

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Russia Annual Report 2013

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRRU002
30 April 2014

**This report covers
the period
from 1 January 2013
to 31 December 2013.**

*Photo: Regional Migration Meeting of
Russian speaking Red Cross and Red
Crescent Societies, June 2013,
Moscow*



Overview

In 2013 the major priority of IFRC technical support to Russian Red Cross activities was to strengthen the Russian Red Cross's organizational capacity to ensure a close collaboration with the Russian Federation's government authorities on the implementation of the resolutions of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the development of regional initiatives with the National Societies of Russian-speaking countries as well as humanitarian diplomacy.

The following priorities are identified for the IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow.

- Further maintenance of the dialogue between the Russian Red Cross and the Russian public authorities aimed at strengthening of the legal status of the National Society with its auxiliary role to the Government as a leading national humanitarian organisation.
- Establishment of cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and inter-state bodies of the nine CIS Member Nations in order to combine their efforts and experience in fulfilling their mandate in the humanitarian field with a strong focus on disaster law, migration and Red Cross Red Crescent law; the promotion of the Russian language as a practical means of communication in the region for economic, cultural and humanitarian ties.
- Support of the organisational development of the Russian Red Cross through maintenance of the process of Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) as well as provision of support to the National Society in increasing technical knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers on program development.

Enhancement of the operational capacity of the Russian Red Cross based on the priorities identified in the Strategy 2020 of the Russian National Society:

- *Dissemination of International Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Values* among staff, volunteers and general population;
- *Provision of Health & Care and social services* with special focus on healthy life style, TB control, support to people living with HIV (PLWHIV), First Aid, and Child Protection;

- *Management of disaster preparedness and response*, based on cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) at federal and regional level;
- *Work with labour migrants*, with special focus at prevention of stigma and discrimination and provision of social and legal support to labour migrants;
- *Blood donors recruitment, work with youth and volunteers*.
- *Facilitation of Movement coordination*, aimed at provision of targeted support to the Russian Red Cross according to its Strategy 2020.

Situation/Context Analysis

In 2013 the political and socio-economic environment in Russia was characterized by several global events and statements related to the Russian Presidency in G20, the upcoming Russian Presidency in G8, the Russian State's peacekeeping initiatives in Syria and the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi.

The internal socio-political and economic life of Russia was influenced by the massive floods in the large areas of the Far East and several signs of xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiments. A deterioration of the security situation in several republics of the North Caucasus (Kabardino –Balkaria and Dagestan) and in the southern regions of Russia was observed.

One of international priorities of Russia was the further strengthening of cooperation with UN and its agencies. Despite evidences of an economic recession, the Russian Government is increasing its presence in the global arena as an international donor. Upon a Russian Government decision, Russia is allocating 16,5 million USD as a contribution to UNAIDS for the period 2012-2014. Moreover, separate allocations to the total amount of 226.7 million USD will be directed to the complex measures for HIV prevention in Eastern Europe and the Central Asian countries.

During 2013 Russia continued its peacekeeping efforts in the Syrian conflict. The cycle of meetings between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US State Secretary John Kerry as well as meetings of Russian diplomats with representatives of the Syrian Government resulted in joint decisions on the international control of chemical weapons in Syria.

In the framework of Russian participation in humanitarian aid for Syria, the Russian Government contributed tens of millions of dollars for Syrian refugees through the UNHCR, the UN World Food Programme and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In December 2013, Russian Government contributed 4,5 million USD to affected population in Philippines through UN agencies: WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UN OCHA.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
American Red Cross	Integration Agreement between IFRC and AmRC. Cooperation Agreement between RRC and AmRC.
Norwegian Red Cross	Integration Agreement between IFRC and NorRC. Cooperation Agreement between RRC and NorRC.
Swedish Red Cross	Cooperation Agreement between IFRC and Sw.RC on the Voluntary Return Project
"Russian World" Foundation	Donation Agreement: # 1054П/35-13 "Introduction of Russian language as a working language of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies during GA and CoD 2013"
Global Road Safety Partnership	Letter of Agreement with the Russian Red Cross

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Commonwealth of Independent States	Cooperation Agreement, May 2012
Collective Security Treaty Organization	Joint Plan of Action between IFRC and CSTO for 2014-2015
EMERCOM of Russia	Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Red Cross
Federal Service of Sentence Execution	Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Red Cross
Russian NGO "AIDS –INFOSHARE"	Cooperation Agreement, signed in September 2013.
Federal Migration Service of Russia	Agreement on establishment of Counselling service of Russian Red Cross in the Federal Migration Centre
People's Friendship of University of Russia	Cooperation Agreement between IFRC and PFUR signed in October 2013.

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 1 - "To raise humanitarian standards"

1.1 RRC disseminates the Fundamental Principles and values among staff, volunteers and the general population.

In 2013 IFRC Regional Representation in Russia focused its advisory support to Russian Red Cross on raising humanitarian standards and disseminate RCRC Fundamental Principles and values among its staff, volunteers, general public in particular youth and students of universities.

During the whole 2013 all program activities were implemented in the framework of the 150th anniversary of humanitarian actions, especially country-wide actions and events on the occasion of 8 of May Celebration. A special joint RRC/IFRC/RRC Plan of Action was developed.

1.2 Capacity, knowledge and professional skills of Russian RC staff on DM, Health, IT and modern technologies are enhanced.

In the reporting period IFRC Moscow provided technical advice and financial support to enhance the following Russian Red Cross staff, trained in different training courses:

Type of training	Number of RRC staff and volunteers Participated
Three basic three –days Disaster Management trainings organized by IFRC Moscow and EZO in Arkhangelsk, Ingushetia and Republic of Dagestan	31
One week ToT on Psychosocial Support, organized by EZO and PSS Reference Center in Moscow (June 2013)	6
One week Harm Reduction training course, organized by IFRC and Italian Red Cross in Vila Maraini, Italy, (June 2013)	3
One week First Aid ToT, organized by EZO in Minsk two participants from Russia: 1-Arkhangelsk 1-St.Petersburg participated (December 2013)	2
One week HIV prevention training organized by IFRC jointly with AmRC in Moscow (October 2013)	11
One week Training for Trainers on HIV prevention among young people organized by IFRC jointly with AmRC in Moscow (October 2013)	11
Total	64

1.3. *Close collaboration with the Research Centres is established and joint surveys on the priority directions of activity are conducted.*

In the reporting period, the IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow signed a Cooperation Agreement with one of the well-known academic institutions, the Russian People's Friendship University that assume several fields of collaboration: joint researches, workshops, round tables, and attracting students and postgraduates for internship in IFRC Moscow office.

On 16th October 2013, IFRC Moscow jointly with the Russian Red Cross and the Russian People's Friendship University organized a Round Table conference where the World Disaster Report (WDR) 2013 was launched.

Business Line 2 – “To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people”

In the framework of the project **“Establishment of Disaster Management Centres and strengthening of cooperation with EMERCOM”** IFRC focused its technical support to Russian RC on the following three directions:

- To enhance the capacity of the Russian Red Cross on timely disaster response to the most vulnerable people, affected by disasters and emergency situations by establishment of DM centres at RRC branches level;
- To strengthen cooperation between RRC and the Russian EMERCOM;

The following activities were implemented:

2.1 *RRC has enhanced capacity on timely disaster response to the most vulnerable people, affected by disasters and emergency situations by the establishment of DM centres at RRC branches level.*

In the reporting period, IFRC Moscow provided financial and technical support to facilitate the establishment of three Regional Disaster Management Centres in Arkhangelsk oblast, and the Republics of Ingushetia and Dagestan, respectively.

EMERCOM representatives actively participated in the trainings in Arkhangelsk, Ingushetia and Dagestan and expressed full support for cooperation with Russian RC in disaster preparedness and response. This activity was widely highlighted on the EMERCOM web site and other mass media.

2.2 *RRC has improved its cooperation with EMERCOM*

In the reporting period IFRC/RRC cooperation with Russian EMERCOM at federal level was significantly enhanced.

- During 2013, IFRC Moscow successfully conducted a cycle of meetings and discussions with Head of EMERCOM Academy, aimed to set up a joint training program for EMERCOM students. The contents of the training program were adopted with the technical support and advice of the Europe Zone DM Coordinator.
- 22-25 April 2013 IFRC Moscow organized an exchange visit of EMERCOM and Russian RC representatives to the IFRC Global Logistics Service in Dubai including a workshop and simulation exercises.
- 10-15 June 2013, four EMERCOM representatives, psychologists from the Centre of Emergency Psychological Support, participated in the PSS ToT, organized by IFRC EZO and PSS Reference Centre, that provided an opportunity to establish close collaboration between RRC and EMERCOM in the field of psychosocial support in emergency situations. 40 people were covered by this activity.

Business Line 3 – “To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development”

3.1. *RRC promotes the roll-out of S2020*

In the reporting period Russian Red Cross implemented its Annual Development Plan for 2013 in line with IFRC S2020 and Russian RC Strategy 2020.

In response to IFRC SG's letter of Federation-Wide Databank and Reporting System, the Russian RC duly submitted its data for the FDRS about the year 2012.

3.2. RRC capacities are strengthened and internal development is ensured through alignment of assistance to their self-determined needs.

In 2013 IFRC continued to assist Russian RC in implementation of their program activities in line with the RRC Strategic Development Plan for 2013.

The Organisational Capacity Assessment & Certification (OCAC) has become a practical and useful instrument of capacity building of the Russian Red Cross. The OCAC process in Russia started in 2012 by conducting three sessions at regional level and it attracted a deep interest among the branches. The Russian RC committed itself to finalize the first phase of OCAC process in the whole country until the end of 2013.

Russian RC with technical support of IFRC Moscow and Europe Zone office fulfilled its commitment and successfully conducted the remaining three regional OCAC sessions. (In total, seven regional OCAC sessions have been organized since 2012). On 17-18 September 2013, RRC Executive Director participated in OCAC follow up meeting, organized by IFRC Europe Zone Office and made a presentation about the OCAC process in Russia. In November 2013, the final OCAC session for Russian RC HQ was conducted. The session was facilitated by Geneva and Europe Zone OCAC team. The OCAC report was submitted to the Russian RC in January 2014.

3.3 Work of the RRC in the sphere of HIV and AIDS and TB is scaled up significantly using the Global Alliance approach

In the reporting period Russian RC continued, with advisory support of IFRC Moscow and American RC, the further development of the Resource Centre for HIV and TB. The program entered into its new project year 2013 - 2014 phase. The agreements with Russian Red Cross Headquarters and the Regional Branches were renewed. The same projects in Belorechensk, Irkutsk, Sochi and Tula continued their activities in HIV prevention, care and support. During the summer period most of informational sessions on HIV prevention were conducted in summer camps.

Four regional branches of Belorechensk, Sochi, Irkutsk and Tula build their work in following key areas: HIV/AIDS Prevention targeting youth ages 15-24, Care and Support for PLHIV, Volunteer Management, and Knowledge Management and Capacity Building.

On 27-29 September 2013, representatives of Russian Red Cross took part in the ERNA conference in Minsk. The Head of the Resource Centre, Veronica Agapova, presented the experience of RRC in the work with migrants. The Coordinator of the Technical Support Group for the Resource Centre Anna Zagaynova presented modules, dedicated to HIV prevention work among youth.

3.4 The Russian Red Cross enhances its capacity in First Aid (FA) by signing agreements with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education and by providing trainings for RRC staff and volunteers.

In the reporting period Russian Red Cross strengthened its collaboration with MoH at federal level: In February 2013 representative of Russian Red Cross was included in the Advisory Group of MoH on development of FA Rules. Russian RC in close collaboration with IFRC FA Reference Centre adapted "The FA Manual for Road Police" according to Russian legislation.

3.5 RRC actively participates in Road Safety activity in close cooperation with national and international stakeholders and Global Road Safety Alliance technical support.

In the reporting period, Russian Red Cross in close collaboration with Global Road Safety Alliance (GRSP) with overall coordination of IFRC Moscow implemented the project "Child Road Safety Advocacy in Russia" that started in March 2013. The project focused on Road Safety challenges in Russian Federation: gaps in legislation regarding proper transportation of children and children safety, almost no involvement of civil society in Child RS, problem solutions to develop public campaigns jointly with Traffic Police, Russian Union of Pedestrians, Women for Safer World. RRC put its efforts to lead of civil society organizations in search of better solutions for the current RS issues during the Decade of action for (RS 2011-2020).

3.6 The RRC promotes social cohesion or addresses discrimination and exclusion.

In total 2,337 migrants received different types of support from Russian RC. In the reporting period, IFRC Moscow focused its advisory support on enhancing the Russian Red Cross's capacity in the migration sphere within the framework of implementation of the following two projects:

- A) Enhancement of support to the most vulnerable labour migrants' community of Moscow region through providing better access to legal and social care support.
- B) Russian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Czech Red Cross cooperation on return and reintegration of Russian citizens.

More than 700 labour migrants received legal and social advisory support from the Russian RC's mobile team on matters such as Russian citizenship, official registration in Russia, working permit, visa issues, medical insurance, restoring family links. The main countries of origin of the migrants are *Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Moldova, Nigeria, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.*

In the reporting period, Russian RC continued its regular contacts and sharing information with other NSs of the region, particularly, with Central Asian NSs labor migration network, to promote common approaches and provide more effective and addressed support to the targeted population.

In May 2013, Head of IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow participated in the Induction Meeting of Central Asian Labor Migration program, funded by EU, took place in Astana and made a presentation about collaboration between Russia and Central Asian NSs on labor migration.

In June 2013, the IFRC Migration Unit Manager, Head of IFRC RR in Moscow and RRC Migration Coordinator had a meeting with the Head of Department of adaptation of migrants of Russian Federal Migration Service.

On 27-28 June in Moscow, Russian RC jointly with IFRC and ICRC organized a migration meeting of the Russian-speaking National Societies. The representatives of 12 RCRC National Societies, IFRC Secretariat in Geneva, Europe Zone Office, ICRC Geneva and Moscow Delegation participated as well as representatives of Russian Federal Migration Service, Embassies, migration and consulate services of CIS countries, UNHCR, IOM, national diasporas. The main modern approaches and trends of the migration policy in the former Soviet Union area were discussed during the meeting with partners and stakeholders.

On 12 August 2013 representatives of IFRC and Russian RC visited migration camp in Golyanovo and the detention Centre for **1,500** migrants in "Severni" and met with representatives of the Police Department providing the operational management of the camp. The main purpose of the visit was to receive an overall picture of the situation and provide basic health assistance to the camp residents.

During the visit, IFRC / RRC handed over personal hygiene items for the migrants. It is important to mention that IFRC and Russian RC were the ONLY organizations that received an official permission to visit detention centres for migrants.

5-6 December 2013, IFRC/RRC representatives took part in the regional migration meeting, organized in Astana, Kazakhstan. It is important to mention that representatives of SPID INFOSVYAZ (AIDS INFOSHARE) were also invited to the meeting and expressed their readiness to cooperate with IFRC and NSs of Central Asia in the sphere of migrants' health, in particular HIV and TB prevention.

IFRC and Russian RC established collaboration with the newspaper "*Uzbegim*" for labour migrants from Uzbekistan, aimed at the dissemination of information about RRC activity and services to migrants among Uzbek migrants in Moscow city and Moscow region.

In the framework of the project "Russian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Czech Red Cross cooperation on return and reintegration of Russian citizens", social assistance is provided to returning migrants. The process of preparing to receive returnees is the result of teamwork of the project staff from the Russian, as well as with the Swedish and Czech sides. Depending on the needs and requirements of returnees, urgent food support, kitchen accessories, children and adults' hygiene kits, as well as the social support are provided by nurses and social workers of RRC regional branches. At the same time, in the course of project implementation, RRC staff at headquarters and regional branches provide all necessary information on the availability of an adequate infrastructure in terms of

education, health, social care, in order to effectively plan the process of helping. During the reporting period, 17 migrants, voluntarily returning from Sweden, received social support within the project. All beneficiaries highly appreciated work of the Russian Red Cross and expressed their appreciation for such a timely support.

Business Line 4 – “To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work”

4.1 NS legislation to develop their auxiliary role to public authorities is improved.

In the reporting period IFRC Moscow Office continued to strengthen its humanitarian diplomacy strategy through the enhancement of cooperation with Russian, CIS and inter-state institutions to further promote different initiatives such as IDRL, disaster preparedness and response, health and care and migration and to attract funds for the NSs of CIS. The Director of IFRC Europe Zone, Ms Anitta Underlin, paid two visits to the Russian Red Cross and during the visits conducted several meetings with representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IFRC and Russian RC underlined the importance of improvement of a legislation that would determine the role and function of RRC as a national humanitarian organization and agreed about joint actions on drafting the Russian Red Cross Law. The Russian authorities have been actively participating in the discussions on the role and mandate of the Russian Red Cross. In April 2013 the Public Chamber with the President of Russia and the Ministry of Health initiated a round table meeting to discuss Russian RC activities. Representatives of the Russian Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, representatives of patients` communities, NGOs involved in health and care & blood donors recruitment, well known bloggers, representatives of mass media participated in the meeting.

IFRC collaboration with Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS.

In the framework of an MoU between IFRC and IPA CIS, IFRC Moscow and the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) of the CIS developed a joint Plan of Action for 2013, and the following activities were implemented:

- **Information session for representatives of national parliaments – IPA member states** on the “role and mandate of IFRC in CIS area” Parliamentarians from IPA CIS member-states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Tajikistan.
- **IDRL workshop in Tajikistan, Dushanbe (3-4 October 2013)** IFRC representatives: Dr Davron Mukhamadiev, Head of IFRC Moscow and Dr Yulia Gusynina-Paroz, Special Advisor to the Director of EZO participated in the session of the Standing Commission on socio-economic issues and human rights of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS. In the framework of this meeting, IFRC jointly with IPA CIS conducted an IDRL workshop: **“Legislation to facilitate and regulate international disaster response”** for parliamentarians of 10 CIS countries.
- IFRC participation in the session of the Standing Commission of Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and conducting IDRL workshop for parliamentarians of 10 CIS countries provided a unique opportunity for an effective promotion of IDRL among parliamentarians of seven CIS countries: *Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation and Tajikistan*. All parliamentarians actively participated in the open discussion of the IDRL Model Act, fully supported it and expressed their readiness for the further promotion of IDRL on an IPA CIS platform. *Main achievement of the workshop:* Upon result of IPA`s decision, the IFRC submitted the draft of the IDRL Model Act for consideration of the law to IPA that is planned to be adopted in 2014.
- **39th plenary session of IPA CIS (November 2013)**, Anitta Underlin, Director of Europe Zone, and Dr Davron Mukhamadiev, Head of IFRC Moscow Office, participated in the 39th plenary session of IPA CIS. Director Anitta Underlin addressed the participants of the IPA-CIS Conference on *“Nuclear security in the modern world and the role of parliamentarians in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”* co-chaired by the Parliament of Kazakhstan, and

presented the position of the RC / RC Movement on nuclear security upon the results of the CoD.

Cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Based on working relations, established with the “non-military” section of the Secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2011, IFRC Moscow strengthened cooperation between IFRC and CSTO on effective disaster response.

In this framework IFRC conducted an information session for representatives of CSTO member states on possible ways of cooperation. The participants were parliamentarians from CSTO member states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, and Tajikistan.

On 18 September 2013, the Head of IFRC Moscow Office took part in the session of the standing commission on social, economic and legal issues of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization that took place in Sankt Petersburg, and he made a presentation for parliamentarians - representatives of Parliaments of CSTO member states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan about the draft Joint Plan of Action between IFRC and PA CSTO. The draft of the IFRC/CSTO Plan of Action for 2013-2014 was actively discussed by the parliamentarians.

On 25 November 2013, Anitta Underlin, Director of IFRC Europe Zone and Mr. Nikolay Bordjuza, Secretary General of CSTO signed the joint IFRC/CSTO plan of action for the years 2014-2015 aimed at strengthening efforts in disaster preparedness and disaster response in six CSTO member states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan. As the first practical step, a session of the Expert Consultative Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of CSTO was held on 27 November in St. Petersburg. The Council adopted a resolution, related to the recommendations for CSTO member states to take steps in implementing the IDRL at the national level.

In July 2013, the Head of IFRC Moscow Office conducted a cycle of meetings with the Deputy Director of the Russian Federal Agency for CIS Affairs and Humanitarian Cooperation (ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO). This agency has been identified by Russian President Putin as the leading Russian State Agency for international cooperation in CIS with allocation of significant amount of funds (300 million USD). IFRC discussed possible joint activity and related proposals submitted to this Agency. ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO expressed their high interest in the cooperation with IFRC in the CIS area and globally and agreed to discuss MoU and Plan of Action between IFRC and ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO in 2014.

IFRC Moscow successfully negotiated with one of the Russian NGOs called “SPID INFOSVYAZ” (HIV – INFOSHARE) operating with Russian state funds in the framework of the Russian Presidency in G8 and its contribution to UNAIDS. **In August 2013**, IFRC and HIV INFO-SHARE signed a cooperation agreement to conduct joint activity on migration with IFRC funds in Tajikistan for the translation and publication of information materials for migrants on HIV, TB prevention, etc., from Russian into Tajik for migration centres in Tajikistan. The first contribution in the amount equal to 20,000 USD was transferred to IFRC’s bank account in September 2013. It is planned that in 2014 HIV INFO-SHARE will allocate around 100,000 USD in case of successful implementation of the project in 2013. Also, possibility to attract funds for similar activity in Kyrgyzstan was discussed. It is important to mention that this contribution is the first, positive and promising example of attracting Russian state funds to IFRC project activities in the CIS area during the last 20 years.

Business Line 5 – “To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability”

5.1. Russian Red Cross signs and regularly updates their Framework Agreement with ICRC and IFRC.

In reporting period, IFRC continued to facilitate process of coordination with RRC and ICRC based on the tripartite agreement signed in 2012. The main focus of cooperation was on drafting of the Russian RC Law. IFRC, ICRC and Russian RC conducted a cycle of meetings related to the process of drafting and adoption of RRC Law. The first draft of the law was sent to all RRC branches, posted on

the Russian RC website for discussions. All suggestions of the branches were incorporated into the text and the first draft of Law was approved by RRC Governing Board in September 2013.

5.2. *Russian Red Cross as a member of IFRC Governing Board facilitates different regional initiatives among Russian speaking NSs and increases participation in international dialogue and cooperation, including ERNA, Global Alliance etc.*

IFRC participation in the structures of the Russian Presidency in G8¹

In the framework of the Russian Presidency in G8, the IFRC Moscow Office successfully negotiated with G8 Russian Sherpa Office the various forms of IFRC participation in G8 events. *Mr Francesco Rocca*, IFRC Vice President was nominated and successfully supported by G8 working group members in the quality of International co-chair of working group: **“International Development and Social Risks Management”**. He was also included in the Organizing Committee of IV Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference (EEAACC). The Head of IFRC RR in Moscow was elected as a member of G8 Civil Working Group in Russia to provide communication between IFRC and Civil G8. Due to the cancelation of G8 Summit - 2014, all activities of Civil G8 were also terminated.

In the reporting period Russian RC and IFRC Moscow further promoted a range of regional initiatives among Russian-speaking NSs. **In April 2013**, IFRC Moscow jointly with Russian RC organized a visit to Russia for representatives of British Red Cross and Kazakhstan Red Crescent to introduce IFRC/RRC activity on TB and HIV for penal institutions: the program included a round table session with representatives of the Russian Federal Service of Sentence Execution, as well as visits to Belgorod and Belorechensk branches of RRC and penal institutions of these regions. **In May 2013**, Representatives of American Red Cross Headquarters visited Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg branches) aimed possible cooperation in restoring family links. **In June 2013**, Russian RC with support of IFRC and ICRC hosted Regional Migration meeting of all NSs of former USSR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

In the period January - December 2013, IFRC Moscow Office reinforced its negotiations with the Russian authorities, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the “*Ruski Mir*” Foundation, to enhance practical activity on providing translation services for Russian speaking NSs, in particular documents for the General Assembly (GA) and the Council of Delegates (CoD).

In November, 2013, upon request of IFRC, in the framework of a step-by-step implementation of Russian language as 5th working language, the Russian Government confirmed its contribution for simultaneous translation during GA and CoD in the amount of 72,011 CHF. Funds in the amount of **80,415 USD** were transferred to IFRC’s bank account in December 2013. The total contribution of the Russian Government for Russian language support in 2013 consisted of 116,000 CHF that became the first direct Russian governmental contribution to IFRC statutory activities.

10-18 November 2013, Head of IFRC Moscow Office participated in the IFRC General Assembly and in the meeting of the Council of Delegates in Sydney, Australia, as member of the IFRC Europe Zone team to support Russian Red Cross and other Russian speaking NSs during statutory meetings. During the statutory meetings, all Russian speaking NSs were widely using the Russian language during plenary sessions and workshops, which gave them an opportunity to actively participate in the discussions on different topics of agenda. The Presidents of the Russian RC, the Belarus RC, the Kazakhstan RC, the Kyrgyzstan RC, the Tajikistan RC, the Turkmenistan RC and the Ukrainian RC expressed their high appreciation for the availability of the Russian translation / interpretation service and expressed suggestions to the IFRC leadership to continue efforts on further promotion of Russian language as the 5th IFRC working language.

¹ In connection with the diplomatic tension between Russia and the West (NATO & EU) around Ukraine, Russia’s membership in the G8 is suspended to date as this report is written, April 2014.

Capacity building and sustainability

In the reporting period the IFRC was, in close cooperation with partner National Societies, putting a special emphasis on further enhancing Russian Red Cross capacity at strategic development and programmatic levels to ensure its sustainable development. A key element in that process was the realization of a better access of the Russian RC to the state grants for socially related activities.

During 2013, the Russian Red Cross mobilized from different sources (direct support from state budget, grant allocations, and donations during disasters) around 8,5 million CHF that serve as a good evidence on forming the financial sustainability of the Russian Red Cross.

Despite the existing legal limitations in the Russian legislation to support the Russian Red Cross, Russian state authorities adopted the necessary legislation at regional level to attract Russian Red Cross branches to different types of socially oriented activities and provided direct funding for this activity. As a result of the competition process on grants, announced by Russian Government, Russian RC successfully received 8 grants (one at HQ level for seven branches and seven other grants for six branches) in the total amount of 357,957 CHF. The Russian Government is planning to allocate twice as much money for the humanitarian sector in 2014, and it will be a unique opportunity for RRC to participate in the competitive process. This amount is fully replacing the funds provided by IFRC/USAID in 2012 and allows Russian RC to fulfil its TB control activity.

During the massive floods in the Far East, the Russian RC, jointly with state authorities at federal and regional levels, organized a massive donation campaign to attract funds for humanitarian assistance to the affected population. The Russian Red Cross branch in Khabarovsk was identified by regional authorities as a principle operator of all relief assistance, arriving to the region from different channels. From the beginning of the disaster, more than 20 Russian RC branches and EMERCOM divisions started to collect donations as well as food and non-food relief items for the affected population jointly with their local governments. In total, 261,334 million rubles (equal to 7.5 million CHF) was collected for the floods operation.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAARU00213arf.pdf>

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **Russian Red Cross Society:**

Raisa Lukutsova, Chairperson;

email: mail@redcross.ru; phone: +7 499 126 75 71

- **IFRC Regional Representation in the Russian Federation:**

Dr. Davron Mukhamadiev, Regional Representative, Moscow;

email: Davron.Mukhamadiev@ifrc.org; phone: +7 495 937 52 67

- **IFRC Europe Zone:** Anitta Underlin, Director Europe Zone;

email: anitta.underlin@ifrc.org; phone: +36 1 8884 501