



Project Team Cash, SDC Humanitarian Aid
www.sdc-cashprojects.ch / e-mail: cash.program@deza.admin.ch
Fact sheets on Cash Transfer Projects

Cash for Shelter I Rep. Ingushetia, Russian Federation



Implementation period: August 2000-April 2001

Credit Proposal: 7F-00860.01/02.01

Budget: CHF 2'840'000

Beneficiary contributions: 80%

Personnel: Dieter Dreyer
Hans Ryter
Hans-Peter Lenz
Egon Rauch

Situation

As a result of the hostilities which erupted in autumn 1999, ten thousands of IDPs were forced to move out of Chechnya. Most of them left for the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia. At the peak of the influx, 70 % of the total of 213'000 IDPs in Ingushetia were accommodated in the premises of Ingush host families.

Aim of the project

Improvement of living conditions of IDPs and the local population: Compensation for Shelter (CfSh) aimed to provide a contribution to the 15'000 Ingush host families who accommodated privately IDPs from Chechnya during the winter 1999 / 2000.

Provided assistance

The Cash for Shelter project provided a one-fold, retroactive and unconditional cash contribution to every host family in all 36 settlements all over Ingushetia: Each family received RUR 2700 (at that time some \$ 100 or CHF 150) – the equivalent of an average monthly salary.

Lessons learnt

- No abuse during cash payments and no security incident despite very critical security situation.
- Transparency of the program helped avoiding fraud.

Strengths

- High acceptance among local authorities and beneficiaries.
- Cooperation with Russian Post, Ingush branch.
- Influx of cash to local economy.

Weaknesses

High number of beneficiaries in different databases needed intensive verification through CfSh monitors.



Implementation issues

Partners

The project was implemented in cooperation with the Ingush Government and UNHCR.

UNHCR and the Ingush government were always informed about the project progress and delicate questions were discussed with them.

Assessment, Project Start-up

Two assessments in spring 2000 confirmed:

- Appropriateness of the cash approach.
- Acceptance among potential beneficiaries and authorities.
- Readiness of UN to provide security and logistics.

Registration

The registration of beneficiaries was based on the lists of UNHCR and Federal Migration Service.

Security

UN rules foresaw 24 hours armed guards for expats. Movement was heavily restricted – Small projects visited by local staff.

Verification

The two existing databases were combined and filtered.

The resulting beneficiary lists were cleared and verified by CfSh monitors on spot.

Announcement

The intention to implement a cash project was initially announced to the Russian Federal government as well as to the Ingush government and humanitarian aid community. Regular reports on local TV kept population updated on program and process. Detailed information on eligibility and the lists of beneficiaries were posted at the premises of the post offices and local administrations.

Complaints

A complain process towards the project management was originally not foreseen. Complaining individuals were asked to refer to the Ingush government, which returned 680 cases (out of 1200) as eligible for compensation.

Payments

Payments were made by the Ingush branch of the Russian post.

The post received a 1.5% commission for all transactions and personal invitation for beneficiaries.

The cooperation was excellent in terms of reliability of payment procedures.

Infrastructure

The team consisted of 2 expats (PM and deputy PM), 4 local employees and two drivers with Lada Nivas, up to 24 parttime monitors and drivers. Two intranets were established with 6 working stations (incl. expat laptops).

Two offices were provided by UNHCR (Ingushetia and N-Osetia).

Supporting measures

32 small Projects were implemented in order to receive and acknowledge the high effort and goodwill committed to the project by the local community in social, educational and health sectors for some 10% of the project sum (CHF 260'000).

Documentation

- 010828 CfSh Concept and Implementation.doc
- 010629 Final Short report Small Projects
- 010829 Schlussbericht CfSh.doc