

MOSCOW (regional)

COVERING: Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)	
Protection	3,783
Assistance	4,388
Prevention	4,499
Cooperation with National Societies	1,778
General	-
Total	14,447
of which: Overheads	882

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	86%

PERSONNEL	
Expatriates	23
National staff (daily workers not included)	253

KEY POINTS

- In 2011, the ICRC:**
- ▶ in the northern Caucasus, helped 3,444 vulnerable people affected by past conflicts or the ongoing insecurity to join income-generating schemes, and 5,500 flood victims to cope by providing them with relief supplies
 - ▶ co-organized, with the Chechen Investigative Committee, a seminar informing over 40 officials about rights and responsibilities relating to missing persons and their families
 - ▶ ensured family contact for 354 detainees from the northern Caucasus by facilitating visits and the receipt of parcels, and for detained migrants in Belarus and Ukraine by supporting National Society family-links services
 - ▶ co-organized a high-level round-table with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) on "Humanitarian problems and legal frameworks regulating the use of force" for representatives of CSTO member States
 - ▶ kept up efforts to integrate IHL into education by handing over to the Russian authorities a long-running schools programme teaching humanitarian principles and by signing cooperation agreements with public universities
 - ▶ supported the National Societies in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in adopting new statutes and thereby strengthening their legal bases and effectiveness

Opened in 1992, the Moscow delegation combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions. It supports families of missing persons and, with the Russian Red Cross Society, works to protect and assist vulnerable conflict- and violence-affected populations in the northern Caucasus. It helps build the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the field of emergency preparedness and restoring family links. In all the countries covered, it promotes implementation of IHL and other norms relevant to the use of force and fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

CONTEXT

Despite efforts to address social and economic problems, tensions and insecurity persisted in the northern Caucasus, leading to ad hoc "special operations" by security forces. The situation in Dagestan remained highly volatile, and civilian casualties in Kabardino-Balkaria increased, as did attacks by armed groups in Karachaevo-Cherkessia. In Chechnya, the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to endanger rural communities. Occasionally, the violence spread farther, as shown by a suicide attack at a Moscow airport in January. Floods affected part of the population in Adygea and Chechnya.

Following Russian parliamentary elections in December, protests were held in Moscow and other major cities. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin declared his candidacy for the 2012 presidential elections.

The Russian Federation continued to emphasize its interests in the former Soviet republics, including through regional mechanisms such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Following the 2008 hostilities, peace negotiations (the "Geneva Talks") between Georgian, Russian, Abkhaz and South Ossetian representatives continued with international mediation.

While most protesters arrested after the December 2010 elections in Belarus were reportedly released, hundreds of demonstrators were, according to other reports, arrested during renewed opposition rallies and sentenced for short terms.

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was arrested and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, amid criticism from the Russian Federation and Western countries.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In the northern Caucasus, the ICRC focused on helping vulnerable populations recover from the effects of past conflicts and ongoing insecurity. It implemented micro-economic initiatives to boost self-sufficiency, mainly targeting IDPs, families of missing persons and detainees, victims of landmines, families affected by the current situation, patients of the Grozny Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre, and residents of rural mine-affected areas. Communities in southern Chechnya had access to safe drinking water through ICRC-run water supply projects. The ICRC also contributed to strengthening emergency response capacities by providing health structures with surgical supplies and facilitating the training of health personnel in trauma care.

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		38		
RCMs distributed		23		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		3		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		121	14	5
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		17		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)		2,351	90	85
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		55		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ¹				
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		19		
RCMs distributed		29		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		354		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		18		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children 1. Russian Federation (northern Caucasus)

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) ¹				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	5,799	31%	46%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		1,450		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	3,444	38%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		861		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,547	40%	20%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ¹				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food	Beneficiaries	603		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	424		
WOUNDED AND SICK ¹				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	12		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures		
		11		
Admissions	Patients	6,589	3,651	1,178
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	Patients	182	26
	<i>(including by mines or explosive remnants of war)</i>	Patients	59	
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	Patients	2,907	
	<i>of whom medical cases</i>	Patients	1,614	
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	Patients	1,886	
Operations performed		2,545		

1. Russian Federation (northern Caucasus)

In addition, elderly people in remote areas continued to benefit from home care delivered by ICRC-supported Russian Red Cross Society nurses, while some 5,500 beneficiaries received relief assistance from the Russian Red Cross/ICRC following floods in Adygea and Chechnya.

The ICRC continued to promote a comprehensive and systematic approach to the issue of missing persons in the northern Caucasus, including through discussions with government and civil society representatives. It reminded federal and republican authorities of the need to intensify efforts to resolve outstanding cases and to provide answers to the families. To this end, government officials and specialists in handling human remains received training in forensics and data management, including for the first time at a seminar co-organized with the Chechen Investigative Committee. Families of the missing benefited from psychological and social support from the Russian Red Cross/ICRC. To resolve the cases of persons missing as a result of the 2008 hostilities between the Russian Federation and Georgia, the ICRC chaired the fourth and fifth tripartite meetings held in Dvani (see *Georgia*).

Across the region, the ICRC enabled family members to stay in touch with detained relatives, including migrants in Belarus and Ukraine, through visits and the sending of RCMs and parcels.

The ICRC pursued cooperation with the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) and the CSTO Secretariat to encourage the integration and promotion of IHL and other relevant norms at regional level, in particular through a round-table co-chaired by the CSTO and the ICRC. Belarus's accession to Additional Protocol III was a further step in promoting the regionwide ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. The ICRC also continued to support national IHL committees in developing or implementing relevant legislation and furthering regional cooperation. The region's armed forces pursued the integration of IHL into their education.

The ICRC continued to work with universities and the media to boost IHL teaching and dissemination. Agreements aiming to promote IHL were signed with government institutions in the Russian Federation, such as the Civil Defence Academy of the Ministry of Emergencies. The integration of IHL modules throughout the

Russian education system having been completed in 2010, the long-running ICRC-supported programme was formally handed over to the authorities.

The ICRC supported National Societies in the region in improving their first-aid programmes and tracing services. Following joint efforts over several years, the National Societies in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine adopted new statutes, strengthening their legal bases and effectiveness.

CIVILIANS

Missing persons' families and migrants get assistance

Families in the Russian Federation continued to approach the ICRC to register missing relatives. With 121 new tracing requests registered, the total number of cases followed by the ICRC rose to 2,351. In 17 cases, the person sought was located.

During regular discussions and a new ICRC representation on behalf of families whose relatives had disappeared, Russian federal and republican authorities were reminded of the need to provide information on the fate or whereabouts of missing persons and to establish/amend relevant legislation (see *Authorities*). In addition, the issue of ensuring the return of human remains to relatives was raised. For the first time, the Chechen Investigative Committee and the ICRC co-organized a seminar informing over 40 officials of rights and responsibilities relating to missing persons and their families. To assist the authorities in providing answers to the families, a member of the committee was sponsored to attend an ICRC-run international training course on human remains management. Advice and data were shared with civil society groups working with families of the missing. To deal with the issue of persons missing in relation to the August 2008 conflict with Georgia, Russian representatives continued to attend the ICRC-convened tripartite meetings of the parties to that conflict (see *Georgia*).

To help address families' psychological needs, potential local service-providers were identified in Chechnya. Elderly relatives of missing persons in Chechnya and Ingushetia received home care and psychological support from ICRC-supported Russian Red Cross nurses who had been specially trained to accompany relatives of the missing (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Families of the missing benefited directly from ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives (see below).

As in past years, a small number of relatives separated by conflict communicated with each other through the Russian Red Cross family-links service (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). In coordination with the authorities concerned, refugees and asylum seekers were issued with travel documents so they could resettle in third countries. The situation of migrants, including their need for access to health and social services, was discussed with relevant authorities and organizations and in regional fora. Thanks partly to ICRC efforts, the Russian Red Cross started providing legal and medical assistance to vulnerable migrants in Moscow. In Ukraine and, for the first time, in Belarus, 1,500 and 200 detained migrants, respectively, were able to contact their diplomatic representations and family abroad through RCMs and phone cards made available by the National Societies with ICRC funding.

In addition to producing a promotional film about the International Tracing Service (ITS), the ICRC contacted partner organizations and Russian government ministries and participated in conferences and events related to the Second World

War so as to inform a wide audience about ITS services to help the relatives of people who went missing during that period (see *International Tracing Service*).

Civilians' protection concerns shared with the authorities

The situation of civilians affected by the ongoing security situation in Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia and Kabardino-Balkaria continued to be monitored by the ICRC; 211 families received visits and 70 participated in ICRC micro-economic initiatives to help them cope (see below). The authorities were reminded of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms to respect and protect people not or no longer participating in armed conflict or other situations of violence, with reference to specific incidents when necessary. Discussions also took place with the authorities on ensuring that people affected by the situation received State-guaranteed entitlements and adequate compensation for loss or damage to property. The people concerned received information from the ICRC – via a referral system – on the procedure for claiming compensation.

The authorities and the ICRC regularly discussed the situation of IDPs in the northern Caucasus, particularly those living in temporary accommodation in Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia, and the humanitarian principles relating to their rights and needs.

Despite regular dialogue with the authorities, there was still little progress in demining efforts in Chechnya and in establishing a relevant coordination mechanism. However, families in villages with potentially mine/ERW-contaminated fields participated in ICRC micro-economic initiatives, reducing their exposure to risky income-generating activities (see below). Teachers were also encouraged to provide mine-risk education in schools through a Ministry of Education initiative implemented with ICRC technical support.

Vulnerable people receive assistance and regain some economic security

The worst-off people in the northern Caucasus were able to increase their income and cover subsistence costs through ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives. A total of 3,444 people (656 households) benefiting from such projects started small businesses involving agriculture, crafts and trade, including 1,963 people (376 households) in Chechnya, 61 people (11 households) in Daghestan, 1,266 people (240 households) in Ingushetia and 154 people (29 households) in Kabardino-Balkaria. They comprised: families of weapon-contamination victims (Chechnya), of detainees (Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia) and of missing persons (Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia); people affected by the ongoing security situation (Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria); patients of the Grozny Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre; and displaced Ingush families from North Ossetia and Chechnya residing in Ingushetia.

In Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia, particularly vulnerable groups needed more immediate support. They included 1,100 elderly people in remote areas who received home visits from nurses, with Russian Red Cross/ICRC support. Meanwhile, 300 vulnerable people in the region (fire victims, orphans and IDPs) got ad hoc assistance. Children from vulnerable families in Chechnya and Ingushetia also benefited from the opening of two new playrooms by National Society branches (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). In addition, some 5,500 flood victims (about 1,300 households) in Adygea and Chechnya received relief assistance from the National Society/ICRC.

Civilians access safe water and fuel supplies

The population in rural Chechnya continued to have access to safe drinking water, contributing to improvements in health and well-being. This was made possible by the construction of three village water supply systems by the ICRC, in coordination with the authorities.

Families affected by recent violence benefited from rehabilitation work on their dwellings, organized by the ICRC. Over 30 vulnerable households were connected to the gas mains, reducing their need to collect firewood in potentially mine/ERW-contaminated areas and thereby lessening their exposure to the risk of death or injury. To back up these practical interventions, the authorities were urged to prioritize investments in rural infrastructure.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC remained ready to renew discussions with the Russian federal authorities on resuming visits to detainees according to its standard procedures, particularly to people detained in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus.

Meanwhile, families were able to keep in touch with relatives detained far from their homes in penal colonies across the Russian Federation through RCMs and 487 ICRC-supported visits to 354 detainees. Those unable to visit could send parcels via the ICRC; 603 detainees received food parcels and 424 received hygiene parcels. The most vulnerable families of detainees had access to ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives (see *Civilians*).

In Belarus and Ukraine, detained migrants were likewise able to restore and maintain family links (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). However, people detained in connection with electoral violence in Belarus in late 2010 were not visited, as the ICRC had not obtained access.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In Dagestan, Chechnya and North Ossetia, over 180 victims of violence related to the ongoing situation had treatment with the help of surgical materials provided to 12 hospitals by the ICRC. Six hospitals in Chechnya each received a one-off supply of drugs and consumables to boost their contingency stocks.

With further ICRC support in the training of health personnel, the authorities in the northern Caucasus improved the quality of emergency medical care: 32 ambulance medical workers and 8 nurses participated in advanced trauma, surgery and anaesthesia courses co-organized by the Rostov-on-Don nursing training centre and the ICRC. Under the partnership between the North Ossetian State Medical Academy and the ICRC, 40 specialists from the Health and Interior Ministries of the Russian Federation and from civilian hospitals attended an emergency room trauma course enabling them to better respond to patients' needs.

Two disabled patients from South Ossetia received treatment at the Vladikavkaz Orthopaedic Centre under a cooperation agreement between the centre and the ICRC, which was extended for 2012.

Additionally, to provide physical rehabilitation centres with up-to-date reference materials, the translation of a technical manual into Russian was completed and prepared for publication in 2012.

AUTHORITIES

The Russian authorities and the ICRC maintained dialogue on ICRC activities in the northern Caucasus and on specific concerns such as missing persons and their families (see *Civilians*) and access to victims. Given the Russian Federation's influence on regional and worldwide political and security issues, the dialogue also included global issues of humanitarian concern. Discussions were held with the Ministries of Regional Development and Justice and renewed with the Main Military Prosecutor's Office. The Civil Defence Academy, under the Ministry of Emergencies, and the ICRC signed an agreement and action plan on IHL training, research and integration.

Regionwide, ICRC dialogue with authorities, national IHL committees and the CIS IPA focused on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. Belarus acceded to Additional Protocol III and initiated the necessary legislative amendments. The Belarusian IHL committee proposed and drew up a charter for a regional association of IHL committees to facilitate exchange of expertise. Likewise, the committee welcomed to Belarus members of Turkmenistan's Inter-Agency Commission on Human Rights as part of a study tour (see *Tashkent*). The IPA Council approved a set of recommendations on the implementation of the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and reviewed recommendations on implementing the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions.

At the first joint round-table of the CSTO Secretariat and the ICRC, representatives of CSTO member States discussed humanitarian issues and legal frameworks regulating the use of force and adopted a basic cooperation framework. For the first time, the CSTO participated in the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Reforms in the Russian Federation continued to slow integration of IHL into the armed forces with regard to law enforcement. Policing regulations, however, were changed to include detailed rules on the proportionate use of force and firearms. In Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, Defence Ministry officials examined ways of integrating IHL into the decision-making process at round-tables, using ICRC expertise.

Education-related activities continued regionwide with the armed forces. At a conference co-organized by the Russian military training academy and the ICRC, 35 generals, as well as officers and lecturers from military education establishments, discussed IHL integration into military education and made recommendations to ensure respect for relevant norms. In addition, 102 military teachers and Interior Ministry officials received training as IHL instructors. At an international conference organized by the Kazan State University with ICRC participation, civil and military experts and students from the region examined the roots of behaviour in war. To enhance IHL expertise in these countries, six representatives of armed and police forces attended the Russian-speaking IHL course in San Remo. Cooperation with Interior Ministry educational establishments in the northern Caucasus developed further, as reflected in an agreement signed with Krasnodar University on the promotion of IHL and other relevant norms.

Military personnel leaving for operations in the northern Caucasus and representatives of the Moldovan peacekeeping battalion were briefed on ICRC activities and basic IHL norms. In the northern

Caucasus, law enforcement agents participating in “special operations” and representatives of local Interior Ministries attended briefings on international law enforcement standards and ICRC activities.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The Russian media covered humanitarian issues and ICRC activities, particularly the organization’s major operations worldwide and in the northern Caucasus; contact was established with the military media. Communication campaigns and events, including youth competitions and photo exhibitions, helped raise public awareness of IHL.

Leading academic institutions in the region worked with the ICRC to stimulate interest in IHL teaching and research. In the Russian Federation, the Diplomatic Academy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Defence Academy concluded agreements with the ICRC to deepen cooperation (see *Authorities*). The Russian Association of International Law (RAIL) worked to provide input regarding legislation on missing persons. International conferences were held with ICRC support, including the Martens Readings, organized by RAIL and Saint Petersburg State University. Students and lecturers regionwide received IHL materials, attended ICRC seminars and took part in IHL competitions, with four Russian teams participating in the Jean Pictet Competition on IHL, held in France, while Belarus hosted the International IHL Olympiad.

With the integration of IHL as a compulsory subject in secondary education, the ICRC-supported schools programme in the Russian Federation, begun in 1995, was handed over to the education authorities.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region’s National Societies continued to improve their legal bases, management and performance, with ICRC and International Federation support. The National Societies in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine adopted new statutes, while the Red Cross Society of Moldova was advised on ensuring conformity of its statutes with Movement standards. The Russian Red Cross signed an agreement with the Ministry of Emergencies recognizing the role of the Red Cross in such situations and, with the ICRC and the International Federation, communicated with the Foreign Affairs Ministry on the adoption of a law on the National Society and the emblem. To harmonize the Movement response to humanitarian needs in the Russian Federation, the Russian Red Cross, the International Federation and the ICRC held a first tripartite coordination meeting.

Russian Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus improved their assistance and emergency preparedness capacities with ICRC support. Their first-aid programmes underwent a Ukrainian Red Cross Society/ICRC assessment. The home visiting nurses programme and the opening of playrooms were likewise supported by the ICRC (see *Civilians*). The Ukrainian Red Cross completed its first-aid pilot project in the Crimea, training two first-aid instructors and teams from all 22 local branches, who went on to train representatives of other institutions, including the Emergencies Ministry.

Cooperation among the tracing services of the former Soviet Union, and coordination with the ITS, was enhanced through an ICRC-organized regional meeting. The Russian Red Cross Tracing

and Information Centre underwent an external audit and, with the ICRC, assessed family-links needs in Daghestan to improve services. Family-links services for migrants in Belarus and Ukraine were also strengthened (see *Civilians*), as an important step in developing a coordinated Movement response to migration issues.