

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 in the northern Caucasus. 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.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	3,622
Assistance	3,726
Prevention	4,223
Cooperation with National Societies	1,016
General	-
Total	12,588
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	768

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	167



ICRC regional delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 ICRC office

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ in the northern Caucasus, vulnerable people affected by past conflicts/the ongoing situation strengthen their coping mechanisms thanks to livelihood assistance and support in meeting their psychological, social and health needs
- ▶ the Russian authorities facilitate ICRC activities for conflict/violence-affected people in the northern Caucasus, while supporting broader humanitarian issues and ICRC initiatives in contexts of mutual interest
- ▶ the region's national IHL committees take measures to ratify/implement IHL, with the Commonwealth of Independent States promoting recommendations for implementing weapon-related treaties among its member States
- ▶ at round-tables co-organized with the Belarusian Defence Ministry, the region's Defence Ministries and the Collective Security Treaty Organization agree on steps to fill gaps in IHL integration in military decision-making
- ▶ in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the authorities concerned enhance their capacities to address weapon contamination at technical workshops conducted with the help of international experts
- ▶ the National Societies, as recognized auxiliaries to the respective authorities, take steps to strengthen their core capacities while contributing to a coordinated Movement approach to addressing the plight of migrants in the region

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	10,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	10,000
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	2,125
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,800



© Leila Satueva/ICRC

CONTEXT

The Russian Federation maintains its influence in the former Soviet republics, including through regional mechanisms such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Customs Union. It also plays a prominent role in international affairs, including as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is involved in international peace negotiations, including as a participant in the “Geneva Talks” with representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia (see *Georgia*) and as a mediator in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict (see *Armenia* and *Azerbaijan*).

The northern Caucasus republics continue to be beset by violence in the form of skirmishes, bombings, armed

attacks on law enforcement agencies and ad hoc “security operations”. These have repercussions on the lives of the civilian population, while recent political and security developments pose challenges to independent humanitarian action there.

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine continue to deal with weapon contamination and unstable ammunition stockpiles.

No progress has been made in peace talks, mediated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, between the Republic of Moldova and the leadership of the breakaway Transnistria region.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the Moscow regional delegation will endeavour to continue addressing the needs of civilians affected by past conflicts and the ongoing situation in the northern Caucasus, while maintaining dialogue with the relevant authorities to secure acceptance of its activities. Working with a reduced set-up, the ICRC will seek to build or reinforce the coping mechanisms of vulnerable groups, including IDPs; families of missing persons, detainees or victims of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW); and people living in weapon-contaminated areas. It will do so through a combination of assistance activities, carried out with the Russian Red Cross Society and other local partners, aimed at: helping such groups rebuild their livelihoods through grants for micro-economic activities and agricultural or other inputs for boosting food production; providing them with safe access to water; and improving the safety of their homes. In parallel, vulnerable people, including the elderly, families of the missing, and children, will receive support from the appropriate service providers in meeting their psychological, social and health needs, and from the Russian Red Cross through its home-visiting nurses programme, playrooms and psychological support centre.

Efforts to boost emergency response capacities in the northern Caucasus will focus on training doctors, nurses and medical students in emergency care, thus helping bring their skills in line with national standards.

Across the region, National Society family-links services will help relatives separated by armed conflict, other situations of violence, migration or other circumstances to restore contact. Movement meetings will aim to develop a coordinated regional approach to responding to the plight of migrants. In the Russian Federation, the ICRC will enable detainees held far from their homes to receive visits or care packages from their families by covering travel and other related costs.

To gain acceptance of its activities, particularly in the northern Caucasus, the ICRC will pursue dialogue with the relevant authorities at all levels, enhancing their understanding of the ICRC’s mandate and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action for people affected

by armed conflict and other situations of violence. It will also engage with authorities of regional/global influence to enlist their support for addressing broader humanitarian concerns and for ICRC operations in contexts of mutual interest. Humanitarian issues will likewise be highlighted through public communication and interaction with journalists, NGOs and think-tanks. The Moscow regional communication support centre will continue to supply translations and publications for regionwide distribution and manage the ICRC’s Russian-language website.

Enhancing respect for IHL and other relevant norms and encouraging their integration into political and military decision-making processes will remain priorities in the field of prevention. Cooperation with the national IHL committees and their international association will support the ratification of IHL treaties and their incorporation into national legislation, while round-tables and meetings with military authorities will seek to advance the integration of IHL/other applicable norms into their operations. To these ends, the ICRC will also pursue joint initiatives with regional bodies such as the CIS, along with its Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA), and the CSTO, including its Parliamentary Assembly.

In the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the ICRC will work with the respective National Societies and/or the authorities concerned to enhance the protection of civilians from weapon contamination.

In coordination with other Movement partners, the ICRC will contribute to strengthening the position of the region’s National Societies as auxiliaries to the authorities in emergency response, in addition to helping them boost their emergency-preparedness, first-aid and communication capacities. In particular, the Russian Red Cross will receive support in drafting laws recognizing its status and protecting the Movement’s emblems.

The ICRC will coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners and other humanitarian actors to maximize their impact.