

Appeal 2008-2009



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southern Caucasus

Appeal No. MAA69001

Date: 14/12/2007

This appeal seeks 5,619,997 Swiss francs (USD 5,026,831 or EUR 3,406,059) to fund the planned programmes that are to be implemented in 2008-2009.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



The Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers are lighting candles in the shape of a ribbon in memory of those who have died from AIDS related illnesses. Photo: Azerbaijan Red Crescent

Current context

The Southern Caucasus, comprising the three former-Soviet countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, is a region beset by unresolved conflicts, political instability, lingering economic crises, high rates of poverty, a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP) and grave environmental problems.

Despite the economic reforms and foreign investments of recent years, as well as assistance by international organizations, recovery has been slow in all three countries. Though socio-economic indicators may point to stability, the regions' economies are nonetheless characterised by high poverty and endemic unemployment.

The three Southern Caucasian states underwent change during the Soviet regime and significant progress was made in the emancipation of women. In particular, women have similar literacy rates as men, and are active in the work force. However, their position in Caucasian society remained traditional in the Soviet era, with women carrying professional engagements in addition to domestic workloads. Traditional gender roles are still strong, especially in rural areas. Discrimination against women in homes and work places is a major concern, and the trafficking of women for sex purposes has become a region-wide problem. Women are heavily underrepresented at the decision-making level, both in governmental and local self-government bodies.

On the whole, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia share common vulnerability patterns too. The huge economic decline unleashed after the break-up of the Soviet Union had a serious and long-term

impact on the health infrastructure of all three countries and caused a shortage of facilities and trained medical staff. The most severely affected by the ongoing socio-economic crises and accompanying structural reforms are elderly people, being less able to recover psychologically and materially. The monthly state pension is very low in comparison to the subsistence level and often comes late. In Armenia pensioners receive USD 45, in Azerbaijan slightly more at USD 48, but in Georgia the over 60s are expected to live on a meagre USD 29.

The region has one of the highest Tuberculosis (TB) levels in Europe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics for 2005, the number of TB cases was 77 in Armenia, 76 in Azerbaijan, and 83 in Georgia. In the 1990s, all the countries, on the recommendation of WHO, began countrywide implementation of the Directly Observed Therapy, Short-Course (DOTS) strategy. Over the years, the coverage has increased, but huge challenges remain; insufficient control of the treatment being the major one.

The number of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) is increasing at a dramatic rate, even though many people choose not to report that they have the infection because of the social stigma attached to it by society. In the absence of proper surveillance, the reality is thought to be much worse than official figures suggest. HIV has most seriously affected the most marginalised and stigmatised groups- sex workers, men having sex with men and injecting drug users.

All three countries are highly prone to earthquakes due to their geographical location, but landslides, floods and avalanches are not uncommon too. Despite the efforts of the three governments to improve overall disaster preparedness, they still lack nationwide programmes for community disaster preparedness. Several organizations, besides the Red Cross and Red Crescent, have been working with the populations to raise their awareness. The magnitude requires a long-term political commitment, increased co-operation and the engagement of the local authorities and civil society to reach more people.

Programme summary

Disaster Management

Target population: 236,917

Reducing the risk of disasters striking, minimizing their impact and preparing communities is the major focus of this programme. Following the ethos that prevention is more effective, less traumatic and ultimately less expensive the National Societies will scale up the number of activities related to disaster risk reduction at community level to improve the resilience of households and communities. The outcome will be communities who are more aware of the kind of disasters their areas are prone to and who are better prepared and more organised to respond if they strike. Additionally, the communities will be in a better position to recover. With Europe witnessing extreme weather conditions these past few years, most probably due to changes in the climate, it is important to look beyond the usual hazards. Using participatory approaches, and through conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA), communities will be encouraged to play a prominent role in reducing the risks they face.

To strengthen the capacities of the National Societies, both at headquarters and branch levels to be effective in responding to emergencies, the numbers of trained and qualified volunteers will be scaled up through various tools and methodologies. The capacities in specific areas such as coordination, psychosocial support, logistics, telecommunications, water and sanitation, relief, rescue, restoring family links and shelter management will be included in this scale up.

Health and Care

Target population: 447,510

This programme sees the National Societies work towards reducing the spread of HIV and TB among groups at higher risk- youth, street children, sex workers and injecting drug users. Safer sex behaviour will be one topic that is promoted, as a key way that communities can improve their situations.

Making positive improvements to people's well-being will be the core of this programme. This includes promoting healthy lifestyles and personal hygiene and by ensuring that the carers and nurses of children under five year old have more knowledge about improving their health. In general, communities will have greater levels of knowledge on first aid and blood donation. To address the vulnerability of older people, especially those living alone, the National Societies will advocate for better access to quality social services.

Organizational Development

Target population: 117,283

The organizational development programme assists the National Societies to address the challenges they face themselves. In turn, this makes them more effective organizations that work with their communities and deliver better services. Forging new cooperation with domestic partners has been identified both by the National Societies in the Caucasus, and at the European level, as being essential to scaling up the impact of the work which can be done, as overlaps are cut out and partners can focus on developing their competencies and strengths. For the National Societies, governance and management functions will be strengthened while the skills and capacities of the regional branches to implement sustainable community based projects will be developed.

A major challenge that the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have been facing for a number of years is how to diversify their income sources and reduce dependence on international funding. The clear conclusion is to improve the marketing of their programmes and seek out local sources of funding. As an organization that relies heavily on volunteers, and especially its young volunteers, to deliver its services, improving volunteer recruitment, management and motivation systems is a huge area of work that needs attention. In the coming years this will not be centred entirely on the headquarters; the regional branches will improve their public relations and resource mobilisation skills too. Planning and management skills will be enhanced so that better, and more sustainable, services are delivered to the vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Values

Target population: 44,770

The primary objective of this programme is to promote tolerance, co-existence and respect for human dignity. Because of their special status, public image and the thousands of volunteers and members that are active across the region, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are in an ideal position to challenge the divisions that are put up between people.

Highly important, and recognized by the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at their regional conference, is the work with marginalised groups. This includes persons living with HIV, but also children with temporary asylum and refugee status. Integrating these groups of people into the wider society so that they are less discriminated against and stigmatised is an aim in all three countries.

Needs

The table presents the financial needs to fund the planned programmes for 2008-2009. The

total budget columns show the total cost of implementing each programme, while the required columns show the part of the total programme budget which the Federation is appealing for **5,619,997 Swiss francs**. See the breakdown of the budget for each programme area below.

Programmes	2008 budget in CHF		2009 budget in CHF		Total budget in CHF	
	Total Budget	Required	Total Budget	Required	Total Budget	Required
Disaster Management	805,543	498,188	792,811	451,236	1,598,354	949,423
Health and Care	2,043,553	1,170,731	1,998,134	1,123,993	4,041,687	2,294,724
Organisational Development	1,598,788	1,076,586	1,612,755	1,028,929	3,211,543	2,105,514
Humanitarian Values	192,634	137,278	189,774	133,058	382,408	270,336
Total	4,640,518	2,882,782	4,593,474	2,737,215	9,233,992	5,619,997

The National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will contribute to the implementation of the 2008-2009 programmes in the form of staff and volunteer hours, existing training and information materials, equipment and office space. Around 580,000 Swiss francs, which is the income from fundraising activities, membership fees, donation boxes, first aid courses and contributions from the local authorities, will also go towards running the programmes.

From 2008, the three Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Southern Caucasus will work with, and be supported by, the Federation's regional representation in Budapest. The experience that this representation has of working with the societies of Central Europe will help strengthen those of the Southern Caucasus too. In the course of 2008, the programmes of the Armenia and Georgia Red Cross Societies and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent will be aligned more closely with those in Central Europe, benefiting from experience sharing and scaling up together.

Working in partnership

For the past several years, the National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have made significant progress in forging cooperation with both international and domestic partners. All three have developed sound partnerships with their ministries of health, labour and social welfare, science and education, natural environment and migration. Such cooperation often mandates the National Societies to work with their governments in the fields of disaster preparedness and response, health and social assistance.

The number of in-country international organizations that the National Societies cooperate with is growing. Among them are the United Nations agencies, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Relief Development (IRD), World Vision, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Oxfam.

Although the number of partners within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has increased, it is still modest. The Federation, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the Norwegian Red Cross are the main and the longest-term partners. The ICRC continues supporting the National Societies disseminate the Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and their work on tracing. The Norwegian Red Cross is the main donor of the annual appeal programmes of the region.

On a bilateral basis, the German, British, Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies are valued partners. Among the more recently established cooperation agreements are those with Magen David Adom, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Polish and Italian Red Cross Societies.

The Federation country office staff will continue providing advice and technical support to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2008-2009 and will facilitate monitoring and reporting of the programmes. However, from late 2007 additional support and coordination will be provided from the Federation representation in Budapest as part of the Federation's restructuring in Europe.

How we work	
<i>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 (Sphere) 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</i>	
The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".	Global Agenda Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
For further information specifically related to this Appeal, please contact:	
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[Click here for the Budget summary;](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 plan for the Red Cross Society of Armenia](#)
and [here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 plan for the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan](#)
and [here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

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