

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

29 January, 2001

appeal no. 01.32/2000

situation report no. 4

period covered: October - December, 2000

The level of funding and donor support for this 2000 annual appeal was disappointing. But with many of the programmes ongoing in 2001, donors are encouraged to access the Federation's 2001 web-based appeal for the Russian Federation and to provide generous and timely support.

The context

The Russia Delegation supports the Russian Red Cross across the 21 republics, 49 oblasts, six krais, and ten okrugs, that make up the Russian Federation. The Delegation also serves as a regional financial management base for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and supplies logistical and information support to other Federation Delegations and National Society in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

To respond to the existing humanitarian needs in Russia, the Federation and Russian Red Cross (RRC) formulated a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) intended to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable Russians. With up to one third of Russia's population living on less than one dollar a day, the need for increasingly well-targeted, effectively monitored emergency humanitarian aid is critical.

The CAS intends to support the RRC's readiness to respond to difficult socio-economic conditions, and to cope with disasters caused by climatic change or other environmental situations. The Federation and RRC recognise the need to ensure that assistance is targeted to the most vulnerable groups, and the emergency relief programme launched in the winter of 1999/2000, and into 2001 targets elderly living alone, children (particularly those in orphanages and other institutions) imperilled indigenous communities, and disabled persons.

Considerable emphasis is being placed on health education, particularly in the RRC's fight to reverse the alarming increase in communicable diseases. The Federation and RRC have also already started to work on improved quality of assistance, by undertaking new monitoring and evaluation missions to impoverished areas.

The Russian Red Cross participated in the «Almaty Conference» (Almaty, December 1996) and is a signatory to the «Almaty Declaration» establishing the Federation's focus on support to four key areas of activity: Institutional and Resource Development (IDRD) reform, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention (DPP), Population Movement (PM), and the Visiting Nurse Services while continuing emergency response action. Part of the support towards the reform process concentrates on legal advice.

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Latest Events

Some 2,000 MT of food products - part of the annual food supplies - aimed for Chukotka sank in the Bering sea during a storm in October. The loss of such a large food consignment is actually noteworthy because of the extreme isolation of this community during the winter and the potential shortage of food supplies for the winter.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Health •

Visiting Nurses Service (VNS)

This programme funded by the Swedish Red Cross is planned to end in February 2001. During the reporting period, three rooms of medical and social assistance to the elderly and invalids have been established in the Tolyatti, Saratov and Sochi Red Cross committees. During the reporting period it was also decided to open three additional training centres in three regional Russian Red Cross committees (Perm in the Urals, Moscow south-western district in central Russia, and Vladivostok in the far east). A tender for equipment procurement is being held. In 2000 the VNS assisted 1,275 elderly people and invalids, including 728 at their homes and 438 in medical and social assistance facilities.

From 13 to 17 November, training seminars for 14 visiting nurses and three instructors and a seminar for instructors on home care were held in Novosibirsk in a regional Red Cross training centre. From 27 November to 9 December, training seminars were held in Ulyanovsk for 19 local and Nizhny Novgorod visiting nurses and instructors. Both training centres were equipped with TV-sets, tape recorders, video recorders, projectors with screens, photo cameras, tapes, and stationary. A training seminar for 5 instructors was held in Ulyanovsk from 6 to 8 December. A training seminar for Perm visiting nurses and instructors was held from 14 to 26 December.

HIV/AIDS - Youth

During the reporting period the RRC Central Committee continued working on a manual for youth leaders. The national HIV/AIDS co-ordinator prepared an article on HIV/AIDS for the Russian Red Cross magazine. Regular contacts with the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS continued. The Russian Red Cross participated in a Duma hearing devoted to AIDS and in a round table on youth problems also organised by the State Duma.

While funding for this programme ended in November, regional committees participating in the programme continued their activities as follows:

- Kaliningrad regional Red Cross committee: Preparations to the World AIDS Day took place in October with a contest being held for the best mini scenario on AIDS awareness among school children, purchasing prizes for the winners and materials for Red Cross promotion. Over 150 manuals and brochures on HIV/AIDS prevention were handed out during the World AIDS Day. Other activities includes: volunteer training, seminars for student-volunteers and schoolchildren-volunteers, lectures on sexually transmitted diseases, distribution of booklets on HIV/AIDS.
- Krasnodar regional Red Cross committee: Activities included: information seminars on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention, training workshops for volunteers. Volunteers and youth co-ordinators organised a public event called “I Choose Life” to promote healthy life styles and HIV/AIDS prevention, generating great interest among youth and attracting more volunteers to the local Red Cross youth centre.
- Sochi regional RC committee: Activities includes: training seminars on HIV/AIDS and other STDs prevention, over 100 schoolchildren participated in a competition “What do you know about HIV/AIDS and other STDs and Red Cross booklets and pins were handed out during the event. Contacts were made with local administration and youth psychological support centre representatives, and new information materials on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse were prepared.
- Moscow South-eastern district Red Cross branch: During the reporting period, 25 training seminars were held for over 200 students of high schools and colleges. Four information meetings were conducted for volunteers on drug abuse prevention and psycho-social aspects of working with youth. On 25 October, youth centre representatives participated in a round table organised by district administration to discuss drug abuse prevention among youth.
- Murmansk regional Red Cross committee: On 17 October, a training seminar for 20 newly recruited volunteers was held. On 19 October, a seminar on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention was held for 12 students of a local boarding school. Six lectures for 146 high school students were held during the reporting period; 75 questionnaires were collected.
- Arkhangelsk regional Red Cross committee: During the reporting period, 500 calendars promoting combating AIDS were printed, a contest of drawings called “We can prevent AIDS” was held among school children. Fourteen seminars on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention were held for over 280 teenagers across the region. From 20 to 23 November, a training session to prepare 21 instructors from Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, Onega, and Kotlas to work in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention was conducted. On 1 December, the World AIDS Day was held, organised by Red Cross volunteers for over 600 people, mainly students: an exhibition of drawing about AIDS was held, information materials on HIV/AIDS and other STDs prevention and drug abuse were handed out. A disco was organised for students; free condoms were handed out on the entrance, and college students held a performance on safe sexual behaviour.

Disaster Preparedness and Response •

An emergency operation to deliver urgent assistance to the victims of a severe typhoon and flooding in the Primorsky Krai was implemented during the reporting period. CHF 50,000 was received from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), with 2,340 people assisting in the operation. Negotiations with the representatives of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations were held to discuss information exchange between the establishment and the Red Cross. A contingency stock of relief supplies was prepared consisting of 1,000 hygiene parcels and 525 bed linen sets.

Population Movement (PM) Programme •

In 12 Russian Red Cross regional reception points (Tambov, Voronezh, Sochi, Orenburg, Oryol, Kirov, Omsk, Belgorod, Kursk, Kaliningrad, Veliki Novgorod, and Novosibirsk) 19,148 vulnerable people, including 13,723 migrants were assisted during the reporting period with 6,132 family food parcels (FFPs), 5,900 hygiene kits, 5,808 bed linen sets, 4,982 medical kits; some 1,205 persons applied for legal and 1,921 for psycho-social support. All procurements for regional reception points were conducted locally. Each family food parcel contains: 2 kg grain, 1 kg sugar, 400-500 g macaroni or 1 kg of flour, 1 tin of beef, and 1 tin of condensed sweet milk. Hygiene kits contain: 1 tooth brush, 1 tube of tooth

paste, 1 bar of soap, 1 bar of household soap, 1 bottle of shampoo, and a roll of toilet paper. Bed linen sets consist of a sheet, a pillowcase, and a towel.

The RRC Central Committee reception point in Moscow for forced migrants assisted 1,117 people, including 638 migrants with 120 FFPs, 843 hygiene kits, 832 medical kits, 445 food coupons, 180 sets of second hand clothes; and gave 100 legal consultations. Some 876 persons, including 404 migrants, were assisted in the RRCS medical and social assistance facility in Pskov during the month; 96 psychological consultations were held.

Emergency legal support points for forced migrants at Chita, Orenburg, and Kuibyshev rail way stations provided 286 legal consultations, including 191 to forced migrants during the reporting period. Legal consultation reception points in Nizhni Novgorod, Pskov, Ivanovo, St. Petersburg, and Stavropol held 422 consultations, including 297 for migrants.

Two medical and social assistance centres in Moscow assisted 1,139 people, including 585 migrants and held 131 psychological consultations. The centre of social and psychological rehabilitation for IDPs and asylum seekers provided 110 psychological consultations to migrants.

A training seminar for six new lawyers was held on 24 November. A working seminar was held on 8 December to discuss the results of summer-camps for child-migrants held in Ivanovo, Oryol, Vologda, St. Petersburg and Pskov with the participation of 22 people, representatives of regional Red Cross committees.

Institutional / Resource Development and Capacity Building •

On 4 October, a meeting of the RRC commission on implementing Strategic Work Plan 2010 was conducted. First results were discussed at the RRC Presidium meeting on 12 October and was elaborated upon during further meetings. A plan of action for 2001 was designed and approved by the RRC headquarters on 22 December.

Regular meetings of the Russian Red Cross Central Committee Presidium Bureau took place during the quarter to discuss the current progress in the RRC, its reform process and the state of regional committees and branches.

Continuing co-operation with the Taro Entertainment company (producing one of the most popular cartoons in Russia with the main character called Neznaika) continued. As a result, 1,000 table games called "Neznaika on the Moon" were donated to the Russian Red Cross for distribution among orphanages and boarding schools across Russia.

Outstanding needs

While this appeal received very limited funding, the focus has shifted to 2001 programmes and donors are encouraged to increase support to the activities elaborated in the Federation's 2001 Appeal.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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

Russian Federation						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.32/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			01/23/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				9,454,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 25.2%
Balance carried forward from 1999				632,459		
AMERICAN - GOVT PRM		420,970	USD	746,590	18.05.00	POPULATION MOVEMENTS
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	38,550	11.07.00	
BRITISH - PRIVATE/RC		15,000	GBP	37,800	08.09.00	SUPPORT TO DELEGATION
BRITISH - PRIVATE				653	19.04.00	
BRITISH - RC				13,204	16.11.00	INFORMATION DELEGATE
CANADIAN - RC		25,000	USD	42,213	25.07.00	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ICELANDIC - RC		4,000	USD	6,850	25.09.00	KAMCHATKA CONFERENCE
ICELANDIC - RC		5,000	USD	8,850	01.11.00	INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
NETHERLANDS - RC				33,071	08.12.00	COVER MISSION EXPENSES DEL.
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		650,000	SEK	122,395	30.05.00	RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		475,000	SEK	89,443	30.05.00	POPULATION MOVEMENT PROG.
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		625,000	SEK	117,688	30.05.00	HEALTH: VN ACTIVITIES & TRAINING
SWEDISH - RC		750,000	SEK	141,225	29.05.00	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
SWEDISH - GOVT		310,000	SEK	54,591	12.12.00	REFORM PROCESS
TURKISH - RC		5,000	DEM	3,906	12.10.00	PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT
WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION		133,000	USD	224,571	25.08.00	ORYOL TB PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,314,059	CHF	24.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			69,814		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				69,814	CHF	0.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
P67509, PRU001, PRU005, PRU006, PR007, PRU020, PRU160, PRU161, PRU513, PRU514, PRU524, PRU530						