BACKGROUND

Country Profile

Russia is the world’s largest country stretching from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, spanning eleven time zones. With the seventh highest population of all countries, Russia is home to over 146 million people and over 200 ethnic groups. Regarded as one of the most heterogeneous countries in the world, Russia has considerable variations in population distribution, ethnic composition, cultures and socio-economic contexts.

Russia plays an increasingly important political and economic role in global and regional development. The Russian government aspires to become one of the top international development and humanitarian assistance donors. There are substantial opportunities for donors and partnerships in Russia which address key humanitarian and development issues both within the country, in the region and globally. The philanthropic giving potential of the population in Russia is significant and is on the rise. Russia and Belarus traditionally
host the main bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), established to coordinate inter-state social, political and economic relations between the countries of the former Soviet Union.

This operational plan reflects the support IFRC will provide to the National Society in agreed upon areas. The IFRC Country Cluster office in Russia will continue to build on existing and develop new strategic partnerships addressing important humanitarian issues in the areas of migration, health, trans-border cooperation in disasters. Opportunities to mobilize support within Russia for Red Cross Red Crescent Movement work in the international humanitarian arena will be developed and nurtured.

National Society Profile

Russian Red Cross is the oldest humanitarian organization in the country, founded in 1867 and composed of 85 regional branches and 1,010 local branches. The size of regions is comparable to large European countries, necessitating substantial response capacities and extended geographic reach.

Russian Red Cross has over 400,000 members, 85,000 volunteers, and 762 permanent staff at national, regional and local levels. The existing human resource capacity at the headquarters is insufficient compared to the tasks and challenges the organization faces and needs to address.

The National Society has a Strategy 2020 that aims at (i) preventing and reducing suffering of people affected by emergency and crisis situations; (ii) improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups; and (iii) enhancing the humanitarian potential of the society and to mobilize local communities. In fulfilling its strategic commitments, the Russian Red Cross is focusing on health and care, disaster management, advocacy, dissemination and promotion.

Role of the Country Cluster office

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team for Russia, Belarus and Moldova is based in Moscow. The team provides technical and advisory support to Russian Red Cross headquarters in programming areas including disaster response, health, social inclusion and migration, and in the National Society’s operational development and capacity building. The office also ensures overall coordination with Russian Red Cross and ICRC to deliver effective and coordinated assistance to affected populations.

Movement Footprint

IFRC and ICRC are currently the only Movement representatives in the Russian Federation, alongside the National Society. Coordination is ensured through a Movement Coordination Agreement between Russian Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC which provides a solid base for overall coordination in case of disasters and delegates the coordination lead role to the National Society.
Russian Red Cross has a long-term and fruitful partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross supporting humanitarian programmes in the North-West region of Russia including social protection of children, rehabilitation of girls, disaster preparedness and response, and development of resource mobilization. Since 2019 the Russian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and the IFRC have been working closely in building a fundraising programme of the branches in the North-West region. Norwegian Red Cross works under the Integration Agreement with the IFRC and has one staff member based in St Petersburg. Italian Red Cross has become a close partner of Russian Red Cross, especially in providing support to the most vulnerable categories of migrants on bilateral basis. In 2019 the Russian Red Cross signed Memorandums of Understanding with Turkish Red Crescent and German Red Cross, which cover a wide range of issues including joint humanitarian aid, disaster response, social welfare and health.
AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Due to huge territory and different climate zones, Russia regularly faces natural disasters such as floods, fires, and cold waves as well as technological disasters.

According to legislation, the Russian government Emergency Ministry (EMERCOM) is responsible for organizing response operations during any emergency or crisis and has a large personnel base and budget. Nevertheless, there are areas that require additional expertise where the Russian Red Cross complements the efforts of EMERCOM and other organisations, for example first aid, psychological support, volunteer management and fundraising.

IFRC aims to strengthen Russian Red Cross capacity in disaster management and response by developing human, material and technical resources. IFRC will support Russian Red Cross to develop contingency plans in three regional branches most frequently affected by disasters as a pilot project, and will provide training on climate-related disaster risk reduction.

OUTCOME

20,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT

20

NUMBER OF NATIONAL SOCIETY STAFF TRAINED ON CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND IN DISASTER-PRONE AREAS
AREA OF FOCUS
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

Since 2014, more than 1 million displaced people have moved to Russia from Ukraine, approximately 20 per cent of whom continue to have unregulated status and therefore cannot find permanent and well-paid employment. People displaced from Ukraine who want to receive legal status are often unable to cover the required costs to complete the administrative process as they have limited income, cannot access social benefits, and have to pay rent, medical and other costs. Those recognized as being most vulnerable are older people, families with children, and people with disabilities.

In 2019 the Ministry of the Interior of Russia created a simplified procedure for people from Ukraine to apply for Russian citizenship and over 12,000 people have applied. However, displaced people who wish to remain Ukrainian citizens so they can return home after the conflict ends will continue to lack access to health services and social benefits while they are in Russia.

In 2020 IFRC and Russian Red Cross will help the most vulnerable displaced people from Ukraine in Russia based on a case management approach through provision of vouchers. In addition, IFRC jointly with Russian Red Cross plans to support displaced people from Ukraine through provision of micro-economic grants, vocational training and development of business skills. The action will be implemented in four regions of Russia where the concentration of displaced people from Ukraine is high.

OUTCOME
COMMUNITIES RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR LIVELIHOODS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE COVERING THEIR BASIC NEEDS THROUGH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

200

40,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
Area of focus

Health

At the end of 2018, the number of people living with HIV in Russia exceeded 1 million. In 2018, 36,900 people infected with HIV died, and the main cause of these deaths was tuberculosis (TB). Displaced people from Ukraine with uncertain legal status cannot access public health care and medication, including anti-retrovirals for those living with HIV.

Population ageing is one of the greatest social challenges in Eastern Europe and increasing numbers of older people in Russia require support to enjoy a healthy, active and dignified retirement. 14 per cent of Russia's population of 146 million people are people over the age of 65, and in the global ranking of quality of life of older people Russia ranks 65th out of 96 countries.

In 2020, IFRC will work to expand the Russian Red Cross’ role in prevention of TB and HIV and reducing stigma and discrimination among key population groups. Special focus will be given to establishing a dialogue and partnerships with communities of people living with HIV, TB and key populations, including migrants.

IFRC plans to support Russian Red Cross activities to increase access of displaced people from Ukraine to health services, and will provide health insurance certificates to the most vulnerable people as well as life-saving treatment to displaced people with HIV.

Provision of social and home-based care is one of the traditional services of the Russian Red Cross and in 2020 IFRC will support the National Society to pilot a new approach for integrated services for older people, with a focus on social inclusion. Furthermore, IFRC will continue to work with the Russian Red Cross in strengthening their psychosocial support service in emergencies.

Outcome

Vulnerable people’s health and dignity are improved through access to relevant services

Number of people reached with health services

600

190,000 Swiss Francs Funding Requirement
AREA OF FOCUS
MIGRATION

It is estimated that there are approximately 10 million migrants in Russia, approximately 1 million of whom reside in the Moscow region. The majority are labour migrants from Central Asia, and 1 million people have been displaced to Russia from Ukraine. Many migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation, face vulnerabilities and potential risks including lack of access to health and social services, violation of human rights, and trafficking.

In 2020, IFRC will support the Russian Red Cross to develop a migration strategy through provision of technical support to the established National Society working group on migration. IFRC and the Russian Red Cross will focus on health, psychosocial and legal support of the most vulnerable migrants and displaced people. Furthermore they will conduct evidence-based advocacy on humanitarian needs of migrants, including on improvement of legislation on migration in the wider region by strengthening the partnership with CIS Inter-Parliamentarian Assembly and the regional network.

IFRC will work with Russian Red Cross in activities focused on social adaptation and integration of migrants, including information dissemination through the portal redpuzzle.ru, social and legal counselling, establishment of referral pathways and a network of partner and assistance organization.

OUTCOME
MIGRANTS ARE EMPOWERED TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY

NUMBER OF MIGRANTS ASSISTED

2,000

210,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

The National Society’s income is scarce with no stable reserves that might guarantee operations in the long term. The gap between the Russian Red Cross’ capacity and the role it should be playing in the country is therefore significant and resources are required to improve its financial sustainability. The organizational assessment (OCAC) conducted by the IFRC established that the Russian Red Cross made some achievements in core programming areas, however the National Society still faces challenges in areas such as brand image, legal base, communication, human resources, and resource mobilization. In 2020, IFRC will support Russian Red Cross to implement its comprehensive Change Strategy to help it regain its role of leading national charity sector organization.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAS IMPROVED SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND COMPETENCIES TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IFRC will support Russian Red Cross to build its capacity in information management to improve emergency response operations. IFRC will also ensure that Russian Red Cross staff and volunteers are trained and deployed for international emergency response through surge trainings.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

53,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT

10,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
Despite significant attention from authorities and the general public on Red Cross Red Crescent activities, there is a lack of understanding about the unique nature of the Movement among Russian-speaking mass media. IFRC seeks to promote the Movement’s role and activities especially in the fields of migration, disaster management and health and care, with a special focus on TB and HIV. IFRC will continue to provide technical support and coaching to Russian Red Cross to build their domestic fundraising programme and enhance resource mobilization, communications and organizational development.

In 2020, IFRC will focus on cooperation with the Secretariat of CIS and IPA CIS to promote the IFRC and National Society role in disaster management, migration, health, and to disseminate of Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values. IFRC will enhance collaboration with the governments through country-focused, regional and international cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emergency Ministry (EMERCOM), and other governmental, inter-governmental and international agencies bodies.

IFRC will ensure a high level of expertise among Country Cluster staff increasing capacity and professional skills through training and professional development. The Country Cluster office will also focus on increasing IFRC visibility among key partners and stakeholders.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS WELL POSITIONED AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND IS MORE FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

IFRC ENHANCES ITS EFFECTIVENESS, CREDIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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