



AUGUST 2001

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

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



ICRC FOOD PARCELS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS ARE  
BEING PACKED BY WORKERS OF A MOSCOW BASED FIRM

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

Beginning of July the ICRC has been carrying out a detailed survey of assistance needs in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan.

ICRC delegates have already held discussions in several focus groups composed of 12-16 persons among residents and IDPs in the region. The purpose is to determine the current specific needs of those living in camps, in collective centres and in the private sector. The surveyors use proved methods to ensure that every participant can make his voice heard and that the full spectrum of opinions and perceptions regarding the humanitarian assistance and needs are really reflected through those focus groups discussions.

The primary aim of the survey is to allow the ICRC to evaluate again the real needs in terms of material assistance (food, hygienic items, etc.). At the same time the chosen method helps to uncover other, less evident needs, for example, in terms of legal counselling and psychological support. The first results already give a fairly good idea of the major concerns of the most vulnerable groups of population in the North Caucasus. The work has not yet been completed but in the end it will certainly help the ICRC to plan in a better way its programmes for the coming year.

## 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 in co-operation with the Russian Red Cross (RRC). Today 27 200

## 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 AUGUST 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR OVER 144,000 IDPs**

people are covered by this programme in Grozny, Shali, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan, Achkhoy Martan and Kurchaloy.

### Non-food assistance

In August the ICRC distributed hygienic kits, soap, kitchen sets and stoves to IDP centres, hospitals, social and paramedical institutions, delivering aid to 10 such places.

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 m<sup>3</sup> each) with a present daily output of more than 910 m<sup>3</sup> which covers the needs of more than 40,000 people. In August 28,400 m<sup>3</sup> of water were provided.

### Medical assistance

In August the ICRC assisted 9 hospitals in Chechnya with medicine and medical material (equivalent to 39,000 USD). Three hospitals also received orthopaedic appliances (wheelchairs and crutches).

The ICRC supports the visiting nurses programme of the RRC in Chechnya. 720 bedridden elderly are assisted on a regular basis by 57 nurses and provided with fresh and dry food a monthly basis and with hygienic kits every 6 months.

Furthermore, the ICRC supports 4 mobile medical teams and a medical post run by the Russian Red Cross. The mobile units are especially appreciated in the countryside where they provide the population with basic medical help.

## INGUSHETIA

The bulk of the ICRC assistance in the North Caucasus is distributed in Ingushetia. The Republic currently hosts about 160,000 officially registered IDPs from Chechnya and this is a heavy burden to bear for the local population. Some 30,000 people are accommodated in IDP camps. But the majority live in temporary settlements and in host families, straining their economic conditions.

### Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

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

In addition to the aforementioned distributions, the ICRC supports two programmes of the RRC, which distributes on an average 3 loaves of bread to over 26,400 beneficiaries in IDP camps and 6 hot meals to some 3,000 particularly vulnerable beneficiaries from 8 soup kitchens on a weekly basis.

### Non-food assistance

Besides food, the ICRC provided 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. Last summer, when the ICRC made it a priority to improve the hygienic

## CHECHNYA

### FOOD ASSISTANCE (August 2001)

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 736       | food parcels          |
| 326,578   | loaves of bread       |
| 1,750 kg  | wheat flour           |
| 27,258 l  | oil                   |
| 27,269 kg | sugar                 |
| 27,256    | tea (boxes of 200 gr) |
| 1,000 kg  | potatoes              |
| 340 kg    | onions                |

### NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (August 2001)

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 746    | hygienic kits |
| 54,540 | soap (cakes)  |
| 10     | kitchen sets  |
| 12     | stoves        |

### MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (August 2001)

|       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| 4,479 | consultations        |
| 2,076 | of them for children |

### RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| <b>ICRC</b> |                |
| 61          | national staff |
| 22          | daily workers  |
| 12          | vehicles       |
| <b>RRC</b>  |                |
| 83          | staff          |
| 52          | volunteers     |
| 11          | vehicles       |

## INGUSHETIA

### FOOD ASSISTANCE (August 2001)

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| 49,457  | food parcels         |
| 387,500 | loaves of bread      |
| 81,000  | hot meals (portions) |

### NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE (August 2001)

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 24,759  | hygienic kits |
| 197,828 | candles       |

### WATER AND SANITATION (August 2001)

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Overall:      | 8,403.6 m <sup>3</sup> |
| Daily:        | 271 m <sup>3</sup>     |
| Showers:      | 14 (149 cabins)        |
| Bladders:     | 20                     |
| Pits:         | 14                     |
| Water trucks: | 15                     |

situation in IDP camps, it started to build shower installations there which were insulated for the winter period. A total of fourteen of them with a capacity of 149 cabins is currently at the disposal of IDPs .

### Medical assistance

Having rendered assistance to five hospitals in Ingushetia since the beginning of 2000, in July this year the ICRC decided to concentrate its efforts on increasing its aid to the main hospital of the Ingush republic in Nazran (in August - equivalent to 6,300 USD). Two other hospital were also assisted with medicine and medical material (equivalent to 9,000 USD).

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 elderly persons (130 people) with basic care. Beneficiaries receive food parcels, wheat flour and medicines on a monthly basis and hygienic kits every 2 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 of 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 August the ICRC mine-awareness team in Ingushetia made 7 presentations to about 200 adults in IDP camps and distributed 21 posters on the subject among them. In the framework of the "Child to Child" programme 40 lessons were given to 128 children in the age group of 10 to 14.

## DAGHESTAN

In August relief distributions were carried out in the Novolak, Kaspiisk, Kumtor Kale, Nogay and Kizlyar regions of Daghestan, covering more than 4 100 beneficiaries.

### Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

As in Ingushetia, the RRC runs 3 bakeries, covering the needs in bread of 3,700 IDPs daily, and 1 soup kitchen, providing 500 IDP school children with hot meals on a daily basis.

### Non-food assistance

Furthermore, the ICRC distributed among IDPs hygienic kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting and jerrycans, helping them to improve their living conditions.

### Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to IDPs since December 1999. About 29,200 patients, including more than 10,300 children, have already benefited from this assistance.

Furthermore, in August the ICRC assisted a hospital in Khasavyurt (equivalent to 2,100 USD).

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

### MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

**(August 2001)**

**3,504 consultations  
1,741 of them for children**

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

#### What's in a food parcel?

720 g of butter, 800 g of tomato puree, 1 kg of cheese, 1 kg of sugar, 3 kg of spaghetti, 2 kg of rice, 1.3 kg of canned chicken, 500 g tea, 200 g of yeast

#### What's in a hygienic kit?

1.5 kg of washing powder, 1 kg of soap, 200 g of toothpaste, 1 toothbrush, 1l of detergent, 1 l of shampoo, 1 kitchen towel, 1 bath towel

#### 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?

Dressing materials (bandages, cotton, gauze), medicines, medicines for narcosis, sutures, infusions, accessories for infusions (IV sets, tubes, catheters etc.), instruments, X-ray material

#### 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.



In Daghestan 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 2 months.

## **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 11,500 Chechen IDPs in August.

### **Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)**

The RRC distributed food parcels to 11,000 vulnerable Chechen IDPs in these regions and food parcels plus wheat flour to over 1,000 IDPs in Kabardino-Balkaria.

As in the other republics of the North Caucasus, the RRC operates a bakery in North Ossetia, providing bread to 1,300 beneficiaries on a daily basis.

### **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, shoes, blankets, hygienic kits and kitchen sets to IDPs from Chechnya. In Kabardino-Balkaria over 1,000 of them also received hygienic kits.

### **Medical assistance**

In Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Kalmykia, Adygea, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions the RRC, supported by the ICRC, 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 August, the "Danger of Landmines - the New Adventures of Cheerdig" puppet show was 10 times performed in sanatoria in Stavropol region, North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria for over 3,100 children. Almost 7,000 copies of a comic book based on the same story were distributed together with the game sheet "Find the Safest Way". Besides, the ICRC provided more nearly 6,300 children with school kits and over 6,000 children - with footwear. In the framework of the "Child to Child" programme 21 lessons were given to a total of 336 Chechen children in sanatoria to train them to convey to other children information about the danger of

## **DAGHESTAN**

### **FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**(August 2001)**

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1,516     | food parcels         |
| 37,820 kg | wheat flour          |
| 95,850    | loaves of bread      |
| 13,500    | hot meals (portions) |

### **NON FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**(August 2001)**

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1,829                | hygienic kits    |
| 9,888 m <sup>2</sup> | plastic sheeting |
| 927                  | jerrycans        |
| 213                  | kitchen sets     |

### **MEDICAL**

### **CONSULTATIONS**

**(August 2001)**

|       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| 2,862 | consultations        |
| 1,149 | of them for children |

## **NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA, SOUTH OF RUSSIA**

### **FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**(August 2001)**

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| 4,814  | food parcels    |
| 36,060 | loaves of bread |
| 12,6 t | wheat flour     |

### **NON FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**(August 2001)**

|       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| 450   | hygienic kits  |
| 149   | blankets       |
| 214   | kitchen sets   |
| 698   | shoes (pairs)  |
| 4,566 | clothes (sets) |

### **CONSULTATIONS**

**(August 2001)**

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| 1,176 | medical       |
| 622   | psychological |
| 1,051 | legal         |

## **RED CROSS STAFF IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA**

### **ICRC**

14 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 331 national employees not including those in Chechnya.

mines and ways to avoid it. Group discussions based on the same methodology were carried out with 152 teenagers.

## 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 3,772 vulnerable local residents with food parcels and wheat flour on a monthly basis with hygienic kits - once in 2 months.

## OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

### VISITS TO DETAINEES

Following an 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 42 detention places.

The main aim of ICRC visits is to assess conditions of detention and to ensure that the 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 lost contact with their relatives as well as detainees visited by the ICRC are given an opportunity to get in touch 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 programme 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 "Humanism in Time of War", 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), Armavir (Krasnodar region), Maykop (Adygea) and Anapa (Krasnodar region).

### 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

### DETENTION VISITS

#### NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES (August 2001)

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| In Chechnya:      | 4 |
| Outside Chechnya: | 3 |
| TOTAL:            | 7 |

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS

##### (Since May 2000)

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| In Chechnya               | 35  |
| Outside Chechnya:         | 79  |
| TOTAL:                    | 114 |
| Number of places visited: | 42  |

### IHL PRESENTATIONS TO ARMED FORCES

#### (August 2001)

- Ministry of the Interior: 5 presentations - 798 soldiers, sergeants and junior officers
- Ministry of the Defence: 3 presentations - 260 soldiers and sergeants
- Border Guards: 1 presentations - 58 soldiers and sergeants