

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA

5 July 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/02

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 50,000

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.

The Situation

Heavy rains in the last half of June - the worst in 70 years - resulted in floods that caused landslides in nine regions (Adygeya, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Igushetia, North Osetia, Chechnya, Dagestan Republics, Stavropol region, and Krasnodarski Krai) within the southern federal okrug of the Russian Federation. As a result, 45,733 houses were damaged, and 7,519 washed away completely; 94 people were killed by the flash water, and over 335,613 suffered the consequences of the flooding in 343 settlements.

The local infrastructure has been severely affected with 498 bridges, 1,927 km of road, 404 km of electric power lines, 143 km of gas lines severely damaged or destroyed. The material damage is estimated at 13,751 million roubles (over 443 million US dollars).

According to the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations, as of 3 July over 96,000 people had been evacuated. Damage to infrastructure, residences and other private property will require a fairly considerable reconstruction effort further down the line.

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) has indicated that the long-term consequences of the flooding will not only affect the region, but the whole country. The water washed away fertile soils, and crops, and the reduced harvest will affect food availability over the coming winter.

In Krasnodar Krai (one of the most affected areas) eight people have been killed and over 94,000 are suffering the consequences of the flooding in 58 settlements. Over 25,000 houses are damaged, with over 4,000 are washed away by the disaster.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Russian Red Cross (RRC), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation have taken immediate action to provide urgent assistance to the vulnerable people in the affected regions. As of 2 July, the ICRC has provided 274 tonnes of relief items to 28,000 people, including food parcels,

hygiene kits, blankets, tents, plastic covers, kitchen utensils, jerry cans and candles). In close co-operation with the Russian Red Cross regional committees, they continue to carry out needs assessments, and the support continues.

The RRC Central and Sochi committees have established Executive Commissions on providing assistance to the flood victims and opened centres for relief items collection. On 29 June, the RRC Central Committee dispatched 600 hygiene parcels, 300 blankets, 300 bed linen sets, 300 pairs of rubber boots, 300 sets of plastic cups and plates from its emergency stocks to the flood victims in the Stavropol region. The Sochi Executive Commission collected over 20 tonnes of relief items (food products, clothes, bed linen, kitchen utensils, blankets and hygiene items) and sent them to the vulnerable in the affected districts of Krasnodar Krai (in addition to the 8 tonnes already sent on 28 June).

A hot line telephone number is operational in the RRC Central Committee for all, and the RRC Central Committee has also opened a special account to raise funds for the flood victims.

The Moscow city committee and Astrakhan RRC committee appealed to the population, organisations and enterprises for help in providing support to the people in the affected regions. People have started bringing in-kind donations, including bed linen, blankets, clothes, footwear, hygienic items and medicaments. On 9 July, Astrakhan RRC committee representatives will send two trucks full of relief items - food products, sweets and toys for children, clothes, blankets, pillows, bed linen, kitchen sets, medical kits, water, plastic basins, buckets and dishes - for the beneficiaries in 13 affected settlements of Adygeya Republic.

CHF 50,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) following a request for assistance for the region of Krasnodarsky Krai from the Russian Red Cross. With the help of these funds and to satisfy the needs of the affected people in the region, it was decided to purchase 4,500 bed linen sets. The purchase of goods will be carried out in the field in order to speed up the procurement process and deliver assistance as soon as possible.

Several donor national societies have already offered their assistance in coping with the needs of the flood victims. The assessment of needs in the affected regions is ongoing and, depending on the findings, an international appeal will be considered.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact: Miro Modrusan, Federation Desk Officer; Phone 41 22 730 4324; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email modrusan@ifrc.org

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.

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

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

John Horekens
Director
External Relations

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department