

## ***RUSSIAN FEDERATION: WINTER SUPPORT FOR SIBERIAN AND NORTHERN TERRITORIES***

*11 September,  
2000*

*appeal no. 29/99/ Programme extension until 31 December, 2000  
situation report no. 5  
period covered: 21 June - 4 September, 2000*

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*This appeal, launched on 29 October, 1999, was intended to assist 770,000 beneficiaries in 22 of Russia's far north and Siberian regions. Despite the fact that the planned activities are being effectively implemented, the delayed arrival of funds has necessitated a programme extension until 31 December, 2000. The assistance delivered by the Russian Red Cross (RRC), with support from the Federation, to date constitutes a vital lifeline for these vulnerable communities.*

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### ***The context***

To respond to a critical humanitarian situation in the far north and Siberian regions, the Federation launched an appeal to support the Russian Red Cross (RRC) to address the following objectives:

- to provide humanitarian assistance to 770,000 of Russia's most isolated and vulnerable, primarily focusing on children and elderly living alone;
- to procure, transport, deliver and monitor emergency aid (food parcels, bulk food, hygienic items, seeds and soup kitchens) to lone elderly, multi-child families, single-headed families, bedridden invalids, residents in elderly homes, abandoned or orphaned children and specialised hospitals;
- to protect and nurture indigenous coping mechanisms through initiating ten pilot small-scale community development/income-generation programmes in order to achieve self-sufficiency;
- to prioritise healthy lifestyles focusing on nutritional support, sanitation, personal hygiene and health education; and,
- to promote the development of the Russian Red Cross.

The Russian Red Cross has used data from assessment missions, monitoring reports and state statistics to target 21 regions (Nenetsk AO, Altay kray, Altay Republic, Taymyr AO, Evenk AO, Tyva Republic, Chukotka AO, Koryak AO, Magadan, Kamchatka, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khakassia Republic, Buryatia Republic, Chita, Komi Republic, Komi-Perm AO, Kirov, Kurgan, Tyumen, Yamalo-Nenetsk AO, Khanty-Mancy AO, Irkutsk and Kemerovo) in West, Central and Eastern Siberia.

The Federation and RRC are now in the process of planning a new appeal which will differ dramatically from the large-scale humanitarian programmes run over the last three years. Concentrating almost exclusively on the most vulnerable children and impoverished isolated communities, the RRC and Federation programme aims to alleviate the suffering and restore a measure of dignity to 248,600 beneficiaries within the northern territories and far north-east regions of Russia while assisting the RRC to develop to its full potential.

## ***Latest events***

Census figures over the first six months of 2000 showed a decline in Russia's population by 425,000 people. The drop reflects deteriorating economic conditions, the poor state of the health care system, and falling birth rates. Given current trends, the statistics committee project that Russia could lose another eight million people by 2016.

According to the Russian health ministry, nearly 50% of men and 17% of women suffer in varying degrees from alcoholism in Russia, where the abuse of liquor is one of the main causes of high mortality. According to a study, published by the Kommersant daily in May, alcohol is a factor in half of violent deaths among males.

Life expectancy for Russian men barely exceeds 58, compared with 65 in 1990, and is now just about the same as it was at the end of the 19th century in Tsarist Russia. Russian men have the highest mortality rate in Europe, living 14 years less than women.

A typhoon, accompanied by heavy floods in the Russian Far East has caused damage believed to exceed RUR 200 million (CHF 12.5 million). Nearly 6,000 houses were damaged, 111 bridges destroyed or damaged and over 60,000 ha of farmland inundated. An emergency situation still exists in 10 districts of the territory, with Krasnoarmeyskiy and Dalnerechensk districts the hardest hit, but most villagers have chosen to stay on the rooftops of their houses rather than evacuate.

The powerful earthquake that struck the Far-eastern Russian island of Sakhalin in early August left eight wounded and caused widespread material damage, according to the local emergencies ministry office. A total of 1,390 buildings were damaged, some of which will have to be demolished. Roads in the region were also badly hit, with four-meter gaps created in some areas.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

Soup kitchens: A fixed number of 7,000 beneficiaries continue to receive hot meals in 72 RRC soup kitchens in eight regions of Nenetsk AO, Altay Kray, Altay Republic, Taymyr AO, Evenk AO, Tuva Republic, Magadan and Kamchatka. Funds have been transferred to support the soup kitchens till the end of September. If there is sufficient funding, the operation will continue to the end of November.

Second-hand clothes: Some 661,470 kg of second hand clothes were delivered to 15 regions under the Swedish Red Cross in-kind donation. Distributions have started. As of 4 September, 30,283 beneficiaries received second hand clothes in the Altai Kray; 69,814 in the Altai Republic; 2,586 in the Evenk AO; 20,938 in the Komi-Perm AO; 36,649 in the Kirov region; 45,830 in the Khakassia

Republic; 17,793 in the Buryatia Republic; 23,037 in the Chita region; 36,771 in the Kemerovo region; 15,374 in the Irkutsk region; and 10,747 in the Kurgan region.

Support to children in institutions: Cash support to orphanages, state boarding schools and juvenile detention centres in seven Siberian and northern regions continues. Some RUR 500,000 (CHF 30,000) is being transferred to 24 institutions every month. Some 1,864 children receive Red Cross assistance in Nenetsk, Taimyr, Tuva, Koryak, Kamchatka, Yakutia and Komi-Perm AO. The operation will end in October.

Tuva and Altai Republics: Under the ECHO funded operation, two rounds of family food parcels (FFPs) distribution were completed in the Altai and Tuva Republics with the following results:

Region	First Round			Second Round		
	No. FFPs	No. families	No. beneficiaries	No. FFPs	No. families	No. beneficiaries
<b>Tuva Republic</b>	11, 600	11, 592	50, 724	11, 700	11, 692	51, 286
<b>Altai Republic</b>	11, 600	11, 536	37, 638	11, 700	-	38, 321

Each food parcel contains 2 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of buckwheat, 2 kg of haricot bean (red or white), 2 kg of macaroni, 2 kg of sugar, a litre of vegetable oil, four cans of beef (1.3 kg), two tins of sweet condensed milk (800 g) and 0.5 kg of tea. The third round of distribution is nearing completion.

Approximately USD 100,000 (CHF 170,000) was saved under the operation. A proposal was submitted to ECHO to produce and distribute additional 10,000 FFPs for the Tuva Republic only, due to a larger number of beneficiaries there.

Hygiene kits were produced and distributed together with the FFP third round during the reporting period, each kit contains: 2 bars of soap, 2 bars of household soap, 900 g of washing powder, 420 g of shampoo, 2 tubes of tooth paste and 2 tooth brushes (12,000 for each Republic). Also, 10,500 hygienic kits were delivered to five radiation affected communities in Altai Kray.

Chukotka, Magadan, Kamchatka and Koryak: Suppliers were found and agreements signed to procure relief commodities under the Canadian Red Cross donation. It is planned that 38,000 hygiene kits will be produced in Moscow, and distributed among the vulnerable people of the four regions; 10,500 FFPs will be produced in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and distributed in Kamchatka; 13,500 FFPs will be produced in Magadan and distributed there; 8,625 kg of bulk food will be procured in Petropavlovsk and distributed in Koryak, and 10,350 kg of bulk food will be procured in Vladivostock and distributed in Chukotka.

Each food parcel consists of: 4 kg wheat flour, 1 kg of buckwheat, 1 kg of rice, 1 kg of macaroni, 2 kg of sugar, 900 g of butter oil, 2 cans of beef, 4 cans of sweet condensed milk and 0.5 kg of tea. Bulk food (dried fruit, sweet condensed milk, butter oil, tea and cocoa) will mainly go to children in institutions. The local administration will pay all ground transportation expenses.

Nenetsk AO, Taimyr AO and Yakutia: These three regions are being assisted via a British Red Cross donation. It was decided that nine types of commodities will be procured in Moscow, and then sent to the regions by railroad, sea, river, winter roads, planes and helicopters. In Yakutia, the cargo may stay in three main warehouses (the polar settlements of White Mountain, Tiksi and Green Cape) until May 2001 when river navigation is again possible.

The following relief commodities will be procured and distributed to the vulnerable:

Region	FFPs	Hygienic kits	Warm suits	Rubber boots	Felt boots	Fisherman's boots	Children's clothes	School sets	Fist aid kits

<b>Nenetsk</b>	7,000	7,000	2,285	835	835	2,285	2,285	2,285	3,495
<b>Taimyr</b>	11,000	11,000	3,600	1,330	1,330	3,600	3,600	3,600	5,450
<b>Yakutia</b>	14,000	14,000	4,115	1,835	1,835	4,115	6,115	6,115	7,055

First aid kits will contain band aid material and those basic relief medicaments which are badly needed in these remote regions where many people have problems with dental and gastric ailments because of bad food and water. Rheumatism, often caused by fishing through the ice, is a chronic problem. Even simple medicine, such as for treatment of the common cold, is not available in these frozen regions.

Kirov, Komi-Perm and Komi Republic: On 1 September, the first round of FFPs distribution started with 60 MT delivered to the Komi Republic; 4,900 FFPs to the Komi-Perm; and 5,400 FFPs to Kirov. Each food parcels contains: 2 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of buckwheat, 2 kg of rice, 1 kg of peas, 2 kg of macaroni, 2 kg of sugar, 1 litre of vegetable oil, 4 tins (1.3 kg) of canned beef, 2 tins (800 g) of sweet condensed milk, and 500 g of tea.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The appeal has reached approximately 450,000 of the intended 770,000 beneficiaries. No new foodstuffs can be brought to the furthest areas due to the onset of winter. However, the injection of CHF 510,000 would allow soup canteens to continue operating until the end of December and also maintain bulk food supplies to children’s institutions.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Regular contacts with administrations and governments continue in the targeted regions. The programme is very well supported by the regional authorities.

A meeting with the ECHO (Moscow) office representative was conducted during the reporting period to discuss budget modifications for the Altai and Tuva FFPs operation.

On 28-29 August the International Conference on Humanitarian Operations in the Northern and Far East Territories was conducted by the RRC and Federation in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Leaders and representatives of 18 Russian territories, chairpeople from the RRC central and regional committees, representatives of the International Federation, PNS from Canada, Great Britain, USA, Iceland and Netherlands, government structures and NGOs took part. The aim of the conference was to find strategic partners for implementing RRC humanitarian programmes in the Far East and Northern territories. A “Kamchatka Declaration” was signed by the participants, which summed up the results of multi-fold discussions. Several local journalists, Russian nation-wide TV and radio (RTR) and a correspondent from a Russian newspaper "Trud" covered the event. A major press campaign is planned to coincide with winter distributions in polar regions.

A film "Across Siberia" about Red Cross operations in the remote Russian regions was prepared in English and Russian, and screened during the Kamchatka conference. Meanwhile, a booklet on personal and domestic hygiene to go with the programme’s hygiene kits was created and sent for printing.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Director  
Europe Department

**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

RUSSIA - WINTER EMERGENCY						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 29/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			13/09/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				47,500,000	01/01/99	38.92%
AUSTRALIAN - RC		11,635	AUD	11,675	05/11/99	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		110	AUD	108	23.05.00	
AUSTRIA - RC		50,000	EUR	78,625	02/05/00	
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		1,455,639	GBP	3,770,105	21/03/00	DFID FUNDS
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	62,500	08/12/99	
CANADA - GOVT		1,250,000	CAD	1,355,875	23/03/00	FOR VARIOUS ITEMS
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	107,460	10/12/99	
ECHO/GERMAN RC		900,000	EUR	1,440,000	15/01/00	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		508,263	EUR	750,959	21.06.00	37'300 FOOD PARCELS FOR SIBERIAN NORTHERN TERRITORIES
JAPANESE - RC		3,000,000	JPY	47,184	15.08.00	WINTER SUP0PORT SIBERIAN NORTH. TERRITORIES
SWEDEN - RC		5,000,000	SEK	931,500	06/12/99	
SWEDEN - RC		1,500,000	SEK	280,050	17/03/00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				8,836,041	CHF	18.60%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA - RC		300,000	CAD	335,940	21/06/99	delegates, assessment & evaluation (direct support to the prog. not channelled through the Federation)
SWEDEN - RC		50,000,000	SEK	9,315,000	02/12/99	SECOND HAND CLOTHING AND SHOES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				9,650,940	CHF	20.32%
<b>NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	