

17-01-2001 Operational update

## Emergency action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the North Caucasus and the South of Russia (December 2000)

### HIGHLIGHTS

In November the ICRC completed an overall reassessment of humanitarian needs in Daghestan conducted to improve the response to the needs of IDPs (internally displaced people) and other vulnerable groups among the population of the region. December was marked by a substantial increase in the volume of humanitarian assistance distributed in the Republic.

The reassessment allowed the ICRC to identify about 25,000 beneficiaries who will receive the necessary assistance through the local staff of the ICRC office in Khasavyurt. The first distributions were carried out in Buinaksk and Botlikh regions. Over 7,500 persons have been assisted.

To each group of 5 beneficiaries, 2 family parcels, 2 hygienic parcels, 50 kg of flour and 24 m2 of plastic sheeting have been handed out.

This assistance which constitutes a substantial support to the most vulnerable people in Daghestan has been highly appreciated and the ICRC staff have always been warmly welcomed both by the local population and the authorities.

The ICRC staff in Grozny was able to resume water distribution in the city. The rehabilitation of pumping station No 1 was completed by the end of November and about 5,000 m3 of clean drinking water were distributed during December.

### BUDGETARY NEEDS

In its annual appeal for 2001, 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 DECEMBER FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS AND THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA FOR ABOUT 142,000 IDPs**

### OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

#### CHECHNYA

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

The ICRC provided a ration of vegetable oil, sugar and soap to every person benefiting from the bread programme which is run by the Chechen branch of the RRC. About 15,200 people are covered by this programme in Grozny, Gudermes, Argun, Urus Martan and Achkhoy Martan.

Basic food-stuffs were provided to a boarding house for old people in Grozny. Food parcels were distributed to beneficiaries in Argun IDP centres.

Some food parcels were also provided to Grozny Vodocanal staff to support their efforts to restore sewerage and water supply systems of the city.

#### Shelter and water supply

During December, ICRC continued to distribute plastic sheeting in schools, social and paramedical institutions and IDP centres, delivering aid to 40 such places.

Since December 1 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 daily output of over 200 m3. In the

### FOOD ASSISTANCE

(December 2000)  
150 food parcels  
182,400 loaves of bread  
8,700 l oil  
11,500 kg sugar

### NON FOOD ASSISTANCE

(December 2000)  
233 kitchen sets  
150 hygienic kits  
12,400 m2 plastic sheeting  
220 stoves  
12,700 soap (pieces)

### MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

(December 2000)  
3,500 consultations

reported period 4,950 m<sup>3</sup> of water were provided to around 20,000 beneficiaries.

**Medical assistance**

The ICRC assisted 11 hospitals in Chechnya in December. The main effort was directed at improving the general conditions there by distributing plastic sheeting, stoves, bed linen and blankets. Medical material and medicines for the treatment of 170 surgical cases have been provided.

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.

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.

1,496 of them for children

**RED CROSS SET UP  
IN CHECHNYA  
ICRC**  
54 national staff  
10 vehicles  
**RRC**  
102 staff  
9 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 142,000 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, wheat flour). The ICRC covers almost all IDPs in Ingushetia on a two-three month cycle basis through 160 points of distribution.

In addition to the aforementioned distributions, the ICRC supports two programmes of the RRC local branch, which distributes 3 loaves of bread to about 20,000 beneficiaries in IDP camps and 5 hot meals to some 2,000 particularly vulnerable beneficiaries from 8 soup kitchens on a weekly basis.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
30,824 food parcels  
68.4 T wheat flour  
255,000 loaves of bread  
52,000 hot meals (portions)

**NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
15,741 hygienic kits  
11,942 blankets  
121,344 candles  
101 stoves  
607 kitchen sets  
607 jerrycans  
917 school kits

**Shelter and hygiene**

Besides food, the ICRC distributes hygienic kits, kitchen sets, candles, plastic sheeting and jerrycans to IDPs. In December the ICRC distributed stoves in IDP camps in co-operation with MSF and Danish Refugee Council as well as blankets - in co-operation with MDM. This assistance is especially important in view of the cold season.

**WATER AND SANITATION**  
(December 2000)  
Overall: 7,399 m<sup>3</sup>  
Daily: 246.6 m<sup>3</sup>  
Showers: 13 (126 cabins)  
Bladders: 23  
Pits: 10  
Water trucks: 15

**Water and sanitation**

The ICRC has spared no effort to make drinking water available wherever there are major concentrations of IDPs in Ingushetia. Since the summer period, when the ICRC made it a priority to improve the hygienic situation in camps, it has built 15 shower installations there. 13 of them with 126 cabins have been insulated for the winter period.

**THE ICRC PROVIDES ABOUT  
35,000 IDPs WITH FRESH  
WATER DAILY**

**Medical assistance**

Since the beginning of 2000, the ICRC has been providing assistance to all five hospitals in Ingushetia, enabling them to treat 1,770 surgical cases. It is closely monitoring the situation in the hospitals and will deliver medical assistance whenever it is needed.

**MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS**  
(December 2000)  
3,348 consultations  
1,467 of them for children

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 beneficiaries) with basic care (medical, food and non food).

**Mine awareness**

Constant increase in 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 therefore been started 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 December the ICRC mine awareness team, using teaching material (posters, leaflets) locally produced for this programme, started to work with teachers and give presentations to children in IDP camps. 38 presentations have been made to 1,610 children.

DAGHESTAN

Food assistance (dry food, hot meals and bread)

In December 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 will receive regular food assistance. Distributions began in Buinaksk and Botlikh regions, where food parcels and wheat flour have been handed out to over 7,500 beneficiaries.

As in Ingushetia, the RRC local branch runs a bakery, covering the needs in bread of about 8,000 IDPs, and two soup kitchens, regularly providing about 2,700 especially vulnerable IDPs with hot meals.

Non-food assistance

Furthermore, the ICRC provides IDPs with hygienic kits, kitchen sets, candles, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting and jerrycans helping them to improve their living conditions. The RRC local branch distributed warm clothes and underwear to almost 6,000 IDPs.

Medical assistance

The RRC also runs 2 mobile medical units in Daghestan, providing medical services to the IDPs since December 1999. About 12,000 patients, including more than 4,100 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 545 surgical cases.

The local branch of the RRC is also running a home visiting nurses programme for about 440 beneficiaries, mainly bedridden elderly.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
3,160 food parcels  
79 T wheat flour  
82,200 loaves of bread  
21,200 hot meals (portions)

**NON FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
3,160 hygienic kits  
11,304 plastic sheeting (rolls)

**MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS**  
(December 2000)  
2,001 consultations  
713 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) the RRC, with ICRC support, is distributing food parcels and wheat flour to almost 17,000 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 2,000 beneficiaries and hot meals to 300 beneficiaries.

Non-food assistance

Hygienic kits have been distributed to around 7,000 IDPs in the South of Russia. About 3,400 IDPs in the North Caucasus received warm clothes and underwear.

In December the ICRC has assisted over 1,300 Chechen children and their teachers who enjoyed a break in Kabardino-Balkaria away from the dire living conditions in Chechnya. The children received blankets and school kits. The ICRC mine awareness team seized this opportunity to talk to the children about the risk, unexploded ammunition and landmines present, giving 17 lectures on the subject.

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 over 1,532 surgical cases.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
6,551 food parcels  
24,960 loaves of bread

**NON FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
(December 2000)  
6,988 hygienic kits  
3,777 blankets  
1,184 kitchen sets  
1,509 school kits

**CONSULTATIONS**  
(December 2000)  
1,306 medical  
644 psychological  
626 legal

In these regions, the RRC, supported by the ICRC, also runs a home visiting nurses programme for the elderly, some 1,000 beneficiaries.

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.

OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES

VISITS TO DETAINEES

Since 17 May, the ICRC delegates have visited 29 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  
(December 2000)  
In Chechnya: 0  
Outside Chechnya: 7  
TOTAL: 7

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS  
In Chechnya 16  
Outside Chechnya: 43  
TOTAL: 59  
Number of places visited: 29

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) and Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) and aroused sustained interest of the public.

IHL PRESENTATION TO  
ARMED FORCES  
(December 2000)

- Ministry of Interior: 3 presentations - 480 soldiers, sergeants, junior and warrant officers
- Ministry of Defence: 7 presentations - 791 soldiers, junior and warrant officers

RED CROSS STAFF IN NORTH CAUCASUS AND IN SOUTH OF RUSSIA

ICRC

12 expatriates permanently based in Nalchik and 264 national employees.

RUSSIAN RED CROSS

Regular staff, excluding Chechnya - 140 (plus 22 HQ staff in Moscow), including rescue service. 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?
1 l vegetable oil 1 kg sugar 3 kg spaghetti 3 kg rice 2 kg canned food 0,5 kg salt 100 g yeast	2,5 kg washing powder 12 rolls of toilette paper 500 gr of soap 5 tubes of toothpaste 5 toothbrushes 5 disposable razors 80 sanitary towels 1 bath towel	1 cooking pot (7 l) 1 frying pan 5 bowls 5 plates 5 cups 5 knives 5 forks 5 table spoons	2 copybooks 2 pens 1 pad drawing paper 1 box colour pencils 1 box water colours	Dressing materials (bandages, cotton, gauze) Medecines Medecines for narcosis Sutures Infusions Accessories for infusions (IV sets, tubes, catheters etc.) Instruments X-ray material
<b>What is a mobile medical team?</b>				
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.				

Ref. LG 2001-02-eng

Share this on:

 Facebook

 Digg

 Del.icio.us

 reddit

What are these?

Other documents in this section:

[The ICRC worldwide > Eastern Europe and Central Asia > Russia](#)

In other sections:

[The ICRC worldwide\Eastern Europe and Central Asia\Chechnya](#)

 [Back to previous page](#)

