

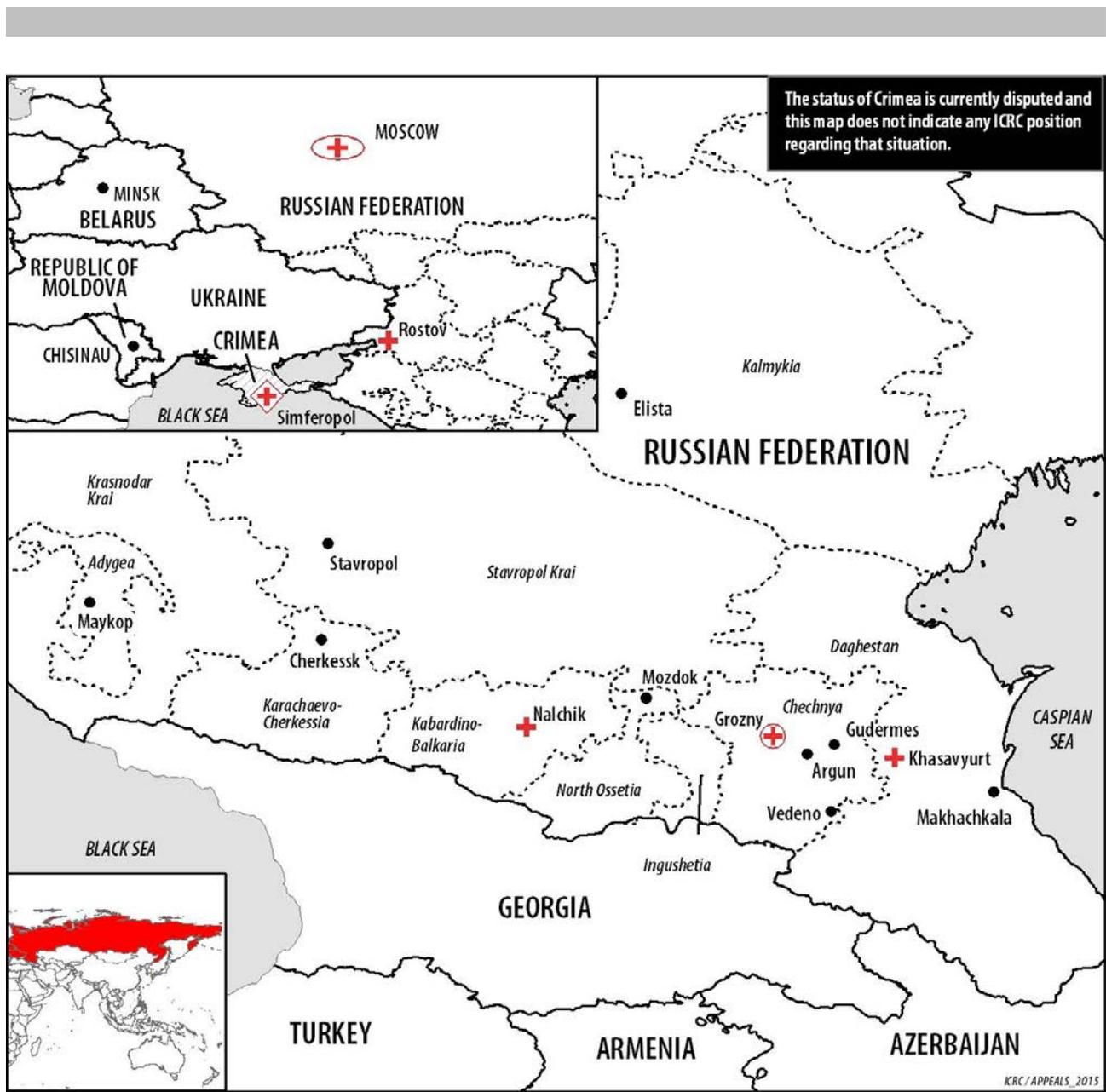
MOSCOW (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation

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.

BUDGET IN KCHF	
Protection	3,550
Assistance	2,275
Prevention	3,800
Cooperation with National Societies	2,501
General	117
Total	12,242
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>747</i>

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	139



- + ICRC regional delegation
- + ICRC sub-delegation
- + ICRC mission
- + ICRC office

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ the national authorities across the region support the ICRC's work worldwide, particularly in sensitive contexts
- ▶ civilians who have fled the conflict in Ukraine, and the households hosting them, meet their immediate needs following the provision of food and hygiene items
- ▶ family members separated by conflict, violence or migration re-establish contact or reunite with the help of coordinated Movement family-links services
- ▶ the Moldovan authorities protect civilians in weapon-contaminated areas through clearance activities carried out with the ICRC, while local actors in the Russian Federation boost their capacities to address the issue
- ▶ military forces throughout the region take steps to incorporate IHL in their operations, with the help of the Collective Security Treaty Organization's recommendations for establishing pertinent legal frameworks
- ▶ the region's National Societies strengthen their institutional/organizational capacities to provide humanitarian assistance in line with the Safer Access Framework

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	7,800
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	7,800
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	1,170

CONTEXT

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

The status of Crimea is the subject of a political and territorial dispute between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Owing to the current situation in Ukraine, a significant number of people are taking refuge in the Russian Federation.

The northern Caucasus republics continue to struggle with the consequences of past conflicts; the issue of missing persons remains a major concern.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the Moscow regional delegation will endeavour to address the needs of civilians affected by past conflicts and the ongoing situation in the northern Caucasus, as well as by the conflict in Ukraine, while maintaining dialogue with the relevant authorities to secure acceptance of its work.

Having scaled back its operations and concluded its assistance activities in the northern Caucasus in 2014, the ICRC will continue to pursue dialogue with the Russian authorities on all humanitarian concerns affecting the civilian populations. It will encourage the authorities and other key parties concerned to view the issue of missing persons as an issue to be addressed in priority. The ICRC will continue to lend technical support to the Russian Red Cross Society's activities providing legal, administrative and psychological support to families of the missing.

Throughout the region, National Society family-links services will help relatives separated by conflict, migration or other circumstances to restore contact. In the Russian Federation, the ICRC will enable detainees held far from their

homes to receive visits or packages from their families by covering travel and other related costs.

The ICRC will continue to work with National Society staff in Chechnya to enhance protection for civilians from mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW); it will help national authorities in the Russian Federation and Moldova strengthen their capacities to address weapon contamination.

People who have fled from Ukraine to the Russian Federation, as well as the local households hosting some of them, will be able to meet their immediate needs following the provision of food rations and hygiene items, or cash transfers to enable them to purchase these items.

The ICRC will continue to help boost emergency response capacities, particularly in the northern Caucasus, by organizing/supporting training for health-care personnel to enable them to bring their skills in line with national standards. It will help enhance instruction at medical teaching institutions by donating educational materials and equipment.

The ICRC will work with the National Societies concerned to increase acceptance for humanitarian action and principles worldwide by maintaining dialogue with national authorities throughout the region to strengthen their familiarity with its activities. It will provide national and international media with information on its work, and encourage journalists, academics, think-tanks and other opinion-makers – including through their involvement in IHL-related events – to advocate for IHL implementation in their countries.

To enhance respect for IHL and other applicable norms, the ICRC will continue to support the national authorities in ratifying/implementing IHL instruments and incorporating them in domestic legislation. It will organize meetings and round-tables with armed forces throughout the region to encourage them to incorporate IHL in their decision-making processes. To these ends, the ICRC will continue to pursue joint initiatives with regional bodies such as the CIS, along with its Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA), as well as the CSTO and its Parliamentary Assembly. The ICRC will continue to lend technical support to the national IHL committees of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova).

With other Movement partners, the ICRC will continue to support the region's National Societies in strengthening their position as auxiliaries to the authorities in emergency response; it will also help them bolster their emergency-preparedness and their first-aid and communication capacities.

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

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Some of the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine have fled to the Russian Federation. Of these, some are staying in shelters run by the authorities. Others are hosted in private homes, straining these households' resources. Reportedly, some arrests have been made in the region in connection with the current situation.

Civilians in the northern Caucasus continue to cope with the consequences of past conflicts and the current situation. Many families remain without news of their missing relatives.

Migrants, including those in detention, require support to restore family links.

In Moldova and the Russian Federation – notably Chechnya – weapon contamination threatens the well-being of entire communities.

Objective

People affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence have their needs met. Family members separated by conflict/violence, migration or natural disaster are able to restore contact.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ continue dialogue with the Russian authorities regarding the protection afforded by IHL and other applicable norms to people affected by the prevailing situations, including minority populations
- ▶ encourage the Russian authorities and other stakeholders to view the issue of missing persons as a humanitarian concern and to take steps to address it, including through the development of applicable legal and administrative mechanisms

Restoring family links

- ▶ through training, funding and material support, including for joint activities and regional coordination, help the region's National Societies boost their family-links services for people separated from their family members, among them vulnerable migrants, including migrants in detention in Belarus, and people with detained relatives
- ▶ at their request, help people reunite with their relatives; issue travel documents to enable refugees and asylum seekers to resettle in third countries

Protection and assistance

- ▶ continue providing technical support for the Russian Red Cross's accompaniment programme, helping it provide legal, administrative and psychosocial assistance to families of missing persons; explore possible areas of

cooperation with family associations delivering similar assistance

Assistance

Economic security

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ help up to 2,600 households (9,000 people) who have fled the conflict in Ukraine meet their immediate needs for three months, by distributing food rations and hygiene items
- ▶ provide up to 390 host households (1,350 people) with income support in the form of cash transfers, thereby helping them offset the costs of housing displaced people for up to three months

Weapon contamination

- ▶ with a view to reducing the impact of weapon contamination on the people affected:
 - continue to support and train National Society staff/volunteers in Chechnya in collecting and managing data on mine/ERW incidents and victims' needs; similarly, offer the Russian authorities technical/training assistance to help them address the issue
 - conduct joint weapon-clearance activities with the Moldovan authorities

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees from the northern Caucasus, in particular those sentenced on security-related charges, are often held in places of detention located in distant parts of the Russian Federation. There are also people held in connection with the situation in Ukraine.

Families of these detainees are not always notified of their location. Those families who do know where their relatives are detained nevertheless have difficulty maintaining contact with them, owing to the expenses involved in travelling to visit them.

Objective

Detainees are able to maintain contact with their families.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Russian Federation

- ▶ discuss the circumstances of people detained in connection with the prevailing situations; on this basis, explore the possibility of gaining access to them
- ▶ *Restoring family links*
- ▶ by covering the costs involved, enable up to 400 people detained in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus and held in detention facilities far from their homes to receive family visits, and up to 400 detainees not visited by their families to receive food and/or hygiene parcels from them up to 2 times a year
- ▶ offer the RCM service to enable detainees to keep in touch with their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

Efforts to modernize health care, in tandem with the National Health Priority Project now in its ninth year, are continuing in the Russian Federation. Despite some improvements to the health system in the northern Caucasus, training for medical personnel remains a necessity.

Objective

Weapon-wounded people have access to appropriate medical care.

Plan of action and indicators**Assistance***Russian Federation*

- ▶ contribute to ensuring that the weapon-wounded receive appropriate care that meets national standards, by:
 - conducting 2 emergency room trauma management courses for up to 40 doctors
 - sponsoring the participation of up to 25 nurses and ambulance staff in advanced courses on emergency trauma care, thereby enabling them to upgrade their skills
 - donating educational materials and equipment to enrich the training of future doctors at 6 medical teaching institutions

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The region's States are party to certain IHL instruments but have not fully incorporated them into domestic law. The CIS IPA plays a key role in drafting model laws and providing recommendations for national implementation.

The CSTO participates in multilateral operations. Belarus and Moldova are working to incorporate IHL into their military training and sanctions systems.

Academics and think-tanks can directly influence high-level policy/decision-makers. The media and young people help shape public opinion.

Objective

The authorities, including political and military/law enforcement bodies, know and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. The media, academia and other influential circles help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among key decision-makers and the wider public, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the Movement's work.

Plan of action and indicators**Prevention**

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ to increase awareness of humanitarian issues and acceptance for the ICRC's mandate and work:
 - continue networking and dissemination activities with the CSTO, the CIS and national authorities throughout the region, thus strengthening their familiarity with the ICRC's activities; in particular, encourage the Russian authorities to support the ICRC's work around the world – especially in sensitive contexts – including through financial support
 - encourage the national and international media to cover the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian activities; provide them with information on its activities, including through briefings, press releases, publications and website updates
 - through training and technical support, help the National Societies strengthen their communication

capacities and promote the Movement's work more effectively

- ▶ to promote IHL implementation throughout the region:
 - pursue dialogue and other network-building efforts to secure the support of the CIS IPA and the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly in promoting the adoption of national measures on IHL implementation and development among their member States
 - encourage journalists, academics, think tanks, NGOs, young people and other opinion-makers – including through their participation in IHL-related events, such as the Martens Readings International Conference and two planned round-tables on IHL development and clarification – to advocate for the ratification/implementation of IHL instruments in their countries
 - continue to lend technical expertise to the national IHL committees of Belarus and Moldova
 - facilitate the national authorities' participation in a regional seminar on IHL implementation; encourage the Russian authorities' participation in a planned follow-up to the 2014 experts' meeting on IHL and cyber-warfare
- ▶ to encourage respect for IHL and other applicable norms and their integration into regional and national military decision-making processes:
 - engage the region's military authorities, including the CSTO and its Parliamentary Assembly, in discussions on these matters; exchange perspectives on humanitarian issues and experiences in contexts of common concern
 - discuss, with CSTO working bodies, recommendations for incorporating IHL in CSTO education/training and in the domestic legislation of its member States, including through the establishment of legal frameworks addressing priority issues such as the use of force and weapons
 - support military academics in Belarus in drafting recommendations for incorporating IHL into the armed forces' decision-making processes
 - facilitate the participation of trainers and senior officers in IHL workshops and courses abroad
- ▶ to reach a wider audience among Russian speakers, ensure that ICRC publications are translated according to international standards; provide interpretation services for regional and local events

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies run tracing services (see *Civilians*) and promote the Fundamental Principles and the Movement's work (see *Actors of influence*). They engage in emergency preparedness activities and, in Belarus, provide ad hoc assistance to vulnerable migrants.

Objective

The region's National Societies have strong legal bases for independent action. They carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ with the International Federation, provide the National Societies with technical, financial and training support, helping them build their institutional and organizational capacities, particularly in:
 - providing humanitarian assistance using the Safer Access Framework, notably first aid and family-links services, to emergency-affected populations, including in sensitive environments
 - enhancing public communication and advocacy efforts on humanitarian concerns
 - strengthening their legal bases and their policies and procedures for human resources management, financial management and accountability
- ▶ define the scope of partnership/cooperation with the National Societies, particularly to help them carry out the aforementioned activities