

30-04-2001 Operational update

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

The ICRC assistance programmes and those of its partner, the Russian Red Cross (RRC), have been further implemented and developed in the North Caucasus. Due to security constraints a limited number of ICRC expatriates (12) are operational on the spot, supported by 455 ICRC national staff plus aid workers from the Russian Red Cross. This setup is able to provide each month emergency assistance for about 160,000 beneficiaries. This assistance varies from distribution of food, non-food items and water to installation of shower units in IDP camps and stoves in educational, medical and social institutions as well as in IDP centres.

Notwithstanding difficult security environment, in co-operation with the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross the ICRC has also been able to develop its humanitarian activities inside Chechnya through its office in Grozny, reopened in autumn 2000 and manned by 90 local employees, supported by expatriate staff, who regularly carry out one-day missions to the republic.

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 APRIL 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 170,000 IDPs

I. 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 26,500 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 and wheat flour to beneficiaries in IDP centres, delivering aid to 9 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.

Shelter and water supply

In April 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 26 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 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 output of about 850 m³ which covers the needs of more than 56,000 people. In 25,310 m³ of water were provided.

Medical assistance

The ICRC assisted 11 hospitals in Chechnya in April. Medical material and medicines for the treatment of 360 surgical cases have been provided to them.

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 fresh food 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.

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)
2,532 food parcels
318,000 loaves of bread
1,900kg wheat flour
22,812 l oil
25,663kg sugar
25,739 tea (boxes)
1,250kg potatoes
420kg onions

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)
30 kitchen sets
2,532 hygienic kits
1,540m² plastic sheeting
92 stoves
186 blankets
49,730 soap (pieces)

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (April 2001)
4,201 consultations
2,230 of them for children

RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA ICRC
90 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

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)
74,279 food parcels
375,000 loaves of bread
75,000 hot meals (portions)

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)
297 116 candles

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 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 last summer, when the ICRC made it a priority to improve the hygienic situation in camps, it has built 15 shower installations there. Fourteen of them, containing 143 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 2,070 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, wheat flour and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

Mine awareness

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 been initiated for IDPs 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 April the ICRC mine awareness team, using the locally produced teaching material (posters, leaflets), gave 3 presentations to 105 children in IDP camps. A workshop for all organisations involved in mine awareness activities was organised in Nazran to share ideas on designing of teaching material for this programme.

WATER AND SANITATION (April 2001)

Overall: 7,839.5 m3
Daily: 261 m3
Showers: 14 (143 cabins)
Bladders: 17
Pits: 6
Water trucks: 16

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

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (April 2001)

6,035 consultations
2,399 of them for children

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

In December 2000 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 April distributions were carried out in the Novolak region, where assistance was provided to over 9,300 IDPs.

As in Ingushetia, the RRC local branch runs a bakery, covering the needs in bread of over 3,800 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, blankets, jerrycans and plastic sheeting helping them to improve their living conditions.

Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to the IDPs since December 1999. About 20,000 patients, including more than 6,700 children, have already benefited from this assistance. Since January 2000 the ICRC has also provided local medical facilities with necessary material

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)

3,942 food parcels
98,5t wheat flour
96,250 loaves of bread
21,250 hot meals (portions)

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)

3,942 hygienic kits
14,400m3 plastic sheeting
2,098 blankets
2,329 jerrycans

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (April 2001)

allowing them to treat 755 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, wheat flour and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

2,363
consultations
915 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, (Karachayevo-Cherkessia) the RRC, with the ICRC support, is distributing food parcels and wheat flour to about 18,000 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 2,800 IDPs in the South of Russia.

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 1,783 surgical cases.

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 April in Kabardino-Balkaria 11 presentations were given to 374 children. Besides, the ICRC provided over 1,000 children with school kits. One performance of the puppet show "The danger of landmines - the new adventures of Cheerdig" was made at a sanatorium in Kabardino-Balkaria. Around 250 copies of a comic book based on the same story were distributed.

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

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)

6,118 food parcels
24,894 loaves of bread
7,397 hot meals
(portions)
142.3 t wheat flour

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (April 2001)

2,805 hygienic kits
6 blankets
8 kitchen sets
1,076 school kits

CONSULTATIONS (April 2001)

1,290 medical
626 psychological
899 legal

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Since 17 May 2000, the ICRC delegates have regularly visited 36 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 (April 2001)

In Chechnya: 2
Outside Chechnya: 3
TOTAL: 5

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS

(Since May 2000)
In Chechnya: 27
Outside Chechnya: 61
TOTAL: 88
Number of places visited: 36

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). In April it was displayed in Maikop (Adygea).

IHL PRESENTATION TO ARMED FORCES (April 2001)

- Ministry of Interior: 2 presentations and 1 seminar - 157 soldiers, sergeants, officers and OMON militiamen
- Ministry of Defence: 1 presentation - 40 servicemen of peacekeeping forces (soldiers and sergeants)
- Adyg State University (military chair): 1 presentation - 95 persons

RED CROSS STAFF IN NORTH CAUCASUS AND IN SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

12 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 355 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)
720 g of butter	500 gr of soap	1 frying pan	2 pens	Medecines
800 g of tomato	5 tubes of toothpaste	5 bowls	1 pad drawing paper	Medecines for narcosis
puree	5 toothbrushes	5 plates	1 box colour pencils	Sutures
1 kg of cheese	5 disposable razors	5 cups	1 box water colours	Infusions
1 kg of sugar	80 sanitary towels	5 knives		Accessories for infusions (IV sets, tubes, catheters etc.)
3 kg of spaghetti	1 bath towel	5 forks		Instruments
2 kg of rice		5 table spoons		X-ray material
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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