

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: WINTER SUPPORT FOR SIBERIAN AND NORTHERN TERRITORIES

24 January, 2001

***appeal no. 29/99; Programme extension to end March, 2001
situation report no. 7
period covered: 26 November 2000 - 18 January 2001***

This appeal was launched on 2 November 1999 to assist 770,000 beneficiaries in 22 far north and Siberian regions. The items procured under the appeal have arrived in the regions and most local Red Cross branches have successfully implemented the programme. However, distributions in Chukotka and Yakutia have been delayed due to adverse weather conditions. Most remaining distributions will be completed by the end of March, while some more remote settlements will need to wait for the spring navigational period. In view of the above circumstances the programme is extended until the end of March, and a final report will be submitted by the end of May 2001.

The context

From a humanitarian point of view, the impact of Russia's financial crisis of 17 August 1998 is still reverberating. It exacerbated an already critical situation, worsening the cash economy in many areas, causing salary payments to be frozen, putting hundreds of thousands out of work, and highlighting the government's inability to provide adequately for vulnerable groups.

Siberian regions found themselves in the most difficult situation with a failure of the Far North Route, which, in Soviet times, used to channel vital supplies (fuel, medicaments and food) to the most remote Russian regions enabling their people to survive the long winters.

Although most of the 31 indigenous groups in the targeted regions differ in their origin, language, and culture, they are characterised by common types of activities: hunting, fishing, reindeer-breeding and

herding. Their traditional occupations are linked to their nomadic way of life. A major problem facing the people and the government is how to assure a sustainable future for indigenous peoples.

In the first quarter of 1995 Siberia contributed 24% to Russia's industrial output and average wages there exceeded Russia's by 32%. As of 1 November 1999 unpaid salaries in Siberia total some RUR 0.5 millions, and individual average wages, far behind schedule and inadequate, constitute less than USD 30 per month. These areas are especially vulnerable to the vicissitudes of an unstable economy and where coping mechanisms have already been severely strained. High transport costs triple prices for basic goods.

Winter has set in this part of Russia and governmental services and individual coping mechanisms are insufficient to meet many basic needs. The Russian Red Cross, working with the Federation's Delegation in Moscow, has streamlined beneficiary numbers to target the extremely vulnerable in the poorest, most isolated regions of this vast territory. Limited emergency aid is being given, but this year there is an increased focus on community development, and a strong bias towards community health and sanitation, concentrating on keeping people healthy and out of hospitals. Included in the budget of this year's appeal is a bulk food component for the Northern territories. By assisting isolated communities, emphasis will be placed on recovering traditional coping mechanisms.

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, Tuva 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. A major refinement of distribution lists has taken place, with only the most vulnerable five per cent considered as beneficiaries and lone elderly, multi-child families, single-headed families, bedridden invalids, those living in elderly homes and specialised institutions, and homes for orphans and abandoned children are prioritised.

Another appeal aimed to assist the vulnerable people of the Russian North and Far East was launched at the end of September. The beneficiaries will be mainly children, as well as lone elderly. A strong development component is included in this programme in the form of free public canteens to be the base for small-scale economic projects such as, for example, shoe repair or traditional crafts. However, the severe lack of funding prevents implementation even of basic relief components.

Latest Events

The State Statistics Committee reported that if existing mortality trends continue, only 58% of young men aged 16 now will reach their 60th birthday. Committee experts noted that this was only slightly better than the projections for 16-year-olds in 1897 when 56% were expected to reach the age of 60. However, the Russian Health Ministry noted that infant mortality in the country fell to 15.8 per 1,000 live births in the first ten months of 2000. In 1999, the rate had been 16.9, and in 1990, it was 17.4. Infant mortality was highest in Ingushetia with 34.7 children dying before age one. 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 leaves one-third of Russia's population below the poverty line. In most of Russia's far eastern regions an energy crisis has further deteriorated already harsh living conditions.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Soup kitchens: This component of the appeal was completed in October. Preliminary reports were received from the eight targeted regions as follows:

Region	No. soup kitchens	No. beneficiaries	No. hot meals
Nenetsk AO	2	328	45 608
Altai Kray	25	2 091	221 123
Altai Republic	16	1 877	234 652
Taimyr AO	1	179	8 251
Evenk AO	1	345	26 250
Tuva Republic	4	1 932	151 721
Magadan region	12	1 447	126 000
Kamchatka region	7	1 357	127 275

This data is currently being updated in accordance with the financial report.

Second-hand clothes: Unfortunately the importation of second hand clothing is presently the subject of a Federal decree which has imposed new strict procedures on hygiene. As a result, on the Delegation's advise, all participating partners stopped sending second hand clothes until the situation is resolved. Presently the Russian Red Cross is discussing the issue at the highest levels. From the beginning of the project, the following quantities of second hand clothes were distributed to programme beneficiaries:

Region	No. bales	Weight, kg	No. beneficiaries
Altai Kray	2 205	79 234	30 283
Altai Republic	1 709	60 334	61 814
Evenk AO	572	20 115	2 586
Tuva Republic	558	20 088	20 010
Komi Republic	1 116	40 176	-
Komi-Perm AO	558	19 013	20 938
Perm region	1 116	37 460	29 355
Kirov region	2 262	80 422	36 649
Tyumen region	593	20 158	12 631
Khakasia Republic	1 664	58 116	65 637
Buryatia Republic	1 151	40 246	17 793
Chita region	593	20 158	23 037
Kemerovo region	1 674	60 264	36 771
Irkutsk region	1 690	59 888	50 502
Kurgan region	558	20 088	10 747
Total:	18 019	635 760	418 753

Support to children in institutions: Cash support to orphanages, state boarding schools and juvenile detention centres in seven Siberian regions of Nenetsk, Taimyr, Tyva, Koryak, Kamchatka, Yakutia and Komi-Perm was provided from May to October. Over RUR 400,000 (some CHF 30,000) was transferred to 24 institutions every month.

From May to October, 1,701 children received the following food, hygienic items, medicine, household supplies and stationery:

Region	Budget lines	Total spent, RUR
Nenetsk AO 4 institutions	Food supplies	278,429.10
	Hygienic supplies	98,973.00
	Medical supplies	59,819.90
	Household supplies	1,888.00
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	439,110.00
	Beneficiaries	255
Taimyr AO 2 institutions	Food supplies	258,945.90
	Hygienic supplies	113,920.70
	Medical supplies	93,795.40
	Household supplies	0.00
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	466,662.00
	Beneficiaries	271
Tuva Republic 3 institutions	Food supplies	325,410.30
	Hygienic supplies	77,890.50
	Medical supplies	2,100.00
	Household supplies	80,203.20
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	485,604.00
	Beneficiaries	280
Koryak AO 3 institutions	Food supplies	353,746.70
	Hygienic supplies	9,492.60
	Medical supplies	50,082.88
	Household supplies	0.00
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	413,322.18
	Beneficiaries	103
Kamchatka region 2 institutions	Food supplies	408,822.28
	Hygienic supplies	26,326.60
	Medical supplies	40,120.06
	Household supplies	0.00
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	475,268.94
	Beneficiaries	251
Yakutia Republic 4 institutions	Food supplies	332,927.72
	Hygienic supplies	45,298.57
	Medical supplies	52,273.71
	Household supplies	0.00
	Stationery	0.00
	Total	430,500.00
	Beneficiaries	250
Komi-Perm AO 6 institutions	Food supplies	88,440.38
	Hygienic supplies	96,474.51
	Medical supplies	186,990.37
	Household supplies	10,827.09
	Stationery	33,415.40
	Total	416,147.75
	Beneficiaries	290
TOTAL	Food supplies	2,046,722.38
	Hygienic supplies	468,376.48
	Medical supplies	485,182.32
	Household supplies	92,918.29
	Stationery	33,415.40
	Total	3,126,614.87
	Beneficiaries	1,701

Tuva and Altai Republics: The fourth round of family food parcels distribution in the Tuva Republic ended in November within the operational time-frame. Over 31,500 beneficiaries received 9,400 family food parcels. Distribution reports for the whole period reflect a very successful implementation of the programme with over 89,000 beneficiaries assisted in the three distribution rounds in the Altai Republic and four distribution rounds in the Tuva Republic. Each food parcel contained 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.

Tuva Republic

DISTRICT	Population	1st ROUND		2nd ROUND		3rd ROUND	
		# parcels	# of bens	# parcels	# of bens	# parcels	# of bens
<i>Bai-Taiginski</i>	14,098	300	1381	300	1381	300	1381
<i>Barun-Khemchinski</i>	14,998	500	2571	500	2571	500	2571
<i>Dzun-Khemchinski</i>	22,561	900	4787	900	4787	900	4787
<i>Kaa-Khemski</i>	13,322	500	1999	500	1999	500	1999
<i>Kyzylski</i>	24,974	850	3588	850	3588	850	3601
<i>Kungurtuk settlement</i>	2069	150	534	150	534	150	512
<i>Mongun-Taiginski</i>	6,262	300	1200	300	1200	300	1641
<i>Ovurski</i>	8,587	400	1287	400	1287	400	1392
<i>Piy-Khemski</i>	12,757	500	1551	500	1551	500	1551
<i>Sut-Kholski</i>	9,830	400	2041	400	2041	400	2040
<i>Tandinski</i>	14,176	600	2436	600	2436	600	2436
<i>Tes-Khemski</i>	9,998	400	1960	400	1960	400	2013
<i>Todjinski</i>	6,295	500	1637	500	1637	500	1637
<i>Ulug-Khemski</i>	18,912	700	1918	700	1918	700	2095
<i>Erzinski</i>	8,635	300	1511	300	1511	300	1511
<i>Chaa-Khol</i>	7,955	300	1446	300	1446	300	1446
<i>Chedi-Khol</i>	8,618	400	1495	400	1495	400	1495
<i>Ak-Dovurak town</i>	13,390	500	2085	500	2085	500	2085
<i>Kyzyl city</i>	97,332	3,000	13427	3,000	13427	3,000	14249
<i>RC beneficiaries</i>		100	335	200	897	200	644
TOTAL	314,769	11,600	49,189	11,700	49,751	11,700	51,086

Altai Republic

DISTRICT	Population	1st ROUND		2nd ROUND		3rd ROUND	
		# parcels	# of bens	# parcels	# of bens	# parcels	# of bens
<i>Gorno-Altai city</i>	14,098	2692	6942	2692	6942	2692	6942
<i>Kosh-Agach</i>	14,998	817	3818	817	3909	817	3909
<i>Maima</i>	22,561	1223	3028	1223	3078	1223	3170
<i>Ongudai</i>	13,322	986	4002	986	4002	986	4002
<i>Turachak</i>	24,974	636	2168	636	2176	636	2170
<i>Ulagan</i>	2069	572	1617	572	1617	572	1617
<i>Ust-Kan</i>	6,262	1153	3936	1153	4169	1153	4234
<i>Ust-Koksa</i>	8,587	1500	5502	1500	5502	1500	5502
<i>Chemal</i>	12,757	666	1996	666	1996	666	1996
<i>Choya</i>	9,830	495	1634	495	1634	495	1634
<i>Shebalino</i>	14,176	760	2715	760	2780	760	2791
<i>RC beneficiaries</i>		100	280	200	516	200	520
TOTAL	143,634	11,600	37,638	11,700	38,321	11,700	38,487

Chukotka, Magadan, Kamchatka and Koryak: 38,000 hygiene parcels were produced in Moscow and sent to all four targeted regions - 3,000 for Koryak, 4,000 for Chukotka, 15,000 for Kamchatka, and 16,000 for Magadan - together with information leaflets on house and personal hygiene.

A total of 10,500 family food parcels (FFPs) were produced in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and distributions started in eight targeted districts of Kamchatka; 13,500 FFPs were produced in Magadan, and distributions among nine targeted districts started there. 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.

A full compliment of 8,625 kg of bulk food (dried fruit, sweet condensed milk, butter oil, tea and cocoa) was procured in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for distributions among children’s institutions in Koryak; and 10,350 kg of similar bulk food was procured in Vladivostock to be distributed among children’s institutions of Chukotka. Distributions of hygiene parcels will continue to the end of January in all the regions, except Chukotka where the parcels are still stored in a warehouse together with bulk food. Distributions of family food parcels (FFPs) in Kamchatka and Magadan will also be completed at the end of January. Koryak bulk food cargo is being distributed with the last district now receiving its consignment transported by helicopters.

All relief items for Chukotka are staying in an Anadyr (the capital) warehouse waiting for transportation to the three targeted districts. Due to a very mild beginning of winter, winter roads in Russia’s northern regions are not operating and the distribution in Chukotka has experienced a delay. However, the late distribution is also caused by a lack of Red Cross activity in the region. The Russian Red Cross representative is currently in the field trying to liaise with local authorities and establishing an office.

Nenetsk AO, Taimyr AO and Yakutia: the following nine types of relief commodities were procured in Moscow and sent to the regions:

Region	FFPs	Hygiene kits	Warm suits	Rubber boots	Felt boots	Fisherman’s boots	Children’s clothes	School sets	Fist aid kits
Nenetsk	7 000	7 000	2 285	835	835	2 285	2 285	2 285	3 495
Timyr	11 000	11 000	3 600	1 330	1 330	3 600	3 600	3 600	5 450
Yakutia	14 000	14 000	4 115	1 835	1 835	4 115	6 115	6 115	7 055

All items were distributed in Nenetsk AO during the reporting period to 2,750 vulnerable families (some 8,000 people). Some 80% of the above mentioned cargo was distributed in Taimyr. Two remote districts are waiting for the winter roads to settle to receive their part of relief items. Two vehicles (not related to the Red Cross) tried to test winter roads in December and failed, one of them sank. Another remote district in Taimyr will receive its portion of relief supplies by helicopters.

Yakutia distributions are behind the other two regions because of a shorter than expected river navigational period and an early departure of the administration’s ship through the Arctic ocean. However distribution has been completed in three districts in the eastern Arctic/Yakutia with no losses. The cargo for the ten remaining districts is secured in regional warehouses waiting for the winter roads to open. The Delegation’s relief officer conducted a field trip to the region from 16 to 30 December to assist with planning and accompanied part of a cargo shipment assigned to the region to two most remote and hard to access districts one of which is situated above the Arctic circle in the north-west of Yakutia, and the other on the bank of the Laptev sea. An AN-12 plane was rented for this purpose. The remainder of the cargo will be distributed through winter roads and helicopters.

The Japanese Red Cross made an earmarked donation for Yakutia, and medical kits were procured to be distributed among the remote medical stations across the region. All distributions in Yakutia are planned to be finished by the end of March.

Kirov, Komi-Perm and Komi Republic: 60 MT food were delivered to Komi Republic; 4,900 FFPs to Komi-Perm; and 5,400 FFPs to Kirov. Each food parcel 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.

Distributions in Kirov and Komi-Perm were finished with the following result:

Region	No. parcels			No. families			No. beneficiaries		
	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
Komi-Perm AO	1 600	1 650	1 650	1 600	1 650	1,650	6 099	6 225	6 271
Kirov region	5 450	5 450	5 600	5 442	5 442	-	17 393	17 413	-

Outstanding needs

The programme is coming to an end, and while the donor support was not as great as anticipated the programme has been adjusted accordingly and at this time there are no further outstanding needs.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Regular contacts with administrations and governments are ongoing in the targeted regions. The programme is highly supported by regional authorities. From 23 to 26 November the information delegate and the information officer conducted a field trip to Nenetsk together with 13 journalists from NTV Russia and five international companies (BBC, Sky News, Reuters, Knight Ridder newspapers, Icelandic TV and Swedish TV) to cover Red Cross activities under the programme. During the trip, local industrial enterprises and social institutions supported by the programmes were visited in Naryan-Mar; a helicopter trip to Indiga, a settlement of indigenous people, including reindeer-breeders, at the Barents Sea was conducted to cover FFPs distribution to beneficiary families; a local hospital and school were also visited; regional administration and Red Cross workers were met. The trip was made possible due to a donation from the Icelandic Red Cross.

During December, a relief seminar was held in Moscow. Chairpersons and accountants from Tuva, Chukotka, Taimyr, Nenetsk, Yakutia, Magadan and Kamchatka attended a full three-day session covering lessons learnt, reporting procedures, media relations and future programmes. Among the presentations, was one delivered by TACIS outlining their wish to work with the Russian Red Cross, in particular the mutual advantages of using TACIS regional resource centres.

From 14 to 18 January, the information delegate and information officer organised a field trip to Irkutsk for 21 international media representatives from BBC, Sky News, AP, APTN, ABC, DN Swedish newspaper, SABA, CBS and three American Red Cross representatives. Meetings with local Red Cross and administration representatives were held in Irkutsk, and a visit to a local psychiatric hospital took place. Four settlements near Irkutsk were visited: Angarsk to see a local juvenile delinquent centre; Sludyanka to see a home for disabled infants and meet with local social welfare department representatives, Baikalsk to visit children's rehabilitation centre, home for elderly and a paper factory; and Sayansk to cover Red Cross family food parcel distributions and see social institutions as well as to visit a chemical factory. The trip covered the American bulk food component on the background of the general relief/development programme implemented by the Russian Red Cross and the Federation.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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RUSSIA - WINTER EMERGENCY						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 29/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			01/23/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				47,500,000	01/01/99	38.92%
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		1,000	USD	1,665	10.04.00	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		11,635	AUD	11,675	11/05/99	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		110	AUD	108	23.05.00	
AUSTRIA - RC		50,000	EUR	78,625	05/02/00	
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		1,455,639	GBP	3,770,105	03/21/00	DFID FUNDS
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	62,500	12/08/99	
CANADA - GOVT		1,250,000	CAD	1,355,875	03/23/00	FOR VARIOUS ITEMS
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	107,460	12/10/99	
ECHO/GERMAN RC		900,000	EUR	1,440,000	01/15/00	
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	12/06/99	
SWEDEN - RC		1,500,000	SEK	280,050	03/17/00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				8,837,706	CHF	18.61%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA - RC		300,000	CAD	335,940	06/21/99	delegates, assessment & evaluation (direct support to the prog. not channelled through the Federation)
SWEDEN - RC		50,000,000	SEK	9,315,000	12/02/99	SECOND HAND CLOTHING AND SHOES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				9,650,940	CHF	20.32%
NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	