taking into account the need for the spread of the existing community based PSS experience within the North Ossetian and RRC disaster response strategic plans, the Federation and the RRC expect to revise the Appeal launched on 6 September and last revised in March 2006. The revision would ensure that the intervention of the RRC in the Beslan crisis is consistent, efficient and, combined with other RRC activities in the region, would lead to programme closure in December 2007. This eventual revision would increase the budget of CHF 2,478,497 to approximately CHF 2,900,000 with contributions from the British Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross.

The revised appeal would address community mobilization through volunteering and Red Cross events, psychosocial education and dissemination as integral parts of disaster preparedness in North Ossetia, cooperation with major state bodies, and integration of the RRC PSP concept and practices in the republican emergency planning. The Training of Trainers (ToT) will continue, but until the end of 2007 local RRC leaders will need support in organizational development to be able to keep the system working, analyze the results, present them to the government and promote integration into the republican DP plans.

The IFRC implements a range of programmes in nearby Dagestan, Chechnya and Ingushetia and finds that there is a need for psychosocial support in many places throughout the region. Unfortunately the strategic meeting of psychologists in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria Republic) did not produce results in 2006 as there was no effective coordinator in the RRC to act on its findings and decisions. This vacancy must be filled to coordinate psychosocial work at different levels and within the RRC.

Objectives and activities for 2007

1. Address the long-term psychological needs of the affected population (as an auxiliary to existing interventions) through schools and through a community centre aimed at supporting the rehabilitation of the affected population.
2. Provide psychosocial support at home for selected beneficiaries through a network of visiting nurses and psychologists based at the North Ossetia RRC branch.
3. Strengthen the capacity of the local RRC branch to provide social, medical and psychosocial support to the affected population, prevent secondary traumatization and professional burn-out among RRC staff members and volunteers via professional support mechanisms and trainings.
4. Expand the social activities of the affected population, raise their self-esteem by disseminating educational materials through the North Ossetian RRC web-site, cooperation with mass media and the development of a volunteer network.
5. To institutionalize learning from Beslan in order to enable the RRC to be an effective provider of psychosocial support at a Federal level.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In 2006, 18 RRC visiting nurses, six social workers and three psychologists (all locally hired and trained) provided social and psychological support to the affected families at their homes, encouraged them to join various activities at the RRC Center "We + Together!" (family meetings, public events, sports, art studios, private talks

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and psychological counseling). Through volunteering they sought to involve the community in the social organization process and self support. Red Cross public events and public relations had a strong impact on the restoring of social ties and values.

In 2006 the IFRC/RRC rehabilitation programme in Beslan provided direct assistance to 4,846 people through weekly home visits, psychological support in groups or individually, and through social studios at the RRC Center. Some 2,000 people participated in various social events organized by the RRC Center. The total number of families assisted by the VNS is 578 (1,015 individuals).

The RRC's work with volunteers is worth special attention. The first steps to involve volunteers in RRC activities were through home visits to other beneficiaries, club activities at the centre, the preparation of community events, invitations to workshops, and participation in press conferences. Their work proved to be effective not only for the beneficiaries, but also for the volunteers themselves. To continue work with volunteers, to create a functional network of them would strengthen the capacity of both the local community and the RRC in the republic. This experience must be spread beyond the republic of North Ossetia. The ToT approach and PSS groups supported by volunteer instructors provide the foundation for such development.

In its development the programme followed several distinct stages of psychosocial support for the community, putting special focus on activities and target groups within the main goal: to restore psychological well-being in the Beslan community.

Period	Focus on	Focus on target groups	Activities
September 2004 to March 2005	Urgent assistance and needs assessment	Beslan community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project development and psycho-social support (PSS) plan of action. - Negotiations/coordination - Staff recruitment - PSS training for personnel
April to September 2005 (the first year of mourning)	Individual work with families at home and inviting people to the Centre studios	People directly affected by the school crisis - former hostages and their family members/578 families (1,200 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -VN home visits - Six social studios at the Centre - Family tea-parties at the Centre - Psychological counseling (home visits and group work) - Professional burn-out prevention - PSS training for personnel
September 2005 to May 2006	Social work and education for the community at the Centre: Social events organized by the Red Cross	People directly and indirectly affected by the crisis/2,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home visits - Studios, family meetings, club activities, town events, public holidays - Psychological counseling (group work, home visits, individual on request) - PSS training for personnel - Coordination
May to September 2006	Social work with the community (volunteers) involvement in organization of events and self support	Beslan district community/5,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home visits - Studios at the centre, club activities - Psychological counseling (group work, home visits, individual on request) - PSS and OD training for personnel and volunteers - Coordination

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September 2006 to December 2007	Community based activities, network of volunteers, training of trainers and self support groups Integration with the state	Population of Beslan and some other districts in North Ossetia/5,000-7,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home visits - Studios at the Centre - Psychological counseling (group work, home visits, on request) - PSS and OD training for personnel - Training for volunteers - Fund raising - Project writing - Cooperation with state structures
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Target beneficiary group: Children and adults belonging to the following groups: hostages, their family members and friends, teachers, staff and volunteers working to support the victims, and the general population affected by the hostage crisis.

Beneficiaries: 7,000

Objectives and Activities:

Objective 1: Address long term psychological needs of the affected population (as an auxiliary to existing interventions) through schools and through a community centre aimed to support the rehabilitation of the affected population.

Community centre of psycho-social rehabilitation

During the past year the RRC community centre “We + Together!” functioned as a base for activities designed to assist the local population to cope with the psychological impact of the hostage crisis. The activities of the centre, which is supervised by the RRC in cooperation with the IFRC, are aimed to bring people to social life, activate their organizational abilities and strengthen the resilience of the community as a whole. The center is open to all from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. (some studios work later). The centre’s new director appointed in May 2006, added creativity and initiative to its work with the population.

In 2006 the established direct methods of work (home visits, family meetings, counseling, training, information) with the traumatized population were enriched with extensive social activities, training and work with volunteers. The RRC staff enriched their psychosocial support and communication experience with new skills in social mobilization: organized social events for the community, involved volunteers, developed projects, attracted local sponsors, worked with the media, received additional training in OD and mastered the art of psychosocial education for the community. Two mini projects prepared by the RC staff (*We, the Theatre* and *Golden Hands*) got support through the programme and were launched in February 2007.

	Events	Funding in 2007
Computer club	9 computers, Internet	IFRC
English club	12 English classes a week 240 people during the year, 50% former hostages	RRC
Photo Studio	Photo competition “Beauty Will Save the World” (100 participants) Photo exhibitions	RRC

Sport training		In December 2006 the gym was handed over to the Beslan administration. In January the administration failed to support both the gym and the trainer. The IFRC and the RRC decided to fund this position for another year taking into consideration that many of the former hostages (both men and women) asked for it.
Folk dance		Handed over to the palace of culture. Closed, the teacher changed place of residence.
Aerobics		Handed over to the palace of culture. Works on a commercial basis.

Ella: *“The combination of training at studios and joint club days allows communication between people, makes them feel relaxed and feel a team spirit. Some people discover new aspects of their own personalities... People cease to divide themselves into 'hostages' and 'not hostages', their minds are occupied with new ideas and wishes.”*

Marina Mazurova: *“I started to work here as a teacher of English, but with the first groups I realized that my classes mean more in the rehabilitation process. I watch how the relations in the group change, how children develop trust in each other, how they open up and how some become leaders. We develop new plans together.”*

Social and community events, organized by the RRC Center in 2006, played an important role in restoring normal relations and healthy ties among people, helping them develop more active lives. The events included:

- RRC Cups in chess, football and basketball
- *End a Fairy Tale* – competition for the best ending of a fairy tale started by a boy perished in the siege. Conducted by the boy’s mother and grandmother.
- *Let’s Get Together* – people with disabilities from various parts of the republic.
“I was afraid to appear in public, but Larisa, my visiting nurse, helped me overcome my fears and now I do not regret it.” Natasha Sotsaeva, 29.
“Participants were exchanging addresses and plans for the future. Nobody wanted to leave – and that was the best reward for us.” Ella Eloeva, RRC programme coordinator in Beslan.
- *Rainbow of Good Will* - second RC youth Festival. Participants – 865. All (8) Beslan schools made presentations of countries that hosted Beslanees.
“The Festival excited the community. For a whole month we were preparing this presentation of Poland. For the first time in two years we received presents as a prize for our artistic effort, not as a humanitarian aid. That was inspiring! It was one more step to normal life, to being equal members of our community that is still suffering after the tragedy that split many of us apart.” Elena Kasumova, head teacher of Beslan school no. 1
- Two rehabilitation summer camps for 120 children followed a three-day school for the camp leaders (art therapy).

In addition there were other events and competitions, family meetings, excursions, master classes, holidays for children, and a park renovation project – bringing people together, generating ideas and distracting them from grief. Out of some 4,000 participants of community events 1,078 helped to prepare them. 77 people have been registered as active volunteers of the Red Cross in Beslan.

Objective 2: Provide psychosocial support at home for selected beneficiaries through a network of visiting nurses and psychologists based at the North Ossetia RRC branch.

Visiting Nurses Service (VNS)

In 2005, all 578 affected families were screened, 200 of which were selected for permanent home care in 2006. The list was open for the entry of new beneficiaries and the release of those who needed no more help and could cope on their own. 18 nurses provided psychological support at home once or twice a week. Each was responsible

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for 7-12 beneficiaries. The VNS tried not to develop dependency on their visits and quit once they saw that their patients could cope on their own. Together with psychologists they decided which of the current beneficiaries could be removed from the list.

In 2007, in accordance with the exit strategy, the number of visiting nurses decreased to 12. The remaining nurses started a second screening of all affected families, verifying the psychological situation and the need for further home assistance. According to the VNS's estimates, one third (60-70 people) of the beneficiaries will need home support in 2007.

The first findings of this screening are as the following:

- Some people did not receive RRC attention when they moved out of town after the tragedy; some to change their environment, others for long medical treatment. Currently, they need additional attention and psychological support.
- Some people who refused to communicate with VNs in 2005 now open the doors of their homes and cautiously begin to accept the care offered to them by the RRC.
- A few of the current beneficiaries still have not overcome the pain of the loss and need further assistance (people who spend a lot of time at the cemetery, who are unwilling to accept the reality of death).

"We are glad that new doors are open to us," says visiting nurse Rita Gurieva. *"We feel more experienced now, and know how to help."* Three VNs participated in ToT training on PSS and have started to conduct their own training sessions for the community. Since November 2006 they conduct 1-2 trainings a month for a group of 10-12 people. Several beneficiaries volunteered to go on home visits together with RC workers. *"I know there are people who feel bad; I believe that it will help if we could share the pain."* says Aza Tedtova, grandmother of a perished boy. Aza visited two bereaved grandmothers.

Four psychologists provide professional supervision and advice for visiting nurses, visiting beneficiaries at home together with VNs, supervising public activities aimed at the reduction of psychological stress, conducting sessions in the children's play room, providing individual psychological counseling in the Center, and preventing secondary traumatization of the RRC staff.

Objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of the local RRC branch to provide social, medical and psychological support to the affected population, prevent secondary traumatization and professional "burnout" among RC staff members and volunteers via professional support mechanisms and trainings.

Experience in individual work on psychosocial support, public events, training, coordination and communication with authorities enhances the experience of the RRC in the region as an organisation and raises its image.

During the reporting period the following workshops were conducted:

- PSP – three (work with children, community involvement, self support groups)
- training of trainers in community based PSS – two (for a group of RRC workers and volunteers, for a group of representatives from five ministries)
- project planning and fundraising
- perspective planning of activities
- RC history and Fundamental Principles

The current international programme brings a new wave of knowledge and attitudes in terms of organizational development, particularly team-building and volunteer management. Training sessions take place every 2-3 months and help to review developments of the RRC work in Beslan and identify current challenges as well as topics for further training. They also help to analyze case studies and prevent professional burn-out. Apart from professional training the staff is educated in organizational development such as project planning and fundraising, work with the media and perspective planning of action.

Objective 4: Expand the social activities the affected population, raise their self-esteem by disseminating educational materials through the North Ossetian RRC web-site, cooperation with mass media and the development of a volunteer network.

In October 2006 the first ToT workshop was organized for RC workers and volunteers from Beslan. Their first training sessions with the community revealed the interest of the population in psychological knowledge and was noticed and approved by the republican authorities. After the workshop 10 instructors conducted 24 trainings for 266 people. In March 2007 the second ToT training brought together 18 representatives from various ministries of North Ossetia.

Bela Kusova, who did her second course in community-based PSS, expressed the common opinion of both the instructors and participants of her first groups when she said: *“I spread this knowledge in my community, but it is just as useful for me, for my family and for my colleagues.”*

A. Reutov, Health Minister of North Ossetia, believes that *“instructors trained in community based PSP will be able to educate the population and help with coordination and psychological aid in disasters. We need this knowledge and this type of coordination.”*

Closing the second ToT workshop the deputy minister of education of North Ossetia, V.Totrov, said *“We are locked in the shells of our organizations sometimes unable to see how things are developing at our neighboring ministries. With this training and dissemination programme the Red Cross allows us to see wider and coordinate better.”*

Four of the RRC Centre staff (a psychologist, a social teacher and two VNs) attended a ToT workshop in November 2006 and in March 2007. They started and will continue training for the population in Beslan through 2007. Three other persons wish to join the team.

In 2007 the International Federation will support ToT coordinator who will develop and supervise the network of volunteer trainers, organize further workshops, maintain relations with state organizations and together with the North Ossetian branch chairlady will represent the RRC at the coordination meetings related to disaster response and preparedness in the republic.

The RRC web-site continued to promote news from Beslan. In August all the materials were translated into English (www.redcross.ru). In September a decision was made to develop a page on the RRC web-site into a North Ossetian branch web-site. It was designed and launched in February 2007 in Russian (www.redcross-osetia.ru). The Federation will partially support a local web-site manager in 2007 to get the site promotion.

In addition, the following informational and training materials on PSS were printed and distributed in Beslan:

- British Red Cross booklet *How to Cope with Crisis* (translated into Russian)
- Bookmarks with psychologist’s advice for children and parents
- IFRC PSP manual printed in small volume to be tested through practice of volunteer trainers

Objective 5: Build RRC hostage crisis response capacity in Moscow and the North Caucasus to support relatives and community members around a hostage crisis site.

The RRC rehabilitation centre in Beslan is a nucleus of knowledge and experience in psychosocial support and a model of RC/state cooperation in its initial stage (agreements signed, issues and roles discussed at a round table, the RRC invited to EMERCOM¹ disaster strategy coordination meetings, volunteer trainers supported and appointed by the state).

In March 2007, when a tragic explosion caused tremendous human casualties in a coal mine in Kuzbass, ten visiting nurses and psychologists in Beslan volunteered their participation in mitigating the consequences of the disaster, similar to the one that happened in Beslan in terms of human losses. The RRC programme coordinator in Beslan could take responsibility for coordination and dissemination of the psychosocial support concept, knowledge and skills, but to keep and spread the experience the RRC will need a PSS coordinator at the federal level. With some support from the Federation, 2007 will see the project’s development and integration with state and social mechanisms to carry it on into the future.

¹ Russian Federation's Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and the Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters

Programme Coordination

To coordinate the RRC programmes in Beslan the Chairlady of the republican RRC branch needs to develop her skills in project and personnel management. Two people have been hired as the republican RC staff (Beslan programme coordinator, head visiting nurse). Coordinators of the RRC/Netherlands Red Cross programme *Step to Joy* and the community education programme as well as the website manager are actively involved in the coordination process.

The chairlady, programme coordinators and staff gained valuable experience in the organization of media trips, workshops and roundtable discussions (“Role of Journalists in Rehabilitation” on 1 September, 2006 and “World Disaster Report 2006: Coordination in Disasters” for the republican ministries in December 2006), and in interacting with the media. Four projects were submitted to a grant competition and work with local sponsors and public organizations were successful. To keep this potential and use it to strengthen branch disaster preparedness and response, coordinators will need additional education in OD as well as support in developing their capacities and strengthening relations.

The programme helped to strengthen and develop good working relations with the local administration in Beslan (agreement on cooperation until 2010, free rent of the centre premises). In 2007, five republican ministers signed agreements with the RRC on cooperation in basic psychological education for the population and on coordination in case of disasters.

In 2006 more and more volunteers were joining the Red Cross activities at the centre. 77 people have been registered as active volunteers and some 200 participated in the organization and preparation of various events. Moreover on the basis of negotiation with the republican ministers who support the RRC and Federation ToT in community-based psychological support some 18 “envoys” from five mysteries have undergone the course and accepted the role of volunteer instructors for the population. They will work under the supervision of the RRC ToT coordinator. Both the RRC leaders in North Ossetia, the staff at the center and ToT coordinator have understood the significance and power of this force, but they will need additional training and support in terms of volunteer management in 2007 so that the RRC staff, the population and the authorities appreciate this force and potential and develop it together in the future.

Federation Coordination

All activities are done in cooperation with the IFRC, which has extensive experience and good knowledge of the region. The IFRC officers in Moscow and in Vladikavkaz are kept updated on the developments of the Federation/RRC programme in Beslan. They take active part in all RRC events organized through the programme. Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and some organizations supported by UNICEF in Beslan.

The programme works in close contact with the IFRC PSS Center at the Danish Red Cross that provides assistance with finding consultants for workshops. In 2006 many difficulties were faced with obtaining visas for expert consultants to Beslan. For no obvious reason two long-awaited consultants were refused Russian visas.

- The RRC was invited to all coordination meetings and to a teachers’ conference.
- Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) invited three participants from the RRC to its fundraising workshop.
- New RRC and Netherlands Red Cross bilateral programme *A Step to Joy* started in February.

In 2006 several organizations continued to implement humanitarian programmes in Beslan:

- *Thank You to All Who Helped Beslan* – centre of emotional rehabilitation for children in new school no. 8
- *Teachers of Russia for the Teachers of Beslan* – training in art therapy for school teachers
- *Benonta* – family rehabilitation centre in Beslan
- Play room at the local hospital
- *Rosinka* – pre-school psychological support centre at a local kindergarten
- *New way* – a short term project for the youth

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These projects addressed second traumatization, preschool education, the integration of disabled children, family support and psychological and rehabilitation problems of the affected children and adults in Beslan. These projects are funded by UNICEF and CAF, who were important Federation partners in Beslan in 2006. Caritas continued to support the work of individual psychologists.

In 2006 the Russian Red Cross distributed vouchers to sanatoriums and rest homes for children and their family members. The RRC programme of additional education for children with disabilities (40 children, 10 teachers) that was launched in January 2006 will continue until May 2007. *A Step to Joy* – the RRC bilateral programme supported by the Netherlands Red Cross that started in February 2006 – includes psychological rehabilitation, social adaptation and integration in society for children with disabilities in close collaboration with their parents and other family members.

In February 2007, the local UNICEF office organized a coordination meeting for all programmes operating in Beslan. They pointed out some positive changes in the psychological environment in Beslan (improved psychological culture of the local community, more trust in psychologists and more openness to psychological help), and pointed out the problems:

- psychological trauma is accompanied by aggravation of somatic diseases
- children have low trust in adults
- adults are less active in community events, slowing down their psychological rehabilitation
- high level of conflicts are present in the community
- strong feelings of victim hood are accompanied by dependency
- teachers, doctors, state employees and police do not receive proper psychological support
- short-term psychological support has little or no effect
- groups of risk include men who lost family members and children with disabilities.

The conference singled out as most effective the social rehabilitation events involving community members in preparation and participation, work with entire families, the supervision of psychologists and the prevention of burn-out effect among professionals and assistants. “Do not save, but help build relations” and “Increase psychosocial education among the community” were among the meeting’s main conclusions.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Intermediate programme revision conducted with support of the IFRC PSS Roster at the Danish Red Cross in May 2006 resulted with a substantial report, conclusions and recommendations that were sent to donors and other stakeholders.

An international media campaign with support from the IFRC Secretariat media service in August-September 2006 included a press conference in Moscow, an international media tour to Beslan, a roundtable discussion for journalists in Beslan on the role of journalists in case of a mass psychological crisis, a special edition of RRC Magazine devoted to Beslan issues and a number of publications and TV news items at local and national levels.

In October the programme was presented at a Conference on psychological support, organized by the Network for Psychological Support for European Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, which was held in Athens. A roundtable discussion, “World Disasters Report: coordination in disasters,” was held with the participation of RRC leaders, representatives of the Russian Emergency Ministry, vice-president of North Ossetia and several republican ministers and local media.

- The programme was highlighted in the IFRC European magazine “The Bridge”.
- Three articles were published for the IFRC website.
- A special report was delivered at the RRC Congress by deputy health minister of North Ossetia.
- Negotiations were made with North Ossetian ministries – ENERCOM, Health, Education, Youth and Sports, Social Welfare.
- Meetings were organized with the director of the republican centre for drugs prevention.
- A meeting was organized at the Republican Centre for socio-medical and psychological rehabilitation.
- The RRC site was presented at the North Ossetia republican web-site: www.region15.ru.

Impact

The Beslan programme has demonstrated a niche for the RRC in the provision of psychosocial support, both during post-crisis and in addressing the psychosocial consequences of long term vulnerability. It is a niche that has been recognized by the state and the community. It is now intended to disseminate this learning throughout the RRC and to enable the RRC to use these tools in disaster response and in serving other vulnerable groups. The RRC works with vulnerable children across Russia, and the tools and training that have enabled the North Ossetian Branch to serve its community in Beslan are in many ways applicable to other contexts and circumstances. In 2007 the RRC will use North Ossetia as a base to share psychosocial support best practice and to integrate them into DM and social welfare services. As a starting point, emphasis will be placed on links between Beslan and those RRC branches involved in support to vulnerable children. This will be achieved through the sharing of materials, exchanges, workshops, training, and monitoring and evaluation. North Ossetia will also support a full-time specialist in psychosocial support within RRC to promote this work across Russia. Psychosocial support is the foundation of a strategy to ensure that learning from Beslan is institutionalized within RRC, but it is not its only focal area. Volunteer management and resource mobilization have become key elements in the survival of healthy, community-based, sustainable interventions in Beslan. In 2007, North Ossetia will also act as a base to disseminate best practices in these two key aspects of organizational development within RRC.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M04EA019 - RUSSIA: HOSTAGE CRISIS IN BESLAN, NORTH OSSETIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2004/09-2007/02
Budget Timeframe	2004/09-2007/12
Appeal	M04EA019
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		2,478,497				2,478,497
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		83,930				83,930
Andorra Government		30,330				30,330
Australian Government		87,000				87,000
Australian Red Cross		99,758				99,758
Austrian Red Cross		4,677				4,677
Belgian Red Cross (French)		36,725				36,725
Black River Asset Mgt		0				0
British Red Cross		472,670				472,670
Bulgarian Red Cross		16,682				16,682
Danish Red Cross		32,152				32,152
Finnish Red Cross		52,567				52,567
France - Private Donors		45				45
German Red Cross		75,815				75,815
Great Britain - Private Donors		221,085				221,085
Hong Kong - Private Donors		8,837				8,837
Hong Kong Red Cross		21,744				21,744
Icelandic Red Cross		17,406				17,406
Irish Government		310,500				310,500
Irish Red Cross Society		263,374				263,374
Japanese Government		125,900				125,900
Japanese Red Cross Society		54,609				54,609
Lithuanian Red Cross Society		21,460				21,460
Luxembourg - Private Donors		2,515				2,515
Netherlands - Private Donors		1,541				1,541
Netherlands Red Cross		81,397				81,397
New York Office		7,442				7,442
New Zealand Red Cross		37,355				37,355
On Line donations		78,227				78,227
OSCE		11,580				11,580
Other		18,557				18,557
Polish Red Cross		39,130				39,130
Russia - Private Donors		34,894				34,894
Sweden - Private Donors		0				0
Swedish Red Cross		169,500				169,500
United States - Private Donors		3,327				3,327
C1. Cash contributions		2,522,730				2,522,730
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
Finnish Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		0				0
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income		545				545
C6. Other Income		545				545
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		2,523,275				2,523,275
D. Total Funding = B + C		2,523,275				2,523,275

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2004/09-2007/12
Appeal	M04EA019
Budget	APPEAL

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II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		2,523,275				2,523,275
E. Expenditure		-2,094,160				-2,094,160
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		429,115				429,115

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Interim Financial Report

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		2,478,497					2,478,497	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	3,818		3,818				3,818	0
Construction Materials	7,624		7,704				7,704	-80
Clothing & textiles	4,257		4,257				4,257	0
Food	3,223		4,087				4,087	-864
Water & Sanitation	25		25				25	0
Medical & First Aid	517		529				529	-12
Teaching Materials	13,067		15,227				15,227	-2,160
Utensils & Tools	726		1,013				1,013	-287
Other Supplies & Services	200,804		166,949				166,949	33,855
Total Supplies	234,062		203,609				203,609	30,453
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	68,748		68,748				68,748	0
Computers & Telecom	43,344		44,364				44,364	-1,020
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	22,094		20,094				20,094	2,000
Medical Equipment	7,823		7,823				7,823	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	142,009		141,029				141,029	980
Transport & Storage								
Storage	23		23				23	0
Distribution & Monitoring	545		545				545	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	34,510		29,510				29,510	5,001
Total Transport & Storage	35,078		30,077				30,077	5,001
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll			2,049				2,049	-2,049
Delegate Benefits	5,996		29,746				29,746	-23,750
National Staff	282,769		220,499				220,499	62,270
National Society Staff	802,395		623,788				623,788	178,608
Consultants	188,240		154,480				154,480	33,760
Total Personnel Expenditures	1,279,400		1,030,561				1,030,561	248,839
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	148,869		115,518				115,518	33,351
Total Workshops & Training	148,869		115,518				115,518	33,351
General Expenditure								
Travel	42,076		41,533				41,533	543
Information & Public Relation	63,672		48,852				48,852	14,820
Office Costs	64,831		62,720				62,720	2,111
Communications	35,421		31,161				31,161	4,261
Professional Fees	26,952		27,803				27,803	-851
Financial Charges	-32,839		-35,354				-35,354	2,515
Other General Expenses	210,218		175,390				175,390	34,827
Total General Expenditure	410,331		352,105				352,105	58,226
Program Support								
Program Support	161,102		136,120				136,120	24,982
Total Program Support	161,102		136,120				136,120	24,982
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	67,647		85,141				85,141	-17,494
Total Operational Provisions	67,647		85,141				85,141	-17,494
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,478,497		2,094,160				2,094,160	384,337
VARIANCE (C - D)			384,337				384,337	