

28-02-2001 Operational update

Emergency action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the North Caucasus and the South of Russia (February 2001)

HIGHLIGHTS

The suspension of relief operations, including food assistance, by international humanitarian agencies inside of Chechnya in the aftermath of the kidnapping of Kenneth Gluck, a member of Medecins sans Frontieres (Holland), had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation in the Republic, despite the ongoing assistance that the ICRC+ CRC continued to render in Chechnya and the neighboring republics during that period.

During the scheduled food distributions in Sleptsovskaya (Ingushetia) planned for about 17'000 IDPs (internally displaced persons), about 10'000 more people, coming from Chechnya, showed up at distribution points. The ICRC took all necessary measures in order to cope with this new situation, registering the newcomers and providing them with their share of assistance. After the release of Kenneth Gluck some aid agencies resumed their distributions inside Chechnya and as a result the humanitarian situation should improve.

The ICRC, in co-operation with relevant authorities, has begun a technical assessment with a view to opening a prosthetic workshop in the North Caucasus. This project has been launched in co-ordination with other aid agencies in order to assist a tremendous number of people who lost their limbs as a result of the conflict in Chechnya. The ICRC orthopaedists will focus on lower limbs amputees. There are an estimated 3,000 persons who are in need of lower artificial limbs.

Furthermore, a special programme aimed at 25'000 children from Chechnya has also been launched. These children, who stay at sanatoria in the neighbouring republics of the North Caucasus, having a break from dire living conditions at home, will be provided by the ICRC mine awareness activities, school kits and other assistance.

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 FEBRUARY 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR OVER 146,000 IDPs

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

CHECHNYA

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

The ICRC handed out a ration of vegetable oil, sugar, tea and soap to every person benefiting from the bread programme which is run by the Chechen branch

FOOD ASSISTANCE (February 2001)

of the RRC. Today 20,000 people are covered by this programme in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoy Martan and Kurtchaloy.

The ICRC also provided basic foodstuffs to social and paramedical institutions and distributed food parcels to beneficiaries in IDP centres, delivering aid to 8 such places.

Some food parcels were provided to Grozny Vodocanal staff to support their efforts to restore sewerage and water supply systems of the city.

Shelter and water supply

In February the ICRC continued to provide and install stoves and distribute hygienic kits, soap, kitchen sets, blankets, and plastic sheeting in schools, hospitals, social and paramedical institutions and IDP centres, delivering aid to 42 such places. Vodocanal staff in charge of water supply also received hygienic kits.

Since December 1 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 daily output of 460 m3 which covers the needs of more than 30,000 people. In February over 11,062 m3 of water were provided.

Medical assistance

The ICRC assisted 10 hospitals in Chechnya in February. The main effort was directed at improving the general conditions there by distributing plastic sheeting, stoves, bed linen and blankets. Medical material and medicines for the treatment of 240 surgical cases have been provided.

The ICRC also supports the visiting nurses programme of the Chechen branch of the RRC. 720 bedridden elderly are assisted on a regular basis by 57 nurses.

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

515 food parcels
240,000 loaves of bread
18,582 l oil
19,354 kg sugar
19,390 tea (boxes)
1,150 kg potatoes
360 kg onions

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
13 kitchen sets
515 hygienic kits
2,000 m2 plastic sheeting
228 stoves
36,174 soap (pieces)

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS
(February 2001)
5,024 consultations
2,411 of them for children

RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA ICRC
70 national staff
10 vehicles
RRC
107 staff
11 vehicles

INGUSHETIA

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

The bulk of the ICRC assistance in the North Caucasus is distributed in Ingushetia. The Republic currently hosts about 147,000 officially registered IDPs from Chechnya and this is a heavy burden to bear for the local population.

Some 25,000 to 28,000 people are accommodated in IDP camps. But the majority live in temporary settlements and in host families, straining their economic conditions.

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

In addition to the aforementioned distributions, the ICRC supports two programmes of the RRC local branch, which distributes on an average 3 loaves of bread to over 25,500 beneficiaries in IDP camps and 6 hot meals to some 3,000 particularly vulnerable beneficiaries from 8 soup kitchens on a weekly basis.

Shelter and hygiene

Besides food, the ICRC distributed hygienic kits, kitchen sets and candles to

FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
46,030 food parcels
36.8 t wheat flour
305,000 loaves of bread
72,000 hot meals (portions)

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
22,652 hygienic kits
181 184 candles

WATER AND SANITATION
(February 2001)
Overall: 7,726.5 m3
Daily: 275.9 m3
Showers: 12 (138 cabins)

IDPs. In February the RRC local branch distributed warm clothes to over 6,400 IDPs. This assistance is especially important in view of the cold season.

Water and sanitation

The ICRC has spared no effort to make drinking water available wherever there are major concentrations of IDPs in Ingushetia. Since the summer period, when the ICRC made it a priority to improve the hygienic situation in camps, it has built 15 shower installations there. Twelve of them, containing 138 cabins have been insulated for the winter period.

Medical assistance

Since the beginning of 2000, the ICRC has been providing assistance to all five hospitals in Ingushetia, enabling them to treat 1,910 surgical cases. It is closely monitoring the situation in the hospitals and will deliver medical assistance whenever it is needed.

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 elders (130 beneficiaries) with basic care (medical, food and non food).

Mine awareness

Constant increase in the number of landmine and unexploded ordnance victims among the civilian population in Chechnya is of particular concern for the ICRC. A "mine awareness programme" has therefore been started in Ingushetia. Its aim is to inform IDPs on the dangers these weapons represent and to teach them some basic rules of behaviour in order to limit the risk of accidents when they return home. In February the ICRC mine awareness team, using the locally produced teaching material (posters, leaflets), gave 16 presentations to children in IDP camps. Twenty two performances of the puppet show "The danger of landmines - the new adventures of Cheerdig" were made to over 3,700 IDP children. A comic book based on the same story with enclosed games and quizzes is in the printing house now and will be distributed in 50,000 copies.

Bladders: 22
Pits: 6
Water trucks: 15

THE ICRC PROVIDES ABOUT 38,000 IDPs WITH FRESH WATER DAILY.

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS
(February 2001)
4,363 consultations
1,866 of them for children

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

In December the ICRC resumed distributions of humanitarian assistance in Daghestan after a two months break when its activities there underwent a full reassessment. Following the re-registration of beneficiaries some 25,000 persons have been identified to receive regular food assistance. In February distributions were carried out in the Novolak, Makhachkala and Kaspiisk regions, where assistance was provided to over 2,900 IDPs.

As in Ingushetia, the RRC local branch runs a bakery, covering the needs in bread of about 3,500 IDPs daily, and two soup kitchens, providing about 850 especially vulnerable IDPs with hot meals on a daily basis.

Non-food assistance

Furthermore, the ICRC provides IDPs with hygienic kits, kitchen sets, blankets and plastic sheeting helping them to improve their living conditions. The RRC local branch distributed warm clothes and underwear to over 3,700 IDPs.

Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to the IDPs since December 1999. Over 15,000 patients, including more than 5,000 children, have already benefited from this assistance. Since January 2000 the ICRC has also provided local medical facilities with necessary material allowing them to treat 675 surgical cases.

FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
1,423 food parcels
35.6 t wheat flour
89,900 loaves of bread
20,400 hot meals (portions)

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
1,423 hygienic kits
6,564m3 plastic sheeting
1,256 blankets
511 kitchen sets

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS
(February 2001)
1,407 consultations

The local branch of the RRC is also running the home visiting nurses programme for about 220 beneficiaries, mainly bedridden elderly.

482 of them for children

NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA AND SOUTHERN RUSSIA

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

In the southern regions of Russia (Astrakhan, Volgograd, Krasnodar, Rostov, Saratov, Stavropol, Kalmykia, Adygea) the RRC, with the ICRC support, is distributing food parcels and wheat flour to almost 20,000 Chechen IDPs on a monthly basis.

In February the ICRC distributed food parcels and wheat flour to 887 Chechen IDPs, staying in 7 sanatoria in Kabardino-Balkaria.

As in the other republics, the RRC operates a soup kitchen and a bakery in North Ossetia, providing bread to 1,000 beneficiaries and hot meals to 300 beneficiaries on a daily basis.

Non-food assistance

Hygienic kits have been distributed to over 12,500 IDPs in the South of Russia and to 887 IDPs in sanatoria in Kabardino-Balkaria. About 9,000 IDPs in the North Caucasus and the South of Russia received warm clothes and underwear.

Medical assistance

Since January 2000, military hospitals and surgical departments of some other hospitals in Nalchik, Mozdok, Vladikavkaz, Kislovodsk and Pyatigorsk have been assisted by the ICRC with emergency and surgical material to treat 1,671 surgical cases. Besides, in February, 1,600 pieces of winter underwear were provided to 2 medical points of the Border Guard Service in North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria.

In these regions, the RRC, supported by the ICRC, also runs the home visiting nurses programme for the elderly, some 1,000 beneficiaries.

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.

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
13,058 food parcels
23,970 loaves of bread
7,157 hot meals (portions)
8,650 kg wheat flour

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE
(February 2001)
12,919 hygienic kits
325 blankets
68 kitchen sets
80 school kits

CONSULTATIONS
(February 2001)
1,758 medical
716 psychological
871 legal

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Since 17 May, the ICRC delegates have regularly visited 30 detention places inside and outside Chechnya where persons detained in connection with the Chechen situation are held.

The detainees visited by the ICRC also have the opportunity to maintain contacts with their relatives through Red Cross messages.

These visits are being conducted after President Vladimir Putin gave assurances to the ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger, during talks held in Moscow in March, that the ICRC delegates would be granted access to all persons detained in connection with the Chechen crisis, wherever they are being held.

NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES
(February 2001)
In Chechnya: 2
Outside Chechnya: 5
TOTAL: 7

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS
(Since May 2000)
In Chechnya: 20
Outside Chechnya:

52
TOTAL: 72
Number of places
visited: 30

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

While the main objective of dissemination of IHL 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 it is possible in order to inform them about the basics of the law of war and the ICRC.

A travelling exhibition, which presents the 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), and Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia). In February it was on display in (Krasnodar region) Armavir and about 4,000 persons attended.

IHL PRESENTATION TO
ARMED FORCES
(February 2001)

- Ministry of Interior: 1 presentation for 70 newly recruited soldiers and sergeants
- Border Guards: 3 presentations - 380 soldiers, sergeants and officers
- Ministry of Defence: 3 presentations - 150 soldiers, sergeants and officers
- N. C. State Technological University: 1 presentation for professors

RED CROSS STAFF IN NORTH CAUCASUS AND IN SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

12 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 270 national employees not including those in Chechnya.

RUSSIAN RED CROSS

Regular staff, excluding Chechnya - 129 (plus 25 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

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

What's in a food parcel?	What's in a hygienic kit?	What's in a kitchen set?	What's in a school kit?	What kind of surgical assistance?
2,5 kg washing powder	12 rolls of toilette paper	1 cooking pot (7 l)	2 copybooks	Dressing materials (bandages, cotton, gauze)
1 l vegetable oil	500 gr of soap	1 frying pan	2 pens	Medecines
1 kg sugar	5 tubes of toothpaste	5 bowls	1 pad drawing paper	Medecines for narcosis
	5 toothbrushes	5 plates	1 box colour pencils	Sutures
	5 disposable razors	5 cups	1 box water	Infusions
	80 sanitary towels	5 knives		
		5 forks		

3 kg spaghetti	1 bath towel	5 table spoons	colours	Accessories for infusions (IV sets, tubes, catheters etc.)
3 kg rice				Instruments
2 kg canned food				X-ray material
0,5 kg salt				
100 g yeast				

What is a mobile medical team?

A team usually includes a doctor (general practitioner), a nurse and a driver. In Chechnya, the three teams also include a paediatrician. They give basic medical advice and, if needed, distribute medicines. A fixed dispensary team includes two doctors (general practitioner and paediatrician) and a nurse.

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