

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 December 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 June to 30 September, 2006;
Appeal target 2006-2007: CHF 6,937,910 (USD 5,550,328 or EUR 4,391,082);
Appeal coverage: 35% [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

Turkey and Southern Caucasus Annual Appeal 2006/2007 – Programme Update no.1. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA6900101.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 meeting the part of the most urgent and pressing needs of the population facing a number of challenges. The Federation is helping the National Societies-programmatically and via specific organizational development programmes-to better support the countries' millions of vulnerable people.

The main focus of three National Societies, namely the Armenian and Georgian Red Crosses and Azerbaijan Red Crescent, is on meeting pressing community needs and developing National Societies' capacities 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).

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.

On the whole, the donor response to regional appeal 2006 has been low. To help the National Societies of the region to achieve objectives of this year the Federation raised CHF 2,480,295 (USD 1,986,779 or EUR 1,552,163). However, the income is 35 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 1,814,286 (26 per cent of the appeal budget and 73 per cent of income). Because of late arrival of funds 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 the 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 Georgia 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 1998 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 the income and expenditure against the original appeal budget per country as of 30 September 2006.

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

Programmes/projects	Appeal budget (CHF) ²	Income (CHF)	Appeal coverage (%)	Expenditure			Balance (CHF)
				CHF	% of appeal budget	% of income	
Armenia	1,200,000	458,445	38	401,356	33	87	57,088
Azerbaijan	2,367,418	805,690	34	660,669	28	82	145,020
Georgia	1,792,785	508,385	28	301,036	16	59	207,349
Turkey	409,388	220,796	54	220,796	54	100	0
Cross Country Programmes	1,168,319	486,981	41	230,429	19	47	256,552
Total	6,937,910	2,480,295	35	1,814,286	26	73	666,009

¹ Armenian Red Cross Society-11 regional, two zonal and 52 community branches and 2,291 volunteers; Georgian Red Cross-10 regional,72 branch offices and 1,000 volunteers; Azerbaijan Red Crescent-seven regional centres, 85 local branches and 17,535 volunteers.

² The figures include the revised budgets of the country and regional programmes for 2007.

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 financial sustainability. Majority of National Societies activities are funded through the Federation. 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 humanitarian programmes. 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 Delegations and the Regional Delegation 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.

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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 and are focused challenges common for the region. Three countries 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.

Many of the programmes of the National Societies, shaped by the above stated challenges, are part of their long-term strategic goals. Thus, the National Societies are determined to ensure continuation of the programmes consolidating and building on the achievements made till now.

As a result of long engagement of the Federation in the region, the National Societies have obtained necessary skills and knowledge to fight against new vulnerabilities that are emerging in the region. The National Societies continue raising 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 on the Avian Influenza, which broke out in the region at the beginning of February 2006. With technical assistance of the **Regional Delegation** in Ankara, Red Cross Societies of Armenia and Georgia prepared project proposals on the Avian Influenza and got funding relocated from the Global Appeal on Avian Influenza³. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent started public awareness campaign with its own funds and covered all planned five regions of the country (Lankaran, Sabirabad, Ganja, Mingachevir and Sumgayit).

In addition to these projects, the **Regional Delegation** has been engaged in preparing of a regional contingency planning combined with business continuation plans for avian flu and at the same time encouraging the National Societies to take part in avian flu national plans. This contributes to the implementation of the Federation global strategy regarding national plans and the National Societies' role being recognized.

To meet the goals of the Federation Global Agenda and its Key Actions 2006-2010, according to which the National Societies should increase their domestic communication and advocacy programmes to address key humanitarian issues, support and promote regional networks, the **Regional Delegation** organized a meeting with a participation of the National Societies and Country Delegations communication/information and health people of the region. The aim of the meeting was to increase the capacities of the National Societies in the field of communication and marketing, promote regional cooperation through implementation of joint activities and establishment of network of communicators and health officers. As a result of five-day meeting, the main goal, i.e. setting up the first network of the communicators and health people in the region, was achieved. The role of the networks will be to facilitate exchange of good practices, planning and implementation of regional campaigns/activities, identify parallel needs in the region and specific needs of each country and develop a strategic framework for the whole region that will help the National Societies in the region to increase their capacity in the field of communication and marketing. In addition, the decision of implementing two regional activities - World Disaster Report launch and Anti-stigma campaign - was approved by the participants.

Health and care



Survey on blood donation organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent among the pedestrians of Baku city

Overview

Improving the health status of the population has been a priority of three National Societies in the region. Their strategy is to continue tackling with the problems by addressing a cause-lack of information. The HIV/AIDS and TB prevention are 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 achievements⁴, but challenges still remain, particularly in rural areas, where the task of the volunteers is compounded by taboos and cultural beliefs.

Convinced of the benefits of the HIV/AIDS prevention, three National Societies continue consolidating the achievements and ensuring its continuation in the long terms. On day to day basis, the volunteers raise public awareness to guard against these killer diseases. As a result of their intensive efforts, within the reporting period, three National Societies have reached around **57,340** people with HIV/AIDS messages.

³ For more information on the Armenian and Georgian Red Crosses programmes on Avian Influenza, please visit the Global Appeal on Avian Flue for Europe on the official website of the Federation: www.ifrc.org

⁴ 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.

As a pilot step, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has started involvement 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 GOPA⁵. 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. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has supported the National Society in implementation of the project.

Another priority area of the National Societies of Armenia and Georgia is meeting part of social problems of the socially unsecured target groups. Through the active network of trained volunteers, the National Society of Georgia tries to lighten the burden of the lonely elderly people, for whom poverty and isolation from the society has become a way of life. Since January-May the Georgian Red Cross has delivered 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 of blood pressure and glucose, and intramuscular injections and have supported 9,347 vulnerable people.

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

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 to increase the country's blood supply by carrying out its role in recruiting non-remunerated volunteer blood donors and refer them to the national blood transfusion centres. Since June, 62 new volunteers have been trained on recruiting volunteer blood donors, who in their turn have improved awareness of 2,644 people from Baku and five regions on the importance of non-remunerated volunteer blood donation.

Children ill with haemophilia and thalassemia, representatives from local TV channels, newspapers and radio channels were invited to participate in the event devoted to 14 June, World Blood Donor Day. During the event volunteers demonstrated number of performances on visits of future donors to the Red Crescent and Blood Bank center: volunteers in role of visitors are coming to the National Society, which gives them information about necessity and safeness of giving blood and then directs to the Blood Bank where they can give blood. Different gifts and 1,000 informational brochures and leaflets on blood donation have been distributed during that event.

Within the reporting period, 10,688 people attended individual or group sessions on reproductive health, family planning, nutrition, personal hygiene, infectious and preventable diseases, such as Tuberculosis, and the importance of immunization organised by 71 Red Crescent health promoters from six regions.

Additionally, one-day training session was organised on social work for 12 health promoters and four nurses involved in TB treatment control of released prisoners.

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 June 2006, the centre has distributed 5,000 sterile syringes and 600 condoms to 60 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

⁵ 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.

As the volunteers are the main “driving force” in peer education, the **Armenian Red Cross** continues training volunteers. Since June 2006, the National Society has trained 19 youth leaders of Kapan, Ijevan, Ejmiadzin, Vayots Dzor, Armavir, Sevan, Kotayk and Vanadzor regions. The trained volunteers initiated discussions in their communities and reached some 543 students of schools and colleges. The issues discussed by the volunteers vary from how the disease is transmitted and how it can be prevented. The discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS was also discussed challenging the youngsters’ misconceptions. Additionally, 500 edited and reprinted copies of the guide-book on healthy sexual behaviour, developed by the Red Cross during the previous years, were distributed to the youth leaders.

Another 43 previously trained peer educators organized talking on HIV/AIDS and healthy sexual behaviour in small groups of their 1,000 peers. In total, youth leaders distributed brochures and booklets on HIV/AIDS and TB to more than 5,000 young people. In addition, two training sessions were held for 46 Armenian Red Cross youth leaders/peer educators on the same topics.

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

As there is still a necessity to control the alarmingly growing problem of TB⁶ 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. Six training sessions were held for 87 TB patients and their family members in Ararat region. Training session was held for six RC social workers visiting TB patients and youth leaders, visiting lonely elderly people. 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. Additionally, 26 Red Cross staff members from 13 regional branches were trained on the prevention of TB, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. In total, as a result of these awareness activities, the Armenian Red Cross has reached around 40,000 young people with HIV/AIDS messages.

Within the reporting period four social workers were recruited and trained on technical aspects of TB and homecare in Kotayk and Lori regions. Social workers in Ararat region have visited 60 TB patients at their homes, distributing food parcels, educational printed materials, conducting talking with TB patients and their family members on TB and AIDS issues and encouraging the patients to be careful with taking medicines and complete TB treatment. In total, 160 food parcels were distributed among TB patients during the reporting period.

In addition, Red Cross edited and republished educational materials on TB and HIV/AIDS: “Safe sex is your choice” booklet, “Living without regrets” brochure, STI module, Sexological dictionary”, “Youth leader” methodological manual, TB booklet for adults, TB booklet for children, TB module for health volunteers, “TB epidemiology and prevention” manual, in total 15,000. 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, staff and volunteers, schoolchildren and general population.

Within the reporting period a survey on public awareness on HIV/AIDS and TB issues were conducted randomly in different regions of Armenia. The survey was conducted among TB patients and their families’ members and different groups of population in Ararat, Kotayk, Syunik, Lori, Shirak and Tavoush regions. Besides the above mentioned survey, another detailed Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) survey on HIV/AIDS was conducted

⁶ The number of tuberculosis cases in Armenia has increased alarmingly from 590 in 1990 to 8,082 in 2004. In 2004, 1,558 new cases were registered.

jointly by the Armenian Red Cross and Federation regional delegation (Ankara) among 225 young people in seven regions of Armenia: Vanadzor, Gyumri, Stepanavan, Ashtarak, Masis, Spitak and Abovyan.

To check the effectiveness of the peer education approach and strengthen its weak points for future activities, the **Regional Delegation** conducted the same aforementioned survey among in Ankara, Turkey among 130 university students in two different universities. The results of these surveys will be known by the end of the year and will be reported on in the annual report.

New 49 peer educators from **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** regional centers and local committees were trained bringing the total number of peer educators to 795. Additionally, 126 Red Crescent peer educators from Red Crescent regional centers and local committees received training sessions on refreshment knowledge on HIV/AIDS thematic. The refreshment training sessions are also the second part of share experience visits and held by one of the HIV/AIDS peer educators.

Peer educators in their turn have reached 10,797 schoolchildren, students, sex workers (patients of a skin-venereal hospital) through seminars on HIV/AIDS organized by Red Crescent to reduce the risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people.

Visits were organized among 64 volunteers from Ganja, Mingachevir, Sumgayit and Lankaran experience and knowledge sharing. Volunteers mentioned that the programme on HIV/AIDS prevention enjoys the active participation and high interest especially of young people.

The Red Crescent continues implementation of TB prevention programme in the country. Within the reporting period four nurses of Sabunchu, Yasamal, Garadag, Narimanov and Azizbayov Red Crescent local committees visited nine TB patients and their family members to observe their treatment. They also distributed food parcels to nine TB patients and brochures on TB and provided information on preventive measures and TB patients care.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent and representative of «Control under TB patient released from prison department» of ICRC held a discussion meeting on efficiency of nurses controlling over TB patients released from prison. As a result, it was suggested along with TB patients released from prison to cover vulnerable people ill with TB. So, the National Society will include them in the project and nurses will visit them along with released prisoners, the main beneficiaries of the project.

To reduce the spread of the 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.

Due to late arrival of funds, within the reporting period the programme was not implemented as planned. But the National Society attempts to make relevant adjustments in the programme timetables to finalise the implementation of the programme by the end of April, 2007.

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

Armenian Red Cross 13 target regional social service centres⁷ have continued providing their traditional services to the beneficiaries of the centers through trained 130 volunteers. Within June-September period, the centres supported 9,369 vulnerable people. The Armenian Red Cross continues cooperation with the Armenian branch of International Relief and Development Organisation, which donated goods to the National Society equal to CHF 7,012.

The table below shows the exact number of people reached through social centers during June-September:

⁷ In total, the Red Cross has a network of 23 social centres. Because of the lack of finances, now there are 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.

Service provided	People assisted
Food distribution	404
Clothes distribution	3,665
Distribution of medicines and medical supplies	220
Psycho-social consultations	1,800
Blood pressure measuring	515
Measuring sugar level in blood	148
Home visits	212
Club visits	126
Events for vulnerable people	325
Distribution of wheelchairs/crutches	3
Seminar participants (HIV/AIDS, healthy lifestyle)	1,680
Other services	271
Total	9,369

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 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.

Due to periodical elucidation of the programme by various local TV channels, the Armenian Red Cross established new partnerships in different regions of the country and received in kind contribution from local businessmen.

Within the frame of “Social support to elderly” project the **Georgian Red Cross** has supplied targeted 1,500 lone elderly people with basic food and non-food items to improve their nutrition and hygiene. Every three months each target elderly person receives non-food items and food items according to pre-designed “relief list” marked by elderly person limited up to 6 GEL (Georgian currency), USD 3.4 per month. At least once a week 65 trained 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. It is expected that a total of 2,000 people will benefit from the centres’ work.

The National Society is also planning to establish a system of service delivery by skilled elderly people - former electricians, barbers and mechanics, who will be supplied by basic equipment to offer their services to other elderly people. This will give the pensioners the sense of belonging to the community as well as address minor home repair problems other elderly might have.

Impact

The project’s most significant effect is the increased understanding by TB patients and their families’ members on a necessity of completed treatment and using some hygiene practices for better recovering of TB patients and preventing TB new cases among their families members. The network of trained youth leaders and seminars organized on AIDS prevention in regional schools and numerous discussions with their peers contribute to raising awareness among the young people.

Constraints

HIV/AIDS not only affects the person’s health, but also involves social consequences associated with stigma and discrimination of PLWHA. All three National Societies in the region have difficulties in cooperation 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. The cleared role will help to avoid duplication and

overlapping of the work with other organizations involved in the process as well as define the auxiliary role of the national society during this kind of situation in further. The Regional Delegation for Turkey & Southern Caucasus has already started some activities in this respect: the first step was to link the Turkish Red Crescent with Positive Life Association NGO established to protect the rights of the PLWHA in Turkey by sharing information on the Turkish Red Crescent experience in the field of HIV/STI. The Regional Delegation envisages promoting the importance of collaboration of other National Societies in the region with PLWHA organisations as well; an issue that still needs to be addressed.

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 disasters 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.

In addition to the Federation funded programmes through appeal, the National Societies have started cooperation with other parties acting in the field of disaster management. Namely, the Armenian Red Cross has started implementation of new projects in the direction of mountain rescue and lifeguard aimed at increasing the National Society human and technical resources and to improve and strengthen relations/links with appropriate governmental units and communities. Both projects are funded by the German Red Cross.

Another “Mine Risk Education” project has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the aim of the project is to raise public awareness on mine risk in 36 high and medium impact communities of five regions in Armenia (Ararat, Tavush, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor).

One of the essential parts of disaster management is contingency planning. The Armenian Red Cross received ECHO thematic funding, which increasingly supports country and regional disaster management activities, on the contingency planning programme. The programme is now up and running. Development of the contingency plan will set up certain definition of roles and responsibilities, reaction mechanisms, plan of action and encourage the National Society to be more actively involved in development of Country Contingency Plan.

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



“Providing timely and quality assistance before and after disasters”: Evacuations in schools organized by the Armenian Red Cross

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

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

To strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capacities of the National Society, the **Armenian Red Cross** conducted seven-day “Command Control” training for 20 regional rapid response team volunteer-members on management, administrative and commanding issues.

Another two seven-day “Basic Rescue Principles” training sessions were organized with the participation of 42 regional rapid response team volunteer-members. The training sessions focused on

increasing and strengthening capacities of volunteer-members on basic rescue issues which they will practice in various simulation exercises during rescue and response operations organized by the National Society and other organizations.

In July the volunteers of the Armenian Red Cross had a good chance to practice their knowledge and skills obtained during the training sessions. A flash flood resulted from heavy rains in Aragatsotn region of the country and the authorities of the region addressed to the Armenian Red Cross for assistance of food, cloths and hygienic items for 270 people. The National Society visited effected communities to assess the situation and the needs. Additional assistance was received by the International Relief Development, which provided second hand clothes for distribution to 270 people in the communities throughout Aragatsotn regional branch.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** conducted training session on Movement's standards in disaster preparedness and response, assessment of emergency situation and needs, community disaster awareness techniques, rules, principals and code of conduct during relief assistance for 110 staff and volunteers from Baku and six regions as well as community members from Ganja.

Early notification system was successfully tested in the remote villages of Lankaran and Agstafa as well as in the centre of Gazakh district. Based on the developed early notification system, three samples of telephone directory have been prepared.

The National Society installed three VHF Motorola GR-500 repeaters in Baku and Sabirabad TV towers and a governmental building in Lankaran. The repeaters cover the area of 50-75 km. VHF and HF radio stations were installed and successfully tested in the new office of Ganja regional center.

The National Society conducted training for 136 employees and volunteers from the Red Crescent Secretariat and seven regional centres and local committee on the usage of telecommunication equipment according to the recently prepared telecom instruction.

In tandem, another training on logistics and ware housing procedures was carried out for 25 staff from Red Crescent's seven regional centers and the Secretariat.

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

The **Armenian Red Cross** has printed 2,000 copies of "Flood" and "Landslide" posters and 5,350 copies of "Psycho-Social Support to the Victims of Disaster" booklet in cooperation with Crisis Management State Academy, "Health and Education Armenian Centre", Armenian Red Cross "Gracia" International Rehabilitation Centre. The printed educational materials will be distributed among the population of Armenia during different public awareness campaigns with the objective of raising their preparedness level.

Seven simulation evacuations were organized countrywide with participation of **2,066** pupils and **159** teachers (in total **2,225** people). Main goal of these evacuations was to train pupils how to evacuate from the school in right manner and in which cases and to train teachers as persons responsible for pupils' safety and security in the school to organize and manage evacuation process in case of need.

Two cartoons entitled "Aghetik and earthquake" and "Aghetik in routine life" shot before based on educational books from "Aghetik" series on coping mechanisms with different disasters assigned for children were broadcasted 15 times by local TV channels in Sevan, Armavir, Shirak and Syunig regions and Yerevan.

Six campaigns were organized with the participation of 180 volunteer-members involved in disaster preparedness and response structure. The aim of the campaigns was to consolidate the solidarity and good relations between volunteers, teach the right manner of walking in rock-fall mountains, to train rescue searching operations in forests and mountains.

Training was organized in Astghik and Ani camps, Shirak region with the aim to teach 40 children how to act in case of disasters. After the training, children painted pictures on the topic of disasters.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** printed 3,700 calendars and posters on fire prevention planned to be distributed during awareness campaigns for communities to raise their awareness on how to act in case of fire.

Additionally, the National Society organized several events devoted to First Aid Day: staff and volunteers visited Child TB Clinic, two boarding-schools to train children on how to act in emergency situations and distributed brochures. Also the National Society organized a survey among 120 drivers and passengers on knowledge about road rules and first aid skills. According to survey results it was found that people have general information on both issues and need more detailed knowledge.

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

To promote cooperation among the National Societies in the region, the **Regional Delegation** disaster management team has been developing the Regional Disaster Response Mechanism with active involvement of Country Delegations and National Societies. The overall goal of this mechanism is to contribute to provision of 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 (Field Assessment and Coordination Team, Emergency Response Unit, Disaster Management Information Systems, Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, etc.).

Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the utilization of the 'Regional Disaster Response Teams' cooperation between the National Societies in the region has been drafted and shared with the leaderships of the National Societies.

As a significant part of the Regional Disaster Response Mechanism, the Regional Delegation conducted Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training with the participation of National Societies of the region and other neighboring regions: Iran, Israel and Jordan delegations, in total 35 participants. The facilitators of the training were from Geneva Secretariat, Regional Delegation for Turkey & Southern Caucasus, Turkish Red Crescent and the ICRC. The training was organized with the help of the Turkish Red Crescent and ICRC has conducted a full day safer access session at the end of the nine day standard module. In future, the Regional Delegation will maintain and develop the roster by providing new training sessions and refresher/simulation exercises.

Impact

Due to the activities implemented under disaster management programme the disaster preparedness and response mechanisms of the National Societies have been strengthened and knowledge of the volunteers involved in the disaster management activities have been improved and refreshed. Steps have been taken to promote regional cooperation among National Societies in the area of disaster management by introducing the Regional Response mechanism and the cooperation MoU.

Constraints

One of the constraints of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is absence of the Disaster Management Plan with clearly mentioned roles and responsibilities of the National Society, which 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 a better implementing of disaster related activities of the National Society, improving human resource management system, planning of day-to-day activities and application of the financial and logistics procedures.

Organizational Development

Overview

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continue supporting the National Societies of the region to become effective, viable, self-sufficient and legitimate organisations that make significant difference in the lives of the 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.

In the view of the scarce resources, National Societies make efforts to diversify income sources and find new local and international partners. In particular, within the reporting period, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has raised CHF 18,618 from donations boxes, membership fees and other donations, the Armenian Red Cross plans to organise a concert with the aim of raising money and expanding the network of the potential donors.

In 2006 the regional delegation initiated to review Participatory Community Development (PCD) projects implemented by the Armenian and Georgian Red Crosses with the aim of strengthening the understanding of community development concept within the two National Societies' staff and volunteers. The review team has visited sample projects in Armenia and Georgia and interviewed various stakeholders of these PCD projects, including beneficiaries, branch staff, volunteers, local authorities and NGOs/institutions active in the regions. The main conclusion was that some projects implemented recently using PCD funds were mainly focusing on branch development area rather than optimum empowerment of the local communities. In the future, considering the priorities of the respective National Societies, PCD methodology can be better merged and synchronized with branch development needs in the countries. 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. Taking into consideration the wish to continue using PCD methodology regionally, it is planned to review the PCD projects in Azerbaijan as well by the end of 2006 to have a wider picture on the situation regionally to build on future projects.

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

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.

As a part of capacity building, the English language courses have been conducted for 20 **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** staff of headquarters 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 an 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.

Priority will be given to build the capacities of programme managers, particularly, in fund-raising. The Regional Delegation, in consultation with the leaderships of National Societies, will identify relevant staff to get trained on fund-raising. In addition, the National Societies staff with different profiles has been identified to participate in the regional Disaster Management training for RDRT 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 with the purpose of establishing new partnerships with local businesses, governmental and/or non-governmental organisations. After the fundraising officer of the National Society was recruited, several initiatives have been taken up contributing to further fundraising activities. In particular, negotiations have been held with some potential donors to support certain activities, i.e. a concert of Russian famous poet E. A. Yevtushenko. The aim of the event is to raise money to ensure the sustainability of the organization.

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.

To reduce dependency on international funding, the **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** concentrated on expanding its fundraising activities; namely, since June the Red Crescent generated funds from charity boxes, placed at crowded places of Baku, membership fees and private donations, the total amount of which is **CHF 18,618**.

30 lone elderly people and indigent families from Baku and five districts were provided with food parcels, medicines and clothes on the amount of CHF 230 of collected funds.

Additionally, the National Society registered 543 new members bringing the total number of its members to 215,035 and set up 10 new primary organizations making the total number 36,072.

All three National Societies of the region with support of Federation Country and Regional delegations in Ankara 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. One of the challenges of this process is to anchor concept and increase ownership and commitment of the National Societies in the process. To achieve this and make the concept more realistic, the Regional Delegation should revise it and constantly follow up. If this concept can be put in practice successfully, it can be used as a good fundraising tool to attract the donors, since it clearly shows commitment by the National Societies to cover 50 per cent of their own programme budgets as of 2011.

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



The Georgian Red Cross is constantly training its volunteers to stimulate their interest and motivate them for the programme

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

The revision of the Statutes was finalised in 2005 taking into account recommendations of the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission. Moreover the new revised Statutes and plan of action were submitted to the General Assembly of the National Society and were adopted in September 2005. As all recent changes in local legislation registration of Union statutes is under the Tax Department of the Ministry of Finance, the National Society is

planning to re-submit the statutes to the Tax Department in October 2006.

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 Georgia 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 organisational capacity review was conducted in July 2006 with participation of the International Federation, ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross. The assessment team has produced a written report specifying the findings, conclusions according to the stated objectives and suggesting recommendations for short- and mid-term support within the next four years.

In order to select the appropriate financial audit company for the conduction of the external international financial audit, the tender was announced and the quotations were received. The National Society will call a Presidium

session and finalise tender results together with the invited Federation and ICRC representatives. In parallel, in order to clarify the current legal status of the National Society in relation of Georgian legislation, the ICRC and the International Federation, with the aim to preserve the National Society integrity, is providing external legal expertise by reviewing legal documents and necessary procedures. The main pre-condition of the successful change process is registration of the new Statutes, effective implementation of the registered Statutes and conducting elections at all levels.

Within the reporting period the first draft project of establishing the model Red Cross branch⁸ characteristics was developed. The draft documents, after being finalised by the Secretariat of the National Society, will be submitted to the Presidium for adoption.

The draft project of the strategic plan for 2007-2010 has been submitted to the Secretary General for review and further discussions. After the first draft is finalized, it will be disseminated to all local branches for the revision to have their comments and recommendations.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross organised five training sessions in five districts of Tbilisi to improve knowledge and understanding of the Red Cross local branch staff and volunteers, in total 65 people, on the structure of the organization and the revised Statutes.

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 to strengthen the links with communities and develop more relevant programmes to reduce vulnerability of the local population. To achieve this, in 2004, a pilot project was launched to encourage the branches to work in Participatory Community Development (PCD) approach. The approach enables the branches to prioritise their community activities based on local needs and strategic directions of the National Society embedded in its strategic plan and bring vulnerable groups together with local government, non-governmental organisations and other relevant parties. The programme is designed to help people to reduce the causes of their own predicaments and mobilise the community action. Efforts were continued in 2006 too. For the time being, one mini-project has been accomplished in Akhaltsikhe and Khelvachauri regions. Specifically, the youth discussion club and youth education centre will be established in Telavi, Akhaltsikhe and Khelvachauri regions. The projects will reach around 5,000 people.

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. New selected branches Gazakh, Ganja, Aghjabedi and Fizuli have been provided with standard Red Crescent logo. Community Initiative Groups (CIG) was established in every region, in total four, and Red Crescent branches continue to work with communities through them.

Red Crescent organized health training with participation of chairmen and community members from Ganja, Gazakh, Aghjabedi and Fizuli to explain the participants the rules of general and personal hygiene, give information about nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, methods of using contraceptives. Another training was carried out on "Increasing community disaster awareness" among community members for newly selected branches to give basic knowledge on disaster preparedness thus the participants will be able to cope with disasters in future.

Anti-smoking campaign was held in the communities of Ganja, Aghjabedi, Fizuli and Gazakh with active involvement of community members to attract the attention to the problems of smoking and make people aware of its threat. In total 470 people from communities participated in this event.

⁸ As a part of the National Society holistic development, the plan is to implement the model branch idea. The branch model should meet five criteria: competent human resources, relevant programmes, efficient organisational structure, adequate resources and effective way of working.

4,792 internally displaced persons, community members and volunteers from three southern camps and five communities in Sabirabad region received 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, participated at chess and checkers tournaments, drawing competitions and continued sewing, barbering, hairdressing and culinary courses. Women committees of three communities in Sabirabad visited 13 lone elderly and cleaned their houses.

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

One of the most important activities for **Armenian Red Cross** youth, which stimulates big inflow of volunteers, is peer education. In this regard 52 peer educators delivered school sessions on HIV/AIDS and STI prevention, Red Cross humanitarian values, how to develop sexually safe behavior, harms of smoking, alcohol and drug addiction for over 2,000 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 for most effective ways of their solutions. During the winter vacations while the schools were closed because of lack of heating the volunteers organised brainstorming, contests and discussions for the schoolchildren on relevant topics.

Additionally, peer educators organized exhibitions, where pictures and other items made on HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination topics were presented by the schoolchildren who have attended sessions within the programme. During the monthly meeting the regional youth leaders analysed the school sessions, discussed how effective the project is in the current phase of its implementation. Based on the beneficiaries needs assessment they also came up with suggestions to include new topics in the sessions such as "Human rights", "International Humanitarian Law (IHL)", "Trafficking", etc.



“Wells provide trickle of hope in barren land”: The Armenian Red Cross organises an annual camp on clean-up activities

70 volunteers from nine regional and two community branches continue assisting 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 the Birthday celebrations, the social events such as concerts, folk ballet performances, outings, visits to museums and churches.

The Armenian Red Cross Youth is assisting children from refugee families living in dormitories. The aim is 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 sport games for 100 children aged 6-12 in the dormitory's Red Cross room equipped with furniture, computer, and other necessary stuff for the workshops. Within the reporting period 20 volunteers organized two summer camps for 100 refugee and non-refugee children involved in the "Smiley Club" project. During the camp youth volunteers organized sport activities and contests, as well as intellectual games and brainstorming. The children had opportunity to enlarge their interpersonal skills, train themselves by working in groups during the workshops and develop creativity through designing and performing role-plays on various topics.

The volunteers have also initiated fundraising activities and managed to receive financial support from the local donors to provide opportunity for organizing an extra camp, which was not planned within the project, to involve more children from vulnerable families living in dormitories.

Traditional youth summer camp was organised on the shore of Sevan Lake with a specific focus on training volunteers on IHL related issues. Along with the traditional activities of the camp such as cleaning the coastal area of the lake, the participants had discussions, debates, and role-plays on IHL including also conflict resolution emphasizing current trends and situations in the world.

To enhance the public awareness on the Red Cross work in Armenia and promote voluntary movement throughout the country, the youth volunteers develop and publish "YOUTH RED CROSSroad" newsletter, in Armenian and English languages, informing about Red Cross Youth life, important news, events and other issues. To train newly recruited volunteers on interviewing, writing articles and structuring them in the newsletters one-day training was organized by the Red Cross volunteers. The most experienced volunteers shared their experience on Red Cross specific issues, which would be helpful in future for the newsletter content.

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. Within the reporting period the National Society established a database of volunteers and members, which allows better coordination of the inflow and outflow of the volunteers. The database is being refreshed and kept to date monthly. Up to date, 2,327 volunteers have been registered.

Within the frame of the programme, 1,000 posters on the Armenian Red Cross volunteering activities were printed and are being distributed countrywide during campaigns, mass events, training sessions, etc. aimed to spread information on National Society volunteering activities and attracting more volunteers.

Additionally, 500 manuals on efficient implementation of volunteer activities were printed out for distribution to the Red Cross volunteers who are actively involved in National Society programmes and will serve them as guidance in their work.

At the same time the National Society is working on development of 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 its turn will contribute to the structured and more productive work. Volunteering policy was drafted and in the near future the final version will be submitted to the board for approval.

Meanwhile, the areas of voluntary work and potential tasks of volunteers in each of its service programmes have been identified and volunteers' job descriptions have been designed. More volunteers' profiles for different service programmes have been developed to enlighten the work of the volunteers to the public.

Since June, the National Society organised training for 33 volunteers on proper delivery of different services to vulnerable. Another two-day workshop was held for 35 volunteers on communication, negotiation and cooperation skills during the service delivery and programme implementation.

Within the reporting period more than 180 new volunteers have been recruited countrywide and received 16 induction sessions on Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, Armenian Red Cross history, activities and its departments.

The **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** continues registration of volunteers. To date 735 new volunteers have been registered and included into the database of youth and volunteers, bringing the total number of the Red Crescent volunteers countrywide to **17,535**.

The Red Crescent organized leadership training for 687 volunteers and youth instructors from two local committees and two regional centres. The participants were explained which features leader should have, received leadership and communication skills as well as learned how to write project proposals, reports. Induction course in Mingachevir local committee has been organised among 67 volunteers and youth instructors.

Three-day educational camp was organized on preparing projects, interactive games, importance and necessity of planning, reporting process as well as activities of Azerbaijan Red Crescent for 56 volunteers from two Red Crescent local committees.

Two-day recruitment campaign was organized in Lankaran region. Event included a march of Red Crescent volunteers with posters saying: "Would you like to be Red Crescent volunteer! Join us!". Video-clips and film about history of the National Society and its activities were demonstrated in bars and public places. Volunteers also distributed and posted on the columns advertisements for those who would like to get acquainted with National Society activities and become a volunteer, could participate in the Red Crescent competitions. As a result of this campaign, 200 new volunteers joined Red Crescent. Red Crescent volunteers also held several presentations on thematic "Who is a volunteer and what does it mean to become Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteer?" as well as humanitarian values, first aid skills, HIV/AIDS, health promotion and youth activities.

Within the reporting period, Red Crescent organized a one-day camp for 40 disabled children from Sumgayit local committee on the beach of Novxani settlement of Baku city with the efforts of ten National Society volunteers. Another two camps were organised in Lankaran and Mardakan for 40 orphans and 15 Chechen refugee children.

Impact

Due to all these activities the number of volunteers willing to join the Red Cross increased. Namely, about 180 volunteers joined the Armenian Red Cross, 735 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 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.

Additionally, the combination of factors, such as lack of donor interest, decrease of the programme funding plunge the National Societies into big difficulties. Capacity building experience of the successfully functioning National Society demonstrates an acute need to adopt a stronger approach in order to become a self-sustainable structure and to implement programmes at internal rather than external expenses. The National Societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan have undertaken initial steps and recorded some progress but there is still an urgent need in increasing practical fundraising activities and utilising various tools based on the needs and opportunities of each National Society to achieve higher effect. The above notwithstanding are the gaps of the current framework and addressing them will improve the quality of the humanitarian programmes, efficiency of the funds spent and further fundraising activities.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

For the sixth consecutive year the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been focusing on and implementing the humanitarian values programme. The primary objective of the programme is to change people's attitudes and behavior, and promote tolerance, co-existence and respect for human dignity. To achieve the objective the National Society organizes sessions to fight the harmful influence of stigma and discrimination towards the marginalised groups of people – handicapped, orphans, people with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS-by shooting video clips with concrete message by local TV, organizing round table discussions among students and picnics with Red Crescent volunteers and people living with HIV/AIDS to dissipate the myth on HIV/AIDS transmission and help volunteers overcome the fear of socializing with these people.

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 (activities implemented within this objective)

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

Since June, 48 articles about humanitarian activities of the **Azerbaijan Red Crescent** were published in three local newspapers, web pages of the National Society, AzerTag, AzerWeb and www.day.az. Two TV reports about opening ceremony of children play ground in Barda district were aired on local “AzTV”, “Lider” and ANS TV channels.

Three summer camps were organized in cooperation for 15 Chechen refugee children in one of the country-sides, situated near the beach in Mardakan settlement of Baku city, 40 orphans from Lankaran orphanage house and 40 internally displaced children from the southern camps. 19 Red Crescent volunteers organized the pastime of the children by organizing role-plays on humanitarian values, different intellectual and sports game, training-workshops on health, hygiene, HIV/AIDS, first aid and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. All children received memorable gifts.

Red Crescent printed and distributed 1,700 issues of a brochure on humanitarian values with the slogan “Let’s respect each other – we are all equal” and 1,900 small and 100 big stickers with Red Crescent logo, messages “Let’s say no to discrimination” and “Let’s respect human dignity” in Azeri and English.

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

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, with support of *Social Union on Struggling with AIDS*, organized a picnic in Ismayilli district placed in the central part of Azerbaijan under the slogan “Let’s stop stigma and discrimination”. The main goal of the picnic was to integrate people living with HIV/AIDS into the society, create conditions to establish contacts between them and Red Crescent volunteers as well as to give an opportunity to volunteers, who had training sessions on humanitarian values and HIV/AIDS during the past year, to better understand problems of this marginalized groups. The number of the participants was 44; six out of them were HIV positive people.

Additionally, 25 chairmen and volunteers of local committees of Ganja Red Crescent regional centre were trained on “My vision and understanding of humanitarian values”. Workshops were held in an interactive manner. The participants were divided into groups, in which they discussed influence of person, family/society and government into the forming of stigma and discrimination towards marginalized people. The participants underlined that attitude towards such kind of marginalized groups will always depend on circumstances, especially on the reason of how people became infected with HIV or their social status.

Two-month outsourced training sessions on web design were held for employee of the Red Crescent Information department. As a result, the trainee will be able to update the Red Crescent’s web site.

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

In September, 2006 the Regional Delegation organised a visit of the Danish Red Cross to the region for Turkey & Southern Caucasus. The main objective of the mission was to explore new or further cooperation within the framework of the European network, this is especially concerning promoting new cooperation with Turkish Red Crescent, Georgian Red Cross and Azerbaijan Red Crescent and enhancing the already existing cooperation with Armenian Red Cross who has been one of the founding members of the “European cooperation” back in 2004. The mission was aimed at collecting first-hand information concerning the issue of trafficking in human beings in the aforementioned countries, consulting and meeting with main stakeholders in this field, such as International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Governmental bodies, NGOs etc.

At the end it was recommended to organise a sub-regional trafficking related meeting with the participation of four National Societies of the region and Government representatives, IOM and NGOs. The meeting will be held in the beginning of 2007 and will be focused on developing a Plan of Action for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the region in this field.

Impact

Due to humanitarian values sessions 183 people were reached by messages on harmful influence of stigma and discrimination on marginalized groups and knowledge of the general public non-discrimination towards PLWHA was increased due to the articles published in the local newspapers and distributed information materials and the activities organized by the Red Crescent.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia continue looking for other partners for the implementation of multi-fold humanitarian programmes. The task is challenging but their efforts are not in vain and have already given 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, Emergency Management Administration and other governmental structure. Bilateral programmes have been initiated with different international organisations and partner National Societies.

As a part of policy of diversification of funding sources, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has signed the MoU with the Polish Red Cross and got the funding for implementation of branch development activities till the end of 2006.

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

RC Partners	Summary of activities (during the reporting period)
Armenia	
ICRC	- Providing information on TB project implementation - 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 -Workshop on volunteering policy issues with the volunteers countrywide to consider their ideas in the policy making process -Booklets printing on Armenian Red Cross volunteering activities -Manual printing on effective implementation of volunteer activities
Norwegian Red Cross	-Funding "Youth delegate" programme on youth exchange (via bilateral partnership agreement) -Norwegian Red Cross branch allocated funds for "Smiley Club" project
Azerbaijan	
ICRC	-Supporting the implementation of the TB project; training sessions on "The prevention and control of tuberculosis of released prisoners" for Red Crescent six nurses
Polish Red Cross	-Funding of branch development activities in the following branches: Ganja, Gazakh, Ismayilli, Lankaran, Neftchala.
Georgia	

ICRC	-Funding external audit, external legal expertise and general appraisal of the National Society -Organising review of 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	2006/1-2006/9
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
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	2'111'348	1'159'390	366'436	2'163'541	1'137'196	6'937'910
B. Opening Balance	363'744	168'285	31'788	256'881	779'932	1'600'630
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross					49'964	49'964
Canadian Red Cross Society					-2'947	-2'947
Capacity Building Fund				92'000		92'000
Finnish Red Cross	22'566			4'610	5'157	32'332
Norwegian Red Cross	257'433	109'651	41'309	250'286		658'679
C1. Cash contributions	279'999	109'651	41'309	346'896	52'174	830'029
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
American Red Cross					-237'119	-237'119
Finnish Red Cross	22'014			4'610		26'624
Norwegian Red Cross	84'211			65'789		150'000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	106'225			70'399	-237'119	-60'495
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	15'455			-15'455		0
Singapore Red Cross Society					18'524	18'524
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	-44'918	-32'349		-24'451	120'243	18'524
Inkind Personnel						
Finnish Red Cross	42'500				34'000	76'500
C5. Inkind Personnel	42'500				34'000	76'500
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income				52	9'341	9'394
Service Agreements				5'714		5'714
C6. Other Income				5'766	9'341	15'108
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	383'805	77'302	41'309	398'610	-21'361	879'665
D. Total Funding = B + C	747'550	245'586	73'097	655'491	758'571	2'480'295

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	383'805	77'302	41'309	398'610	-21'361	879'665
E. Expenditure	-542'041	-207'404	-68'321	-510'187	-486'332	-1'814'286
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	205'508	38'182	4'776	145'304	272'240	666'009

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA69001 - TURKEY & SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/9
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
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)		2'111'348	1'159'390	366'436	2'163'541	1'137'196	6'937'910	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	6'400	1'502					1'502	4'898
Clothing & textiles	20'196	1'827			1'134		2'961	17'235
Food	33'659	18'116			21'191		39'306	-5'647
Medical & First Aid	39'863	4'074			2'630		6'704	33'159
Teaching Materials	180'982	23'856	14'707		35'965	3'379	77'908	103'074
Utensils & Tools	34'564	1'184	1'153		425		2'761	31'803
Other Supplies & Services	390'764	23'676			17'460		41'135	349'628
Total Supplies	706'428	74'234	15'860		78'804	3'379	172'278	534'149
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	1'330							1'330
Vehicles	22'950							22'950
Computers & Telecom	55'884		1'164		7'107	28'818	37'089	18'795
Office/Household Furniture & Ec	1'260			3'567	1'268	10'239	15'074	-13'814
Others Machinery & Equipment	2'726							2'726
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	84'150		1'164	3'567	8'374	39'057	52'163	31'987
Transport & Storage								
Storage	19'507	1'232	3'141		86	1'377	5'836	13'671
Distribution & Monitoring		2'854				8'446	11'300	-11'300
Transport & Vehicle Costs	353'270	32'346	19'465	3'572	38'296	17'100	110'779	242'491
Total Transport & Storage	372'778	36'432	22'606	3'572	38'383	26'923	127'915	244'862
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	359'211					295	295	358'916
Delegate Benefits	430'514	62'491	6'856	2'575	9'632	45'690	127'246	303'268
Regionally Deployed Staff	78'016					13'977	13'977	64'039
National Staff	799'373	34'047	35'258	10'442	40'597	77'243	197'588	601'785
National Society Staff	665'614	94'106	31'929	6'660	124'996	1'185	258'876	406'739
Consultants	98'727	3'797	1'985	256	2'063	27'736	35'837	62'890
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'431'456	194'442	76'028	19'933	177'289	166'127	633'819	1'797'637
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	746'454	24'082	19'837	3'299	88'444	40'562	176'223	570'230
Total Workshops & Training	746'454	24'082	19'837	3'299	88'444	40'562	176'223	570'230
General Expenditure								
Travel	522'746	40'881	9'043	9'609	24'512	43'946	127'991	394'754
Information & Public Relation	632'032	65'933	6'244	15'700	56'608	56'821	201'306	430'726
Office Costs	500'272	28'179	4'646	1'732	19'339	79'170	133'067	367'206
Communications	257'183	11'912	10'570	1'257	12'977	46'926	83'641	173'542
Professional Fees	193'337	2'100	3'322		1'908	30'360	37'689	155'648
Financial Charges	61'951	6'912	4'170	571	-693	1'191	12'150	49'801
Other General Expenses	-21'841	39'641	19'359	4'640	26'982	-75'118	15'504	-37'344
Total General Expenditure	2'145'681	195'558	57'352	33'509	141'633	183'295	611'348	1'534'334
Depreciation								
Depreciation					7'982	1'939	9'921	-9'921
Total Depreciation					7'982	1'939	9'921	-9'921
Program Support								
Program Support	450'964	35'053	13'481	4'441	33'162	31'468	117'605	333'359
Total Program Support	450'964	35'053	13'481	4'441	33'162	31'468	117'605	333'359
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-17'759	1'075		-63'884	-6'419	-86'987	86'987
Total Operational Provisions		-17'759	1'075		-63'884	-6'419	-86'987	86'987
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	6'937'910	542'041	207'404	68'321	510'187	486'332	1'814'286	5'123'624

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA69001 - TURKEY & SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/9
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
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)		2'111'348	1'159'390	366'436	2'163'541	1'137'196	6'937'910	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1'569'307	951'985	298'114	1'653'354	650'864	5'123'624	