

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Russian Federation

Appeal No. MAARU001

31/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to 30/06/2009.



Russian Red Cross nurse provides a TB patient with drugs in the Pskov regional branch. **Photo: Russian Red Cross**

In brief

Programme purpose: The programme areas, aimed at alleviating suffering among the most vulnerable people, are aligned with *Strategy 2010* and contribute to the four Global Agenda goals with a central focus on health and care.

Programme summary: In the first half of 2009, the Russian Red Cross supported by the International Federation's regional representation in Moscow continued to implement Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention programmes in alignment with Global Agenda goal two. Due to the lack of funding activities under disaster management and organizational development could not be carried out.

A modification of the USAID grant for the TB programme was prepared to include new regions in programme implementation and to reflect the additional funding provided by USAID for the continuation of the programme. All remaining regions received approval of the Green Light Committee for supply of second-line drugs to treat multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients. In April 2009 the programme was strengthened by integrating in it an infectious control component supported by KNCV¹.

Thanks to the youth peer education activity HIV awareness of young people in Novokuznetsk and Kemerovo increased by 60 per cent.

¹ Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation

The National Society with support from the International Federation started developing its migration programme. A conference on migration for Red Cross Red Crescent Societies from Commonwealth of Independent States countries has been also prepared and scheduled for September 2009.

Financial situation: The initial budget for 2009 was CHF 2,845,129 which was revised to CHF 3,491,712 (USD 3,217,071 or EUR 2,290,068) due to two new projects, one related to the Beslan hostage crisis, and another one to strengthen TB infectious control. Out of the total budget, 81 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 33 per cent of received funding.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: In total 1,736 people directly benefited from the programmes supported by the International Federation in the Russian Federation.

Programme Update January-June 2009 – Russian Federation		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Health and Care	TB patients and their relatives, medical staff, inmates and staff of penitentiary institutes, people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their associates, PLHIV released from prisons, students of schools for children with behaviour problems from orphanages, high school and university students, Russian Red Cross volunteers and employees	TB patients – 569 Orphanage children - 416 Prisoners – 308 Prison staff – 60 Street children - 280 Red Cross nurses – 42 HIV instructors - 61
Total number of people reached		1,736

Our partners: The Russian Red Cross cooperated with five partner National Societies, USAID, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies operating in Russia, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, different non-governmental organizations, various governmental organizations at the federal and local levels, universities, medical research centres, educational institutions, mass media, as well as international and local enterprises.

Context

The economic stability during the last eight years was replaced by a less certain period towards the end of 2008. Since October 2008, the first signs of the global economic crisis seriously hitting Russia have become increasingly visible. Drops in oil prices dramatically reduced the state’s budget income. Even though the government has assured the Red Cross that it would keep all social programmes untouched, the consequences of the crisis, such as a rise in food and drug prices and housing expenses are having a very negative effect on the most vulnerable groups of the population. According to the World Bank, the number of poor people in Russia will increase by 2.75 million towards the end of 2009.

Russia has one of the worst Tuberculosis problems in Europe with nearly 83.5 cases per 100,000 population. In the republic of Tuva (183.2 cases per 100,000), Primorsky krai (145.3 cases per 100,000), and the republic of Buryatia (142.2 cases per 100,000)² the rates are three or even four times higher than in the rest of the country. The multi-drug resistant form of the disease accounted in 2007 for about 10 per cent of the total number of cases, and this figure continues to rise. According to the statistics of the Federal AIDS Centre, some 376,000 people in Russia were living with HIV as per February 2008. Adult HIV prevalence (among people aged 15-49) is 1.1 and continues to increase.

² Source: www.tbpoliс.ru

About 110 people get infected with HIV daily according to the Ministry of Health and Social Development statistics of August 2007. Only in January 2009 some 1,940 new HIV infected people were registered in Russia.

In May 2009, the Russian government committed itself to supporting the capacity building of the Russian Red Cross and strengthening its national and international role. Several relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Health and Social Development, EMERCOM³ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are currently preparing plans of action in the fields of traditional Red Cross activities, which might result also in government funding of some programmes implemented by the Russian Red Cross. The International Federation's regional representation is involved in the process by providing technical support.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning

Component outcome 1: A National Society contingency plan for human pandemic based on the National Society disaster management plan have been developed and recognized by the government.

Component outcome 2: Operational guidelines for psychosocial support in the National Society have been developed and introduced.

Component outcome 3: The psychosocial support component has been integrated in other programmes such as TB, HIV programmes and those addressing social exclusion.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers on psychosocial support in five regions of the Russian Federation.

Component outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in human pandemic preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers, effective mechanisms for response in six regions of the Russian Federation.

Component outcome 3: Strengthened financial and technical resources for human pandemic response.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness/ Disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Strengthened capacities of communities in avian influenza outbreak-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness.

Due to the lack of funding no activities under disaster management were implemented

Health and care

Programme component 1: Tuberculosis

Component outcomes: *(Note: The outcomes for the TB component have been slightly amended to better reflect the activities where the Russian Red Cross, supported by the International Federation, can have an impact.)*

- The regional authorities and TB medical staff in six target regions of the Russian Federation were assisted in developing an effective TB control system and internationally recognized approach to TB diagnosis and treatment (DOTS and DOTS+)⁴.

³ Emergency Committee - Federal State Establishment "Agency for Support and Coordination of Russian Participation in International Humanitarian Operations" (EMERCOM Agency) of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergencies of the Russian Federation

⁴ DOTS - Directly Observed Treatment, Short course.

- Red Cross regional branches have assisted 1,300 TB patients with psychosocial support to increase their adherence to treatment in the six regions of the Russian Federation.
- The Red Cross has facilitated improved links between prison and civilian TB services and ensured uninterrupted treatment of released patients.

In the first half of 2009 the International Federation's regional representation in Moscow together with the Russian Red Cross continued the implementation of the USAID funded TB programme. The programme is implemented in six regions of the Russian Federation (Khabarovsk krai, republic of Khakassia, Jewish Autonomous region, Belgorod region, Pskov region and republic of Adygeia). Within the programme, meetings with regional health authorities were organized to attract their attention to the TB problem and ways to prevent the further spread of the disease. As a result all necessary conditions were created by local authorities in the TB facilities to train medical staff on improving MDR-TB management (DOTS+ activity). Russian Red Cross regional branches were also supported in establishing contact with regional health centres and were provided with premises and proper conditions for Red Cross psychosocial support to TB patients.

The last two regions of Khabarovsk krai and the Jewish Autonomous region have received approval from the Green Light Committee for free-of-charge supply of second-line drugs for MDR-TB patients. The republic of Adygeia that was granted such approval in 2008 started receiving drugs and treating patients. International Federation and Russian Red Cross efforts in the target regions were closely coordinated with other TB prevention programmes funded by the local authorities and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In April 2009 the programme was strengthened by integrating in it an infectious control component supported by KNCV⁵.

Totally 569 TB patients (353 with sensitive TB and 216 with MDR-TB) received social support through Russian Red Cross regional branches during January-June 2009. In order to provide drugs to those patients who were unable to come to TB dispensaries and to promote adherence to treatment, 42 Red Cross nurses carried out 3,765 home visits.



Winner of a TB poster competition among school children.

Data available at present among 1,795 TB patients shows that treatment default rate in the programme regions is within the international standard of 10 per cent, except Khabarovsk region where it is 22 per cent.

Regional Red Cross branches printed and distributed about 20,000 copies of several booklets concerning TB infection and its treatment. More than 2,000 volunteers supported the TB project implementation. In order to improve their professional skills in MDR-TB treatment, local TB facilities staff from the civil and penitentiary system was involved in various national and international training sessions.

Major public actions in the target regions were dedicated to the World TB Day 2009. School children from 18 different regions participated in the poster competition dedicated to TB prevention.

Constraints: The biggest challenge remaining in the Russian Federation is absence of precise national normative base and protocols directed to MDR-TB intervention. Taking into account, that TB morbidity rate in Khabarovsk is one of the highest (2.5-1.7 times more than in average in Russia), and considering the large number of defaulters and poor management in the regional TB facilities, serious technical support and advising should be carried out to improve the situation.

⁵ Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation

Programme component 2: HIV prison project

Component outcomes:

- The living conditions of inmates and released prisoners living with HIV have improved.
- The information level of penitentiary institutions staff and inmates regarding HIV infection is increased, the stigma towards inmates living with HIV is decreased.
- The experience gained in the prison project in five regions has been disseminated to other regions of Russia.

Due to the lack of funding for the HIV prison project in the three regions of Orel, Chuvashia and Khabarovsk, the activities have been stopped in HIV prevention and support of inmates living with HIV. However, the prison staff already trained within the project continue transferring their knowledge to inmates on HIV issues.

Besides the activities under the planned outcomes, peer education was conducted in the frame of the British Red Cross supported programme on HIV prevention among young people in restricted educational institutions of Kemerovo and Novokuznetsk, as well as care and support provided to prisoners living with HIV in Orenburg and Saint-Petersburg supported by USAID.

The HIV peer education programme supported by the British Red Cross was extended from January till May 2009. In this period 61 new peer instructors (41 in Novokuznetsk and 20 in Kemerovo) were trained during 21 methodical meetings. In total, 416 young people from five orphanages participated in HIV prevention training (222 in Kemerovo and 194 in Novokuznetsk). Pre- and post-training tests showed an increase of 60 per cent in participants' knowledge which creates good conditions to change their sexual behaviour to more safer. Some 600 people took part in mass actions on HIV prevention.

Psychosocial support to street children and adolescent-prisoners:

In Saint-Petersburg and Orenburg the Russian Red Cross provided medical, nutritional, legal and psychosocial support to about 280 street children through *social bureaus* (networks of partner organizations for comprehensive support in prevention, medical examination and treatment, social, psychological and legal assistance). In addition Red Cross workers distributed second-hand clothing, hygiene parcels and arranged hairdressing service. Special focus was put on teenagers using drugs and on PLHIV. Among the former 44 people were referred to the AIDS centre for rehabilitation and examination.

HIV prevention programmes in the juvenile penitentiary institutions included pre- and post-HIV testing, consulting of young prisoners, training of prison staff and inmates and psychosocial support of released inmates. In the first half of 2009, some 1,670 consultations were held and 62 new cases of HIV were registered in the target institutions. About 200 PLHIV receive psychological support and information from Red Cross programme staff and volunteers. The target audience was involved in training sessions, radio-lectures and received printing materials on different topics related to HIV and HIV/TB co-infection.

Social bureau was established in Sankt-Petersburg and Orenburg as a body of collaborative activity of the Russian Red Cross regional branches and other organizations working in HIV area. The social bureaus provided social support to prisoners and released ones of 15-26 years living with HIV during the first six months after release. This assisted them in returning to a normal life and continuing their treatment. Red Cross staff and volunteers also helped in restoring necessary documents and getting access to medical or other institutions.

Organizational development/Capacity building

Programme component 1: Organizational development

Component outcome 1: Improved headquarters capacity to manage the overall organization (human resources, reporting lines).

Component outcome 2: Enhanced ability of selected branches to undertake, manage and sustain programmes.

Component outcome 3: Replicable model for volunteer management at regional branch level developed, tested and introduced in selected branches.

Component outcome 4: All programmes and projects supported by the International Federation formulated to contribute to organizational adjustment, building branch capacity, improving volunteer management and increasing access to resources.

Programme component 2: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Russian Red Cross potential to independently provide sustainable development of HIV prevention activities has been strengthened.

Programme component 3: Fund-raising and access to resources

Component outcome 1: A replicable model for training in fund-raising techniques for Russian Red Cross headquarters and branches has been developed and tested.

Component outcome 2: Potential national sources of funding have been identified and assessed, conditions for access clarified and capacity to meet such conditions put in place at the Russian Red Cross headquarters.

Component outcome 3: Mechanisms for accessing similar funding at regional level have been identified and assessed, conditions for access clarified and capacity put in place in selected branches.

Due to the lack of funding no activities within this programme area were implemented.

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Migration

Component outcome 1: A migration programme has been elaborated.

In the first half of 2009 the National Society assisted by the International Federation's regional representation in Moscow and the Europe zone migration coordinator started developing its migration programme based on the experience of the Saint-Petersburg centre. Partnership links were established with UN agencies based in Moscow such as UNHCR, IOM and ILO. As a result, the programme was drafted together with a budget and a migration conference for Red Cross Red Crescent Societies from Commonwealth of Independent States countries has been prepared and scheduled for the end of September 2009.

Working in partnership

The Russian Red Cross and the International Federation's regional representation in Moscow cooperate with the Russian health authorities, TB institutes, USAID, WHO and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the field of TB programmes. Global Fund social support to TB patients treated under the USAID project can be a good example of collaboration between different organizations with the same main goal – to treat and to provide care and support to TB patients in the Russian Federation. The Russian Red Cross together with the Federation regional representation continues to be an active member of the multi-sector High Level Working Group on TB. In the first half of 2009 cooperation was strengthened with the Federal Service of Sentence Execution. Russian Red Cross and Federation staff provided monitoring and evaluation of penitentiary TB services and laboratory.

Several agencies contributed to the implementation of the HIV programme such as local authorities, youth affairs committees, the regional AIDS centre and health facilities, municipal inter-departmental commission on HIV infection prophylaxis, local penitentiary facilities, UNFPA, the Y-Peer network and UN Youth Council, as well as institutions for orphans, drug abuse clinic, local police and private firms. Cooperation of the Orenburg and Saint-Petersburg regional Red Cross branches with the local authorities and related stakeholders resulted in the creation of an interagency network, called *Social*

Bureau with the aim to provide effective social support to street children and HIV-positive adolescents released from prisons.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Participation in international meetings contributes to increasing the professional skills of Federation and National Society staff.

During the fifth European Congress on Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in Dubrovnik in May 2009, the International Federation together with Russian Red Cross TB coordinators and the head of the Pskov Red Cross branch presented its poster developed on “*Red Cross model for social support to TB patients in the Russian Federation*”.

At the TB working group meeting in Beijing in April 2009 the Russian Red Cross TB coordinator shared the National Society’s experience in public awareness-raising, and presented the findings of the evaluation of the TB project in Belgorod conducted by London scientific school specialists.

The HIV programme results were presented during a partnership meeting, organized by UNFPA and UNAIDS and stimulated keen interest among the participants. UNFPA suggested that the Russian Red Cross should develop an “HIV prevention among vulnerable groups based on the peer to peer principle” manual, which can incorporate best practices of the National Society. The manual has been developed and handed over to UNFPA. After approval, it will be published and distributed among relevant organizations.

Looking ahead

Implementation of the TB infectious control project funded by KNCV will further contribute to the strengthening of TB prevention activities. Another region, the republic of Buryatia is expected to join the programme in the second half of 2009.

Taking into account the end of financial support for the HIV programme in the coming months, major efforts will be made on raising funds for the continuation of the programme. The Russian Red Cross together with the Federation regional representation will disseminate the successful experience of the prison project among other penitentiary institutions in the country. For this purpose, a proposal on Red Cross HIV prevention in male prisons was prepared for the Matra Fund. In order to ensure the sustainability of the HIV peer education programme negotiations started with the Land Rover company.

Moreover, fund-raising activities will be necessary to restart programmes that ceased in 2008, such as disaster management and to develop new programmes in the areas of road safety and migration.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation’s activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation’s mission to “improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity”.</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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