



SEPTEMBER 2001

## **EMERGENCY ACTION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT FOR THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA**

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



AN ICRC SPECIALIST GIVES A PRESENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN  
LAW (THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICTS) AT VLADIKAVKAZ CADET SCHOOL

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

Security situation inside Chechnya has forced the ICRC to significantly scale down its operations in the Republic since mid-September. The ICRC drastically reduced its vehicle fleet and temporarily limited the number of its administrative and operational staff members: about 25 of them remained in Grozny in order to keep the office running. The ICRC hopes to be able to resume its normal activities inside Chechnya as soon as its security concerns are alleviated. As for republics and regions surrounding Chechnya, the ICRC and the Russian Red Cross were able to continue humanitarian operations there.

Despite the difficulties, the ICRC has every intention to remain at the forefront of humanitarian action inside Chechnya and in the neighbouring republics. In September the ICRC staff both in Moscow and in Nalchik was busy planning activities in the region for 2002, hammering out an action plan and a budget, which should be soon communicated to the donor community. Besides, a further evaluation of needs in IDP (internally displaced persons) collective centres in Ingushetia (primarily in non-food items) for the coming winter has been carried out.

A real highlight against the background of these security and practical concerns was the launching of a puppet show in the framework of the mine awareness programme in Chechnya. The boy Cheerdig, the main character of the play, addressed to young children, is out to find magic water that will allow him to cure his ailing grandmother. During his quest, he faces all kind of dangers in the form of landmines and unexploded ordnance but his friends help him to avoid the worst. This play, already staged in Ingushetia and shown to Chechen children in IDP camps and to those staying in sanatoria in the North Caucasus, will now be performed in Chechnya.

## BUDGETARY NEEDS

In its annual appeal for 2001, the ICRC requests nearly 34 mln dollars to finance its activities in the Russian Federation. Of this, about 27 mln dollars are planned to be used for relief operations in the North Caucasus.

**THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, SPEARHEADED BY THE ICRC, PROVIDED IN SEPTEMBER 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 153,000 IDPs**

## OVERVIEW

### CHECHNYA

#### Food assistance (dry food and bread)

The ICRC hands out a ration of vegetable oil, sugar, tea and soap to every person benefiting from the bread programme which is run in co-operation with the Russian Red Cross (RRC). In September over 27,800 people were registered to be covered by this programme in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoy-Martan and Kurchaloy but due to the scaling down of operations they did not receive the ICRC assistance in full.

The ICRC also provided basic foodstuffs and wheat flour to social and paramedical institutions and distributed food parcels to beneficiaries in IDP centres, delivering aid to 7 such places. About 50 school teachers in Grozny were also assisted with food parcels.

#### Non-food assistance

In September the ICRC distributed hygienic kits and soap to IDP centres, hospitals, social and paramedical institutions, delivering aid to 7 such places.

About 50 school teachers in Grozny were provided with hygienic kits. Stoves were delivered to 7 schools in different places.

Since December 1, 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 m<sup>3</sup> each) with a present daily output of more than 870 m<sup>3</sup> which covers the needs of more than 43,000 people. In September 26,170 m<sup>3</sup> of water were provided.

#### Medical assistance

The ICRC regularly assists 9 hospitals in Chechnya with medicine and medical material, but in September deliveries were stopped due to the scaling down of operations in the republic. Nevertheless, one hospital could be assisted (for a sum of over 6,000 USD).

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.

Furthermore, the ICRC supports 4 mobile medical teams and a medical post run by the Russian Red Cross. The mobile units are especially appreciated in the countryside where they provide the population with basic medical help.

#### 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 at children who run the highest risk of being maimed and killed by these weapons. The aim is to limit this risk by informing children of the dangers landmines and unexploded ordnance represent and by teaching them some basic rules of

### CHECHNYA

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)

372	food parcels
230,977	loaves of bread
1,800 kg	wheat flour
8,420	oil
8,418 kg	sugar
8,402	tea (boxes of 200 gr)
790 kg	potatoes
370 kg	onions

#### NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)

372	hygienic kits
18,184	soap (cakes)
137	stoves

#### MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (September 2001)

1,920	consultations
916	of them for children

#### RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA ICRC

61	national staff
24	daily worker
3	vehicles

#### RRC

83	staff
52	volunteers
11	vehicles

### INGUSHETIA

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)

62,414	food parcels
337,500	loaves of bread

#### NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)

31,202	hygienic kits
249,656	candles

#### WATER AND SANITATION (September 2001)

Overall:	6,295 m <sup>3</sup>
Daily:	210 m <sup>3</sup>
Showers:	15 (149 cabins)
Bladders:	20
Pits:	14
Water trucks:	13

behaviour. To this end a puppet show "The Danger of Landmines - the New Adventures of Cheerdig" is being launched together with a Chechen puppet theatre, like it has already been done with a puppet theatre in Ingushetia.

## **INGUSHETIA**

The bulk of the ICRC assistance in the North Caucasus is distributed in Ingushetia. The Republic currently hosts about 150,000 officially registered IDPs from Chechnya and this is a heavy burden to bear for the local population. Some 30,000 people are accommodated in IDP camps. But the majority live in temporary settlements and in host families, straining their economic conditions.

### **Food assistance (dry food and bread)**

the ICRC supports IDPs on a regular basis with food (family parcels) and covers almost all IDPs in Ingushetia on a two month cycle basis through more than 50 points of distribution.

In addition to the aforementioned distributions, the ICRC supports RRC programmes, which distributes on an average 3 loaves of bread to 28,700 beneficiaries in IDP camps on a weekly basis.

### **Non-food assistance**

Besides food, the ICRC provided hygienic kits and candles to IDPs.

### **Water and sanitation**

The ICRC has spared no 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 has started to build shower installations there which were insulated for the winter period. A total of fifteen of them with a capacity of 149 cabins is currently at the disposal of IDPs .

### **Medical assistance**

Having rendered assistance to five hospitals in Ingushetia since the beginning of 2000, in July this year the ICRC decided to concentrate its efforts on increasing its aid to the main hospital of the Ingush republic in Nazran (in September - equivalent to 7,500 USD). Two other hospital were also assisted with medicine and medical material (equivalent to 19,000 USD).

The ICRC also supports two mobile medical teams and one medical post set up by the RRC in order to provide IDPs with basic health care.

The RRC visiting nurses programme is providing bedridden elderly persons (130 people) with basic care. Beneficiaries receive food parcels, wheat flour and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 2 months.

### **Mine awareness**

The mine awareness programme has been launched for IDPs in Ingushetia since 1999 aimed at informing them of the danger of landmines and unexploded ordnance and to teach them some basic

**THE ICRC PROVIDES  
ABOUT 40,000 IDPs WITH  
FRESH WATER DAILY.**

### **MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS**

**(September 2001)**

**2,810 consultations  
1,371 of them for children**

### **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

#### **What's in a food parcel?**

720 g of butter, 800 g of tomato puree, 1 kg of cheese, 1 kg of sugar, 3 kg of spaghetti, 2 kg of rice, 1.3 kg of canned chicken, 500 g tea, 200 g of yeast

#### **What's in a hygienic kit?**

1.5 kg of washing powder, 1 kg of soap, 200 g of toothpaste, 1 toothbrush, 1l of detergent, 1 l of shampoo, 1 kitchen towel, 1 bath towel

#### **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?**

Dressing materials (bandages, cotton, gauze), medicines, medicines for narcosis, sutures, infusions, accessories for infusions (IV sets, tubes, catheters etc.), instruments, X-ray material

#### **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 three doctors (a co-ordinator, a general practitioner and a paediatrician) and a nurse.



rules of behaviour in order to limit the risk of accidents when they return home. In September, the ICRC mine-awareness team in Ingushetia gave 20 lessons to 64 IDP children (age group 10-14) in the framework of the "Child to Child" programme aimed to teach them to convey to other children information about the danger of mines and ways to avoid it. Another project called "Child to Child Puppet Theatre" and serving the same purposes has been started.

## **DAGHESTAN**

In September relief distributions were carried out in the Khasavyurt, Tarumovka and Botlikh regions of Daghestan, covering more than 4,700 beneficiaries.

### **Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)**

In Daghestan the RRC runs 3 bakeries, covering the needs in bread of 4,600 IDPs daily, and besides, 1 soup kitchen, providing 500 IDP school children with hot meals on a daily basis.

### **Non-food assistance**

Furthermore, the ICRC distributed among IDPs hygienic kits, plastic sheeting, blankets and kitchen sets, helping them to improve their living conditions.

### **Medical assistance**

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to IDPs since December 1999. Around 31,500 patients, including more than 11,100 children, have already benefited from this assistance.

Furthermore, in September the ICRC provided medicine, medical material and wheelchairs to the Khasavyurt Central Hospital (for a sum of 3,500 USD) and medicine plus medical material to another hospital (equivalent to 6,500 USD) .

In Daghestan the RRC is also running the home visiting nurses programme for about 220 beneficiaries, mainly bedridden elderly. They receive food parcels, wheat flour and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 2 months.

## **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 11,000 Chechen IDPs in September. Over 1,600 IDPs also received food and non-food assistance in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia.

### **Food assistance (dry food and bread)**

The RRC distributed over 1,200 food parcels to vulnerable Chechen IDPs in these regions and provided food parcels plus wheat flour to about 70 IDPs in Kabardino-Balkaria.

## **DAGHESTAN**

### **FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)**

1,857	food parcels
46,435 kg	wheat flour
95,500	loaves of bread
12,500	hot meals (portions)

### **NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)**

2,189	hygienic kits
16,132 m <sup>2</sup>	plastic sheeting
2,278	blankets
213	kitchen sets

### **MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (September 2001)**

2,301	consultations
801	of them for children

## **NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA, SOUTH OF RUSSIA**

### **FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)**

1,269	food parcels
32,412	loaves of bread
114,8 t	wheat flour

### **NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (September 2001)**

10,031	hygienic kits
131	blankets
239	kitchen sets
163	shoes (pairs)

### **CONSULTATIONS (September 2001)**

1,065	medical
847	psychological
1,032	legal

As in the other republics of the North Caucasus, the RRC operates a bakery in North Ossetia, providing bread to 1,300 beneficiaries on a daily basis.

### **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, blankets, hygienic kits and kitchen sets to IDPs from Chechnya.

### **Medical assistance**

In September the ICRC provided medical assistance to three hospitals in North Ossetia (equivalent to 12,200 USD).

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 (1,269 beneficiaries). They receive food parcels and medicines 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.

### **Mine awareness**

The ICRC mine-awareness team seized the opportunity to cover by the programme the Chechen children who came to stay in sanatoria in several republics and regions of the North Caucasus as a break from the dire living conditions in Chechnya.

In September, 17 lessons were given to a total of 272 Chechen children in sanatoria in the framework of the "Child to Child" programme. Similar lessons were also given to teenagers. Almost 5,400 copies of the comic book "Trying to Find the Magic Water", based on the puppet show about Cheerdig, were distributed together with the game sheet "Find the Safest Way". This material is intended to teach children to avoid the danger of mines. Besides, the ICRC provided nearly 2,400 children with school kits and almost 5,000 children - with footwear.

## **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 2 months.

## **RED CROSS STAFF IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA**

### **ICRC**

15 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 349 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

## **OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES**

### **VISITS TO DETAINEES**

Following an 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 42 detention places.

The main aim of ICRC visits is to assess conditions of detention and to ensure that the 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 lost contact with their relatives as well as detainees visited by the ICRC are given an opportunity to get in touch 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 Red Cross, inside Chechnya.

### **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. It has already been on display in Tuapse (Krasnodar region), Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria), Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia), Armavir (Krasnodar region), Maykop (Adygea) and Anapa (Krasnodar region).

### **DETENTION VISITS**

#### **NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES (September 2001)**

In Chechnya:	1
Outside Chechnya:	3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4</b>

#### **TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS**

##### **(Since May 2000)**

In Chechnya	36
Outside Chechnya:	82
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>118</b>

**Number of places visited: 42**

### **IHL PRESENTATIONS TO ARMED FORCES**

#### **(September 2001)**

- **Ministry of the Interior: 4 presentations - 326 soldiers, sergeants and senior officers; 1 presentation at an UNHCR seminar**
- **Ministry of the Defence: 4 presentations - 275 soldiers, sergeants and junior officers; 1 presentation - 38 cadets of Vladikavkaz Cadet School**
- **Border Guards: 3 presentations - 455 soldiers, sergeants and junior officers**