

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

29 July 2002

Focus on the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Information Bulletin N° 2/02

DREF Allocated: 50,000 CHF

This Bulletin is being issued to report specifically on the use of the Federation's DREF allocation. Responding to the needs, the Federation launched Emergency Appeal 20/02 on 19 July 2002.

The Situation

Heavy rains in the second 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. The most recent data shows that over 332,866 have been affected by the flooding in 377 settlements. The number of those killed by the water has reached 114 people.

The floods have damaged over 45,000 houses, while some 13,528 were completely washed away. The local infrastructure has been severely affected with 584 bridges, 1,977 km of road, 404 km of electric power lines and 143 km of gas lines severely damaged or destroyed. The material damage is now estimated at 15,575 million Russian Roubles (over USD 502 million).

According to the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations, as of 23 July over 106,000 people had been evacuated. Damage to infrastructure, residences and other private property will require a 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 entire 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 from the consequences of the flooding in 58 settlements. Over 25,000 houses are damaged, and over 4,000 were washed away due to the disaster.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Russian Red Cross (RRC), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have taken immediate action to provide urgent assistance to the vulnerable people in the affected regions.

Following an urgent request for assistance for the region of Krasnodar Krai from the Russian Red Cross, CHF 50,000 was immediately allocated from the Federation's DREF. The provision of these funds allowed the delivery of relief to the affected people in the form of 7,250 bed linen sets. The local supplier of the bed linens has agreed to carry out transportation costs to the targeted districts from where distributions will start under the direct supervision of local RRC branches and with the help of local administrations. It is planned that the full compliment of bed linen will be ready for distribution by the end of July, according to the agreement with the supplier. The items will be distributed in eight districts of Krasnodar Krai and one in Adygeya Republic. A family of 1-3 people will receive one set of bed linen, with a family of 4-8 people receiving two. The lists of beneficiaries are now being finalized with local social welfare departments. The US Embassy, via the American Red Cross, contributed USD 50,000 for the procurement of mattresses and food parcels for approximately 5,000 beneficiaries in Dagestan. These funds have been transferred to the RRC, and procurement processes are under way.

The RRC's Executive Commissions (Central and Sochi) established to co-ordinate assistance to the flood victims continue working, as well as centres for relief items collection. A hot line telephone number is operational at the RRC Central Committee. Russian Red Cross regional committees appealed to the population, organisations and enterprises for help in providing support to the people in the affected regions. Considerable amounts of in-kind donations, including food products, water, sweets and toys for children, bed linen, blankets, pillows, clothes, footwear, kitchen utensils, jerry cans, hygiene items and medication were collected on the national level and sent to flood victims through local RRC committees. The RRC Central Committee has also opened a special account to raise funds for the flood victims.

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

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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.

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.

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