

# MOSCOW (regional)

COVERING: Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine



Opened in 1992, the Moscow delegation combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions. It supports families of missing persons and, with the Russian Red Cross Society, works to protect and assist vulnerable conflict- and violence-affected populations, including people displaced from eastern Ukraine. It helps build the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the fields of emergency preparedness and restoring family links. In the countries covered, it promotes implementation of IHL and other norms relevant to the use of force and fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

## YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**MEDIUM**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

- ▶ people in Belarus and the Russian Federation who had fled the fighting in Ukraine met their immediate needs with food and other assistance from the pertinent National Societies and the ICRC
- ▶ people in penal colonies throughout the Russian Federation, detained in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus, restored/maintained contact with relatives through ICRC family-links services
- ▶ vulnerable people in the northern Caucasus coped with the effects of past conflict and/or lingering tensions with psychosocial support, livelihood assistance and water-supply improvements
- ▶ Russian military structures incorporated IHL modules in their training, and the Commonwealth of Independent States enforced recommendations for the implementation of two weapon-related treaties
- ▶ the National Societies of the region strengthened their ability to respond to people affected by past conflict and current emergencies, with financial, technical and training support from the ICRC

## EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	5,193
Assistance	14,428
Prevention	4,199
Cooperation with National Societies	3,729
General	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,549</b>

of which: Overheads 1,681

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>133%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	46
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	216

PROTECTION	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>	
RCMs collected	30
RCMs distributed	22
Phone calls facilitated between family members	7
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	12
People reunited with their families	2
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	2
RCMs distributed	4

1. Russian Federation

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to) <sup>1</sup>	Achieved <sup>2</sup>
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>		
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 10,000	27,219
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 10,000	27,243
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 2,125	2,166
Cash	Beneficiaries 15,000	1,493
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 2,800	4,075
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Hospitals</b>		
Hospitals supported	Structures	8

1. These targeted figures include those for Ukraine, which was covered by the Moscow (regional) delegation when the targets were defined in late 2013.

2. Russian Federation

## CONTEXT

The Russian Federation maintained its influence in the former Soviet republics, for instance, through the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA), and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). It continued to play a prominent role in international affairs, for example, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It participated in the “Geneva Talks” with representatives of Georgia proper, Abkhazia and South Ossetia (see *Georgia*), and mediated in the Nagorny Karabakh conflict (see *Armenia* and *Azerbaijan*).

The status of Crimea remained the subject of a political and territorial dispute between the Russian Federation and Ukraine; in this connection, the European Union and the United States of America imposed economic sanctions on the Russian Federation.

Owing to the current situation in Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of people took refuge in Belarus and the Russian Federation.

Communities in the northern Caucasus continued to deal with the consequences of past conflict and lingering tensions, such as weapon contamination and the issue of missing persons.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2014, the ICRC regional delegation in Moscow continued to engage in dialogue with the Russian and regional authorities regarding issues of humanitarian concern in the region and around the world. It scaled up its operations in southern and western Russia, for instance, by opening an office in Rostov-on-Don, to assist people fleeing the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Conversely, in response to the prevailing circumstances in the northern Caucasus, the ICRC continued to reduce its operations and presence there, for example, concluding its water and habitat assistance activities and closing its offices in Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

People in Belarus and the Russian Federation who had fled the fighting in Ukraine met their immediate needs with food and other assistance provided by the ICRC, directly or in coordination with the Red Cross Society of Belarus and the Russian Red Cross Society. The International Federation and the ICRC coordinated their efforts to support the National Societies in the region.

In the northern Caucasus, the ICRC focused on providing support to some of the most vulnerable groups. It continued to back the Russian Red Cross Society’s accompaniment programme for the families of missing persons, its home-visiting nurses programme, its psychosocial-support facilities for children in the northern Caucasus, and its assessment of the needs of victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Through ICRC micro-economic initiatives and agricultural projects, hundreds of vulnerable households worked towards economic self-sufficiency by starting or expanding food production or income-generating activities. People in rural Chechnya had access to water in their homes following the construction of a new water-supply system, the ICRC’s last such project in the northern Caucasus.

The ICRC visited several Ukrainian servicemen being treated at Russian hospitals, and provided medical evacuation services to take the four most seriously wounded back to Ukraine. Russian hospitals

received supplies and equipment. Health professionals from the Russian Federation and Ukraine enhanced their capacities through ICRC-supported courses. Medical educational establishments in the northern Caucasus received equipment for practical training.

The ICRC continued to provide family-links services to people in penal colonies across the Russian Federation who were being held in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus.

The ICRC pursued dialogue on IHL promotion and implementation with the Belarusian, Moldovan and Russian authorities, including their national IHL committees, and with regional bodies. No new IHL-related instruments were ratified or implemented in the three countries, but some progress was made in this regard. The ICRC provided support for a working group of Russian legal experts for drafting amendments to help align the Russian criminal code with IHL; the amendments were subsequently presented for consideration to the pertinent parliamentary committee. The national IHL committees of Belarus and Moldova continued to plan the implementation of IHL-related instruments.

The IPA CIS, with ICRC support, adopted and enforced recommendations for implementing the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention; the CIS Council of Defence Ministers signed an agreement to cooperate with the ICRC on IHL training.

With ICRC support, the Russian Ground Forces High Command and the Russian Military Psychological Service incorporated IHL modules in their training, and Russian officers added to their knowledge of IHL at international workshops.

The ICRC continued to cooperate on IHL promotion with influential Russian institutions, such as the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Association of International Law. Russian media drew attention to humanitarian issues in the region and around the world; a regional competition for journalists was organized by the Union of Journalists of Russia as part of “150 years of humanitarian action”.

## CIVILIANS

### Emergency-affected people meet their immediate needs

To respond to the needs of people fleeing the situation in Ukraine, the ICRC scaled up operations in southern and western Russia, for example, by opening an office in Rostov-on-Don. Some 3,330 households (10,000 people) taking refuge in Adygea and Krasnodar Krai supplemented their diets with food assistance and benefited from household/hygiene items provided by the ICRC and distributed by the Russian Red Cross. Over 280 households (1,064 people) who had fled to Chechnya, Dagestan and North Ossetia covered their basic expenses using ICRC cash grants distributed by local Red Cross branches.

In Crimea, including Sevastopol, people displaced from eastern Ukraine benefited from monthly assistance from October to December; 5,196 households (15,395 people) met their immediate needs with food supplies and eased their living conditions with household/hygiene items. Local Red Cross branches distributed these items.

Some 460 households (1,830 persons) affected by floods in Adygea coped with their situation with the help of food supplies and

essential household items provided by the Russian Red Cross, with ICRC support. Five destitute families in Ingushetia (24 people) also received household/hygiene items provided by the ICRC through the Russian Red Cross.

### **Communities in the northern Caucasus work towards self-sufficiency**

The ICRC continued to reduce its activities for people affected by past conflict and/or lingering tensions in the northern Caucasus, for instance, bringing its water and habitat activities to a close, and cancelling plans to help IDPs and mine/ERW-affected households repair their dwellings. Nevertheless, some of the most vulnerable people continued to receive assistance.

Households in the northern Caucasus regained or maintained economic self-sufficiency by starting or expanding income-generating and food-production activities. The beneficiaries included displaced households in Ingushetia, families of missing persons, detainees and mine/ERW victims, and households in villages in southern Chechnya, where resources were in scarce supply. Using ICRC-provided supplies and equipment, some 420 households (2,200 people) augmented their existing income from farming or set up businesses such as food processing, beekeeping or trading. Ninety households (430 people) launched or boosted income-generating activities with the help of cash grants.

A survey conducted after the provision of such support found that 90% of the households had increased their income to 82% above the minimum amount necessary to meet their basic food needs; 96% of beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the project.

In Gilyani, Chechnya, 1,400 people had access to water in their homes following the installation of a new water-supply system, completed after three years; at a four-day seminar, 25 local technicians and engineers learnt how to operate the system. In Dachu Borzoy and Meskety, 2,650 people benefited from improvements made to their water infrastructure with ICRC-provided technical support and equipment.

### **Vulnerable people obtain psychosocial support and family-links services**

Over 400 families of missing persons in Chechnya and Kabardino-Balkaria availed themselves of psychosocial support under the Russian Red Cross's accompaniment programme; 445 children from vulnerable families found some comfort at playrooms in Chechnya and Ingushetia and at a psychosocial rehabilitation centre in North Ossetia. Some 1,200 elderly people across the northern Caucasus benefited from medical, material and psychosocial support under the National Society's home-visiting nurses programme. These activities received continued backing, including through professional training and supervision from the ICRC.

In Belarus and southern Russia, people fleeing the situation in Ukraine benefited from family-links services provided by the pertinent National Societies supported by the ICRC. With ICRC assistance, the remains of one Russian national were repatriated from Ukraine (see *Ukraine*).

The families of migrants in temporary detention in Belarus restored/maintained contact with their detained relatives through phone and RCM services provided by the Red Cross Society of Belarus with ICRC support.

### **Needs of mine/ERW victims and their families are identified**

With ICRC support, volunteers from the Chechnya branch of the Russian Red Cross continued to collect data on the needs of mine/ERW victims, visiting over 580 affected families, 66 of which were selected for income-generating projects (see above). At a workshop, members of the Chechen government's explosive ordnance team acquainted themselves with the National Society's activities for mine/ERW victims and their families. The general public learnt about safer behaviour in relation to weapon contamination through media features on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. Some 120 schoolchildren and 15 teachers enhanced their understanding of mine/ERW risks through activities at a youth centre.

In Moldova and the Russian Federation, activities related to humanitarian demining and destruction of stockpiled ammunition, planned jointly with the national authorities, were delayed, partly because of the crisis in Ukraine.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

#### **Detainees held in relation to the prevailing situation in the northern Caucasus maintain family links**

People detained in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus and held far from their homes, in penal colonies across the Russian Federation, maintained contact with their families through ICRC-facilitated family visits, RCMs and parcel deliveries. Nearly 350 detainees received visits from their relatives, some on more than one occasion; hundreds of inmates also benefited from the delivery of food and/or essential household/hygiene items.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

#### **Seriously injured Ukrainian soldiers are transported home**

Eight hospitals in the northern Caucasus, Rostov and Crimea received emergency medical kits; two of these hospitals had admitted weapon-wounded people, both civilians and combatants, from Ukraine.

A number of wounded Ukrainian servicemen being treated at Russian hospitals received ICRC visits. The ICRC provided medical evacuation services, in cooperation with the authorities concerned, to transport the four most seriously wounded back to Ukraine. In Crimea, staff of the Red Cross branches in Sevastopol and Simferopol honed their first-aid skills with financial, material and technical support from the ICRC.

#### **Health professionals enhance their skills**

With ICRC assistance, health-care providers increased their ability to treat weapon-wounded and mine/ERW victims. For instance, 34 doctors from the Russian Federation and Ukraine strengthened their skills at an emergency room trauma course in Vladikavkaz; 17 nurses and ambulance personnel from the northern Caucasus enhanced their emergency response capacities through advanced training.

Five medical educational institutions in the northern Caucasus expanded their options for practical training following the ICRC's provision of equipment.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

#### **States and regional bodies take steps to implement IHL**

Dialogue with national and regional authorities focused on humanitarian issues in the region and around the world.

While no further IHL-related instruments were ratified or implemented in Belarus, Moldova or the Russian Federation, some progress was made in this regard. A working group of Russian legal experts received assistance for drafting amendments to help align the Russian criminal code with IHL; these were subsequently presented to the pertinent parliamentary committee for consideration. Members of a Russian State organization tasked with overseeing legislative activity participated in a round-table on legal protection for civilians during armed conflict, and developed recommendations for the Ministry of Defence. Russian government representatives participated in discussions on the “Strengthening IHL” process in Switzerland (see *International law and policy*).

The national IHL committees of Belarus and Moldova, aided by ICRC expertise, continued to plan the implementation of IHL-related instruments.

The IPA CIS, supported by the ICRC, adopted and enforced recommendations for implementing the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. The ICRC’s Health Care in Danger project was presented to the members of the IPA’s expert council on health care. It was agreed that the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Social Policy and Human Rights would draw up pertinent legislative recommendations in 2015.

### **Russian and regional military structures advance the integration of IHL in their training**

Dialogue with the Russian Ground Forces High Command focused on the integration of IHL in the military educational system. A session on IHL, including a module on the ICRC’s mandate, was incorporated in the training for officers of the High Command.

The Russian Military Psychological Service included an IHL module in an annual training event for the Russian armed forces. Military psychologists participated in a competition on the prevention of IHL violations through psychological support for combatants.

The CIS Council of Defence Ministers and the ICRC signed an agreement to cooperate on IHL training. At a round-table organized jointly by the CSTO and the ICRC, representatives of CSTO working bodies discussed the incorporation of IHL in military training in CSTO member States.

Participants in a training exercise for CSTO forces hosted by Kyrgyzstan became more familiar with IHL and the ICRC’s mandate in relation to peacekeeping operations (see *Kyrgyzstan*). Senior military officials from Belarus, Moldova and the Russian Federation, as well as representatives of the CSTO and the CIS Council of Defence Ministers, attended a course in San Remo. Six senior officers representing Belarus, the Russian Federation and the CSTO participated in the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (see *International law and policy*).

Through an IHL instructors’ course, 27 Russian military academics and representatives of the Russian Military Legal Service furthered their expertise in legal frameworks applicable to armed conflict and security operations. At a workshop in Belgium, officials from the Russian Ministry of Defence added to their knowledge of the legal protection for medical services during armed conflict (see *Brussels*); they also learnt about legal/ethical issues linked to autonomous weapon systems at an experts’ meeting in Switzerland. In Belarus, senior officers and air force personnel learnt more about IHL at

seminars organized jointly by the Belarusian Ministry of Defence and the ICRC.

### **Civil society helps promote IHL**

Cooperation on IHL promotion with influential Russian institutions, including the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Association of International Law, continued. For instance, a State-affiliated civil society organization participated in a round-table on legal provisions for the protection of civilians during armed conflict, and developed recommendations for the Russian Ministry of Defence.

With ICRC support, Belarusian, Moldovan and Russian law students participated in international IHL events.

Moscow State University and the ICRC jointly organized a conference on information security, cyber warfare and international law, attended by Russian legal experts and representatives of State agencies.

### **Journalists raise awareness of humanitarian concerns and the Movement’s work**

The ICRC kept the general public informed about its humanitarian activities in Ukraine. Social media posts drew attention to ICRC efforts to provide emergency aid to those in need. Drawing on ICRC communication materials, Russian media gave wide coverage to humanitarian concerns, for example, issues linked to the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the plight of people affected by past conflicts and by emergencies such as Ebola. The Union of Journalists of Russia organized a regional competition as part of “150 years of humanitarian action”.

At an international round-table, journalists and researchers discussed the protection afforded by IHL to people covering situations of armed conflict. TV reporters travelling to crisis spots learnt basic first aid at an ICRC training session.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

### **Movement partners respond to needs arising from situations of violence**

With financial, technical and training support from the ICRC, Russian Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia strengthened their ability to assist people fleeing the situation in Ukraine. The Russian Red Cross branch in Saint Petersburg received assistance for maintaining a temporary accommodation centre for people arriving from Ukraine, and for a hotline allowing people to ask for aid. With support from the ICRC, the Red Cross branches in Crimea enhanced their emergency preparedness (see *Wounded and sick*) and consolidated their set-up following their integration into the Russian Red Cross.

The Russian Red Cross continued to build its tracing capacities with ICRC assistance, implementing an action plan drafted after a 2012–13 audit.

The Red Cross Society of Belarus received financial assistance to provide people from Ukraine with food and winter clothes, replenish its emergency supplies and train its staff.

Staff from the National Societies of Belarus and the Russian Federation built their communication capacities at two ICRC training sessions. The International Federation and the ICRC coordinated their efforts to support the National Societies in the region.

## Russian Red Cross endeavours to strengthen the legal basis for its activities

The Russian Red Cross continued its years-long work on a draft law on the National Society and the emblem, encouraging government officials and academics to support the law; no progress was made, however. It continued to conduct first-aid training and to provide psychosocial and other assistance to vulnerable people (see *Civilians*).

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION <sup>1</sup>		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		30			
RCMs distributed		22			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		7			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>					
People reunited with their families		2			
Human remains transferred/repatriated		1			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		45	5	2	
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	12			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		12			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		2,467	90	12	76
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	10			
<b>Documents</b>					
People to whom travel documents were issued		14			
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		2			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected		2			
RCMs distributed		4			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		349			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		3			

1. Russian Federation

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE <sup>1</sup>		Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	27,219	58%	29%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	27,219		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	27,243	59%	30%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	27,227		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	2,166	35%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,127		
Cash	Beneficiaries	1,493	44%	33%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,271		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	4,075	20%	10%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	0		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	638		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	332		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	10		
Cash	Beneficiaries	3		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	8		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	8		
Admissions	Patients	1,974	682	47
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	26	8	
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	1,948		
Operations performed		1,510		

1. Russian Federation