

ICRC

FACTS AND FIGURES

JUNE 2001

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

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



A FAMILY IN DAGHESTAN STUDYING THE CONTENTS OF AN ICRC FOOD PARCEL. SUCH ASSISTANCE IS DISTRIBUTED IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM CHECHNYA AND TO MOST VULNERABLE PERSONS.

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

End of June the ICRC lifted internal security restrictions on the movements of its local employees in the Republic of Chechnya and resumed full operational activities. These security limitations had been imposed after a national employee of the organization had been shot and severely wounded at a checkpoint in the Staropromyslovski district in Grozny on May 29.

The decision to resume activities was taken by the ICRC after intensive contacts with Russian government officials and security representatives in Moscow as well as in the North Caucasus. These contacts have convinced the ICRC that its activities in Chechnya have the full support of the government of the Russian Federation. The ICRC has moreover received clear indications from high officials in Chechnya that a serious investigation, allowing to assess the exact causes of the incident, is under way and that units manning checkpoints have been instructed to facilitate the work of the ICRC.

The ICRC held a two-day regional seminar on war surgery, bringing together 30 participants from the Russian Federation, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow in June. Among them, 10 surgeons and traumatologists working in Chechen hospitals in Grozny, Gudermes, Urus-Martan, Shali, Argun, Kurchaloy as well as surgeons from Khasavyurt and Nazran took part in it.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

CHECHNYA

Due to the above mentioned incident in Chechnya the ICRC and the Russian Red Cross suspended since the end of May all their assistance programmes in the republic. The only exception was

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 JUNE 2001 FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR ALMOST 144,000 IDPs

distribution of chlorinated water to the population of Grozny, which has been carried out since December 2000, when the ICRC rehabilitated pumping station No 1 in the city. The present daily output is over 920 m³ which covers the needs of around 40,000 people. In June 27,780 m³ of water were provided.

Medical material and medicines for the treatment of 20 surgical cases were provided to Republican Paediatric Hospital in Chechnya, by the end of June.

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 149,000 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 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 2 loaves of bread to over 26,000 beneficiaries in IDP camps and 5 hot meals to some 3,000 particularly vulnerable beneficiaries from 8 soup kitchens on a weekly basis.

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 situation in IDP camps, it started to built shower installations there which were insulated for the winter period. Eleven of them, containing 144 cabins, function in the camps now.

Medical assistance

Since the beginning of 2000, the ICRC has been providing assistance to all five hospitals in Ingushetia, enabling them to treat 2,230 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

CHECHNYA

RED CROSS SET UP IN CHECHNYA

ICRC

85 national staff
12 vehicles

RRC

120 staff
11 vehicles

INGUSHETIA

FOOD ASSISTANCE

(June 2001)

74,699 food parcels
375,000 loaves of bread
78,000 hot meals (portions)

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE

(June 2001)

1,034 kitchen sets
298,796 candles

WATER AND SANITATION

(June 2001)

Overall: 6,562 m³
Daily: 218 m³
Showers: 11 (144 cabins)
Bladders: 14
Pits: 101
Water trucks: 16

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

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

(June 2001)

5,022 consultations
2,109 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

limit the risk of accidents when they return home. In June the ICRC mine awareness team in Ingushetia made 6 presentations to adults in IDP camps. Planning and designing of materials have been continued for "Child to Child" programme which will allow to disseminate knowledge on the mine awareness programme through exchange of information among IDP children.

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

Following the re-registration of beneficiaries of the ICRC assistance in Daghestan in the autumn of 2000 some 25,000 persons were identified to receive regular food assistance. In June distributions were carried out in the Botlikh region, where assistance was provided to over 4,100 IDPs.

As in Ingushetia, the RRC local branch runs 3 bakeries, 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, plastic sheeting, blankets and jerrycans, helping them to improve their living conditions. Since the end of May distributions of these items except plastic sheeting have been extended to Babayurt, Tarumovka, Nogay, Kizlyar and Khasvyurt regions covering over 1,700 beneficiaries, in addition to assistance provided regularly in these northern regions of Daghestan by the Danish Refugee Council.

Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to the IDPs since December 1999. Over 24,100 patients, including more than 8,300 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 835 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.

NORTH OSSETIA, KABARDINO-BALKARIA AND THE SOUTH OF 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, distributed food parcels and wheat flour to over 19,000 Chechen IDPs in June.

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.

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 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.

DAGHESTAN

FOOD ASSISTANCE (June 2001)

1,783	food parcels
100,100	loaves of bread
22,100	hot meals (portions)

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (June 2001)

2,301	hygienic kits
676	blankets
3,339 m ²	plastic sheeting
1,470	jerrycans

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS (June 2001)

2,002	consultations
821	of them for children

SOUTH OF RUSSIA

FOOD ASSISTANCE (June 2001)

6,906	food parcels
26,000	loaves of bread
7,758	hot meals (portions)
183 t	wheat flour

Non-food assistance

In June kitchen sets have been distributed to over 1,500 IDPs in the North Ossetia and the South of Russia. More than 2,700 IDPs received footwear.

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 1,889 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 June 3 performances of the puppet show "The danger of landmines - the new adventures of Cheerdig" were made in sanatoria in Stavropol region, Yessentuki and Pyatigorsk, for about 800 children. Over 2,500 copies of a comic book based on the same story were distributed together with the game sheet "Find the Safest Way". Besides, the ICRC more than 2,400 children with school kits and over 2,600 children with footwear. In accordance to the "Child to Child" programme 4 lessons were given to 80 Chechen children in sanatoria to train them to convey to other children information about the danger of mines and ways to avoid it.

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.

NON FOOD ASSISTANCE (June 2001)

343	hygienic kits
1,939	blankets
1,502	kitchen sets
2,411	school kits
2,748	pairs of shoes

CONSULTATIONS (June 2001)

1,423	medical
680	psychological
827	legal

RED CROSS STAFF IN NORTH CAUCASUS AND SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

14 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 302 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

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 Interior and the Ministry of Justice. Since May 2000, they have visited 40 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 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, called "Humanism in the 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) and Maikop (Adygea). In June preparation was under way to display the exhibition in Anapa (Krasnodar region) in July as many children are spending holidays in the region.

DETENTION VISITS

NUMBER OF VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES (June 2001)

In Chechnya:	0
Outside Chechnya:	10
TOTAL:	10

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS

(Since May 2000)

In Chechnya	29
Outside Chechnya:	74
TOTAL:	103

Number of places visited: 40

IHL PRESENTATIONS TO ARMED FORCES

(June 2001)

- § **Ministry of Interior: 2 presentations - 90 soldiers and sergeants; 2 presentations at the Ministry's Volgograd training centre - 300 sergeants and junior officers**
- § **Ministry of Defence: 1 presentation - 35 soldiers and sergeants**
- § **Teachers Advanced Training Institute: 1 presentation for 75 members of the teaching staff**