

JULY 2002

EMERGENCY ACTION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, RUSSIAN RED CROSS, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION



THE ICRC HAS NEARLY FINISHED THE VERIFICATION/UPDATE OF IDPS IN INGUSHETIA - ADJUSTING THE AID TO THE PEOPLE IN NEED

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and co-ordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law and international humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last two months the ICRC has been looking in detail at the situation with IDPs in Ingushetia in order to better adapt to the needs of the eligible IDP population. The ICRC started a verification/update exercise in June. This assessment has been carried out with respect to the IDPs residing in camps, spontaneous settlements and in private sector in Ingushetia.

In July the first phase of the verification/update exercise has been completed. All IDPs eligible for assistance were required to present themselves to the verification points and to update their personal profiles. On the basis of provided information, they got a voucher, which should be shown at the next distribution in order to receive complimentary food aid and hygienic items.

The new round of distribution will start in the beginning of August. The ICRC plans to address the needs of around 90,000 beneficiaries.

During the second and the third phase of the verification/update exercise, the ICRC officers visit the residence of the IDPs to cross-check the received information, to get acquainted with the living conditions, as well as to see the members of the household who were not present at the initial stage of the verification because of illness or for other proper reasons. All this data will be processed and analysed by the ICRC staff. This will help to enhance further the efficiency of the ICRC operations and will ensure better coordination among humanitarian organisations assisting IDPs in Ingushetia.

BUDGETARY NEEDS

In its annual appeal for 2002, the ICRC requests nearly 34 mln dollars to finance its activities in the Russian Federation. Of this, about 27 mln dollars are planned for relief operations in the North Caucasus. (Further details on www.icrc.org)

THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, LEAD BY THE ICRC, PROVIDED IN JUNE 2002 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTHERN RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 85,000 BENEFICIARIES.

OVERVIEW

CHECHNYA

Food assistance (dry food and bread)

In July, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Russian Red Cross (RRC), assisted 46,000 beneficiaries with bread, soap, oil, sugar and tea. This programme targeted vulnerable groups in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoi Martan and Kurchaloy. Over the same period national RRC and ICRC staff conducted a new re-registration of the beneficiaries.

The ICRC also provided basic foodstuffs and wheat flour to social and paramedical institutions and distributed food parcels to 1,666 beneficiaries in 5 IDP centres.

Non-food assistance

Since December 1st, 2000, the ICRC, which rehabilitated pumping station No 1 in Grozny, has started distribution of chlorinated water to the population of the city from two water tanks (75 m³ each) with a present daily average output of more than 748 m³ which covers the needs of around 37,500 people. Overall, in July 2002, 23,190 m³ of water were provided.

In July 8,116 school kits and 5,375 pairs of shoes were distributed to Chechen children staying at holidays camp of the North Caucasus.

Medical assistance

In July, the ICRC provided the traumatological and surgical departments of 9 hospitals in Chechnya with medicines and medical material. The medical input delivered by the ICRC was equivalent to 32,000 USD. In July 1 person was provided with a wheel-chair; 75 pairs of crutches were delivered.

Furthermore, the ICRC is implementing, since the 1st of March 2002, a Primary Health Care programme in cooperation with the RRC and the Chechen Ministry of Health. The assistance is provided to 23 primary medical care structures (polyclinics, ambulatories and feldsher-obstetrics or FAPs) of Shali and Urus Martan districts. The structures with qualified medical personal (polyclinics and ambulatories) are supplied with medicines while the FAPs, with no qualified staff, are visited and supported by 2 RRC mobile medical teams. The assortment and quantity of the drugs distributed to the FAPs are limited. In addition, the RRC runs a fixed medical point in Grozny. To complete the programme, a specialist team is in charge of the monitoring.

Co-operation with National Society

The ICRC supports the visiting nurses programme of the RRC in Chechnya. 720 bedridden elderly are assisted on a regular basis by 57 nurses and provided with fresh and dry food on a monthly basis and with hygienic kits every 6 months.

CHECHNYA

FOOD ASSISTANCE

(July 2002)		
1,926	food parcels	
534,451	loaves of bread	
1,035 kg	wheat flour	
34,593 I	oil	
34,593 kg	sugar	
34,358	tea (boxes of 200 gr)	
1,035 kg	potatoes	
414 kg	onions	
1,035 kg	beans	

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE

(July 2002)		
soap (bars)		
kitchen sets		
blankets		
plastic sheeting		
jerry cans		
candles		

MEDICAL

CONSULTATIONS (July 2002) 1,342 consultations 601 of them for children

THE ICRC COVERED ABOUT 26,000 PEOPLE WITH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME IN JULY

RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA ICRC

87	national staff
12	daily workers

vehicles

RRC

13

83staff57volunteers11vehicles

What is a mobile medical team?

A team includes two doctors (a general practitioner and a paediatrician), a nurse and a driver. They give basic medical advice and, if needed, distribute medicines. A fixed dispensary team usually includes two doctors (a general practitioner and a paediatrician) and a nurse.

Mine awareness

The number of landmine and unexploded ordnance victims among the civilian population in Chechnya is of particular concern for the ICRC. As a result, a mine awareness programme has been initiated there with a special focus on children who run the highest risk to be maimed or killed by these weapons. The aim is to limit this risk by informing children of the danger of landmine and unexploded ordnance present and by teaching them some basic rules of behaviour. In July, a new issue of "Stelaad" ("Rainbow" in Chechen) children magazine came out. It contains information on mine awareness for the children. 450 copies were disseminated in the regional hospitals, another 500 copies were passed to the local branch of the Russian Red Cross in Grozny for public dissemination.

The KVN team of Grozny (a student humour and entertainment club) involved in mine awareness activities discussed in July the tentative scenario of performance for the ICRC. The ICRC will consider the sketch and the performance is about to take place in September.

The ICRC also launches the project of Safe Play Area for Children. In July the ICRC team met the administration of Staropromyslovsky district and studied the site. The administration received an official letter from the ICRC concerning the project and approved the aforementioned activities. A task force of young volunteers will be used to build the safe sport ground. The ICRC will provide the sport box and mount the billboards with mine awareness information and messages of advice.

INGUSHETIA

The Republic continues to host a large number of IDPs from Chechnya, a heavy burden to bear for the local population. People are partly accommodated in tent camps, but the majority live in collective centres and in host families, straining the latter's economic conditions.

Due to the verification/update process, no assistance was distributed this month, but the aid delivery will start in August.

Food assistance

The ICRC assists IDPs on a regular basis with food (family parcels) on a two-three month cycle basis through more than 40 points of distribution.

Non-food assistance

Besides food, the ICRC provides hygienic kits and candles to IDPs. These distributions also take place every two to three months.

Water and sanitation

The ICRC has taken strong effort to make drinking water available wherever there are major concentrations of IDPs in Ingushetia. Since summer 2000, when the ICRC made it a priority to improve the hygienic situation in IDP camps, it built shower installations which were then insulated for the winter period. A total of 13 of them with the capacity of 138 cabins are currently at the disposal of IDPs. In

INGUSHETIA

WATER AND SANITATION (July 2002)

(041) 2002)	
Overall:	3,998 m ³
Daily:	128 m ³
Showers:	13(138 cabins)
Bladders:	20
Pits:	12
Water trucks:	8

THE ICRC PROVIDES ABOUT 40,000 IDPs WITH FRESH WATER DAILY IN INGUSHETIA AND MORE THAN 37,500 PEOPLE IN GROZNY IN CHECHNYA. addition, fresh water is provided to roughly 40,000 IDP's on a daily basis, through a network of 20 bladders. **Medical assistance**

Since July 2001 the ICRC is concentrating its efforts on increasing its aid to the main hospital of the Ingush republic in Nazran. In July the medical input delivered by the ICRC was equivalent to 6,140 USD. 1 pair of crutches was provided to an IDP in the Bart camp in Karabulak and 1 wheel-chair to an IDP in Nazran.

Co-operation with National Society

The ICRC regularly supports the programs of the RRC. In July, 1,600 children received 2 snacks per week in the Playroom Programme which runs in 14 locations in the IDP camps. In the playrooms children aged 3-6 have the opportunity to play and participate in organized activities under the guidance of trained teachers. A 3-day seminar was organised by the RRC and held in Nalchik for all the Playroom teachers and psychologists.

The RRC visiting nurses programme is providing bedridden elderly persons (130 people) with basic care. Beneficiaries receive food parcels, wheat flour on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

In July, the RRC distributed 4,100 sets of clothes.

Mine awareness

In July the ICRC conducted an assessment of the mine awareness among the IDPs in camps and collective centres. Adults, adolescents and children were questionned about their knowledge of the danger of mines and unexploded ordnances and their use of this information. The survey was carried out by specially trained instructors - 7 mine victims and 6 teachers aware of the MA program. The questionnaires were tested (130 people) and two basic types were approved - one for children and one for adults. The survey covered 1,100 IDPs. In parallel, the 1,000 children received comic books "Ascend". The accumulated data is now being processed and analysed.

A field testing of the leaflets for children and adults was conducted in IDPs' collective centres. The testing involved 114 adults and 174 kids. The leaflets are aimed at improving the mine awareness skills of the IDPs as they return to Chechnya. The booklets also contain key messages on the issue.

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance

In July, the ICRC carried out relief distributions in Kurtomkalinsky (Novostroy) region covering 1,823 beneficiaries with sugar, oil, salt and wheat flour. These are civilians still suffering from the consequences of the summer 1999 violence.

Medical assistance

In July, the ICRC provided medical assistance to the Khassavuyrt Central Hospital for the sum of 2,800 USD.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

What's in a food parcel?

3 kg of buck wheat, 500 g tea, 500 g of tinned cheese, 2 kg of sugar, 1,3 kg of tinned beef, 870 g of butter, 800 g of tomato paste

What's Bread and SOST programme?

12 loaves of bread, 1 kg of sugar, 1 l of oil, 1 pcs of toilet soap, 1 pcs of laundry soap, 1 box of tea (200 g)

What's in a hygienic kit?

150 g of toothpaste, 2 toothbrushes, 720 g of laundry soap, 400 g of toilet soap, 1 kg of washing powder

What's in a kitchen set?

1 cooking pot (7 l),1 frying pan, 5 bowls, 5 plates, 5 cups, 5 knives, 5 forks, 5 table spoons

What's in a school kit?

2 copybooks, 2 pens, 1 pad of drawing paper, 1 box of colour pencils, 1 box of water colours, 1 eraser, 1 pencil sharpener

What kind of surgical assistance?

Medicines, including antibiotics and anaesthetics, medicines for narcosis, sutures, infusions, IV sets, catheters, X-ray material

DAGHESTAN

FOOD ASSISTANCE (July 2002) 5,469 kg sugar 5,469 l oil 913 kg salt 54,690 kg wheat flour

Co-operation with National Society

The RRC is also running the home visiting nurses programme for about 220 beneficiaries, mainly bedridden elderly people. They receive food parcels and wheat flour on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

In cooperation with the RRC 103 psychological consultations were provided to people in Daghestan.

Mine awareness

In schools in the Novolak and Botlikh regions, the ICRC plans to conduct a puppet show after the end of the school holidays. A scenario for the performance has been developed. The main character goes to pick up some water for his grandfather (the old man is planning to make a lucky pot to save the people) and has to be aware of mines on his way. All characters are borrowed from the Daghestani folklore. Musical background and puppets are being prepared now.

The local newspaper "Voice of Time" came out containing an article "Be Aware of Mines". The article describes different types of mines and appropriate patterns of behavior to be adopted as well as how to identify mine signs.

NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA

In the southern regions of Russia (Astrakhan, Volgograd, Krasnodar, Rostov, Saratov, Stavropol, Kalmykia, Adygea, Karachayevo -Cherkessia) the RRC, with the ICRC support, provided assistance to about 7,200 Chechen IDPs in July. Nearly 1,000 IDPs also received non-food assistance in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia.

Non-food assistance

In the southern regions of Russia, listed above, as well as in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia, the RRC, with the ICRC support, distributed sets of clothes, underwear, shoes to IDPs from Chechnya.

Co-operation with National Society

In Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Kalmykia, Adygea, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions the RRC, supported by the ICRC, runs the home visiting nurses programme for the elderly (1,267 beneficiaries). They receive food parcels on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

Psychological and legal counselling

In the South of Russia the RRC, supported by the ICRC and the International Federation, provides IDPs from Chechnya with psycho-social counselling and legal advice. Psychological counselling and legal advice has also been organised for IDPs in North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria.

NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKA-RIA, SOUTH OF RUSSIA

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (July 2002) 7,406 sets of clothes

CONSULTATIONS (July 2002) 1,465 psychological

legal

RED CROSS STAFF IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

692

19 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 269 national employees not including those in Chechnya.

RUSSIAN RED CROSS

Regular staff, excluding Chechnya - 151 (plus 22 HQ staff in Moscow), rescue service included. RRC can mobilise hundreds of voluntary workers to support its operation in the region.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Delegates and local staff in Moscow offer support to the Russian Red Cross outside the North Caucasus

Mine awareness

The ICRC continues activities within the "Child to Child" programme in sanatoria in several republics and regions of the North Caucasus, where the children have a break from their dire living conditions in Chechnya. In July, 2 lessons were given to a total of 32 Chechen children. 187 children were examined on their awareness of the mine dangers - most of the children demonstrated good knowledge of the rules of safe behaviour while living in mined areas. The ICRC disseminated 4,625 comic books "Ascend". Additionally 880 mine awareness leaflets were given to teachers.

The ICRC also plans to publish a pocket calendar for children. It will contain key messages and information on mine awareness in a clear and easy-to-remember form. The ideas for the design of the calendar were collected jointly with the children in the sanatoria. One side of the calendar will contain the picture of the cartoon "Cheerdig and his friends", the other side will be devoted to messages. The children also saw the cartoon and shared their opinion on it. They found it interesting, useful and easy-to-understand.

REGIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

All over the North Caucasus and the South of Russia (Chechnya, Ingushetia, Daghestan, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Adygea, Kalmykia, Stavropol and Krasnodar regions) the RRC, with the ICRC's support, assists about 3,800 vulnerable local residents with food parcels and wheat flour on a monthly basis and with hygienic kits - once in 6 months.

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Following the agreement with the Russian Government in March 2000, the ICRC was granted access to all people deprived of their freedom in connection with the situation in Chechnya, wherever they are being held.

The ICRC delegates regularly visit detainees in detention places under the responsibility of both the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. Since May 2000, they have visited 50 detention places.

The main aim of ICRC visits is to assess the conditions of detention and to ensure that detainees are treated humanely. The ICRC has developed an active dialogue with the detaining authorities and delegates regularly present to them their observations and recommendations.

Persons who have lost contact with their relatives as well as detainees visited by the ICRC are given an opportunity to re-establish contact with their next of kin by writing Red Cross Messages. These Red Cross Messages are distributed by the ICRC, with the support of the Chechen branch of the Russian

DETENTION VISITS

NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES (July 2002) In Chechnya: 2 Outside Chechnya: 3 TOTAL: 5

TOTAL NUMBER OFVISITS(Since May 2000)In Chechnya:62Outside Chechnya:121TOTAL:183Number of places visited: 50

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

While the main objective of IHL dissemination to the armed forces in the Russian Federation is to integrate the essential notions of international humanitarian law into the training programme of officers and soldiers, the ICRC makes a special effort to directly address troops engaged in the North Caucasus whenever possible in order to inform them about the basics of the law of war and the ICRC.

A travelling exhibition, called "Humanity and War", which presents IHL, the Red Cross Movement, the ICRC and its objectives, is being shown in the regions of the North Caucasus and the South of Russia. In July the exhibition was inaugurated in "Orlyonok" - one of the most famous children and youth camps. More than 250 children and adolescents from all Russian regions and around 1,000 visitors have already attended the exhibition in "Orlyonok". The visitors can also watch the movies about the ICRC activities worldwide and in the North Caucasus.

IHL PRESENTATIONS TO ARMED FORCES

(July 2002)

- Ministry of Defence: 1 presentation - 250 officers
- Ministry of Interior: 1 presentation - 70 officers, sergeants and soldiers of spetsnaz (special forces); 3 presentations - 190 officers and soldiers of the MOI training centres; 1 presentation - 50 employees and officers of the MOI
 - Border Guards: 9 presentations - 1,710 soldiers, sergeants and junior officers of the Border Guard training centres; 1 presentation -40 soldiers, sergeants and officers of the Border Guard unit
- The Kabardino-Balkarsky State University - 1 presentation for 90 students of the military department