

31-03-2001 Operational update

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Children of internally displaced people (IDPs) from Chechnya who found shelter in Ingushetia get at least some relief from the dull and tense everyday life in IDP collective centres in the Republic. The Russian Red Cross has organised several rooms animated by Red Cross workers, where children have a possibility to take part in different social activities and to play. The rooms are well equipped with toys, games and books. This initiative of the Russian Red Cross is a very useful contribution to the overall relief activities of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement in the region, spearheaded by the ICRC.

Furthermore, the ICRC has published a comic book for children, based on the puppet play "The danger of landmines - the new adventures of Cheerdig". This is a story of a young Chechen boy and his quest for the magic water which can cure his beloved grandmother. The book explains to children about the danger of landmines and unexploded ordinance which might await them back at home. The book, the same as the play, conveys to them some basic rules which should help them to diminish the risk of being wounded or killed by them. ICRC is also preparing a leaflet on the same topic for adults.

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 MARCH 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 148,000 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 of the RRC. Today 20,000 people are covered by this programme in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoi Martan and Kurtchaloy.

The ICRC also provided basic foodstuffs to social and paramedical institutions and distributed food parcels and wheat flour 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. About 1,800 school teachers in Grozny also received assistance in a form of food parcels.

FOOD ASSISTANCE (March 2001)

2,590 food parcels
240,000 loaves of bread
1,150 kg wheat flour
19,949 l oil
19,855 kg sugar
19,878 tea (boxes)
1,300 kg potatoes
420 kg onions

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (March 2001)

Shelter and water supply

In March 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 51 such places. Vodocanal staff in charge of water supply also received hygienic kits the same as school teachers in Grozny.

Since December 1, 2000 the ICRC, which rehabilitated pumping station rrNo 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 output of over 842 m3 which covers the needs of more than 56,000 people. In March 22,751 m3 of water were provided.

Medical assistance

The ICRC assisted 14 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 and provided with food parcels and medicines on a monthly basis and with hygienic kits every 6 months.

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.

137 kitchen sets
2,589 hygienic kits
7,444m2 plastic sheeting
90 stoves
39,862 soap (pieces)

MEDICAL
CONSULTATIONS
(March 2001)

4,403 consultations
1,928 of them for children

RED CROSS SET UP
IN CHECHNYA
ICRC

75 national staff
12 vehicles
RRC
120 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 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 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

FOOD ASSISTANCE
(March 2001)

51,834 food parcels
337,500 loaves of bread
81,000 hot meals (portions)

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE
(March 2001)

2,494 hygienic kits
207,204 candles

WATER AND SANITATION
(March 2001)

Overall: 7,851 m3
Daily: 253 m3
Showers: 12 (138 cabins)
Bladders: 22
Pits: 6
Water trucks: 15

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

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS
(March 2001)

4,493 consultations
1,723 of them for children

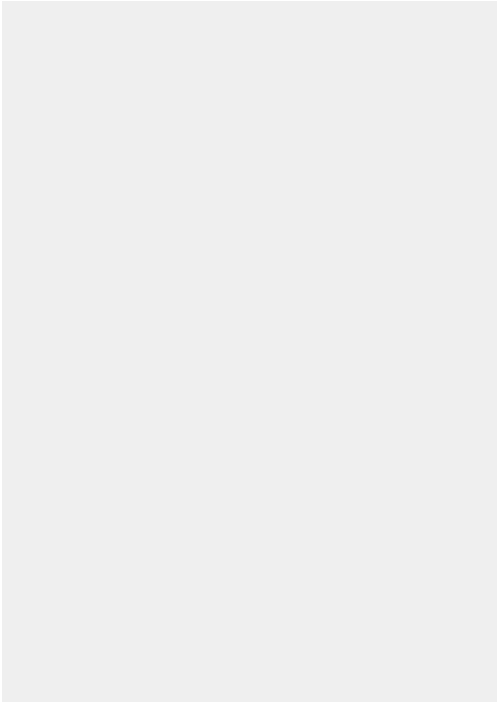
Since the beginning of 2000, the ICRC has been providing assistance to all five hospitals in Ingushetia, enabling them to treat 1,990 surgical cases. It is closely monitoring the situation in the hospitals and will deliver medical assistance whenever it is needed.

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 people) with basic care. Beneficiaries receive food parcels and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

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 March the ICRC mine awareness team, using the locally produced teaching material (posters, leaflets), gave 62 presentations to over 1,600 children in IDP camps. A leaflet is ready for printing which will be used at presentations for adults. These presentations are planned to be resumed in IDP camps in April.



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 March distributions were carried out in the Buinaksk, Botlikh, Kazbek and Kizilyurt regions, where assistance was provided to over 8,200 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, jerrycans and plastic sheeting helping them to improve their living conditions. The RRC local branch distributed clothes to over 1,000 IDPs.

Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to the IDPs since December 1999. Over 17,000 patients, including more than 5,800 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 715 surgical cases.

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

**FOOD ASSISTANCE
(March 2001)**
3,532 food parcels
88.3t wheat flour
100,100 loaves of bread
22,100 hot meals (portions)

**NON FOOD ASSISTANCE
(March 2001)**
3,532 hygienic kits
13,236m3 plastic sheeting
4,420 blankets
494 kitchen sets
1,079 jerrycans

**MEDICAL
CONSULTATIONS
(March 2001)**
2,148 consultations
801of 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,

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Saratov, Stavropol, Kalmykia, Adygea, (Karachayevo-Cherkessia) the RRC, with the ICRC support, is distributing food parcels and wheat flour to over 19,200 Chechen IDPs on a monthly basis.

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 18,200 IDPs in the South of Russia. About 1,100 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 1,727 surgical cases. Assistance was provided to hospitals in Mineralny Vody and Pyatigorsk to treat 40 victims of recent acts of terrorism there.

In these regions, the RRC, supported by the ICRC, also 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 Kabardino-Balkaria 46 presentations were given to 800 children. Ten performances of the puppet show "The danger of landmines - the new adventures of Cheerdig" were made to almost 3,000 children in sanatoria in Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, North Ossetia and Stavropol krai. Besides, the ICRC provided over 2,600 of these children with school kits.

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 local branches, with the ICRC support, assist on a monthly basis 3,820 vulnerable local residents with food parcels and with hygienic kits - once in 6 months.

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Since 17 May, the ICRC delegates have regularly visited 34 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

(March 2001)
7,680 food parcels
26,860 loaves of bread
7,760 hot meals (portions)
193 t wheat flour

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (March 2001)
18,281 hygienic kits
42 blankets
6 kitchen sets
2,644 school kits

CONSULTATIONS (March 2001)
1,521 medical
574 psychological
854 legal

NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES (March 2001)
In Chechnya: 4
Outside Chechnya: 7
TOTAL: 11

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS (Since May 2000)

being held.

In Chechnya: 24
Outside Chechnya: 59
TOTAL: 80
Number of places visited: 34

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), Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) and Armavir (Krasnodar region) and now preparations are being made to show it in Maikop.

IHL PRESENTATION TO ARMED FORCES (March 2001)

- Ministry of Interior: 7 presentations - 300 professors and officers of a MININTschool; 130 soldiers and sergeants
- Border Guards: 1 presentation - 50 soldiers and sergeants
- Ministry of Defence: 2 seminars and 1 presentation - 150 servicemen of peace-keeping forces; 1 presentation for an anti-aircraft regiment of the 58th Army

RED CROSS STAFF IN NORTH CAUCASUS AND IN SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

12 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 288 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 720 g of soap	500 gr of soap	1 cooking pot (7 l) 1 frying pan 5 bowls	2 copybooks 2 pens 1 pad drawing	Dressing materials (bandages, cotton, gauze)

butter	5 tubes of toothpaste	5 plates	paper	Medecines
800 g of	5 toothbrushes	5 cups	1 box colour	Medecines for narcosis
tomato	5 disposable razors	5 knives	pencils	Sutures
puree	80 sanitary towels	5 forks	1 box water	Infusions
1 kg of	1 bath towel	5 table spoons	colours	Accessories for infusions
cheese				(IV sets, tubes,
1 kg of				catheters etc.)
sugar				Instruments
3 kg of				X-ray material
spaghetti				
2 kg of				
rice				
1.3 kg of				
canned				
chicken				
500 g				
tea				
200 g of				
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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