



Geo-Info NC

North Caucasus

- North Ossetia-Alania
- Ingushetia
- Chechnya

North Ossetia-Alania

Republic of North Ossetia-Alania

Республикæ Цæгат Ирыстон-Алани
Республика Северная Осетия-Алания

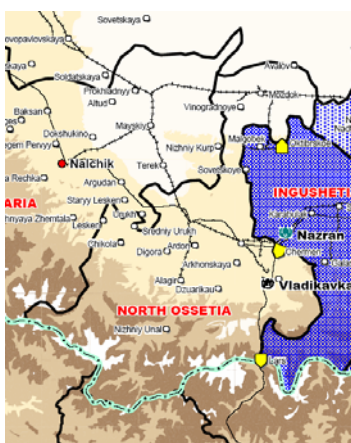


Emergency accommodation in Mairamadag (North Ossetia-Alania)

North Ossetia-Alania

Republic of North Ossetia-Alania

Ossetian: Республикæ Цæгат Ирыстон-Алани / Respublikæ Tzægat Iryston-Alani
Russian: Республика Северная Осетия-Алания / Respublika Syevernaya Osetiya-Alaniya



Key Data	North Ossetia-Alania RNOA
State/Country:	Russian Federation
Federal District:	Southern Russia
Area:	7,953 km ² (for comparison: Delaware DE USA 6,447 km ²)
Population:	702,338 inhabitants (01.01.2006)
Density:	88 inhabitants/km ²
Capital:	Vladikavkaz (Coordinates: 43° 1' N, 44° 39' E – Altitude: 680 m)

Geography

North Ossetia-Alania is located in Southern Russia, at the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range, its foothills and the adjacent plains. The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania constitutes a federal subject of Russia since 1991. North Ossetia-Alania has internal borders with the Stavropol district in the north, the Chechen Republic in the north-east, the Republic of Ingushetia in the east, the Kabardino-Balkar Republic in the west and an international border with Georgia, including South Ossetia at the main ridge of the Caucasus in the south.

In terms of the topography of North Ossetia-Alania: the country is clearly separated into three different parts. The south is an extremely mountainous area, densely forested and mostly difficult to access; the centre of the republic is characterized by the vast alluvial plain of the river Terek and the northern uplands by a low ridge of woodless hills. The climate is moderately continental: the average temperature is -5°C in January and +24°C in July; the average annual precipitation about 400 - 700 mm in the plains and over 1,000 mm in the mountains.

Transport

North Ossetia-Alania has excellent transport connections with interior Russia: there are daily flights from Moscow to Vladikavkaz (Beslan airport) available as well as bus and train connections with a number of destinations in Russia. The international border to Georgia is closed for international traffic since November 1999.

Demographics

The age distribution is as follows: 57.3 percent of the population is of working-age, 21.0 percent below and the remaining 21.7 percent above (census 2002).

North Ossetia-Alania is an officially bi-lingual country: the national languages are Russian and Ossetian. The latter, spoken on both sides of the main ridge of the Caucasus, in North Ossetia-Alania as well as in the South is an Indo-Iranian language closely related with Farsi, the modern Iranian national language.

The population of North Ossetia-Alania is predominantly Russian Orthodox Christian. Ethnic Ossetians make up 62.7 percent of the republic's population, followed by 23.2 percent Russians, 3.0 percent Ingushs, 2.4 percent Armenians and 8.7 percent others (census 2002).

In the aftermath of the first conflict between Georgia and its breakaway region South Ossetia 1991/1992 some 110,000 refugees requested asylum in North Ossetia-Alania. According to the official statistics the number of refugees and displaced persons is 27,484 persons as on 30 April 2009. Many of them have been temporarily accommodated in collective centres in North Ossetia-Alania.

There are three urban areas in North Ossetia-Alania: Vladikavkaz, the capital with 314,073 inhabitants as the most important urban centre of the whole region, Mozdok with 41,270 inhabitants and finally Beslan with 35,716 inhabitants (census 2006).

Politics

Similar to Ingushetia and Chechnya, the neighbouring republics to the east, North Ossetia-Alania has also been affected by the conflicts of the nineties in the Caucasus region after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In addition to the first conflict 1989-1992 between Georgia and its breakaway region South Ossetia already mentioned above an additional regional conflict, the clash between North Ossetia-Alania and Ingushetia over Prigorodny 1992 is still not settled and dampens the political atmosphere.

Public Authorities

- President of the Republic is Taimuraz Dzambekovich Mamsurov
- Prime Minister of the Republic is Nikolai Aleksandrovich Khlyntsov
- Mayor of the capital Vladikavkaz is Sergei Shamilyevich Dzantiev

Economy

The GRP (Gross regional product pro capita) of the region in 2007 was 76,455 roubles.

The labour market situation in North Ossetia-Alania doesn't cause much concern for the time being (01 April 2009): the officially reported number of unemployed persons amounts to 15,206 individuals, corresponding to an unemployment rate of 4 percent of the working population.

North Ossetia-Alania's main types of businesses are the food and beverage industry, the processing of minerals and ore (except iron) and the hydroelectric power production. The overall industrial output amounts to a total production of 81.2 percent of the added value.

- Food and Beverage:
This sector of industry covers 60.4 percent of the whole industrial output. The production consists mainly of ethyl alcohol C_2H_6O (vodka), sugar syrup, dextrin etc.
- Minerals and Metals:
This sector gains 11.6 percent of the industrial production: the industry smelts predominantly lead and zinc and mines sulphur as a basis of the production of sulphuric acid H_2SO_4 (oil of vitriol).
- Energy:
The hydroelectric power production contributes 9.2 percent of the whole industrial output. Currently there are five hydropower stations operating in North Ossetia-Alania.

Other sectors of the economy are: the engine building industry and metal processing, agriculture, transport, the operating of transit gas pipelines, mining (granite, slate and marble), oil drilling and gas gathering, the production of building materials (brickyard in Mozdok), the production of mineral water and finally low-level tourism and recreation. The infrastructure related to tourism is insufficient and the restrictions of movement for foreigners decreed by the federal authorities constitute a serious obstacle for the development of international tourism in the area.

The republic's economy depends strongly from State subsidies: they amount to some 55 percent currently.



Family of Returnees in Krasnogor



Family of Returnees in Krasnogor



Collective Centre in Krasnogor



Collective Centre in Tsalyk



Alagir – St.George of the Ossetians



Malyshok Kindergarten Vladikavkaz



Malyshok Kindergarten Vladikavkaz



Vladikavkaz – Issa Pliev Monument



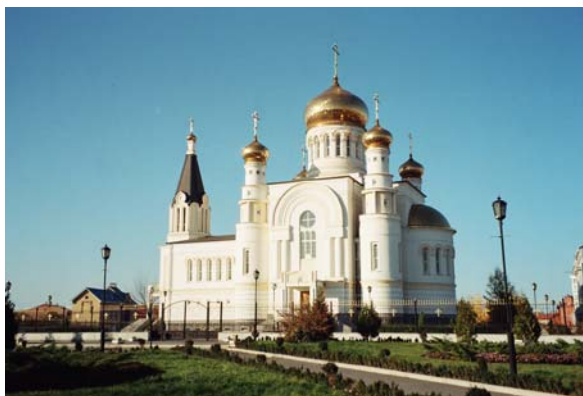
Vladikavkaz – Prospekt Mira



Vladikavkaz – Sunni Mosque



Vladikavkaz – Sunni Mosque



Vladikavkaz – Cathedral St. George the Victor



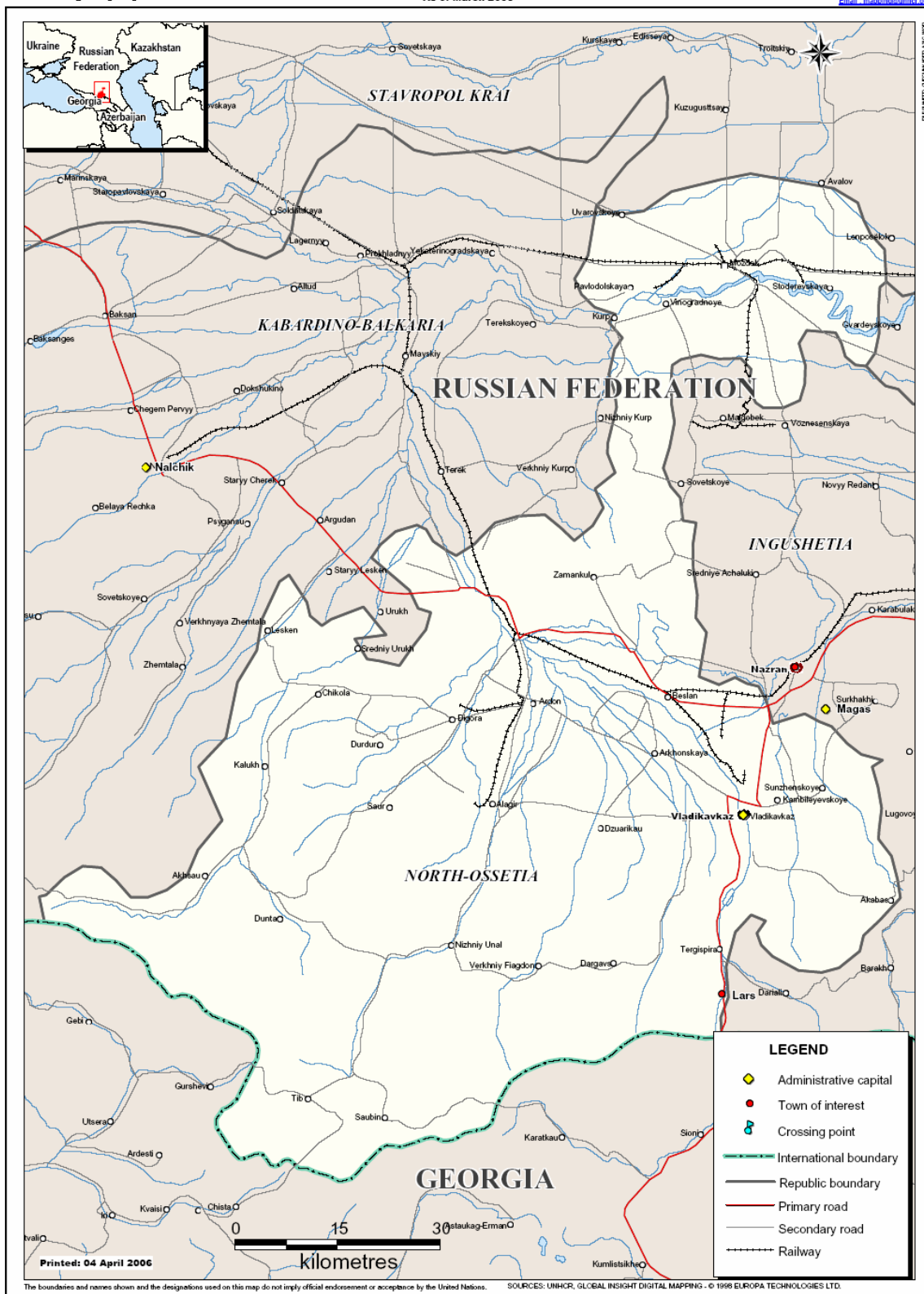
Vladikavkaz – Cathedral St. George the Victor



Vladikavkaz – Ploshchad Lenina



Vladikavkaz – Armenian Church



Ingushetia

Republic of Ingushetia

ГІалгІай Мохк

Республика Ингушетия



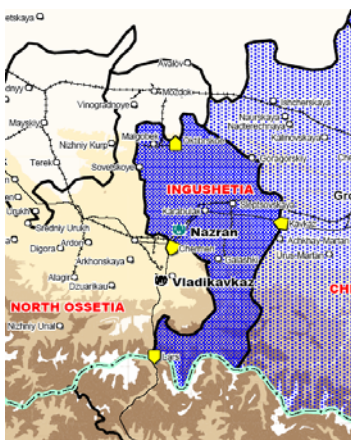
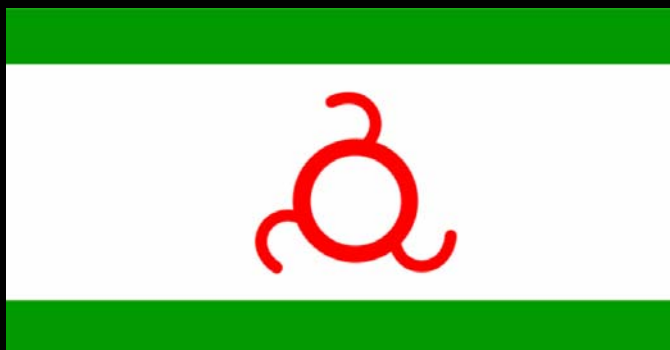
UNHCR RUS48 Standard Houses Programme – "turn-key" house in Kantyshevo (Ingushetia)

Ingushetia

Republic of Ingushetia

Ingush: ГІалгІай Мохк / Rkhalrkhai Mokhk

Russian: Республика Ингушетия / Respublika Ingushetiya



Key Data

Ingushetia RI

State/Country:	Russian Federation
Federal District:	Southern Russia
Area:	2,963 km ² (for comparison: Long Island NY USA 3,566 km ²)
Population:	486,970 (2006)
Density:	164 inhabitants/km ²
Capital:	Magas (Coordinates: 43° 10' N, 44° 49' E – Altitude: 560 m)

Geography

Ingushetia is located in Southern Russia, at the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range, its foothills and the adjacent plains. The Republic of Ingushetia constitutes a federal subject of Russia since 04 June 1992 when the former Chechen-Ingush Republic was split in two. Ingushetia has internal borders with the Chechen Republic in the east and the north-east, the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania in the west and the north-west and an international border with Georgia at the main ridge of the Caucasus in the south.

In terms of the topography of Ingushetia: the country is clearly separated into three different parts just like the neighbouring republics North Ossetia-Alania and Chechnya. The south, roughly one third of the republic's territory is a pathless densely forested mountainous area; the centre is characterized by the vast alluvial plain of the river Sunzha and the northern uplands by a low ridge of woodless hills. The climate is the same as in North Ossetia-Alania and Chechnya: moderately continental.

Transport

Ingushetia has excellent transport connections with interior Russia: there are daily flights from Moscow to the recently opened Magas airport. Bus and train connections are also available with a number of destinations in Russia and bus connections with Azerbaijan (Baku). The international border to Georgia is closed for international traffic since November 1999.

Demographics

Ingushetia is an officially bi-lingual country: the national languages are Russian and Ingush, a north-eastern Caucasian language, closely related to Chechen: the two languages (basically dialects) constitute the family of Vainakh languages.

The population of Ingushetia is predominantly Sunni Muslim. Ethnic Ingushs make up 77.3 percent of the republic's population, followed by 20.4 percent Chechens, 1.2 percent Russians and 1.1 percent others (census 2002).

In the aftermath of the two Chechen wars and the Prigorodny conflict between North Ossetia-Alania and Ingushetia more than 26,000 refugees from Chechnya and North Ossetia-Alania received asylum in Ingushetia. Many of them have been temporarily accommodated in collective centres in Ingushetia.

There are four urban areas in Ingushetia: the newly-created capital Magas with only 337 permanent residents, the former capital Nazran with 130,241 inhabitants as the most important urban centre of the republic, Malgobek with 43,442 inhabitants and finally Karabulak with 34,011 inhabitants (census 2006).

Politics

Ingushetia has seriously been affected by two regional conflicts of the nineties in the North Caucasus after the disintegration of the Soviet Union:

1. the First (1994-1996) and the Second Chechen War (1999-2000);
2. the (North)Ossetian-Ingush conflict over Prigorodny district 1992 (the conflict is still not settled and dampens the political atmosphere).

There is a strong revival of Muslim tradition noticeable in the last years; the Islamic renaissance increasingly dominates public life in Ingushetia.

Security situation

The security situation in Ingushetia has recently greatly deteriorated; the mountainous south of the republic with its dense forests, in particular the Sunzhensky district bordering Chechnya is regarded as a high-risk area: large-scale counter insurgent operations are ongoing there since March 2009. Several high-profile terrorist attacks in summer 2009 aggravated the situation drastically: the car-bomb attack on the presidential convoy on 22 June in Nazran seriously injuring the president of the republic Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, the shooting of the Minister for Construction Uslan Amerkhanov in his office on 12 August in Magas and finally the fatal suicide bombing of the police headquarters in Nazran on 17 August when 24 people were killed.

Public authorities

- President of the Republic is Yunus-Bek Bamatgireyevich Yevkurov
- Prime Minister of the Republic is Rashid Yakhyayevich Gaisanov

Economy

The labour market situation in Ingushetia is dramatic: the officially reported unemployment rate amounts to around 55 percent of the working population (01 April 2009).

Ingushetia's main types of businesses are agriculture and the production of mineral water (Achaluki). Other sectors of the economy are: transport, the operating of transit gas pipelines, mining, oil drilling, gas gathering and the production of building materials (brickyards in Nesterovskaya, Yandare and Nazran). The agricultural production ranges similar to neighbouring Chechnya on a very low-level: expanses of former croplands abandoned now and extensively used as pasture land only; no maintenance of the irrigation system has taken place for years and the canals are decayed.

Ingushetia has been declared as a free economic zone to encourage investments. The republic's economy depends strongly from State subsidies (direct funds transferred from the Federal government in Moscow). A type of informal ("shadow") economy seems to be established over the years.



Family of Returnees in Sleptovskaya



Family of Returnees in Sagopshi



Family of Returnees in Nazran



Family of Returnees in Kantyshevo



Returnee girl in Dolakovo



Small income generation in Zyzykov-Yurt



Collective Centre Dariyal in Troitskaya



Collective Centre Dariyal in Troitskaya



DzheyraKh – Gora Stolovaya



DzheyraKh – Targim



DzheyraKh – Targim



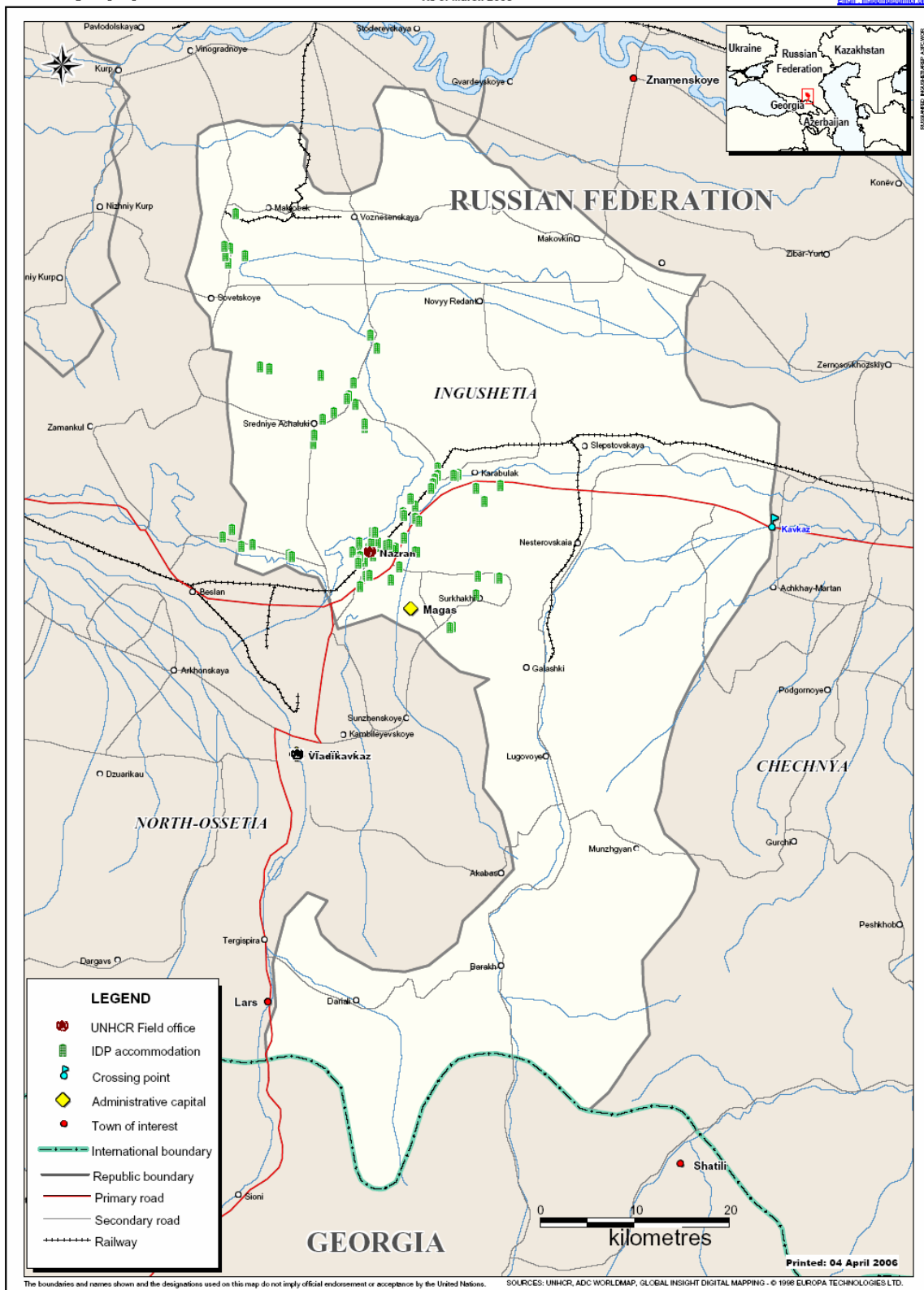
DzheyraKh – Targim



DzheyraKh – Targim



DzheyraKh – Escort



Chechnya

Chechen Republic

Нохчийн Республика

Чеченская Республика

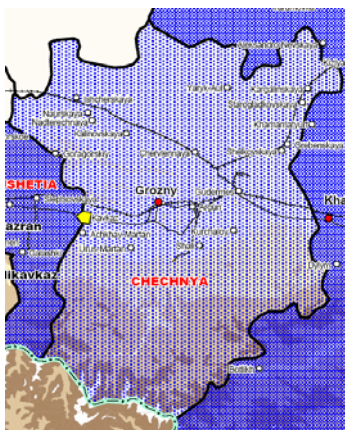


Temporary accommodation at the construction site in Urus-Martan (Chechnya)

Chechnya

Chechen Republic

Chechen: **Нохчийн Республика / Nokhchiyn Respublika**
Russian: **Чеченская Республика / Chechenskaya Respublika**



Key Data

State/Country:
Federal District:
Area:
Population:
Density:
Capital:

Chechnya ChR

Russian Federation
Southern Russia
15,500 km² (for comparison: Connecticut CT USA 14,357 km²)
1,162,801 (2006)
74 inhabitants/km²
Grozny (Coordinates: 43° 19' N, 45° 42' E – Altitude: 130 m)

Geography

Chechnya is located in Southern Russia, at the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range, its foothills and the adjacent plains. The Chechen Republic constitutes a federal subject of Russia since 04 June 1992 when the former Chechen-Ingush Republic was split in two. Chechnya has internal borders with the Stavropol district in the north-west, the Republic of Dagestan in the north-east and the east, the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania in the north-west, the Republic of Ingushetia in the west and an international border with Georgia at the main ridge of the Caucasus in the south.

In terms of the topography of Chechnya: the country is clearly separated into three different parts as the neighbouring republics of Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania. The south, more than half of the republic's territory is a mountainous area; the centre and the north-east are characterized by the vast alluvial plain of the Terek, Sunzha and Argun rivers and the Caspian Depression and finally the north-west: a woodless and sparsely populated plateau. The climate is the same as in Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania: moderately continental.

Transport

Chechnya has excellent transport connections with interior Russia: there are daily flights from Moscow to Grozny airport available as well as bus and train connections with a number of destinations in Russia and bus connections with Azerbaijan (Baku). The international border to Georgia is officially closed for international traffic since November 1999; nevertheless illegal border crossing by locals is a daily occurrence.

Demographics

Chechnya is an officially bi-lingual country: the national languages are Russian and Chechen, a north-eastern Caucasian language, closely related to Ingush: the two languages (basically dialects) constitute the family of Vainakh languages.

The population of Chechnya is predominantly Sunni Muslim. Ethnic Chechens make up 93.5 percent of the republic's population, followed by 3.7 percent Russians and 2.8 percent others (census 2002). A large Chechen diaspora lives in the Russian heartland: 1,360,253 individuals, more than the whole population of the Chechen Republic itself. In the aftermath of the two Chechen wars 1994-1996 and 1999-2000 the formerly numerous minorities for the part left the country. Ingushs and a considerable number of war-affected Chechens received asylum in neighbouring Ingushetia. Many of them have been temporarily accommodated in collective centres there. Others received temporary accommodation in Chechnya itself: in collective centres or in private households.

There are five urban areas in Chechnya: Grozny, the capital with 218,193 inhabitants as the most important urban centre of the republic, Urus-Martan with 46,138 inhabitants, Shali with 43,457 inhabitants, Gudermes with 38,953 inhabitants and finally Argun with 28,050 inhabitants (census 2006).

Politics

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union Chechnya became the principal theatre of war of the nineties in the North Caucasus. The two Chechen Wars 1994-1996 and 1999-2000 in the aftermath of Chechnya's secession from the Russian Federation in 1991 and the proclamation of the independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria inflicted tremendous damage on the country and claimed tens of thousands of victims. Ramzan Kadyrov, president of Chechnya since May 2007 and currently the strong man in Grozny keeps his country under strict control. The situation in terms of human rights is alarming.

Security situation

After three years of relative calm in Chechnya the security situation is rapidly deteriorating since the beginning of this year; the mountainous south of the republic with its dense forests, in particular the remote areas bordering Ingushetia is regarded as a high-risk area: large-scale counter insurgent operations are ongoing there since March 2009. A new type of terrorist attacks in summer 2009 aggravated the situation considerably: five suicide bombers on bikes attacked police patrols in Grozny on 21 August 2009 early in the afternoon, killing five policemen and wounding three others.

Public authorities

- President of the Republic is Ramzan Akhmatovich Kadyrov
- Prime Minister of the Republic is Odyes Khasayevich Baisultanov

Economy

The labour market situation in Chechnya is alarming: the officially reported unemployment rate is currently around 35 percent of the working population (01 April 2009).

Chechnya's main types of businesses are oil drilling, gas gathering and the operating of transit oil and gas pipelines and, at least for the time being, the building industry. For over two years intensive construction activities are visible everywhere in urban Grozny. However the boom seems to be limited to the territory of the capital city, bypassing the rural areas of the country. The formerly very important industrial production facilities (mechanical engineering, food and beverage industry) have been completely destroyed during the two Chechen wars. The agricultural production ranges similar to neighbouring Ingushetia on a very low-level: expanses of former croplands are abandoned and extensively used as pasture land only; no maintenance of the irrigation system has taken place for years and the canals are decayed.

The republic's economy depends, as in Ingushetia, greatly on State subsidies (direct funds transferred from the Federal government in Moscow). A type of informal ("shadow") economy seems to be established over the years.



Curtain sewing workshop in Grozny



Musical education at elementary school no.39 in Grozny



Young returnees in Achkhoy-Martan



Shatoy (Selo Dai)

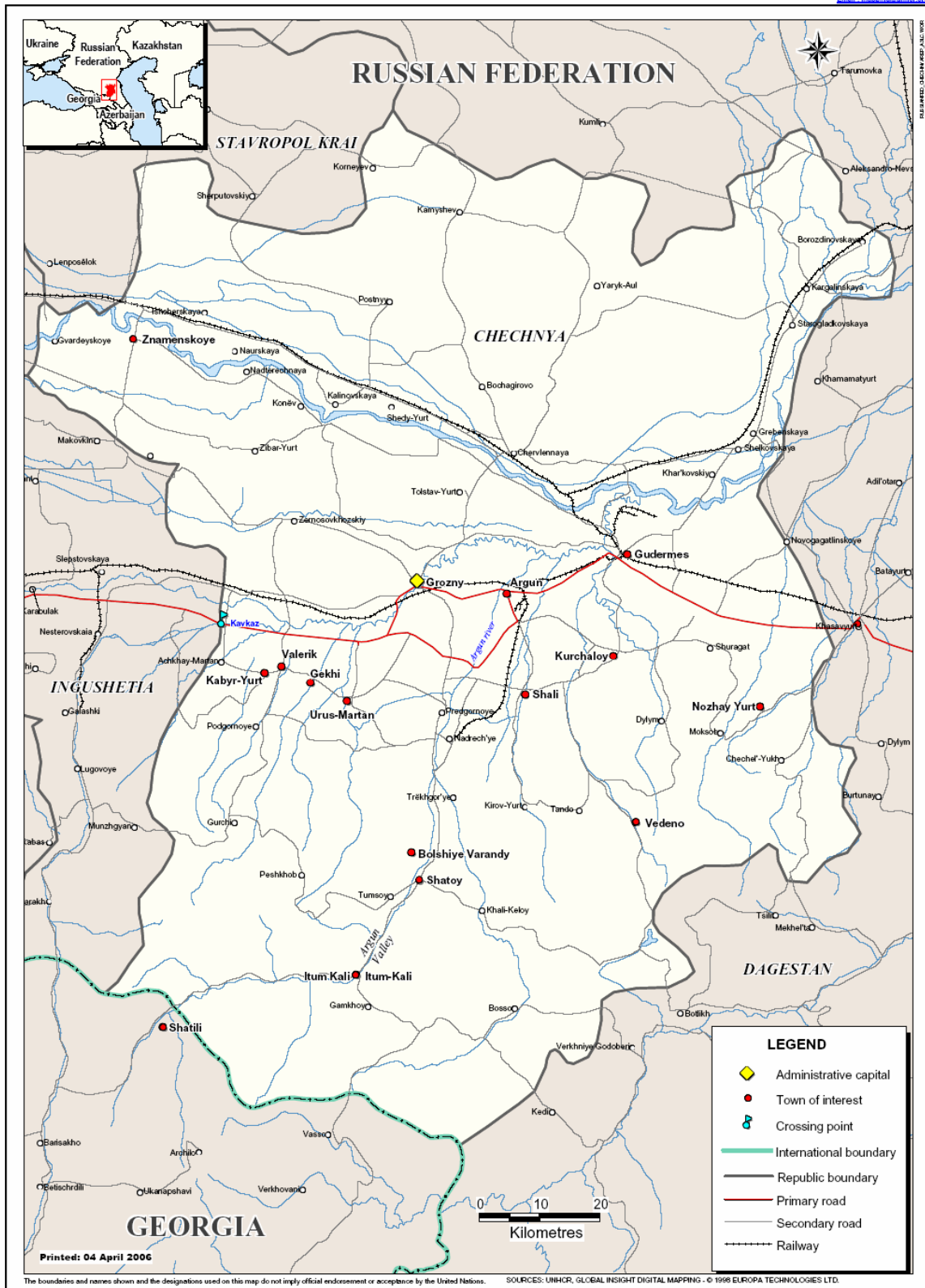


93 years old Chechen in Selo Dai (Shatoy) as a civilian



... and as a veteran of the Great Patriotic War ...

Annex 2 – Map Chechnya







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