



ICRC

# **ICRC Plan of Action 2005**

Russian Federation

# Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
THE ICRC IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	2
SITUATION ANALYSIS	2
OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS FOR 2005	4
BUDGET 2005	6
<b>NORTHERN CAUCASUS: HUMANITARIAN ACTION</b>	<b>7</b>
PROTECTION ACTIVITIES	7
ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENT POPULATION	9
ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISPLACED POPULATION	10
WATER, HYGIENE AND HOUSING FOR RESIDENT AND DISPLACED POPULATION	11
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH STRUCTURES	12
ORTHOPAEDIC ASSISTANCE	13
MINE RISK EDUCATION FOR RESIDENTS	14
<b>PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW</b>	<b>15</b>
PROMOTION OF IHL WITH THE RUSSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES	15
PROMOTION OF IHL WITH THE ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES	16
PROMOTION OF IHL WITH CIVIL SOCIETY	17
CO-OPERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS	19

# Introduction

## The ICRC in the Russian Federation

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992.

From its regional delegation in Moscow, the ICRC carries out a range of programmes aimed at the integration of international humanitarian law (IHL) treaties in national legislation as well as their teaching and promotion amongst the armed and security forces, universities, secondary schools and civil society. The Moscow delegation supports implementation of these programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and to some extent Central Asia.

In the northern Caucasus, the ICRC runs a major humanitarian operation comprising both protection and assistance programmes for the vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Chechnya, as well as the promotion of IHL.

The ICRC supports the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and also implements a number of its programmes with this partner.

## Situation Analysis

**The Russian Federation** has achieved significant progress over the last years in the field of treaty ratification and integration of IHL at all levels.

Examples for 2004 include the ratification of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II) to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons of 10 October 1980.

Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior continue to integrate IHL/HRL in the training of armed and security forces. Police and army officers attend specialized courses on a regular basis. Cadets from Russian military institutions demonstrate knowledge and competence at the International Competition for Military Academies at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. Significant progress nevertheless remains to be achieved to fully integrate the knowledge of IHL at the level of field operations.

Russian universities show continued interest for IHL and actively participate in current debates about IHL during ICRC regional events and essay competition. The ICRC increasingly works with an active network of Russian experts and partner organisations, such as the Russian Association of International Law, with whom a co-operation agreement was signed in 2003.

The Ministry of Education continues using the ICRC's manuals in secondary schools across all regions, allowing millions of pupils to read about and discuss the basic humanitarian principles.

The security situation in **the northern Caucasus** worsened in 2004.

In September all eyes were turned on the North Ossetian town of Beslan, where more than 330 people were killed in the school siege in which armed men held pupils, parents and teachers hostage for three days before reaching a tragic climax.

**In Chechnya**, in spite of some developments improving the daily life of the population security remained the overriding concern and hostilities continued. The assassination of Chechen President Akhmat Kadyrov in the beginning of May 2004 and the subsequent tensions, underlined the continuing instability in Chechnya. The presidential elections nevertheless took place at the end of August, with the former Chechen Minister of Interior Alu Alkhanov emerging as the winner.

Arrests continued to take place and there continued to be widespread public reports of disappearances. Hostage-taking also remained a constant threat. Mines and UXO still posed a problem for the civilian population as they went about their daily and seasonal activities.

**In Ingushetia**, the situation has also been increasingly tense since the beginning of the year, culminating in June 2004 with an attack in the city of Nazran and other localities, leaving many dead and wounded.

A number of suicide or bomb attacks causing many victims among civilians in Moscow and other Russian cities were additional worrying factors in 2004.

The ICRC still has no news of its Grozny staff member, Usman Saidaliev, abducted by unidentified armed men at his home in Chechnya in August 2003.

# Overview of Operations for 2005

## Northern Caucasus: humanitarian action 2005

In 2005, the ICRC's large-scale operation in the northern Caucasus will continue to focus on assistance and protection activities. However, implementation of these programmes remains hampered by the highly volatile security environment in the region.

The ICRC office in Nalchik co-ordinates humanitarian programmes carried out from the offices located in Nazran, Grozny, Khasavyurt, Makhachkala, Vladikavkaz and Stavropol. The ICRC expatriate team remains based in Nalchik, Nazran and Khasavyurt while missions to Chechnya will be carried out as conditions permit. Thus a great deal of responsibility is placed on national staff.

Visiting people detained in relation with the conflict in Chechnya is one of the ICRC priorities in the Russian Federation. In 2004, the ICRC faced problems to carry out visits according to the ICRC's basic standard criteria worldwide, which include notably the following principles: access to all persons detained and all places of detention, the ability to speak to detainees in private and to repeat visits. The ICRC had to consequently suspend its detention visits. The ICRC is discussing that matter with the competent authorities and remains hopeful that the visits to detainees according to standard ICRC criteria could be resumed in the near future.

The ICRC also seeks to engage the authorities in a dialogue on missing persons and to promote respect for the civilian population, in particular residents and IDPs in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia.

While some reconstruction work does take place in Chechnya and the regular payment of state pensions and other benefits make a positive impact on the situation of the vulnerable categories of the population, rehabilitation work remains essential and there is still need for humanitarian assistance. The ICRC assists over 90 000 most vulnerable persons by delivering non-food aid to the resident population in Chechnya and to internally displaced persons in Ingushetia and Daghestan. The ICRC also supports the repair of public infrastructure such as the water supply and sewerage systems in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan.

Reinforcing health services in the region is another priority, with the ICRC continuing to assist 10 hospitals in Chechnya, one in Daghestan and one in Ingushetia and the Grozny central blood bank. It further supports training for health workers and hospital doctors, as well as of prosthetic technicians from Grozny's physical rehabilitation centre.

The mine action programme helps the civilian population in general, and children in particular, to avoid the dangers of mines and UXO in Chechnya.

#### Promotion of international humanitarian law 2005

In 2005 the ICRC will maintain the entire range of its prevention activities aiming at promoting IHL, humanitarian issues and fostering support for the organisation.

The ICRC's regional communication centre, based in Moscow, will continue to support delegations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia by supplying translations and publications and managing the ICRC's Russian-language website ([www.icrc.org/rus](http://www.icrc.org/rus)).

The promotion the ratification and national implementation of IHL treaties in CIS countries will continue in the framework of a co-operation agreement signed between the ICRC and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in 2004. In the Russian Federation, the ICRC will continue to co-operate with the competent authorities on the accession to IHL treaties and their incorporation into national legislation.

Russian armed and security forces will be encouraged to further integrate IHL/HRL into training at all levels, with a special focus on training packages for troops being prepared for or engaged in the northern Caucasus, as well as to ensure that such rules are observed in practice.

IHL teaching in Russian universities will be supported with a series of regional events (Advanced IHL course, Moot-Court competition, Martens Readings) strengthened through co-operation with the Russian Association of International Law.

While co-operation with the Ministry of Education on methodology and IHL training will continue, secondary school programme will be concentrated in 70 main motivated regions with a special focus on Chechnya.

The ICRC will also continue to target selected NGOs and think tanks with IHL and humanitarian issues and build contact with specialized media and publishers whose audiences include leaders and opinion-makers in Russia and the CIS.

#### Co-operation with the Russian Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations

Co-operation with the Russian Red Cross will focus on strengthening the National Society's operational response capacity in the northern Caucasus and supporting its tracing service and dissemination of IHL.

Coordination with other components of the Movement, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations working in the

northern Caucasus will remain an essential aspect of the ICRC's operation.

## Budget 2005

In order to implement its programmes in the Russian Federation the ICRC needs USD 25 416 million, including USD 20 285 million for the activities in the northern Caucasus.

# Northern Caucasus: humanitarian action

## Protection activities

---

Visiting people detained in relation with the conflict in Chechnya is one of the ICRC priorities in the Russian Federation. In 2004, the ICRC faced problems to carry out visits according to the ICRC's basic standard criteria worldwide. The ICRC had to consequently suspend its detention visits. The ICRC is discussing that matter with the competent authorities and remains hopeful that the visits to detainees according to standard ICRC criteria could be resumed in the near future.

The ICRC also seeks to engage the authorities in a dialogue on missing persons and to promote respect for the civilian population, in particular residents and IDPs in Chechnya in Daghestan and Ingushetia.

There is still need to maintain or restore family links in the northern Caucasus, particularly when it concerns Chechens living abroad looking for their relatives in the northern Caucasus, and people held in prisons outside Chechnya.

---

### Objectives:

- The authorities take appropriate action to protect civilians and ensure respect for their rights under IHL and human rights law.
- The authorities ascertain the fate of persons unaccounted for and provide answers to the families. Relatives separated from their families are able to re-establish and maintain family links through the ICRC's tracing service.
- The authorities provide appropriate conditions of detention, take adequate measures to prevent abuses, and rectify them where they occur. Families of detainees are informed of the arrest or transfer of their relatives to places of detention and have regular contact.

### The ICRC plans to: **Detainees and Family Links**

In 2005, the ICRC will seek the renewal of the agreement with the Russian authorities allowing the ICRC to visit detainees.

The links between the detainees and their families are re-established and maintained mainly through the exchange of Red Cross messages. In 2005, the ICRC also plans to facilitate family visits for detainees.

The ICRC detention work is performed on a confidential basis. The observations and recommendations made are presented and discussed with the relevant authorities only.



### **Civilian Population**

The ICRC monitors the situation of the civilian population as well as issues related to migration to or from Chechnya in Ingushetia and Daghestan. Confidential representations are made to the relevant authorities to raise awareness on those issues.

Family members living outside of the northern Caucasus can restore contact with relatives in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan, through the tracing services of the ICRC.

### **Missing Persons**

The ICRC receives allegations of arrest or disappearance from families and urges the authorities concerned to investigate and provide answers to the families.

In 2005 the ICRC plans to establish and maintain contacts with different actors addressing the problem of missing persons.

# Assistance for resident population

---

The ICRC is revising its assistance programmes in the northern Caucasus by standardizing its approach in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia and shifting its assistance from food to non-food distributions, thereby offering more effective economic support to those in need.

Although some positive changes have been taking place in Chechnya, ongoing violence and armed confrontations are preventing people from resuming normal lives. While regular payment of state pensions and other benefits make a positive impact on the situation of the vulnerable categories of the population, unemployment remains high and social and economic conditions are poor.

---

## Objective

The most vulnerable members of the population in Chechnya have their basic needs met, through support to household income-generating capacities and/or direct assistance.

## The ICRC plans to:

- carry out an **assessment** in the first quarter of 2005 to understand how the economic situation of the most vulnerable persons has evolved since the last in-depth assessment carried out in 2002, identify those with the greatest needs and recommend specific ways to address them;
- provide **50,000 of the most vulnerable people** living in central districts in Chechnya, identified according to economic criteria, with essential household items on a quarterly basis (hygiene kits, mattresses, bed linen, blankets, towel sets, pillows, candles, barrels, buckets, tarpaulins, sugar and oil for preserves, and shoes);
- provide **100 of the most vulnerable households** in Chechnya with a grant to generate additional income to contribute to covering each household's basic needs;
- provide **18,500 schoolchildren from the poorest families** with autumn clothing sets and shoes before the start of the school year in September and winter jackets and boots before the winter;
- **support the Russian Red Cross** home-care programme by supplying food parcels every two months, hygiene kits every six months and candles every month to over 800 beneficiaries in Chechnya; provide food and hygiene parcels every six months to over 1,600 beneficiaries in other republics;
- **maintain an emergency stock** of tarpaulins, blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets and candles for 5,000 households to ensure rapid response to man-made or natural disasters.

# Assistance for the displaced population

---

While a number of displaced persons from Chechnya residing in Ingushetia and Daghestan re-settled in collective centres or private accommodations, the ICRC maintains the dialogue with the relevant authorities to advocate that any returns to Chechnya take place on a voluntary base and if security and shelter options permit. The ICRC assists some 25,000 most vulnerable IDPs from Chechnya in Ingushetia and nearly 10,000 IDPs from Chechnya in Daghestan. Many of the IDPs in both republics are largely dependent on humanitarian assistance.

---

## Objective

The basic needs of IDPs from Chechnya currently living in Ingushetia and Daghestan in terms of essential items are met.

## The ICRC plans to:

- carry out an **assessment** in the first quarter of 2005 to understand how the economic situation of the most vulnerable persons has evolved since the last in-depth assessment carried out in 2002, identify those with the greatest needs (including the IDPs from Prigorodny district) and recommend specific ways to address them;
- **in Ingushetia:** provide an average of 25,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs over the course of the year, selected by social criteria, with essential household items on a quarterly basis (hygiene kits, mattresses, sugar and oil for preserves, bed linen, blankets, towel sets and pillows);
- **in Daghestan:** provide 10,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs with essential household items on a quarterly basis (hygiene kits, mattresses, sugar and oil for preserves, bed linen, blankets, towel sets and pillows);
- provide **16,000 schoolchildren from the poorest IDP families** in Ingushetia and Daghestan with autumn clothing sets and shoes before the start of the school year in September and winter jackets and boots in October;
- provide equipment, snacks etc. to the **Russian Red Cross branch in Ingushetia** to run the playrooms located in the temporary accommodation places and attended by three to six years old children of IDPs.

# Water, hygiene and housing for resident and displaced population

---

While the reconstruction takes place in Chechnya, the habitat and shelter needs of the civilian population remain significant. In Grozny, local water authority "GrozVodokanal" needs support in carrying out the maintenance of and rehabilitation of the water and sewerage system. Water supply in other towns of Chechnya also requires improvement. Hospitals, schools, social institutions and collective centres are in need of rehabilitations.

IDPs residing in collective centres and in private accommodations in Ingushetia and Daghestan suffer from insufficient water supplies and the lack of infrastructure to maintain normal hygiene and sanitary standards of living.

---

## Objective

Living conditions of residents and displaced population in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan meet basic standards through the improvement of water supply, sanitation and habitat.

## The ICRC plans to:

- **in Grozny**, improve water supply access and sewerage system for the population by offering technical and material support to the local water authority, GrozVodokanal, and maintaining and operating one water filling station and keeping back-up materials in stock for another filling station in the event of an emergency;
- **In Chechnya**, set up three public shower/laundry points and maintain seven other such points; assess the needs of and support four towns in increasing water production; improve water, sanitation and living conditions in three collective centres housing IDPs and three social institutions; distribute 100 stoves to various schools and institutions;
- **in Ingushetia**, improve the water system in two villages where IDPs and residents live together; connect six water distribution points to the main network and maintain a further five water points; repair five shower facilities for IDPs;
- **in Daghestan**, offer material support to local public utilities in areas where IDPs and residents live together; build two water and 10 sanitation facilities for IDPs; renovate/repair buildings housing IDPs;
- **in Chechnya**, carry out **renovation/repair work** and structural improvements at three medical facilities including rehabilitation of water supply, sewerage, electricity and essential services (laundry, kitchen, medical warehouse or store);

# Medical assistance to health structures

---

Although medical institutions in the northern Caucasus have seen some improvements, access to basic health care is often difficult, particularly in Chechnya. In the hospitals that would deal with emergencies (e.g. trauma, obstetrics, etc.), there is often a lack of medical materials and life-saving equipment to assure the provision of safe and effective emergency interventions. Staff also lack the necessary training, especially with modern medical equipment. It is necessary to attract blood donors and increase the use of the Blood Bank services. To ensure that blood and blood products given to patients are safe and effective, the Grozny Central Blood Transfusion Centre needs tests and blood collection materials.

---

## Objective

The infrastructure and equipment in ICRC-supported medical institutions in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan are improved so that they may provide a better standard of health care to all their patients.

## The ICRC plans to:

- support the surgical, medical, obstetric/gynaecology, paediatric and outpatient departments/polyclinics of **10 referral facilities in Chechnya, one in Ingushetia and one in Daghestan**, providing them with monthly supplies of essential medicines and consumable items, and with surgical equipment as needed;
- supply medical equipment (monitors, ECG and lung ventilation machines, etc.) and material to **four hospitals in Chechnya** (six were equipped in 2003/4);
- contract a service company to regularly carry out the installation, **maintenance and repair** of donated equipment and train selected hospital staff to carry out this service in the future;
- organize or support **training in war surgery and other areas of need** and provide training materials for up to 60 doctors and surgeons from the northern Caucasus;
- supply the **Grozny Blood Bank** with reagents, tests and blood bags each month; provide diagnostic and laboratory equipment to 4 hospitals and their polyclinics, and consumable diagnostic and laboratory items to the 12 ICRC-supported hospitals; train 15 laboratory technicians;
- maintain an ICRC **emergency medical stock** in the northern Caucasus for up to 1'000 wounded.

# Orthopaedic assistance

---

The demand for physical rehabilitation services in the northern Caucasus is huge. Many adults and children are still in need of orthopaedic appliances. The orthopaedic centre in Grozny currently has around 1,000 patients on its books. It needs trained staff to be fully functional.

---

## Objective

Physically disabled people in Chechnya have access to sustainable good quality physical rehabilitation services at the Grozny Orthopaedic Centre.

## The ICRC plans to:

- plan a new 3-year training programme for up to 10 orthopaedic technicians from Chechnya and neighbouring republics to start in September 2005;
- organise a refresher training for 8 prosthetic technicians who have already completed the course and received state diplomas as well as for the technicians from the neighbouring orthopaedic centres in the northern Caucasus;
- provide wheel chairs and crutches to disabled people;
- monitor the quality of services provided at the Grozny Orthopaedic Centre and assess its capacity and future needs;
- coordinate activities between various international actors working in the field of physical rehabilitation in Chechnya.

# Mine risk education for residents

---

Communities in Chechnya are sharing information and spreading advice on mine accidents and paying more attention to mine-risk education. However, widespread mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to kill and maim civilians. To avoid accidents, they must receive adequate information on the dangers of mines/UXO and how to adopt safe behaviour.

The lives and health of children are also in danger in the areas which are now mined and are not marked, while others are littered with UXO. Accidents involving children continue to occur, a major reason for which is the lack of safe play areas.

---

## Objective

Mine-affected communities run self-sustaining mine-risk education programmes, with support from the authorities, reducing the human suffering caused by mines and UXO. Children play free of risk in the 35 safe play areas constructed in mine-affected communities between 2005 and 2006.

## The ICRC plans to:

- in 15 communities where safe play areas are constructed in 2005, develop a “safer village plan” with a structure for sharing mine information with the regional administration;
- produce an information bulletin for journalists and organize mine-risk education initiatives for the media to encourage safe practices in mine-affected areas;
- teach children how to share mine-related information with other children through mine-risk education activities during the summer holidays; continue to use the *Rainbow* magazine as a vehicle for mine-awareness messages;
- provide advice on safe behaviour and ideas for mine-risk education activities to people living in and visiting Grozny via the bulletin boards in the Landmine Café, run by the local NGO Minga with financial support from the ICRC;
- reach an agreement with local authorities and the local communities on the location, construction and maintenance of 35 safe play areas (15 in 2005 and a further 20 in 2006);
- supply sport and recreation equipment, also accessible to disabled children, to all 35 safe play areas, encouraging children living in or visiting any of the communities concerned to use the facilities;
- encourage teachers in the communities where safe play areas have been constructed to include the concept in their mine-risk education activities; involve children in producing mine-risk education signs for the safe play areas.

# Promotion of International Humanitarian Law

## Promotion of IHL with the Russian and international authorities

---

All countries (Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) covered from Moscow by the ICRC regional legal adviser have made good headway in ratifying IHL treaties and incorporating them into national legislation. To strengthen the ICRC's efforts to promote the national implementation of IHL, the ICRC has worked closely with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly since 1997 and signed the co-operation agreement in 2004. The long-standing co-operation with the Assembly has already resulted in the adoption of model laws, for example on the protection of victims of armed conflict, as well as the recommendations on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. In 2004, the resolution on protection of cultural property was adopted as a result of the conference organized by the ICRC in collaboration with the Assembly.

---

### Objective

The Russian Federation is party to all IHL treaties, and their provisions are implemented at the national level. The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly adopts model laws and recommendations in the field of IHL promotion and implementation. The authorities concerned and donors understand and support the ICRC's activities and mandate.

### The ICRC plans to:

- **at CIS level**, organize IHL seminars to strengthen co-operation with the Interparliamentary Assembly, maintaining contacts with civil servants in charge of IHL implementation, with particular emphasis on model laws/recommendations on the issue of missing persons and the protection of cultural property;
- **in the Russian Federation**, encourage the authorities concerned to: adopt new legislation to bring its penal code in line with the ICC Statute and to protect the emblem; withdraw reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions; ratify or accede to IHL instruments to which it is not yet party; and adopt suitable measures to address the issue of missing persons and the protection of cultural property;
- organize, facilitate and participate in relevant national events, including round-table discussions on the missing and the protection of cultural property;
- maintain contacts with and a flow of information on IHL and the ICRC's activities and mandate to Russian government bodies, federal and local authorities in the northern Caucasus, influential members of civil society, and the international community.



# Promotion of IHL with the armed and security forces

---

Since the ICRC started its programme to promote IHL among the armed forces in 1994, significant progress has been achieved. The Russian Ministry of Defence adopted Order No. 360 on measures to ensure respect for IHL by the armed forces and regulations requiring compliance with IHL provisions and their integration into manuals. In addition, the Ministry of Defence formed an interdepartmental working group on IHL integration. The Senezh IHL training centre has been set up and offers two-week courses for high-ranking officers six times a year.

The ICRC's co-operation programme with the Ministry of the Interior is aimed at integrating international human rights law into the training of the police and interior troops at all levels, large numbers of whom are deployed in the northern Caucasus. There have been some encouraging developments, such as the establishment of four centres in charge of devising programmes on police activities and relations with the population.

Significant progress nevertheless remains to be achieved by the armed and security forces to implement achievements in terms of knowledge of IHL at the level of field operations.

---

## Objective

IHL is integrated into all aspects of military training and is understood by all targeted members of the armed forces. International human rights law and the basic rules of IHL are included in the training and doctrine of police and security forces. All levels of the armed and security forces know and facilitate the ICRC's action.

## The ICRC plans to:

- with the Ministry of Defence, **integrate IHL into all aspects of military training**, with IHL becoming a part of syllabuses in targeted professional courses and integrated into combat fighting manuals; support the interdepartmental working group on IHL integration; with the Ministry of the Interior, assist in the integration of international human rights law and the basic rules of IHL into the **policies and training of the police and interior troops**;
- pursue **train-the-trainer programmes** with the Ministry of Defence (by organizing 6 Senezh standard courses, two Russian-speaking courses in San Remo, etc.), and with the Ministry of the Interior (by supporting training in human rights law and the basic rules of IHL at the main police training institute in Domodedovo/Moscow, two Russian-speaking classes in San Remo, etc.);
- address future career officers in the armed forces and police/security forces by contributing actively to training in IHL/international human rights law and in **competitions**, such as the "General Skobelev" competition for officer cadet schools, the "Professional of the Future" competition for police cadets and the "To Serve and Protect" competition for interior troop cadets;
- give training in IHL to troops preparing **for service in the northern Caucasus** or in peace-support operations abroad; train police and interior troops in international human rights law and the basic rules of IHL.

# Promotion of IHL with civil society

---

## Media, think tanks and humanitarian organizations

While a mass audience can be reached through the media, a selective audience of key actors can be found through think tanks, NGOs and international humanitarian organizations in the region. Improved contacts with both sectors can help shape the debate on IHL and bring other humanitarian issues to the fore.

---

### Objective

At the national and local levels, the media highlight IHL and humanitarian issues, portray the ICRC as a globally active, neutral and independent humanitarian organization working in conflict and regularly report on specific ICRC activities in the Russian Federation. Think tanks, NGOs and international humanitarian organizations are regularly updated on issues of ICRC concern and exchange information with the organization.

### The ICRC plans to:

- organize press trips, press competitions, round tables, photo exhibitions on humanitarian issues, present research studies and reinforce the ICRC's expert presence in the media, thereby stimulating interest in humanitarian issues and raising the ICRC's profile as a humanitarian actor;
- diversify the media's perception of the ICRC by targeting selected outlets, publishing a quarterly newsletter and producing audiovisual tools to support programmes; promote the Russian-language website;
- regularly brief selected experts on humanitarian diplomacy and IHL issues and encourage inclusion of these topics in research and policy recommendations; seek analysis of the main trends in policy-making and perceptions of IHL and the ICRC from Russian think tanks;
- support selected NGOs in obtaining enhanced knowledge of IHL and coordinate operational activities with NGOs and international organizations active in the northern Caucasus.

---

## Schools

The school programme to make young people in seven countries of the CIS aware of the basic principles of IHL has been a remarkable success in that it enjoys the support of the education authorities, and the majority of pupils and teachers in secondary schools are familiar with the ICRC-sponsored textbooks and use them regularly. With the programme now firmly established under the authorities' supervision, the ICRC's support will be phased out by 2007, but will be extended to pilot schools in Chechnya in 2005. The programme is most extensive in the Russian Federation, where it covers grades 5–11 and reaches about 2 million pupils every year. It has been extended to specialized military classes. For the time being, teacher training remains the key activity.

---

### Objective

In the Russian Federation, pupils in grades 5–8 are taught humanitarian principles on a regular basis, and instruction in basic IHL rules remains compulsory in grades 9,11. The teaching of these subjects is improved.

- The ICRC plans to:
- support the existing regional school programme coordinators; organize training seminars for teachers; continue to lobby the education authorities with a view to making sure that IHL teaching is maintained in the curricula and taught as part of teacher training;
  - promote the programme through extracurricular events and competitions; continue to provide expertise and supervise implementation and evaluation;
  - improve teaching of IHL to students in cadet schools and military classes through specific training and regular visits;
  - collaborate with the Ministry of Education and teachers in Chechnya to introduce the ICRC textbooks in a pilot group of secondary schools; distribute textbooks and teaching manuals; hold a training seminar for teachers from Chechnya.

---

### Universities

The university programme, under way since 1995, has attained a major objective, as IHL is now included as an obligatory subject in the federal standard curriculum for law studies. The university programme focuses on some 60 key facilities and concentrates on enhancing the level of knowledge of IHL among academics and the quality of teaching and research. Relations with academic circles have strengthened, especially following a co-operation agreement to promote IHL and its implementation, signed in 2003 between the Russian Association of International Law (RAIL) and the ICRC. To support teaching processes there is a need for a teaching kit which includes IHL model courses and case studies.

---

<b>Objective</b>	Future leaders and decision-makers understand the relevance of IHL and work towards its implementation and respect. The academic world builds a tradition of IHL teaching and research in the faculties of law, international relations and journalism. A network of IHL experts is set up across the Russian Federation.
------------------	---

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>The ICRC plans to:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organize regional IHL-related events, such as a round-table for civil servants and academics and the "Martens Readings" conference;</li> <li>• support teachers and lecturers in producing methodological materials and IHL manuals;</li> <li>• strengthen co-operation with RAIL; for students, organize a national essay competition, regional IHL courses and a moot court competition on IHL;</li> <li>• strengthen contacts with academic institutions in the northern Caucasus (provide 4 law faculties in the northern Caucasus with a full set of IHL books, hold information sessions at law and journalism faculties) thus ensuring a better understanding of the ICRC's activities in the region.</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------|--|

# Co-operation with the Russian Red Cross

---

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) is an important National Society with a complex structure consisting of 102 regional committees covering a vast territory. In addition to the difficulties posed by its complex structure, the RRC faces major fundraising problems, and the absence of a legal framework, with a law on its status still to be adopted.

At the RRC headquarters level, the ICRC works to strengthen the National Society's structure, its capacity to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and its tracing service, which deals mainly with files related to the Second World War (some 40,000 cases every year).

In the northern Caucasus, the RRC remains the ICRC's main operational partner. The ICRC supports the RRC's organizational development in the region, in co-operation with the International Federation, and lends financial support to the branches' activities.

---

## Objective

Based on a long-term development plan, the RRC branches in the northern Caucasus are strengthened and have the operational capacity to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance as needed. The RRC runs an effective tracing service, has strengthened a reliable national IHL committee and, at both the national and local levels, maintains respect for the Fundamental Principles in conducting its activities.

## The ICRC plans to:

### **At RRC headquarters**

- maintain a continuous dialogue between the RRC, the ICRC and the International Federation;
- financially support the RRC tracing centre and assist in bringing the archiving system up to date;
- support the RRC in developing a strategic plan to cover more of its own costs and develop ties with key national stakeholders;
- strengthen the capacity of the dissemination department/national IHL committee, particularly staff training in the branches, and continue with a pilot project for IHL dissemination by youth volunteers in 13 regions;
- maintain some financial support for the RRC museum and the RRC magazine;

### **In the northern Caucasus**

- maintain operational co-operation with the RRC in its home-care programmes in 11 regions in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, including Chechnya, reaching 2,500 elderly people through more than 200 RRC nurses;
- organize two grant competitions a year in which RRC branches can present micro-projects to assist needy people;
- support the RRC in: improving its first-aid assistance in Chechnya by creating a pool of 20 first-aid instructors; providing psychological and legal assistance in 14 regions (including Chechnya) to IDPs and residents; running playrooms for IDP children in Ingushetia and Chechnya; maintaining a recreation centre for up to 1,600 teenagers in Ingushetia; providing school meals 3 times a week to 500 children in the Novostroy region (Daghestan);
- help devise a training programme for staff and volunteers on the Movement and Fundamental Principles.