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RUSSIAN CHURCH ORGANIZES HUMANITARIAN AID TO REMOTE VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



A new project of the Russian Orthodox Church aims to help those struggling families who live far from the Church's established aid centers.

To this end, mobile Church humanitarian aid centers have been organized to travel to remote villages in 35 Russian regions, reports the Moscow Patriarchate's Synodal Department for Charity.

The aid is first of all intended for poor families and those with children with disabilities, but any struggling family will receive help.

"This is a new format for our work—the delivery of aid to the most remote villages. Residents of the hinterland especially need support: It's difficult to work, people live poorly. Not everyone can get to the Church's humanitarian aid centers. Our employees go to these places, talk to residents, give out assistance, and at the

same time learn about their needs and bring it next time," explained Maria Studenikina, head of the Protection of Motherhood and Childhood division of the Synodal Department.

The new project is the fruit of the cooperation of 53 organizations: 17 regional humanitarian aid centers and 36 shelters for mothers.

Families in need can receive food, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, toys, diapers, baby food, stationery, clothing and shoes.

$587,600 (43 million rubles) has been donated by benefactors for the work of the mobile centers. Last year, the same amount was used to purchase 323 tons of humanitarian aid for 15,000 families.

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