

# Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society

Founded:	1920
Members:	212,195 (2005)
Volunteers:	15,607 (2005)
Staff:	400 (2005)
Structure:	Seven regional centres, 85 local branches and 3,626 primary organizations <sup>1</sup>
Expenditure:	1,613,148,242 Azeri Manat (equivalent of CHF 434,701 or Euro 280,814) (2005)

## 1. Foundation

### Mission

Azerbaijan Red Crescent's mission is 'to serve vulnerable people by mobilizing the capacity of Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the power of humanity.'

### Legal base

Government of Azerbaijan recognized the auxiliary role of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent through a decree adopted by the parliament in October 1994. The mandate of the organization, its mission and vision is also stipulated in the national society's statutes first adopted and approved by the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan in November 1996. In 2003, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, with technical and legal support of the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), revised its statutes to ensure division between its governance and management and articulate clearly the national society mission and mandate. The statutes were reviewed in conformity with the Federation's global guidance for national society statutes and followed an internal, participatory process. The new statutes were adopted by the national society at the 20th extraordinary general assembly in March 2003.

To consolidate the legal framework of the national society, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with the Federation's support and in coordination with the ICRC, continues to advocate with the Government on the adoption of a new national law on the Red Crescent. A draft of the Red Crescent law was submitted to the government for comments but still needs additional work and adoption.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a member of the state emergency commission.

### Constituency

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has a country-wide network of seven regional centres and 85 local committees covering all administrative regions of the country. Additionally, there are 3,626 (2005) primary organisations, community groups linked to the Red Crescent. The national society secretariat is in Baku, the capital.

## 2. Capacity

### Leadership

While the Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of the national society, the decisions on its direction and policy are made by the governing bodies. These bodies define a framework of purpose, policies, goals and programmes, and provide a mechanism for accountability and compliance.

Governing bodies of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent are: General Assembly, Governing Board and Presidium. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. It consists of members of the governing board and delegates from primary organisations elected by Red

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<sup>1</sup> Community groups linked to Red Crescent.

Crescent district and urban committees and other members. The General Assembly is responsible for appointing members of the Governing Board and the president.

The Governing Board acts between General Assemblies. The board comprises 59 members elected by the General Assembly. Among other responsibilities, it approves plans and budgets, as well as activity and finance reports.

The Presidium consists of nine members approved by the Governing Board. It appoints the executive secretary, who is the chief executive officer of the national society, directing the secretariat and its branches.

A supreme leadership of the national society comprises president and two vice-presidents elected by the General Assembly. President coordinates the work of the national society, represents the organisation on national and international arena and defines the strategic direction of the organisation.

### **Human resources**

The national society employs 400 people, including 50 staff members of the secretariat in Baku. It has 212,195 members and 15,607 volunteers.

### **Financial resources**

In 2005, the society's income stood at CHF 1,238,300 (USD 994,618). The greater part arrived through the Federation appeal. The rest came from the ICRC, local partners, membership fees and a limited amount generated from small-scale commercial projects.

### **Material resources**

National society rents its headquarters office space and shares it with the Federation delegation in Baku. The transport needs have improved over the last few years by a number of vehicles bought by the Red Crescent with its own resources or donated by the Federation, Japanese Red Cross and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF). The society also received some computers.

### **Partnerships**

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent coordinates its work with local government authorities and other humanitarian actors, such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (a German NGO), American International Health Alliance (AIHA), Woman Health Centre, Save the Children, INAM, BUTA, International Relief and Development (IRD), International Mercy Corps (IMC), Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise, Fovgal Association and international oil companies. The Red Crescent has good contacts with the local media too.

The main Movement partners of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent include the Federation Secretariat, represented by its country and regional delegations, the ICRC, Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and Iran.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a member of various Red Cross and Red Crescent networks. It is, for example, a member of European Red Cross/Red Crescent network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA). It is also a member of the Federation's Emergency Preparedness and Relief Commission. The president of the national society is an expert of the commission.

The list of organisations the national society works with has expanded over the recent years, but it still not optimal. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent seeks new partnerships to share expertise and diversify its funding base.

### **3. Performance**

#### **Activities**

The main activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent include:

#### **Health and care**

- Promoting, through a network of trained volunteers, reproductive health, family planning, nutrition, personal hygiene, healthy life style, and the importance of immunisation.
- Reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS among risk groups – schoolchildren, street children, university students, and sex workers.
- Contributing to reduced TB via public education campaigns and observing compliance of TB patients (former prisoners) to the treatment, short course (DOTS)
- Recruiting non-remunerated volunteer blood donors and referring them to national blood transfusion centres.

#### **Disaster management**

- Strengthening community preparedness for disasters.
- Offering first aid services.
- Strengthening the national society's disaster response capacities via training of volunteer teams, improving logistics management and engaging in regional and cross-regional cooperation.

#### **Organisational development**

- Improving programme planning and management skills
- Encouraging branches to work in participatory community development (PCD) approach to strengthen links with the local communities and deliver tailored, sustainable, services.
- Improving youth and volunteer management to increase their involvement in Red Crescent work.

#### **Humanitarian values**

- Promoting the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.
- Encouraging change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards marginalised communities - people living with HIV/AIDS, lone elderly, orphans and disabled children.

#### **Priorities**

Azerbaijan Red Crescent priorities are defined in the strategic plan of the national society for 2005-2007 and include:

- Establishing a disaster management system to prepare for and respond to disasters.
- Improving health awareness of the population through promotion and education work.
- Endeavoring to change behavior of people to increase tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for human being via dissemination of humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles.
- Establishing a stable and diverse financial resource base of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.
- Strengthening capacity of national society local branches to provide relevant and effective services.
- Developing a system to improve involvement, registration and management of youth and volunteers.

Within the strategic priorities the Azerbaijan Red Crescent established the following objectives it will focus on in the coming two years (2006-2007):

#### **Disaster management**

- Updating Azerbaijan Red Crescent's disaster management plan.
- Defining the national society's future role in the national disaster management system.
- Increasing knowledge and skills of Red Crescent staff and volunteers in disaster management.
- Strengthening central and regional warehouse structures and response centres.

- Increasing community awareness of hazards and initiating sustainable risk reduction (mitigation) measures based on Red Crescent vulnerability and capacity assessment findings.

#### **Health care**

- Organising health promotion activities.
- Preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB via increased public awareness.
- Reducing stigma against people living with communicable diseases.
- Developing non-remunerated volunteer blood donor recruitment system.
- Providing psychological support to vulnerable people.

#### **Humanitarian values**

- Disseminating values and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the fundamentals of the International Humanitarian Law.
- Campaigning against violence and discrimination.
- Preventing misuse of Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem.
- Strengthening media and public relations.

#### **Organisational development**

- Standardizing financial management, logistics and reporting.
- Extending fundraising efforts.
- Developing new income generation projects.
- Developing cooperation with national and foreign companies and organizations working in Azerbaijan.
- Introducing and implementing core Red Crescent activities by all Red Crescent branches in pursuance with the national society's strategic plan.
- Strengthening membership and human resource base and mobilising technical and financial resources.
- Improving cooperation and coordination between branches and with partners.
- Developing Red Crescent youth organization.
- Improving youth and volunteers recruitment, registration and management.
- Developing new youth and volunteer programmes.

In 2007, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent plans to review its achievements in the priority areas listed above and based on lessons learned, it will develop a strategic plan for further three years to adequately respond to internal and external environment.

## **4. Further information**

- Azerbaijan Red Crescent Statues
- Azerbaijan Red Crescent strategic plan 2005-2007