



Project Team Cash, SDC Humanitarian Aid
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Fact sheets on Cash Transfer Projects

Cash for Shelter II Rep. Ingushetia, Russian Federation



Implementation period: November 2001 - May 2002

Credit Proposal: 7F - 00860.03.01

Budget: CHF 2'800'000

Beneficiary contributions: 80%

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Situation

As a result of the ongoing hostilities in Chechnya, in autumn 2001 140'000 IDPs still remained in the Republic of Ingushetia. 55% were accommodated in the premises of Ingush host families, fearing eviction by the hosts as many could not pay rent any more. After the success of CfSh 1, UNHCR as well as Ingush authorities asked for a repetition of the program.

Aim of the project

Improvement of living conditions of IDP and local population: Compensation for Shelter II (CfSh 2) aimed to provide a contribution to the 10'900 Ingush host families who accommodated privately IPDs from Chechnya during summer 2001.

Provided assistance

The Cash for Shelter II project provided a one-fold, retroactive and unconditional cash contribution to every host family in all 36 settlements all over Ingushetia: Each household received RUR 3000 (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. Repeated program made CfSh mechanisms known and provoked well planned fraud attempts.

Strengths

High acceptance among local authorities and beneficiaries
Cooperation with Russian Post, Ingush branch, without problems.
Influx of cash to local economy.

Weaknesses

High number of fraud attempts due to the known working method of CfSh and the corrupt structures, providing every document asked and paid for.



Implementation issues

Assessment

Assessment done by the existing CfSh structures.

Registration

The registration of beneficiaries was based on the lists of UNHCR, Federal Migration Service and CfSh 1.

Verification

The two existing databases were combined and filtered with the CfSh 1 beneficiaries list.

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

Announcement

The intention to repeat CfSh was initially announced to the Russian Federal government as well as to the Ingush government.

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, but introduced as individuals started to present a proof that authorities forgot them to put into the database.

Thanks to close cooperation with the Ministry of Interiors 6100 faked documents could be identified (out of 7800 handed in).

Infrastructure

The team consisted of 3 expats (PM, deputy PM, JPO), 5 local employees and two drivers with Lada Nivas, up to 50 part-time monitors and drivers. Two intranets were established with 8 working stations (incl. expat laptops).

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

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 again excellent in terms of reliability of payment procedures.

Security measures

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

CfSh office during days faced crowds of up to 80 persons claiming beneficiary status, which made special crowd control a necessity.

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.

Supporting measures

The Small Project program was continued, but not linked any more to CfSh, as the goodwill from the authorities towards it was given.

Remarks

The fraud attempts were one of the reasons not to implement a CfSh3.

The Special Unit against Economical Crimes checked the final beneficiary lists (as after CfSh 1) and confirmed them retroactively without reservation.

Documentation

- 011107CfSh 2 Ingushetia Concept Implementation.
- 020208Management Tool CfSh2
- 7F- 00860.03.01 KA CfSh 2
- 020613 CfSh 2 Final Report