

# FINAL REPORT



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: SEVERE POVERTY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES***

25 February  
2002

***This Final Report is intended for reporting on emergency appeals***

***Appeal No. 24/00***

***Launched on: 19 September 2000 for 12 months for CHF 17,617,400. The appeal was revised in Operations Update No. 3 issued on 28 March 2001 with the budget decreased to CHF 1,180,600 and the operational time-frame extended to 9 months.***

***DREF Allocated: No DREF allocations were made towards the appeal.***

***Beneficiaries: 147,100***

***Final Report; Period covered: September 2000 - December 2001; last Ops Update (No. 4) was issued on 8 October 2001)***

### ***“At a glance”***

***Appeal coverage: 41.8%***

***Update/Summary: Despite the funding constraints encountered with this appeal, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and the Federation developed good working relationships with regional and local administrations as well as with social welfare departments while making an effort to carry out the objectives of this appeal. The programme was a valuable addition to the efforts of the RRC to respond to humanitarian needs in Russia along with other public and governmental organisations.***

### ***Operational Developments:***

At the time the appeal was launched in September 2000, Russia was undergoing a period of chronic economic dislocation and social unrest. As a result of economic developments in Russia in 2000, the number of vulnerable Russians has declined from 60 million to 46 million, but the decline still left one-third of Russia's population below the poverty line, living on less than a dollar a day. Russia's population declined by 507,400 people during the first eight months of 2000 totalling 145.1 million people as of 1 September, according to the State Statistics Committee. From January to August, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 593,600.

For three months the appeal experienced a lack of donor interest, and eventually was revised in March 2001. Initially the programme intended to assist 209,000 beneficiaries, mainly children in institutions with food and clothes. The programme also included a development component to involve the vulnerable northern people into small-scaled economic projects. While activities related to community

canteens were begun, limited financial support inhibited the procurement of relief supplies and the implementation of soup kitchens for children. The limited response to the appeal has necessitated a programme review, resulting in the revised appeal. The budget was decreased to CHF 1,180,600 and the number of beneficiaries was limited to 147,100 individuals.

The major event during the period of programme implementation was the RRC XIII Congress, held from 28 to 29 November 2001. The Congress adapted a new Statutes and elected a new RRC Chairlady. From 15 to 18 January the Head and Senior Officer of Europe Department visited Moscow to get acquainted with the new RRC Chairlady, and discuss future co-operation in the view of the coming partnership meeting (13-15 February).

Another major event was the Kiev Conference conducted from 5 to 8 June 2001 in the capital of the Ukraine to examine and discuss integration and development of 15 Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies of the former Soviet republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Estonia). Conference participants reviewed progress in the implementation of the Almaty Declaration (December 1996) and defined priorities for their contribution to the implementation of the Federation's Strategy 2010. They were updated on the Red Cross/Red Crescent emblem issue and heard about plans for more effective advocacy, listened to a report on development of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Strategy. Three working groups have convened to discuss volunteers and youth, governance, and financial issues. The conference ended with the publishing of the Kiev Declaration which is available on the Federation's website.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent action w**

According to the revised appeal, the programme focused on the following activities: community canteen centres; distribution of seed/fertilizer sets and fisherman kits, hot meals at schools in remote areas and urban centres. The Swedish, Japanese, Finnish, British, Monaco Red Cross Societies contributed to the programme implementation, as well as some private donors from the USA and Latvia.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w**

Responding to the humanitarian needs in the Russian North, Far East and Siberia, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) supported by the International Federation, has implemented several large-scale humanitarian programmes across Russia over the last four years, providing humanitarian assistance to over five million of Russia's most vulnerable citizens. The previous winter appeals were designed as broad-spectrum, emergency aid programmes intended to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable through the long, cold winter months. The challenge has been immense, but by mounting this response the RRC have gained valuable experience and lessons about the type of aid needed and the timing of such aid.

This appeal was designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people of the isolated Northern Territories and Far Northeast - Nenetsk AO, Taimyr AO, Yakutia (Sakha) Republic, Magadan, Kamchatka (including Koryak AO), Chukotka AO and Tyva Republic. There is a relief team in each RRC committee headed by chairpeople. A wide network of over 400 volunteers across the targeted regions, including state representatives and the higher bodies of commercial companies provide significant support to the programme, mainly with distributions, loading, unloading and transportation.

### **Community Canteen Centres w**

***Objective: To establish Red Cross owned community canteen centres and explore opportunities for Russian Red Cross income generation.***

It was planned to establish Red Cross owned community canteens and support local Red Cross initiatives to develop the community canteens into centres for community activity such as

micro-economic projects, community health advice, drop in centres, and visiting nurse centres. The expected result was that the RRC departments in Tyva, Magadan, Kamchatka and Taimyr would each operate such a centre, and would become self supporting at the end of the programme. It was also planned to produce meals outside the programme, and sell handcrafts and other community services (laundry, baby minding for single parent families, etc.)

The RRC community canteen centre in Kamchatka opened on 18 July, a month later than planned due to the absence of hot water, and consequently the need to purchase a boiler. The Kamchatka Red Cross received strong support from the local administration related to issues of funding, material support, and important help with the local taxation issues. Premises were found in the centre of the city with 12 rooms of different sizes and a substantial cellar. Repair works were completed and canteen equipment purchased and installed. The fire authorities and other health and safety departments inspected the site and have given their official approval. In a big vote of confidence in the local Red Cross all the firemen have since become Red Cross volunteers. An agreement was signed giving ownership of the premises to the Kamchatka RRC department for 15 years. Another agreement was signed with the local employment fund, which have assigned 10 people to work in the canteen (a manager, two cooks, a waiter, a cook assistant, an accountant, a store man and three guards) and pays their salary. Foodstuffs were purchased, beneficiary lists were prepared in co-operation with the local social welfare department, and the distribution of food coupons started in the beginning of July. The Federation supported the hot meals operation in the Kamchatka community canteen for four months, and transferred a total of RUR 264,000 (USD 8,800). The planned canteen's daily capacity was estimated at 100 people per day. However, the canteen increased its capacity as follows:

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
No. beneficiaries	121	161	173	162	<b>173</b>
No. meals	1,027	1,680	3,761	4,532	<b>11, 000</b>

Over 30 Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries are involved in the project. As a result of the RRC advocacy work in the local commercial sector, the canteen received 10,197 kg of in-kind donations to enable the provision of hot meals to the most vulnerable in November and December after Federation's funding was ceased. Due to a lack of funding other components of the community canteen centre are not settled. Due to a lack of agreement with local administrations and limited funds, it was impossible to establish community canteen centres in Magadan, Tyva and Taimyr.

### **Hot Meals at Schools w**

***Objective: To improve the level of food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable children in remote areas and urban centres.***

Following the success of the previous programme the RRC planned to feed the most vulnerable children directly at school which had proved to be the most cost effective and appropriate method of feeding vulnerable children. It was planned to provide 900 school children with hot meals every day during the period of nine months.

Due to a lack of funds, feeding programmes for children in schools were began only in two regions: Tyva Republic and Magadan region. The operation started in the beginning of May. Every month until the end of October the Federation transferred RUR 42,240 to Magadan and RUR 44,880 to Tyva to support the feeding programme. The number of soup kitchens changed in accordance with the number of beneficiaries.

The following results were achieved:

		May	June	July	August	September	October
<b>Magadan</b>	No. kitchens	1	2	3	3	3	2
	No. beneficiaries	70	40	120	100	120	50
	No. meals	1,120	880	2,640	2,200	2,640	1,100
<b>Tyva</b>	No. kitchens	2	3	3	3	3	3
	No. beneficiaries	423	221	235	239	311	670
	No. meals	4,055	3,802	3,802	3,802	3,802	3,802

During the period of summer holidays the number of children on the programme decreased. A lot of beneficiaries temporarily left the regions for the central and southern parts of Russia using privilege air and railroad tickets. Red Cross volunteers organized entertainment events for the children.

### Relief distributions w

***Objective 1: To distribute seeds and fertiliser sets to 144,000 beneficiaries encouraging self-sufficiency and improving nutritional intake.***

Taking into consideration the planned time frame, and severe shortages of food supplies to the targeted regions, the Delegation's relief team started a tender for seeds procurement in November 2000 despite the fact that the available funding was not enough to cover all the expenses for seeds and fertiliser purchases. It was vital to procure, deliver and distribute seeds sets in time for the planting season. Further donations covered the expenses.

As planned fertiliser and 48,000 seed sets were procured in Moscow and delivered to Magadan in March, Kamchatka and Tyva in February. Beneficiaries were comprised of single pensioners, multi-child families, single-headed families, invalids, and children in institutions. Each seeds set contained 15 kinds of vegetables, including tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, beets, onions, carrots, vegetable marrow, radish, dill and parsley. Regional distributions finished in time for the planting season.

Seeds and fertiliser distributions were completed in Magadan at the end of May with the following results:

Settlement	No sets	No families	No individuals
Magadan	2,600	2,600	4,200
Olsky	2,400	2,400	4,530
Omsukchansky	450	450	830
Severo-Evensky	450	450	850
Srednekansky	550	550	600
Susumansky	1,450	1,450	2,300
Tenkinsky	1,050	1,050	2,050
Khasynsky	2,220	2,220	3,000
Yagodinsky	1,300	1,300	2,200
Magadan RC committee	1,453	1,453	2,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>13,923</b>	<b>22,860</b>

Sixty seven seed sets sent to Magadan were damaged during transportation.

The Tyva RRC committee distributed their component of seeds and fertiliser at the end of April as follows:

Settlement	No sets	No families	No beneficiaries
Bay-Tanginski	300	300	1,450
Barun-Khemchinski	600	600	2,870
Dzun-Khemchinski	800	800	4,580
Kaa-Khemski	1,000	977	4,383
Kyzylsky	2,350	2,350	10,121
Kungurtuk	100	100	560
Mongun-Tayginski	100	100	536
Ovyurski	100	100	480
Piy-Khemski	800	800	2,450
Sut-Kholski	550	550	2,749
Tandinski	1,000	1,000	2,310
Tes-Khemski	500	500	2,123
Todzhinsky	400	400	1,230
Ulug-Khemski	1,500	1,500	5,349
Erzinski	400	400	1,150
Chaa-Kholsky	400	400	1,903
Chedi-Kholsky	500	500	2,110
Ak-Dovurak	300	300	1,050
Kyzyl	8 000	8,000	27,382
Tyva RRC department	300	300	675
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>19,977</b>	<b>75,461</b>

The Kamchatka RRC department completed distributing seeds and fertiliser at the end of May as follows:

Regions	No sets	No families	No individuals
Petropavlovsk	4,450	2,763	7,934
Aleutsky	100	100	180
Bystrinsky	500	500	1,387
Elizovsky	3,750	3,750	9,704
Milkovsky	800	800	1,943
Sobolevsky	600	563	1,432
Ust-Bolsheretsky	600	600	1,538
Ust-Kamchatsky	600	598	1,297
Viluchinsky	600	600	1,602
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>10,274</b>	<b>27,017</b>

Distributions were also completed in Koryak, the reports were not received from two districts due to poor organisation in the local RRC department. The interim distributions report looks as follows:

Settlement	No sets received	No sets distributed	No families	No individuals
Karaginsky	550	550	-	-
Penzhinsky	300	-	-	-
Olutorsky	500	500	500	1,493
Tygylsky	650	646	643	1,874

The beneficiaries successfully planted the seeds, and enjoyed the harvest through the long northern winter. Monitoring showed that the project was extremely efficient and proved to be essential for the vulnerable population.

***Objective 2: To establish 100 fishing teams in all regions of the appeal, creating employment to some 300 beneficiaries, and providing additional food to 2,000 beneficiaries.***

This new area of activity is being implemented in all eight regions targeted in the appeal with a different approach in each one. Fisherman teams have been selected in remote settlements and equipped by the RRC. Their salary is taken from fishing quotas allocated to the Russian Red Cross by local fishing authorities. Quotas are sufficient to allow surplus fish and/or proceeds to be distributed by the RRC to the vulnerable people.

A total of 120 fishing kits, containing plain net, plain fishing rope, fishing threads, fishing line in skein, fisherman boots, winter camouflage jacket, summer camouflage jacket, stove, tarpaulin, knives, gloves and first aid kit were procured in Moscow in April-May 2001, and sent to the regions on 15 May.

After holding field assessments, it was decided to change the original distribution scheme (one settlement - one fishing set), and supply fishing kits only to those communities which are capable to meet project's requirements, that is accumulate some portion of eventual catch for the vulnerable.

Fishing kits safely arrived to most of the regions during June - July 2001. Delays in shipment to Yakutia, that received the kits in the middle of August and Chukotka, that received the kits in November, substantially slowed down the distribution among beneficiaries. Due to poor organisation in the Koryak RRC department, seven fisherman kits were reallocated to Kamchatka. Reports were not received from the Chukotka RRC department due to a full change of staff. The former personnel was not sufficient to implement programmes, and new employees were hired in December.

Region	No kits received	No kits distributed	No fishing teams	No beneficiaries	Fish catch, kg
Kamchatka	20	27	19	3 099	85,094
Koryak	10	3	-	-	-
Magadan	20	20	17	2 026	20,215
Tyva	10	10	10	204	277
Taimyr	15	15	15	-	2,340
Nenetsk	15	15	12	-	32
Yakutia	20	20	11	420	2,100
Chukotka	10	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5 749</b>	<b>110,058</b>

Fish distributions in Taimyr and Nenetsk will start in February.

### **Logistics w**

***Objective 1: To procure, deliver to the targeted regions and distribute among the beneficiaries seeds and fertiliser sets.***

A total of 48,000 seeds and fertiliser sets were procured in Moscow. All transportation costs were included into the cost of production, and the supplier conducted the logistics related to despatching the seed sets to branches. Local Red Cross committees with a significant support from administrations delivered the goods to the settlements and distributed seeds and fertiliser among the targeted beneficiaries.

***Objective 2: To procure, deliver to the targeted regions and distribute among the fishing teams 120 fishing sets.***

A total of 120 fishing sets were procured in Moscow. The Federation and the RRC relief/logistics team sent a total of 3,600 kg of goods to the targeted regions in eight containers using combined despatching: rail road/sea and rail road/rivers. The goods arrived to the regions in June-July 2001.

Local Red Cross committees and administrations distributed them among the fishing teams in the settlements.

### **Coordination**

The RRC and Federation developed good working relationships with regional and local administrations as well as social welfare departments. The programme was a valuable addition to the efforts of the RRC to respond to humanitarian needs in Russia along with other public and governmental organisations.

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

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.*

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