

ICRC

FACTS AND FIGURES

APRIL-MAY 2002

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

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



**THE ICRC DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PARCELS IN CHECHNYA IS A SMALL
HOLIDAY FOR CHILDREN**

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

Following the explosion in the city of Kaspiisk, Daghestan, on the 9th May, which wounded 150 people, the ICRC provided emergency medical supplies to the Republican medical authorities. Surgical materials sufficient for about 100 wounded were distributed to four of the five hospitals receiving casualties. A joint assessment by ICRC field staff and the President of the local branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) continues in collaboration with government authorities.

Present in Daghestan since 1995, the ICRC in collaboration with the RRC continues to provide assistance to over 25,000 civilians affected by the events of 1999 in the Republic. In addition to medical assistance, the ICRC assists regularly the population in the regions of Bottlikh, Tsumada, Novolak and Novostroi with bulk food and hygienic items. At the same time, the ICRC in collaboration with the RRC assists displaced civilians with bread and hot meals. Furthermore, the ICRC continues to carry out its programs of dissemination of IHL, mine awareness and visits to prisoners in Daghestan. The ICRC maintains a permanent presence in the city of Kasavyurt and a sub-office in Makhachkala.

In May the ICRC finished all preparations to start verification and update information about its beneficiaries in Ingushetia. The aim of this exercise is to have the most recent data on the number of the IDPs living in the republic and to identify the most vulnerable ones in order to better target the ICRC help in future.

BUDGETARY NEEDS

In its annual appeal for 2002, the ICRC requests nearly 34 mln dollars to finance its activities in the Russian Federation. Of this, about 27 mln dollars are planned for relief operations in the North Caucasus.
(Further details on www.icrc.org)

THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, LEAD BY THE ICRC, PROVIDED IN APRIL 2002 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTHERN RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 174,000 IDPs. IN MAY - 164,000 IDPs WERE ASSISTED

OVERVIEW

CHECHNYA

Food assistance (dry food and bread)

In April and May, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Russian Red Cross (RRC), assisted 84,440 beneficiaries with bread, soap, oil, sugar and tea. This program targeted vulnerable groups in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoy Martan and Kurchaloy. Over the same period national RRC and ICRC staff conducted a new re-registration of the beneficiaries.

The ICRC also provided basic foodstuffs and wheat flour to social and paramedical institutions and distributed food parcels to 2,628 beneficiaries in 9 IDP centres.

Non-food assistance

Since December 1st, 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 average output of more than 740 m³ which covers the needs of around 37,000 people. Overall, in April and May 2002, 44,890 m³ of water were provided.

In April and May 4,309 school kits and 1,926 pairs of shoes were distributed to Chechen children staying at holiday camps of Kabardino-Balkaria.

Medical assistance

The ICRC regularly provides the traumatological and surgical departments of 9 hospitals in Chechnya with medicines and medical material. In April and May the medical input delivered by the ICRC was equivalent to 50,300 USD. In April in addition to the monthly supplies the above mentioned hospitals received the surgical equipment for the sum of 11,000 USD. In May 145 people were provided with crutches (1,877 USD).

Furthermore, the ICRC is implementing, since the 1st of March 2002, a Primary Health Care program in cooperation with the RRC and the Chechen Ministry of Health. Assistance is provided to 23 primary medical care structures (polyclinics, ambulatories and feldsher-obstetrics or FAPs) of Shali and Urus Martan districts. The structures with qualified medical personal (polyclinics and ambulatories) are supplied with medicines while the FAPs, with no qualified staff, are visited and supported by 2 RRC mobile medical teams. The assortment and quantity of the drugs distributed to the FAPs are limited. In addition, the RRC runs a fixed medical point in Grozny. To complete the program, a specialist team is in charge of the monitoring.

Co-operation with National Societies

The ICRC supports the visiting nurses program of the RRC in Chechnya. 720 bedridden elderly are assisted on a regular basis by

CHECHNYA

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

2,924	food parcels
967,798	loaves of bread
4,330 kg	wheat flour
82,910 l	oil
82,902 kg	sugar
82,136	tea (boxes of 200 gr)
4,330 kg	potatoes
1,732 kg	onions
3,880 kg	beans

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

158,373	soap (bars)
10	kitchen sets
67	stoves
700m ²	plastic sheeting

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (April-May 2002)

3,581	consultations
1,560	of them for children

RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA ICRC

77	national staff
12	daily workers
13	vehicles

RRC

83	staff
57	volunteers
11	vehicles

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.

57 nurses and provided with fresh and dry food on a monthly basis and with 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. As a result a mine awareness program has been initiated there with a special focus on children who run the highest risk to be maimed or killed by these weapons. The aim is to limit this risk by informing children of the danger of landmine and unexploded ordnance present and by teaching them some basic rules of behaviour. In April, 27 performances were given in 9 schools of Groznensko-Selsky, Nozhai-Yurtovsky and Shalinsky regions involving 7,454 children. Also 2 presentations were conducted for 24 students of the art-graphical department of the Pedagogical Institute where they were introduced a mine awareness program. This group is involved in design of mine awareness billboards. The initiative group from the State Youth Committee gave the presentation for 10 students in order to involve them in working out a strategy of mine awareness activities.

In May a "round table" for journalists was organised in the Ministry of Press and Information on the topic "Role of the media in the mine awareness program with emphasis on the information and advice to be given." It was agreed with the Ministry to be regularly reviewing central and regional press as to information about the mine problem, and co-ordinating with the journalists of these editions.

Puppet show "New adventures of Cheerdig" in regional schools of the republic is finished. From February till May 88 performances were given for 13,481 children in schools of Groznensko-Selsky, Shalinsky, Nozhai-Yurtovsky, Urus-Martanovsky and Gudermes regions of Chechnya. Additionally 4 performances were shown in schools of Grozny upon receiving requests from directions of schools to conduct puppet show in connection with existing cases of mine casualties among the schoolchildren. Also 300 comic books were distributed.

In May, magazine for children "Stelaad" ("Rainbow" in Chechen translation), expressed wish to collaborate with the ICRC in terms of mine awareness program. Next 9 issues of the magazine which comes out once in one or two months, will contain mine awareness information and messages of advice.

Within the framework of working with youth, an agreement was concluded with the State Youth Committee about co-operation of the ICRC with the KVN team of Grozny. KVN program will include mine awareness messages of advice for drawing spectator's attention to the problem of mines and unexploded ordnance.

INGUSHETIA

The Republic continues to host about 150,000 officially registered IDPs from Chechnya, a heavy burden to bear for the local population. Some 31,000 people are accommodated in IDP camps, but the majority live in collective centres (sometimes defined as) and in host families, straining the latter's economic conditions.

INGUSHETIA

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

56,998 food parcels
1,240 000 loaves of bread

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

59,362 hygienic kits
343,580 candles
20,565 sets of clothes

WATER AND SANITATION (April-May 2002)

Overall: 4,458 m³
Daily: 143 m³
Showers: 13 (138 cabins)
Bladders: 20
Pits: 12
Water trucks: 8

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

Food assistance (dry food and bread)

The ICRC assists IDPs on a regular basis with food (family parcels) on a two-three month cycle basis through more than 50 points of distribution. In April started the 11-th round of food and non-food distribution in Ingushetia. This round IDPs are given new food parcels and new hygienic kits.

In addition, the ICRC supports RRC programs, which distribute on an average 3 loaves of bread to 30,000 beneficiaries in IDP camps on a weekly basis. In April and May 3,200 children also received baby foods (25,600 portions).

Non-food assistance

Besides food, the ICRC provides hygienic kits and candles to IDPs. These distributions also take place every two to three months. In April the RRC distributed among IDPs 20,565 sets of clothes.

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 built shower installations which were then insulated for the winter period. A total of 13 of them with the capacity of 138 cabins are currently at the disposal of IDPs. In addition, fresh water is provided to roughly 40,000 IDP's on a daily basis, through a network of 20 bladders.

Medical assistance

Since July 2001 the ICRC is concentrating its efforts on increasing its aid to the main hospital of the Ingush republic in Nazran. In April and May the medical input delivered by the ICRC was equivalent to 14,400 USD.

Co-operation with National Societies

The RRC visiting nurses program is providing bedridden elderly persons (130 people) with basic care. Beneficiaries receive food parcels, wheat flour on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 6 months.

Mine awareness

In April and May on the basis of the monitoring done some changes were made to the teaching "Child to Child" program. Additional materials were developed for use during classes in IDP camps and collective centres. The preparation for the next session of a "Mine victims club" is going on. Mine casualties are directly involved in working out a strategy of targeting population, passing over their ideas.

Adults also need to be constantly reminded of the existing danger. For that billboards with mine awareness messages were placed in IDP collective centres.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

What's in a food parcel?

3 kg of buck wheat, 500 g tea, 500 g of tinned cheese, 2 kg of sugar, 1,3 kg of tinned beef, 870 g of butter, 800 g of tomato paste

What's Bread and SOST program?

12 loaves of bread, 1 kg of sugar, 1 l of oil, 1 pcs of toilet soap, 1 pcs of laundry soap, 1 box of tea (200 g)

What's in a hygienic kit?

150 g of toothpaste, 2 toothbrushes, 720 g of laundry soap, 400 g of toilet soap, 1 kg of washing powder

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?

Medicines, including antibiotics and anaesthetics, medicines for narcosis, sutures, infusions, IV sets, catheters, X-ray material

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

In April and May the ICRC carried out relief distributions in Kurtumkalinskiy and Novolak regions covering 4,489 beneficiaries with sugar, oil, salt and wheat flour.

The RRC supported by the ICRC, provided 285 loaves of bread daily to IDP's in the Northern regions of Daghestan. In addition RRC runs a soup kitchen feeding 500 IDP school children with hot meals on a daily basis.

Non-food assistance

In April and May the ICRC distributed 4,489 hygienic kits among the IDPs in the above-mentioned districts helping them to improve their living conditions.

Medical assistance

In April and May the ICRC provided medical assistance to the Khassavuyrt Central Hospital for the sum of 7,250 USD. Also 4 hospitals received ad hoc assistance to the victims of the explosion in Kaspiysk on 9 th of May equivalent to 18,700 USD.

Co-operation with National Societies

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

Mine awareness

Within the framework of a mine awareness program a scenario of a puppet show for children is being prepared on the motives of Daghestan folklore. The main character of the show "Thousandth jug of Nuradin" will be a boy Nuradin accompanied by his faithful donkey.

Work over mine awareness leaflet and poster for children is going on. Children are directly involved in this process. Later their drafts will be completed by a professional artist.

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 16,500 Chechen IDPs in April. Over 2,800 IDPs also received food and non-food assistance in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia.

Food assistance (dry food and bread)

The RRC distributed over 10,061 food parcels to vulnerable Chechen IDPs in these regions in April and May.

DAGHESTAN

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

132,500 loaves of bread
26,500 hot meals (portions)
13,467 kg sugar
13,467 l oil
2,248 kg salt
93,960 kg wheat flour

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

4,489 hygienic kits

NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA, SOUTH OF RUSSIA

FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

10,061 food parcels
92,575 kg wheat flour

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (April-May 2002)

4,199 hygienic kit
5,066 sets of clothes

CONSULTATIONS (April-May 2002)

1,528 psychological
1,560 legal

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

The ICRC sent medicines and surgical materials to 3 hospitals which received the victims of the explosion that occurred in the Vladikavkaz central market on 28 April. On its part the RRC provided dressing material to the hospitals and food assistance to the families of the casualties.

Co-operation with National Societies

In Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Kalmykia, Adygea, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions the RRC, supported by the ICRC, runs the home visiting nurses program 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. Psychological counselling and legal advice has also been organised for IDPs in North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria.

Mine awareness

The ICRC mine awareness team seized the opportunity to cover by the program 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, 9 lessons were given to a total of 246 Chechen children in sanatoria of Kabardino-Balkaria in the framework of the "Child to Child" program. A second comic book for children "Ascend" (1,488 copies) and game sheets "Find the Safest Way" (403 copies) were distributed. Additionally 350 mine awareness leaflets were given to teachers. Also auxiliary materials for children on the "Child to Child" program such as puzzles, rebuses, drawings-rides, crosswords, posters, description of move games and a boarding mine awareness game for children "Be wiser and you'll reach faster!" have been put on. All the materials aim at children's reinforcing knowledge about the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance as well as at their passing over this information not only to other children but adults.

In May, 13 classes were conducted for 216 children. They received 3,009 comic books "Ascend" as well as game sheets "Find the safest way". Additionally 600 mine awareness leaflets were given to teachers staying with the children in the sanatoria.

RED CROSS STAFF IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

19 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 324 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

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 6 months.

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Following the 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 49 detention places.

The main aim of ICRC visits is to assess the conditions of detention and to ensure that 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 have lost contact with their relatives as well as detainees visited by the ICRC are given an opportunity to re-establish contact 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 program 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 (April 2002)

In Chechnya:	3
Outside Chechnya:	4
TOTAL:	7

(May 2002)

In Chechnya:	5
Outside Chechnya:	3
TOTAL:	8

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS

(Since May 2000)

In Chechnya:	57
Outside Chechnya:	114
TOTAL:	171
Number of places visited:	49

IHL PRESENTATIONS TO ARMED FORCES

(April 2002)

- Ministry of Interior: 6 presentations - 148 officers, sergeants and soldiers; 26 militiamen; 17 teaching staff of Astrakhan militia training centre; 35 guards of Departmental security guards for escorting the railway cargo
- Border Guards: 2 presentations - 155 soldiers, sergeants and ensigns
- Vladikavkaz College of Culture: 2 presentations - 35 students
- Vladikavkaz State Technological University: 1 presentation - 60 students

(May 2002)

- Ministry of Interior: 9 presentations - 611 soldiers, sergeants, junior and senior officers
- Ministry of Defence: 4 presentations - 525 newly-recruited soldiers, sergeants, junior and senior officers
- Stavropol State University :

In April this exhibition took place in Pyatigorsk and then in MinVody. The representatives of the Administration of the town, NGOs, educational department, press, TV etc. were invited at the presentation ceremonies. About 3,500 people (schoolchildren, students, military staff, general public) attended the exhibition in both cities.

**2 presentations - 80 law
students and 15
schoolchildren**