

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

TURKEY & SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Appeal No. MAA69001
14 July 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update n o. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 31 May 2006;
Appeal target (current): CHF 6,722,755 (USD 5,550,033 or EUR 4,312,222);
Appeal coverage: 31 % [Click here for the interim financial report to date](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Turkey and Southern Caucasus Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA69001.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Europe/Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission:

1. Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
2. Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
3. Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
4. Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme summary:

In cooperation with their partner organizations, the National Societies of Turkey and Southern Caucasus region continue to meet part of the most urgent and pressing needs of the population. The main focus for three National Societies, namely the Armenian and Georgian Red Crosses and Azerbaijan Red Crescent is to meet pressing community needs and develop National Society capacity in the following areas:

- Improving health and social conditions of vulnerable people and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and discrimination of People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) (health and care)
- Decreasing vulnerability of the population to natural and man-made disasters and strengthening disaster response mechanisms (disaster management)
- Increasing local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability (organisational development)
- Reducing intolerance and social exclusion and promoting respect for diversity and human dignity (humanitarian values)

The Turkish Red Crescent continues building its capacities in disaster response and preparedness, planning, management and community based disaster response within a five-year joint programme 2000-2005 of the American Red Cross which was integrated into the Federation Regional Appeal 2006-2007. Though the programme agreement ended as of 31 December 2005, the American Red Cross and the Regional Delegation for Turkey and Southern Caucasus extended it to the end of May 2006. This accounts for the higher Appeal target of CHF 6,722,755, than in the original Appeal document.

All programmes were directly implemented by the National Societies through their network of branches and volunteers¹. The Federation, through its **Regional Delegation in Ankara and Country Delegations in Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku** had been providing technical support and monitoring of the implementation to ensure the activities were implemented as planned. Because of the international and local recruitment of the Head of Office in Armenia and Head of the Delegation in Georgia was quite slow, the Regional Delegation has assumed the managerial responsibilities for these countries for some months.

On the whole, donor response to regional appeal has been low. To help the National Societies of the region to achieve objectives the Federation has raised CHF 2,109,887 (USD 1,741,836 or EUR 1,353,359). For the income of Red Crosses of Armenia and Georgia the amount includes only the first tranche of the contribution. However, the income is 31 per cent of the funding sought and includes CHF 1,600,630 (i.e., 23 per cent of the appeal budget), the balance from the 2005 operation, which was carried over to support the continuation of projects in 2006. Expenditure, to date, stands at CHF 1,012,579 (15 per cent of the appeal budget and 48 per cent of income). Because of late arrival of funds (CBF contribution arrived in March and Norwegian contribution in April) the National Societies could not to implement planned activities timely. As a result some adjustments have been made in the timetable to be able to carry out all activities by the end of the year.

The main donors are Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian government, the Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and the Finnish Red Cross. The latter covers the salary of the Federation representative in Azerbaijan.

The funding, however, was not evenly distributed among the programmes. While some received over 100 per cent of what was required, others were under-funded. As a result of low appeal coverage, disaster management programme of the Georgian Red Cross and cross-country programmes on HIV/AIDS, disaster management, human trafficking, harm reduction and organisational development did not get any funding. There are critical assumptions as no new pledges are expected in the short term and no increase in the core allocation from Geneva. In addition, the funds from the 1999 earthquake reach the end of their life span. In view of the above mentioned critical facts and scarce resources, there remains a very real need to look for other partners to take over the financing of programmes.

The table below shows income and expenditure against the original appeal budget per country as of 31 May 2006.

Table 1. The appeal coverage, expenditure and remaining balance by the end of May 2006

Programmes/projects	Appeal budget (CHF)	Income (CHF)	Appeal coverage (%)	Expenditure			Balance (CHF)
				CHF	% of the ops budget	% of income	
Armenia	1,149,999	301,069	25	201,001	18	71	100,068
Azerbaijan	2,291,686	803,479	35	360,198	16	45	443,281
Georgia	1,699,416	266,044	16	131,552	8	49	134,492
Turkey	409,388	252,314	62	215,697	53	85	36,617
Cross Country Programmes	1,172,264	486,981	42	104,131	9	21	382,850
Total	6,722,753	2,109,887	31	1,012,579	15	48	1,097,308

¹ Armenian Red Cross Society - 11 regional, two zonal and 52 community branches and 2,111 volunteers; Georgian Red Cross - 10 regional, 72 branch offices and 1,000 volunteers; Azerbaijan Red Crescent - seven regional centres, 85 local branches and 15,607 volunteers.

Challenges, the National Societies continue facing are various. The most acute one is how to ensure the sustainability in an environment of dwindling international support. The area where the three National Societies, namely the Red Crosses of Armenia and Georgia and Red Crescent of Azerbaijan still lag behind is their sustainability. Majority of National Societies activities are funded through the Federation. This includes salaries of core personnel. Though significant steps have been taken to reduce funding of National Societies core positions: the objectives of the positions were revised based on the salary support requirements and staff not contributing to the overall development of the National Societies were taken out from the Federation financial support line; all three National Societies agreed to make a significant reduction of their core positions respectively as of May, June and July. Within the framework of salary support discussions, the **Regional Delegation** has provided technical guidance to National Societies on developing current human resource systems. The domain of support varies from revision of their recruitment and performance management practices to the development of clear job descriptions, salary scales and internal staff regulations. Progress on human resource system development will be evaluated at the end of 2006 while discussing Federation support for 2007.

In addition, the National Societies have to continue providing better services and exploring more local funding sources to comply with the progressive co-funding scheme according to which the local National Society will have the task of raising more funds locally. It still remains a challenging task for three National Societies to facilitate dialogue with the local authorities and organisations, to generate interest in and support for their activities. They need to prioritise their work according to pressing needs and the capacity they have, strengthen links with the communities, and improve planning and marketing. To help the National Societies in this challenging task the **Regional Delegation** initiated development of the sustainability roadmap concept aimed at reinforcing the capacity building initiatives through a progressive co-funding scheme for the appeal over the next five years (2007-2011), as well as introduction of a quality-assurance tool for the humanitarian project proposals. Using this roadmap, the National Societies in the region will be given the opportunity to determine levels of the Federation support depending on the extent of their own income generation. The **Country and Regional Delegations** continue to assist the National Societies in facilitating new partnerships. It is considered that, having an agreed roadmap with clear milestones as a powerful fundraising tool may also attract new donors and partners interested and concerned about sustainability.

Retaining the volunteers especially in remote regions is another challenge, i.e. volunteer management needs to be improved too. The National Societies have to reorganise their structure so it can recruit more volunteers, better manage and retain them. Though National Societies have already started addressing part of these issues with the direct support of the Country and Regional Delegations, a lot still needs to be done.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The activities of this appeal are shaped by the general context of Southern Caucasus. As a matter of priority the appeal concentrates on the challenges common for the region. Three National Societies face problems similar to those experienced by other countries emerging from the break-up of the Soviet Union: mass unemployment, large-scale migration, lack of skilled workers and resources affecting all sectors of the society. The lack of public health services, especially in rural places, exacerbates the situation. Because of bad quality health services and high percentage of migration of young people to other countries in the hope of better job possibilities the wide spread of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and TB increases. The region is extremely disaster prone. In addition to ongoing humanitarian crises, earthquakes, floods and landslides affect millions and cause huge damages, especially in rural areas. Under such circumstances the role of the National Societies becomes imperative and assistance provided to the vulnerable people more vital. Thus, the National Societies are determined to ensure continuation of the programmes consolidating and building on the achievements made till now.



Lighting candles in the shape of the ribbon- the symbol of AIDS- in memory of those who have died

New vulnerabilities are also emerging. One of them was the outbreak of the Avian Influenza in the region. Beginning from February 2006 an outbreak of avian flu occurred first among wild ducks and swans on the Caspian shore. Later, avian flu virus spread to humans, eight human avian influenza cases and 21 human cases countrywide were confirmed in Azerbaijan by the WHO laboratories in London. Five of these cases were fatal in Azerbaijan and four in Turkey. Because of the newness of the disease, insufficient readiness of governmental structures and nongovernmental organizations to fight bird flu, active trade among the countries in the region, absence of antiseptics and disinfectants, protective uniforms, movement of the population and birds, there is an imminent danger of experiencing outbreak in the whole region.

The Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies as auxiliaries to the government were actively involved in preparing for bird flu. The main responsibility of the National Societies was to raise extremely low awareness among targeting high risk groups, i.e. workers of poultry farms, housewives and children, primary health care workers, public catering establishments, custom-house workers, transport service workers. With technical assistance of the **Regional Delegation** in Ankara, Red Crosses of Armenia and Georgia prepared project proposals on Avian Influenza and submitted to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for funding. The decision of the funds provision is still outstanding. Through distribution of leaflets, posters, organizing training sessions on the preventive measures of the virus, radio and TV programmes the projects foresee deeper and broader understanding of the epidemic and its preventive measures especially among the rural areas. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent started public awareness campaign with their own funds and covered all planned five regions of the country (Lankaran, Sabirabad, Ganja, Mingachevir and Sumgayit) and 24 districts by training 140 volunteers who would in their turn spread the message on Avian Influenza among local population of 360 villages. The National Society also issued 93,000 leaflets and 18,000 posters with message "ATTENTION! What you should know about the bird flu".

Health and care

Overview

Improving the health status of the population has been a priority for the three National Societies in the Caucasus region. Their strategy is to continue tackling the problems by addressing a key cause- lack of information. HIV/AIDS and TB prevention are a part of the National Societies' long-term strategy. The project is designed to help the National Societies expand the network of volunteer trainers to educate the local population on the factors that put them at risk of communicable diseases – sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Over

the last few years, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have recorded big achievements², but challenges still remain, particularly in rural areas, where the task of the volunteers is compounded by taboos and cultural beliefs.

Within the reporting period the Armenian Red Cross has trained 131 youth leaders, who in their turn reached some 2,600 people on the HIV/AIDS messages. In addition, four social workers have visited 29 TB patients providing them with medicine and food parcels. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent trained 9,843 volunteers, schoolchildren, university students and sex workers from Baku and six regions as peer educators on HIV/AIDS and knowledge of previously trained peer educators have been refreshed.

As a pilot step the Azerbaijan Red Crescent started to be involved in TB control in the country. The National Society is making efforts to improve its partnership with the Ministry of Health in the frame of the national TB programme, the Ministry of Justice and GOPA³. The Red Crescent has already identified its role in TB control: it includes the establishment of a group of trained nurses to directly observe the treatment of TB patients released from prisons. ICRC has supported the National Society in implementation of the project.

Another priority area of **National Societies of Armenia and Georgia** is meeting some of the social problems facing socially unsecured target groups. From January to May, the Red Cross in Georgia mobilised and trained up to 65 volunteers deliver home care to 1,500 lonely elderly, project beneficiaries. 13 Armenian Red Cross social centres have continued providing their traditional services: psycho-social consultations, medical check-ups, measuring blood pressure and glucose, and intramuscular injections and have supported 12,800 vulnerable people.

Programme Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have contributed to improved health of vulnerable people.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Vulnerability of target groups to preventive health, including the importance of immunisation, healthy life-style, personal hygiene and reproductive health has reduced.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** gradually assists the government of Azerbaijan increase the country's blood supply by carrying out its role in recruiting non-remunerated blood donors and referring them to the national blood transfusion centres. Since January, ten new volunteers from Mingachevir, Sabirabad, Sumgayit and Baku were trained on volunteer non-remunerated blood donor recruitment bringing the total number of these volunteers to 62. The volunteers have improved awareness of 500 people from six regions on the importance of non-remunerated volunteer blood donation.

The Red Crescent conducted four blood donation campaigns at the National Society's secretariat, Azerbaijan International University, the «Caspian Business Centre» and Baku office of «TRT» channel. During these campaigns 72 Red Crescent employees and volunteers as well as representatives from local TV channels and newspapers, students from State Economy University, Azerbaijan University, National Aviation Academy gave blood in favour of children ill with haemophilia and thalassemia.

Expected Result 2: The National Societies in the region have been introduced to the concept of harm reduction and the areas for their intervention have been identified.

The HIV/AIDS and TB prevention efforts of the **Armenian Red Cross** are a part of the National Society's long-term strategy, an important component of which has been its harm reduction work with drug addicts. With funds from Open Society Institute the Armenian Red Cross syringes exchange centre continues distributing syringes and condoms in Vanadzor city, one of the country's three big cities. Since January, the centre has distributed 5,000 sterile syringes and 600 condoms to 50 drug addicts. The centre employs a social worker and a consultant narcologist. Most drug addicts visiting the centre are the former patients of the Red Cross consultant. The centre

² Over the last years the Armenian Red Cross has trained around 820 volunteers and staff on prevention of this killer disease, has developed, printed and distributed around 40,000 copies of education materials on HIV/AIDS and TB.

³ GOPA is a German Consultancy Company dealing with the distribution of medicine and working with TB dispensaries.

also has two volunteer outreach workers who take syringes, condoms and Red Cross educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention to the places where drug addicts usually get together.

Expected Result 3 The spread of HIV/AIDS and TB among risk groups-youth, street-children, sex workers, intravenous drug users and former prisoners-has reduced.

Since January, the **Armenian Red Cross** has trained some 131 volunteer youth leaders as peer educators on HIV/AIDS in Aragatsotn, Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Kotayk regions through training sessions on sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV/AIDS and TB prevention. The trained volunteers initiated discussions in their communities and reached some 2,600 people. The issues discussed vary from how the disease is transmitted and how it can be prevented. The discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS was also discussed, challenging the youngsters' misconceptions. Each of the participants was provided with leaflets, booklets, posters and stickers on HIV/AIDS to counter myths about HIV/AIDS transmission. In addition, training on STI/HIV/AIDS/ TB prevention and Avian Influenza for 11 social workers of Red Cross regional branches was organized.

To help volunteer trainers in their work with the communities, the Red Cross edited, reprinted and distributed to youth leaders and medical personnel of local health centres 500 copies of the guide-book on healthy sexual behavior which were developed by the Red Cross during the previous years and reached the end of their life span. Additionally, 500 copies of «Sexual Health and STI prevention» book were edited and republished and will be used as methodological guidelines for supporting the future activities as STI/AIDS peer educators.

Three video-films on sexually transmitted illnesses and HIV/AIDS developed by the Red Cross in previous years were broadcast on local TV to once again draw attention of general public to STI/AIDS problems in Armenia.

As there is still a necessity to control the alarmingly growing problem of TB⁴ in the country, the Armenian Red Cross continues to focus on training and distribution of printed materials containing key information on TB and its transmission. Twenty training sessions on TB were conducted for 313 teachers of ten schools in Yerevan. A special training on TB was conducted for social workers, visiting TB patients (new ly involved social workers of Ararat marz) and young volunteers visiting lonely elderly. The topics were TB history, main symptoms, uninterrupted treatment necessity, preventive measures, care of TB patients, relations with HIV/AIDS, forms for TB patients registering and reporting, questionnaires for survey, forms for food distribution; informational materials distribution among the social workers for their own use and further distribution among TB patients families. The Red Cross also assists the state dispensaries in delivering medicines to TB patients, who cannot collect drugs themselves because of health problems and/or lack of money to pay for transport. The Red Cross's role is also to monitor the patient's compliance to the treatment. The treatment follows the internationally-recommended TB control course – DOTS⁵. Four social workers continue visiting TB patients at their homes. During reporting period Red Cross social workers visited new 29 TB patients in Vanadzor. Each month 35 TB patients received a food parcel. The Red Cross social workers bring medicines and record progress of their treatment. Medicines are supplied by the German Government.

In addition, Red Cross edited and republished three types of educational materials on TB: "Tuberculosis is curable. Let's fight together" leaflet, "How people learn to treat tuberculosis" leaflet for school-children, "Tuberculosis is preventable if we will join our efforts" booklet for RC volunteers and social workers, TB patients and their family members, in total 9,000 copies. The above mentioned materials were distributed during information presentations and training sessions among TB patients and their family members, the project social workers, youth leaders, Armenian RCS staff and volunteers, schoolchildren and general population.

⁴ The number of tuberculosis in Armenia has increased alarmingly from 590 in 1990 to 8,082 in 2004. In 2004, 1,558 new cases were registered.

⁵ DOTS: once patients with infectious TB have been identified using microscopy services, health and community workers and trained volunteers observe and record patients swallowing the full course of the correct dosage of anti-TB medicines. Sputum smear testing is repeated after two months, to check progress, and again at the end of treatment. A recording and reporting system documents patients' progress throughout, and the final outcome of treatment. For more information on DOTS please see [What is DOTS](http://www.who.int/gtb/dots/whatisdots.htm) at <http://www.who.int/gtb/dots/whatisdots.htm>. Complete treatment of TB requires at least six months of daily therapy with three or more antibiotics following the initial treatment period.

727 **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** peer educators organized seminars for 9,843 schoolchildren, students, sex workers, and patients of a skin-venereal hospital with the aim of reducing the risk of the HIV/AIDS spread among young people. 115 peer educators out of 727 were trained in Mingachevir, Ganja, Lankaran, Sumgayit and Sabirabad regional centres as well as Ismayilli local committee.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent held a survey on knowledge about HIV/AIDS and behavior towards people living with HIV/AIDS. The survey revealed the low awareness of the majority of the respondents to the illness. It also showed that half of the respondents think negatively about people living with HIV/AIDS, which speaks about the urgent need for more intensive work for the struggle against stigma and discrimination alongside continuation of spreading knowledge on HIV/AIDS.

500 calendars with message “Youth against AIDS” were developed and distributed among partner organisations such as UNAIDS, Social Union to Fight AIDS, Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In addition, 1,997 hygiene kits and supplies were purchased and distributed among patients of a skin-venereal hospital.

The Red Crescent participated in the seminar on “HIV/AIDS and TB prevention and control in prisons and opportunities for collaboration between government health services” organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) jointly with the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan. Red Crescent six nurses, who had been already trained on this topic by the ICRC, became acquainted with DOTS treatment of TB and after the training will conduct control under the TB treatment of released prisoners. Nurses of Yasamal and Sabunchu Red Crescent local committees visited two TB patients and provided them and their family members with informational materials on TB and hygiene kits. Red Crescent and representative of ICRC held a meeting with nurses on problems and difficulties of controlling TB patients released from prison.

On 24 March, World TB Day, 25 students of National Academy of Sciences, 20 invited employers of Ministry of Communication as well as 70 students of Azerbaijan Aviation Academy and Pedagogical University were informed about TB during meetings and seminars. A film about TB shot by ICRC was shown to the participants.

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, the **Georgian Red Cross** attempts to undermine one of the crucial factors – lack of awareness. It has re-established a network of trained staff and volunteers to educate the population on HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission. The focus is on young people. The National Society has set up youth groups in five targeted branches to encourage the youth, both within and outside the organization, to learn about the virus and develop safe behaviour. By the end of 2006, it is expected to reach at least 3,000 young people.

Additionally two interactive training sessions were organised for the Red Cross 65 volunteers and ten social workers on HIV/AIDS. In parallel, two Red Cross staff members from the headquarters have been trained to facilitate training on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease.

Expected Result 4: Health and living conditions of marginalised communities, including lone elderly people, has improved.

To help the staff and volunteers of 13 most active centres⁶ to increase their professionalism and skills to develop more relevant activities to respond to pressing needs in their communities within the reporting period the **Armenian Red Cross** trained 130 Red Cross staff and volunteers from all 13 regional and community branches on how to provide better social services and 78 volunteers on programme writing and another 25 Red Cross staff and volunteers on bird flu prevention and basic health care including healthy lifestyle.

As planned in the programme proposal, each regional branch developed a project to respond to health and social needs of their communities through participatory rapid appraisal approach (PRA). Both representatives from beneficiaries/communities and volunteers participated in the project design and further are involved in the project implementation. The projects vary from health education for young people, psycho-social support, home care for

⁶ In total, the Red Cross has a network of 23 social centres. Because of the lack of finances, now only 13 actively working social centres in regional and community offices. The other ten work not fully and their activities are mainly based on local donations.

lone elderly and the disabled people, to distribution of basic relief items to the needy and minor repairs of their homes. The projects are still in the process of implementation.

The 13 target regional social service centres have continued providing their traditional services. Within January-May period the centres supported 8,945 vulnerable people. Cooperation with the Armenian Branch of IRD (International Relief and Development), started in 2004, continues. Within this cooperation the latter provided 15,867 items of second-hand clothes to 3,849 Red Cross beneficiaries and "MAP" LTD provided food for Armavir branch beneficiaries. These were mainly lone pensioners, single mothers, veterans of war and disabled people.

The table below shows the exact number of people reached through social centres between January and May:

Service provided	People assisted
Food distribution	212
Clothes distribution	3,849
Distribution of medicines and medical supplies	24
Psycho-social consultations	312
Blood pressure measuring	320
Measuring sugar level in blood	24
Home visits	160
Club visits	30
Events for vulnerable people	13
Distribution of wheelchairs/crutches	7
Seminar participants (HIV/AIDS, healthy lifestyle)	145
Total	5,096

The Red Cross estimates that from January to May period the total number of beneficiaries reached from social activities is around 12,800.



Caring for the elderly: One of the Georgian Red Cross volunteers paying a visit to a beneficiary of the programme

Within the frame of "Social support to elderly" project the **Georgian Red Cross** has mobilised and trained 65 volunteers to deliver home care to 1,500 project beneficiaries. At least once a week volunteers visit homebound pensioners, cook, clean, do shopping and/or run other errands, such as reading newspapers. The Red Cross also established social centres in the capital city so that the elderly have a place to meet with each other. The Red Cross volunteers, mainly young people, who initiate various activities such as social gathering, and health promotion and education sessions, have run the centres. To attract more young people, the Red Cross will arrange computer classes at the centres. It is expected a total of 2,000 people will benefit from the centres' work.

In addition, distribution of 3,000 parcels of hygiene items including washing powder, soap and toilet paper began in all five districts of Tbilisi. Moreover, allocated spaces for

social centres in three districts (Isani-Samgori, Didube-Chugureti, Gldani-Nadzaladevi), based on the formalized agreement between Georgia Red Cross and Tbilisi city Mayor's office, have been equipped with furniture.

Outside of the appeal, British charity organization OXFAM funded a programme for improving health status of the vulnerable population in six communities of Zugdidi district by ensuring access to safe drinking water and increasing capacity of target groups. Within the project the Georgia Red Cross provided lone elderly people with basic food and non-food items to improve their nutrition and hygiene.

Impact

The project's most significant impact is the increased understanding by TB patients and their family members on the necessity to complete the treatment and use hygienic practices so TB patients recover better and new cases of TB among their family members are prevented. Seminars and numerous discussions on AIDS prevention in regional schools organized by youth leaders raised awareness on prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS among young people. The Armenian Red Cross estimated that due to the training sessions, distribution of printed educational materials and broadcasting of video-films on the television all over the country, the total number of people informed on TB and HIV/AIDS prevention is about 30,000. Due to the public awareness campaigns organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent 1,315 people were reached.

Constraints

Challenges, however, the volunteers face, are compelling. Women feel embarrassed to discuss their sexual behaviour. School directors often forbid talk about safe sex because they think it is not an appropriate topic of conversation for a society raised on conservative values. The task of Red Cross volunteers is to challenge local taboos, which is not easy and requires perseverance. There is still some problem providing information on STI/AIDS to remote communities' youth, especially demonstrating correct condom usage. A combination of all these factors plunge youth leaders into big difficulties making them find other options to pass the message.

The main challenge the social centres face is scarce local financial resources to sustain their work. The branches raise locally a maximum of 15 per cent of what is needed. Lack of funds has resulted in a high turn-over of trained staff and volunteers and consequently the quality of the services has deteriorated.

National Societies have difficulties in cooperating with other HIV/AIDS and PLWHA organisations and governmental structures. This hampers the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and their access to PLWHA. A clearer role would help avoid duplication and overlapping of work with other organizations involved, as well as define the auxiliary role of the National Society during this kind of situation. The **Regional Delegation for Turkey & Southern Caucasus** has already started initiatives in this respect: the first step was to link the Turkish Red Crescent with Positive Life Association NGO established to protect the rights of PLWHA in Turkey by sharing information on the Turkish Red Crescent experience in the field of HIV/STD. The Regional Delegation envisages promoting the importance of other National Societies in the region collaborating with PLWHA organisations as well.

Disaster Management

Overview

The region is extremely prone to a variety of natural and man-made disasters, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries. The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the region have played a vital role in responding to disaster, while at the same time building community preparedness via raising public awareness of the risks and hazards. The goal of the programme is to reduce the vulnerability of at-risk population to natural and man-made disasters and strengthen the disaster preparedness and response structures of the National Societies.

During the reporting period the **Armenian Red Cross** has trained the regional rapid response team on needs assessment and logistics and refreshed their knowledge and skills to be used in case of emergencies. In addition, the Red Cross organized 17 evacuation of 6,841 pupils and 629 teachers, in total, 7,470 people. The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** conducted training on "assessment of emergency situations and needs, rules, principals and code of conduct during relief assistance" for 184 people from local committees of Baku, Nakhchivan, Sabirabad, Lankaran, Mingachevir and Ganga regional centres. 1,951 schoolchildren and their teachers, National Society volunteers, internally displaced people living in the southern camps and employees of local non-governmental organizations were trained on basic life saving skills in Baku and five regions.

In addition, the National Societies have started cooperation with other parties acting in the field of disaster management. The **Armenian Red Cross** had the opportunity to enlarge its disaster preparedness and response structure by implementing new projects in mountain rescue and lifeguard services to increase the National Society

human and technical resources and strengthen relations/links with appropriate governmental units and communities. The project is funded by the German Red Cross.

To promote cooperation among the National Societies in the region, the **Regional Delegation** established the Regional Disaster Response Mechanism and conducted a two-day cooperation meeting in Tbilisi with the participation of all four National Societies in the region. The overall goal of this mechanism is to contribute to providing rapid response to the victims of disasters, utilising the regional capacities in disaster response and making the National Societies familiar with the Federation disaster response tools (i.e. FACT, ERU etc.). Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation has been drafted by regional disaster management team and shared with the leaderships of the National Societies. The Regional Delegation envisages having this mechanism operational by the end of 2006. In addition, to enhance the human resources capacities, Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training will be held in September hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent and facilitated by regional delegation and the Secretariat in Geneva.

Programme Objective: Impact of disasters on vulnerable populations has decreased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The National Societies are better prepared to respond disasters.

To strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capacities of the National Society the **Armenian Red Cross** conducted two “Logistics and needs assessment” training sessions for 12 regional rapid response team⁷ volunteer-members, in total 80 people. They will use this knowledge during different simulation exercises organized by the National Society and other partner organizations and in case of disaster.

The inception phase of round tables with the stakeholders in four regions was completed. The main purpose of these round tables is to present the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) method to the stakeholders and to receive their agreement for cooperation in this direction. After the round tables VCA team composed of the National Society regional volunteers, will be briefed by the headquarter staff on assessment types and methods to start the process. It is planned to make assessments and develop and present to stakeholders final reports in three months. Assessments will help to identify main risks and threats, problems and gaps of visited communities and to focus attention of population and stakeholder organizations on them and find joint solutions.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** successfully tested early notification system in the remote villages of Lankaran and Agstafa as well as in Xuchala village of Quba district and the centre of Gazakh district. Based on the developed early notification system, three samples of telephone directory have been prepared.

The Red Crescent supported a family whose house had burnt down as a result of fire in Ismayilli district. They distributed 19 kinds of relief items to the affected people: blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses, carpets, beddings, clothes, rubber boots, shoes, towels, hygienic and kitchen sets, polyethylene coating, portable gas-stoves, electric ovens, electric kettles, detergent, jerry cans, candles and spades.

The Red Crescent conducted training on “assessment of emergency situations and needs, rules, principals and code of conduct during relief assistance” for 184 people from local committees of Baku, Nakhchivan, Sabirabad, Lankaran, Mingachevir and Ganga regional centres. It is expected that knowledge received by the participants during the training will help them to carry out relief assistance more effectively.

56 employees and volunteers from the Red Crescent Secretariat, Sumgayit, Sabirabad, Lankaran, Mingachevir, and Baku regional centres were trained on using telecommunication equipment according to the recently prepared

⁷ The Armenian Red Cross has 13 regional and three zonal disaster preparedness and response centres to coordinate disaster management activities in central, northern and southern regions. Each centre has a coordinator and a rapid response team of 12 volunteers trained in disaster management. The teams assist authorities to respond to major local emergencies. The Red Cross also has a professional rescue team – Lore – with experience, expertise and equipment to respond to disasters within hours.

telecom instruction. As a result they improved skills on usage of radio handsets and will be able to apply them in case of emergencies. In addition, instruction on how to use Red Crescent telecommunication equipment, which is a part of the Red Crescent disaster management plan, has been developed and will be distributed to all Red Crescent employees and volunteers.

VHF and HF radio stations in Sabirabad regional centre as well as in the vehicle of coordinator of Sabirabad regional centre were maintained. VHF and HF radio stations were installed in one of the vehicles of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. VHF and HF radio stations were also installed and successfully tested in new office of Ganja RC.

Expected Result 2: Community awareness of the risks and threats of the most common emergencies in the region has decreased to mitigate its effects.

The **Armenian Red Cross**, with ICRC funding, printed 700 copies of 2006 calendar based on the pictures of “Children against Disasters” of the National Drawing Competition and distributed countrywide to regional/community branches and governmental and non-governmental organisations of Armenia.

17 simulated evacuations were organized countrywide with participation of 6,841 pupils and 629 teachers, totally 7,470 people. Main goal of these evacuations was to train pupils how to evacuate from the school correctly and to train teachers as persons responsible for pupils’ safety and security in the school to organize and manage evacuation process if needed. Two educational training sessions on the topic of how to act before, during and after natural and man-made disasters were held in Sevan and Armavir for 54 pupils and preceded with performances based on educational books from “Aghetik” series.

Two cartoons titled “Aghetik and earthquake” and ”Aghetik in routine life”, based on educational books from “Aghetik” series on coping mechanisms with different disasters designed for children were broadcasted by local TV channels in Armavir and Shirak regions.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** trained 1,951 schoolchildren and their teachers, National Society volunteers, internally displaced people living in the southern camps and employees of local non-governmental organisations on basic life saving skills in Baku and five regions.

Expected Result 3: Regional cooperation between the National Societies in disaster management has been strengthened.

In the frame of NATO PfP Main and Final Planning Conference coordinated by Ministry of Defence of Armenia was organised to develop the agenda for Rescuer 2006 Simulation Exercise, the scenario of which is an earthquake. The **Armenian Red Cross** was included in the agenda for the theoretical part to present its National Society and became a practical part of the observers.

Regional disaster management meeting was held and facilitated in Georgia by Federation **Regional Delegation** for Turkey and Southern Caucasus. The meeting was a good opportunity once again to share information about existing capacities of the National Societies in the region and there was agreement reached to develop and sign RDRT MoU between the National Societies and Regional Delegation and to be more active in information management within the region. Regional disaster response team (RDRT) will help the member National Societies in the region fill the identified gaps in emergency response and strengthen their capacity to respond to demands.

Impact

The disaster preparedness and response mechanisms of National Societies have strengthened and knowledge of the volunteers involved in disaster management activities have been improved and refreshed. In addition, National Societies have trained some 9,421 people; schoolchildren, teachers, volunteers, internally displaced people and employees of local non-governmental organisations on basic life saving, needs assessment and logistics.

Constraints

One of the main challenges for the National Society of Armenia is the absence of Contingency Plan for the National Society defining roles and responsibilities, reaction mechanisms, plan of action and encouraging the National Society to be more actively involved in developing the Country Contingency Plan.

Disaster Management Plan of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with clearly mentioned roles and responsibilities of the National Society will help to avoid duplication and overlapping of the work with other organizations as well as define the auxiliary role of the National Society during emergencies. It will contribute to better implemented disaster related activities of the National Society, improved human resource management system, planning of day-to-day activities and the usage of the financial and logistical procedures. The **Regional Delegation** envisages facilitating joint activities with the National Societies to address the outstanding issues.

Organizational Development

Overview

The International Federation continues to support the National Societies of the region to become effective, viable, self-sufficient and legitimate organisations that make significant difference in the lives of vulnerable people. Building on the progress of the last years, the focus of the Federation's support in 2006 has been on strengthening planning, management and technical capacities of the branches as the effectiveness of the organisation largely depends on the capacities of its grass-root units to deliver focused, relevant and sustainable services.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** branch development project includes four new branches, which are Gazakh, Aghjabedi, Fizuli and Ganja⁸. Preliminarily the meeting with chairpersons of these branches was held in Baku and they have been informed on the concept and methodology of branch development project. The work has been continued in five branches such as Sumgayit, Mingachevir, Ismayilli, Zaqatala and Sabirabad partly by their own means and partly owing to Capacity Building Fund finances arrived in April.

National Societies make efforts to diversify income sources and find new local and international partners. Due to these efforts the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has raised around CHF 18,729 through donation boxes, membership fees and private donations. With the generated funds the Red Crescent provided 429 lone elderly people and indigent families from Baku, Barda, Sumgayit, Ganja, Shamkir and Lankaran with food parcels, medicines and clothes. National Society has continued its partnerships with local and international organisations. Youth Support Fund assisted 1,000 lone elderly people, indigent families and internally displaced people living in Baku city, 'UMCOR' presented hygienic kits, which were distributed to 160 lone elderly people from Baku. In addition, the delegation of the Red Crescent Society of United Arab Emirates visited Azerbaijan and rendered relief assistance to more than 2,500 refugees and internally displaced families.



Seminar on STI and HIV/AIDS prevention for Armenian Red Cross volunteers

Realizing the vital role of volunteers for Red Cross work, the National Societies are committed to developing an efficient volunteer management system ensuring ongoing and effective implementation of the activities. For the first time, **Armenian Red Cross** has started to implement a volunteer management programme enabling the National Society to strengthen its volunteering capacities and prepare volunteers to implement different programmes providing them with necessary skills and knowledge, to retain existing volunteers and recruit new ones.

In the second half of the year the **Regional Delegation** plans to review Participatory Community Development (PCD) projects implemented by the

⁸ In 2006, the work will focus on nine branches: Sumgayit, Mingachevir, Ismayilli, Zaqatala, Sabirabad, Ganja, Agjabedi, Fizuli and Kazakh. With Sumgayit, Mingachevir, Ismayilli, Zaqatala and Sabirabad (total five) branches the work has started in 2003. Some training and community work has been done there in previous years. Building on the progress and lessons learned there, the Red Crescent will expand its branch development efforts to four more branches (Agjabedi, Fizuli, Kazakh and Ganja) in 2006.

Armenian and Georgian Red Crosses and Azerbaijan Red Crescent with the aim of strengthening the understanding of community development concept within the National Societies staff and volunteers. The review team will visit sample projects in three countries and interview various stakeholders of these PCD projects, including beneficiaries, branch staff, volunteers, local authorities and NGOs/institutions active in the regions. The regional delegation in Ankara and country delegations are willing to continue supporting National Societies in developing sustainable PCD projects with active involvement and input of the communities, via exchange visits, knowledge sharing and training. The results of the review will be reported on in the next programme update.

Programme Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region are better functioning organisations able to provide efficient, effective and sustainable services and contributing to the development of civil societies in their countries.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Existing capacities-people, tools and the approaches-of each National Society have been mapped and a regional resource roster has been developed.

Two days training on Project Planning Process (PPP), the main planning tool of Federation, was held among ten chairmen of local committees within Sabirabad regional centre of the **Azerbaijan Red Crescent**

As an important part of capacity building, English language courses have been conducted for 20 Azerbaijan Red Crescent staff of headquarter regularly four times a week.

Within programme planning and management skills development project it is planned to conduct one more training workshop on project planning process (PPP) for staff members from regional centres and branches; develop programme monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and implement these regularly. It is still ongoing process; the draft versions of evaluation documents are developed and will be shared with the National Society for further implementation.

Expected Result 2: A systematic approach to human capacity building has been developed based on agreed needs of the National Societies.

To meet the expected result, two training needs of staff within the National Societies have been identified. Priority will be given to building the capacities of programme managers, particularly, in fund-raising. **Regional Delegation**, in consultation with the leaderships of National Societies, will identify relevant staff to be trained. In addition, National Society staff with different profiles has been identified to participate in the Regional Disaster Management training for RDRTs to increase the number of staff in the roster of emergency managers.

Expected Result 3: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region have diversified their income sources and reduced dependence on international funds via better programming, marketing, more local fundraising and improved financial management.

Within the reporting period the **Armenian Red Cross** held several discussions and negotiations to establish new partnerships with local businesses, governmental and/or non-governmental organisations. After the fundraising officer of the National Society is recruited, the main programme activities will be implemented for diversifying the income sources and finding potential donors.

Meanwhile, the SoftMaster computer software of the National Society was also regularly upgraded to match new legislative and financial reporting requirements. In addition, subscription to the financial newspaper "IRTEC" was renewed to enable the National Society to access information on finance-related laws and regulations.

In their efforts to stay updated to the frequently changing taxation and accounting laws in the country, the National financial administration staff participated in a seminar on new changes in accounting law and taxation held by the "Economy and Law" information centre.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** held two days training on financial reporting in Sabirabad, Lankaran and Mingachevir regional centers with participation of 71 chairmen and chief accountants of 31 local committees. Besides, training on fund-raising was held in Lankaran and Ganja regional centres for 21 chairmen of local committees within these two regional centres to enable them to conduct fund-raising campaign at their places.

To reduce dependency on international funding, the National Society concentrated on expanding its fundraising activities; namely, the Red Crescent placed 20 donation boxes in Baku office of Business Travel International Company, in the exhibitions, which were organized in Baku by Iteca Caspian LLP' as well as in the local branches of International Bank of Azerbaijan. Funds generated from these charity boxes were CHF 1,349 and will be spent on providing 429 lone elderly people and 21 indigent families from Baku, Barda, Sumgayit, Ganja, Shamkir and Lankaran with food parcels, medicines and clothes. Some 886 new members have registered, bringing the total number of National Society's members to 214,492.

All three National Societies of the Caucasus region, with support of Federation **Country and Regional Delegations**, are working on the road map, which will provide sustainability of the humanitarian programmes implemented by the National Societies. The roadmap will also contribute to the self-reliance of the National Societies through expanded donors' base and diversified funds. This means that National Societies will gradually take their own responsibility for administration costs and salary support.

Expected Result 4: Governance and management of the National Societies have strengthened.

The focus was on strengthening governance and management capacities via revising the Statutes of the **Georgian Red Cross**, establishing regulations, rules and procedures, improving the financial systems and mechanism, training the staff on new procedures, developing youth policies and strategies.

Though the Statutes have already been revised according to recommendations of the Ministry of Justice and the ICRC and Federation, some certain parts/issues still left need to be clarified with the Ministry of Justice. The Statutes will be registered as soon as the revision is finalised.

The work on developing strategic planning 2006-2009, started last year, is still in process. The programme coordinators have submitted plans for the future activities and shared their proposals based on the priority areas of the National Society adopted by the General Assembly in 2004 as well as the lessons learnt during the implementation of the two-year strategic plan.

The leadership of the Georgian Red Cross requested the ICRC and the International Federation to jointly review the National Society organizational capacities and identify the Movement short and midterm support to the Georgian Red Cross within the funding and capacity limitations complementary to the external financial audit and legal consultations regarding the finance systems, legal situation and legal base. The review will be held at the beginning of July and its main findings and recommendations will be available in the second programme update.

Expected Result 5: The Red Cross and Red Crescent branches improved capacity plan and manage programmes that are responsive to local needs and focused on the areas where the organisation can have the greatest impact.

The **Georgian Red Cross** continues to assist the targeted branches strengthen links with communities and develop more relevant programmes to reduce vulnerability of the local population. To achieve this, a pilot project was launched in 2004 to encourage the branches to work using Participatory Community Development (PCD) approach. Efforts to continue working using this methodology continue in 2006 too. For the time being only one mini-project has been accomplished in Vardisubani (Telavi region). Specifically, the youth and volunteers club was established focusing on analyzing current youth problems and life knowledge, and planning to improve the situation. The implementation of other mini-projects is still pending due to the general review of PCD programmes in the region to be held at the beginning of July.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** continued the implementation of branch development project in Sabirabad and started four new projects in local branches of Ganja, Gazakh, Aghjabedi and Fizuli. The Red Crescent held six training sessions for branch chairpersons, accountants, youth coordinators and volunteers of the new local committees in Ganja regional centre, in total 16 people, on PCD concept as a tool for community-based activities,

the Red Crescent Strategy, understanding concept of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) techniques, and future of community development. In addition, four training sessions were held on fundraising, monitoring and reporting for 20 staff of the branches.

The National Society continues its efforts to increase the knowledge of the branches in working with communities. There is already notable progress on that: Fizuli branch has organized two on-the-job training sessions on PPP for branch and community volunteers. It is expected that other branches also actively follow this example and will involve community volunteers into the process of self-sustainability building.

The activities within three southern camps and five communities in Sabirabad region covered 4,737 IDPs, community members and volunteers and included workshop sessions on first aid, health issues, family planning, disaster preparedness, induction courses about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its history, mandate, Fundamental Principles as well as activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, puppet making training for pupils of drama circle, chess and checkers tournaments, drawing competitions and continued sewing, barbering, hairdressing and culinary courses.

Women committees of Akhmedabad, Garatape, Bulagli, Sumgayit, Mingachevir, Ismayilli and Zagatala communities visited 13 lone elderly and cleaned their houses. Five communities in Sabirabad held events devoted to World Azeri's Solidarity Day and New Year parties with participation of 375 community members. The events were organized owing to funds collected by community members as well as donations from local authorities.

The Turkish Red Crescent branches continue disseminating community based disaster programmes. During the reporting period one of the main successes was signing a cooperation agreement with a well-known University, EQ Research Centre in earthquake research and development of the education materials and training of trainers programmes. Branches were also able to adopt these programmes and disseminate information through their community trainers and internet. Children and Teacher disaster education book was the first comprehensive book developed in the country and disseminated in all provinces in selected schools. In addition, launching of web site for children disaster and first aid education is near to completion. First aid modular programmes for different target groups have been solely developed by pilot branches. Cooperation with Ministry of Education to develop First Aid and disaster books for children has also been well received by the community. In addition, volunteer management and public relations guidelines for branches were developed with cooperation between the Turkish Red Crescent headquarters and branches. These have strengthened relationships which were not strong before. VCA pilot study in Izmir branch was completed and the final report was made.

Expected Result 6: Young people and volunteers are more actively involved in the Red Cross and Red Crescent work.

The **Armenian Red Cross** hosted the First Eurasian Network meeting of Red Cross/Red Crescent youth of CIS countries. Nine youth representatives from five countries, namely, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Armenia participated in workshops, practical activities and discussions on cooperation and communication within and outside Red Cross, image making and marketing, youth structures, introduction of participatory community methodology, fundraising methodology, PPP and web page information updating. The workshops were facilitated by experts from the Federation Budapest regional delegation, Norwegian Red Cross, Armenian Youth NGO and Armenian Red Cross, as well as representatives of different networks and cooperation projects, the Federation youth commission. The participants discussed common needs of their respective National Society youth, shared experience and presented the activities of youth volunteers in their countries, as well as discussed their future plans for cooperation within the network, effective ways of sharing information with each other.

One of the most important activities for youth, which stimulates big inflow of volunteers, is peer education. In this regard 52 peer educators delivered school sessions on HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, Red Cross humanitarian values, how to develop sexually safe behaviour, harms of smoking, alcohol and drug addiction for over 1,500 children of 52 schools all over Armenia. This is a unique experience for the children to express their opinion and listen to their peers' opinion on problematic issues, have a chance to seek the most effective solutions. During the winter vacations, while the schools were closed because of lack of heating, volunteers organised brainstorming contests and discussions for the schoolchildren on relevant topics.

The Armenian Red Cross Youth has been designing and implementing projects on supporting the vulnerable communities. In this regard 70 volunteers from nine regional and two community branches were involved in “Psycho-Social Care for Elderly Refugees” mini project to assist 500 lonely elderly refugees by visiting them twice a week, helping with household duties, shopping, providing psychological support. The project also includes material assistance, such as distribution of bed-clothing, hygiene items, and food parcels (oil, rice, tea, sugar, canned meat, macaroni, and sweets). The elderly have a chance to get into contact with each other through birthday celebrations, social events such as concerts, folk ballet performances, visits to museums and churches.

The Armenian Red Cross Youth is assisting children from refugee families living in dormitories through the “Smiley Club” mini project, which aims to alleviate isolation of refugee children and help them integrate with their local peers. Within the framework of the project 20 youth volunteers organise daily workshops on English language, computer skills, painting, singing and sports for 100 children aged 6 -12 in the dormitory’s Red Cross room equipped with furniture and a computer. The volunteers organise monthly events, cultural visits as well as camping during summertime. In the Smiley Club mini project workshop curriculum has been refreshed recently, new workshops were suggested by the volunteers and included in the project.

To enhance the public awareness on the Red Cross work in Armenia and promote the voluntary movement throughout the country, youth volunteers organized mass events, dissemination sessions in educational institutions, fund raising concerts, money gathering marching and participated in different actions dedicated to significant dates in Red Cross and voluntary movement history. “YOUTH RED CROSSroad” newsletter, published in Armenian and English, is keeping people informed of Red Cross Youth life, important news, events and other issues.

The Armenian Red Cross places great importance on how to recruit and retain its volunteers. For this purpose new programme is implemented by the National Society to improve volunteer management. Data on new and existing volunteers has been collected countrywide to establish a volunteer database in June. At the same time the National Society is working on developing the volunteering policy with active involvement and input of the volunteers from regional branches. Development of the policy will set out the clear responsibilities and the rights of the volunteers and the National Society which in turn will contribute to structured and more productive work.

Meanwhile, volunteer registration and application forms have been developed in accordance with the National Society Statutes and now are placed countrywide. This system will help to implement regular and accurate registration and calculation of volunteers contributing to the effective coordination of volunteer groups.

To enlighten the work of the volunteers to the public, profiles of volunteers for different service programmes have been developed and launched on the Federation website. (<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/>)

Some 99 new volunteers have been recruited and received induction sessions on Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, **Armenian Red Cross** history, activities and structure, bringing the total number to 2,111. The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** also continues registering volunteers. To date 1,489 volunteers have been registered, which is 7.4 per cent of the total number. The total number of National Society volunteers countrywide is 16,393.

The Red Crescent organized leadership training for 67 volunteers and youth instructors from local committees within Lankaran, Ganja and Sumgayit regional centre. The participants were explained which features leader should have, received leadership and communication skills as well as learned how to write project proposals. As a result of this training, volunteers wrote five project proposals. Two local businessmen, who were invited to the training, provided financial support to implement two of these projects; namely, “Excursion to the Azerbaijan historical museums situated in Baku for diligent pupils” and “Organization of Novruz Bayrami celebration for children from indigent and IDP families”.

In Ganja regional centre Red Crescent held training for 18 volunteers on social support. Five of the volunteers among 18 are from Lankaran and have been already carried out supportive work in the orphanage houses, and the second day the training was in one of the orphanages, letting the volunteers share their experienced.

Two-day Red Crescent induction course on Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its history, mandate, Fundamental Principles and the history as well as activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent was held in Mingachevir local committee for 22 new volunteers.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, 8 May, was celebrated by organizing a number of competitions on first aid skills and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Fundamental Principles knowledge. Preliminary competitions started among 360 schoolchildren from 15 districts of Lankaran, Ganja, Mingachevir, Sabirabad and Sumgayit regions. The final competition was held in Baku among 75 winners of mentioned competitions and as result volunteers from Sabirabad regional centre became final winners.

Also a number of events were organized by the Red Crescent youth committee. One of these events was organised for 30 schoolchildren of Sabunchu district from families of victims of 20 January 1990. The participants were acquainted with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Fundamental Principles, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and its humanitarian activities. Then during sweet-table schoolchildren received sportswear and other clothes as well as school supplies. Khatai local committee organised seminars on HIV/AIDS, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Fundamental Principles, humanitarian activities of Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society as well as basics of International Humanitarian Law for 80 schoolchildren. Volleyball tournament held between Red Crescent volunteers and teenagers from a detention place of Khatai district and celebration of a Novruz holiday among 60 young people from this detention place.

On the 86th anniversary of Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society Youth Committee a lunch and sweet table for 150 elderly people (50 bedridden patients) in the elderly people's home situated in Bilgah settlement of Baku city was organized. Warm clothes collected by Red Crescent volunteers and employees as well as Azerbaijan Delegation of the ICRC were given to them. At the end of event elderly people enjoyed a concert programme⁹.

Impact

Due to all these activities the number of volunteers willing to join the Red Cross increased. Namely about 300 volunteers joined the Armenian Red Cross, 1,489 joined the Azerbaijan Red Cross. With the efforts of the volunteers both National Societies stretched the helping hand to different layers of the population: lonely elderly, internally displaced people, refugee families, orphans, disabled children, schoolchildren and general public.

Constraints

Despite the achievement recorded, constraints, however, remain. It is sometimes hard for the youth volunteers to conduct discussions on such topics as sexual health and drug usage with schoolchildren in remote communities due to traditional mentality and cultural taboos of their members. There is a big difficulty for volunteers to implement income generating campaigns and raise funds, as the public is still not very active in supporting the National Societies activities. This speaks about the need to continue efforts on raising the image of the Red Cross and Red Crescent among the general public. The above notwithstanding are the gaps of the current framework and addressing them will improve the quality of the humanitarian programmes and efficiency of the funds spent.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

The primary objective of the programme is to change people's attitudes and behaviour, and promote tolerance, coexistence and respect for human dignity.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** organized 16 sessions on humanitarian values to help participants realise the harmful effect of people's behaviour towards stigmatised people – handicapped, orphans, people with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The participants of the training were very keen to spread the message of non-discrimination towards such kinds of vulnerable people. For more effective coverage of local population, the participants suggested strengthening work with local media by frequently contacting them, showing our video clips with concrete message on local TV, as well as organize this kind of training sessions.

⁹ All above mentioned events were highlighted on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent web-page www.redcrescent.az.

Programme Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have stepped up efforts to advocate for the respect of human dignity and promote a culture of non-stigmatization and tolerance towards marginalised communities.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The general public is aware of the Red Cross and Red Crescent history, values and activities.

A total of 105 articles about humanitarian activities of the **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** were published in local newspapers as well as web pages of the National Society, International Federation, news agencies such as Azertag, APA, Assa-Irada, AzerPhoto, Trend, AzerWeb and 'Day'. Several TV reports were broadcast on TV channels like ANS, Space, STV, Lider, AZTV and ITV.



“Can we change the world by changing our attitude?” theme debate among students of Baku educational institutions

Two round table discussions on “Can we change the world by changing our attitude?” were organized in cooperation with the Debates Centre for 82 students of six educational institutions of Baku. During the debates students were divided into three groups and discussed the influence of person, family/society and government in forming stigma and discrimination towards marginalized people. The main conclusion was that a person forms family, family forms the society, the society in its turn forms a government, which is a part of the world; that’s why by changing an attitude in any part of this chain, people can change the whole world. Another conclusion was that both society and government consist of individuals, thus if each person becomes more tolerant towards people, who are usually marginalized by the society, it will have a positive impact on the whole world.

In connection with 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the Red Crescent held an image survey among 305 people in the park named after Narimanov of Baku city. The main aim of the survey was to show the awareness of local population about the Red Crescent, its activities and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as disseminate information about the activities of the National Society. The results of the survey revealed that mainly, the population has a notion about the Red Crescent, its activities, and the International Movement (231 out of 305 respondents), while the awareness about the Fundamental Principles is still low (only 55 respondents could list Fundamental Principles, other 205 could not). During the image survey, 15 National Society volunteers and employees distributed 600 information materials on humanitarian values as well as brochures and leaflets about the activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to the pedestrians.

Expected Result 2: Stigma and discrimination attached to HIV/AIDS and TB and other marginalized groups is reduced through cross-country campaigns.

Workshop on “My vision and understanding of humanitarian values” was held for 15 active volunteers and youth instructors from six Red Crescent regional centres, Ismayilli and Zaqatala local committees. The volunteers in turn held seminars for 293 pupils, students as well as **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** volunteers in Sumgayit, Mingachevir, Lankaran, Ismayilli and Sabirabad. All the participants of the training came to the conclusion that promoting humanitarian values is very important and relevant, but the opinion of neither individual nor the society could change after one meeting or seminar, so there should be systematic approach.

Another picnic with Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers and people living with HIV/AIDS will be carried out to dissipate the myth on HIV/AIDS transmission and help volunteers overcome fear of socializing with PLWHA. Promotion of humanitarian values through the Red Crescent web-page and local mass media, seminars, debates

and round table discussions with schoolchildren and students will help to increase their knowledge, as well as define their vision on humanitarian values.

Expected Result 3: Red Cross and Red Crescent have developed a stance and an action on trafficking in human beings.

No activities under this expected result got funding.

Impact

Due to humanitarian values sessions 308 people were reached on harmful influence of stigma and discrimination on marginalized groups as well as increased desire to spread the message of non-discrimination towards such kind of vulnerable people.

Constraints

In **Azerbaijan**, printing of brochures on humanitarian values, stickers with “Let’s say No to discrimination” messages and “Let’s protect humane dignity” in Azeri and English, was postponed, because of poor logistic procedures. Training on web design was delayed because of difficulties selecting a suitable computer firm, though, a contract for one-month was signed with “JalaH” Educational Centre and lessons already started.

One of the major challenges for three National Societies is to work in the field of communication and advocacy. To address this issue and increase the capacities of the National Societies in communication, the **Regional Delegation** will facilitate development and implementation of a communication strategy through technical assistance and establishing regional network of communicators.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The **National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia** with the direct support of the **Regional and Country Delegations** continue to look for other partners for the implementation of multi-fold humanitarian programmes. The task is challenging taking into consideration the low donor interest towards the region but the intensified efforts are not in vain and have already had some results. Within the reporting period, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have cooperated with various ministries and institutions in the country, particularly the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior (emergency and civil safety department), Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, and Emergency Management Administration. Bilateral programmes have been initiated with different international organisations and partner National Societies.

The **Regional and Country Delegations** are actively cooperating with the ICRC to establish common planning bases and joint strategic approaches. In addition, the Regional Delegation regularly visits donors, governmental structures and international organisations to establish relations and link them with the National Societies.

Below is a table reflecting the activities undertaken bilaterally by Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in *National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia of Turkey & Southern Caucasus Region*.

RC Partners	Summary of activities
Armenia	
ICRC	- Providing information on TB project implementation - DM calendar printing, Mine Action Project - IHL dissemination sessions and summer camp on IHL
German Red Cross	-Social/Psychological/Food support to TB patients in Abovyan -Mountain Rescue and Lifeguard Projects
Spanish Red Cross	Funding financial management training sessions for HQ and RBs staff
Norwegian Red Cross	Providing facilitators for First Eurasian Volunteer Network Meeting
Azerbaijan	
ICRC	-Supporting the implementation of TB project; training sessions on “The prevention and control of tuberculosis of released prisoners” for Red Crescent six nurses
Georgia	

ICRC	-Funding external audit and legal expertise and general appraisal of National Society -Organising review the NS organizational capacity to clarify current legal status of Georgian Red Cross and develop a scheme on how to improve the National Society's resource management.
British Red Cross	Social assistance project for the single elderly in Kutaisi (Western Georgia)

Interim financial report below; [click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA69001 - TURKEY & SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAA69001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	1'917'048	1'312'722	404'747	1'934'174	1'154'063	6'722'755
B. Opening Balance	363'744	168'285	31'788	256'881	779'932	1'600'630
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross					90'027	90'027
Canadian Red Cross Society					-2'947	-2'947
Capacity Building Fund				92'000		92'000
Finnish Red Cross					2'947	2'947
Norwegian Red Cross	211'801	72'972	41'309	184'560		510'642
C1. Cash contributions	211'801	72'972	41'309	276'560	90'027	692'669
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
American Red Cross					-245'663	-245'663
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)					-245'663	-245'663
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Red Cross					0	0
Australian Red Cross	-60'374				60'374	0
British Red Cross				0		0
Canadian Red Cross Society				0		0
Capacity Building Fund				0		0
New Zealand Government				-8'996	8'996	-0
New Zealand Red Cross		-32'349			32'349	0
Norwegian Red Cross	7'438			-7'438		0
Singapore Red Cross Society					18'524	18'524
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	-52'936	-32'349		-16'434	120'243	18'524
Inkind Personnel						
Finnish Red Cross	8'500				34'000	42'500
C5. Inkind Personnel	8'500				34'000	42'500
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income					52	52
Service Agreements				1'174		1'174
C6. Other Income				1'174	52	1'226
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	167'365	40'623	41'309	261'300	-1'341	509'257
D. Total Funding = B + C	531'110	208'908	73'097	518'181	778'591	2'109'887

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	363'744	168'285	31'788	256'881	779'932	1'600'630
C. Income	167'365	40'623	41'309	261'300	-1'341	509'257
E. Expenditure	-259'542	-115'677	-32'646	-248'857	-355'857	-1'012'579
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	271'568	93'231	40'451	269'324	422'734	1'097'308

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA69001 - TURKEY & SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAA69001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1'917'048	1'312'722	404'747	1'934'174	1'154'063	6'722'755	
Supplies								
Construction	6'400	865					865	5'535
Clothing & textiles	12'050	173			127		300	11'750
Food	14'941	7'338			12'394		19'732	-4'791
Medical & First Aid	46'288	310			2'414		2'724	43'564
Teaching Materials	230'248	17'536	5'917		29'107	3'379	55'938	174'309
Utensils & Tools	27'594	1'184	1'153		394		2'731	24'863
Other Supplies & Services	328'315	10'876			12'519		23'395	304'919
Total Supplies	665'835	38'281	7'069		56'956	3'379	105'685	560'150
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	22'950							22'950
Computers & Telecom	38'414					27'350	27'350	11'064
Office/Household Furniture & Ec	2'260			3'567	1'268	10'239	15'074	-12'814
Others Machinery & Equipment	6'000							6'000
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	69'624			3'567	1'268	37'589	42'424	27'200
Transport & Storage								
Storage	12'978	330	749		86	40	1'205	11'772
Distribution & Monitoring		31					31	-31
Transport & Vehicle Costs	387'001	17'719	11'944	811	20'077	13'193	63'744	323'257
Total Transport & Storage	399'978	18'080	12'693	811	20'163	13'233	64'980	334'999
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	482'204					295	295	481'909
Delegate Benefits	252'946	14'158	5'569	2'347	8'022	42'971	73'066	179'880
Regionally Deployed Staff	60'600					7'854	7'854	52'746
National Staff	754'116	18'372	21'228	5'469	19'975	56'698	121'742	632'374
National Society Staff	649'401	43'519	19'276	3'623	71'062	1'185	138'665	510'736
Consultants	176'022	810	1'165	256	846	21'611	24'688	151'334
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'375'289	76'860	47'237	11'694	99'906	130'615	366'311	2'008'978
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	876'529	17'042	7'611	1'261	54'620	26'464	106'998	769'531
Total Workshops & Training	876'529	17'042	7'611	1'261	54'620	26'464	106'998	769'531
General Expenditure								
Travel	391'226	17'249	6'178	5'948	9'850	27'479	66'704	324'522
Information & Public Relation	627'991	39'570	3'586	2'238	13'580	56'014	114'987	513'003
Office Costs	423'788	18'614	2'635	712	7'146	31'496	60'602	363'186
Communications	240'918	7'620	7'599	696	6'205	27'473	49'593	191'325
Professional Fees	109'332	1'047	1'596		814	17'656	21'112	88'220
Financial Charges	43'692	8'027	4'320	734	3'465	3'599	20'143	23'548
Other General Expenses	61'574	15'716	13'592	2'865	11'957	-40'672	3'458	58'116
Total General Expenditure	1'898'521	107'843	39'505	13'192	53'016	123'044	336'600	1'561'921
Depreciation								
Depreciation					7'982	1'077	9'059	-9'059
Total Depreciation					7'982	1'077	9'059	-9'059
Program Support								
Program Support	436'979	16'834	7'519	2'122	16'176	22'987	65'638	371'341
Total Program Support	436'979	16'834	7'519	2'122	16'176	22'987	65'638	371'341
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-15'398	-5'958		-61'229	-2'532	-85'116	85'116
Total Operational Provisions		-15'398	-5'958		-61'229	-2'532	-85'116	85'116
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	6'722'755	259'542	115'677	32'646	248'857	355'857	1'012'579	5'710'176
VARIANCE (C - D)		1'657'507	1'197'045	372'101	1'685'317	798'206	5'710'176	