

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Azerbaijan

Appeal No. MAAAZ002

31 August 2010

This report covers the period from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010.



National Society staff and volunteers at the organized event devoted to 14 June World Blood Donor Day. Photo by Azerbaijan Red Crescent

In brief

Programme purpose: All programmes and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society are aligned and contribute to the Global Agenda goals and Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people through disaster management, health and care, organizational development, and focus on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Programme summary: The International Federation continues to support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in its efforts to provide efficient and quality services to the most vulnerable groups within following programmes:

- **Disaster management** was mainly focused on providing support to people affected during various emergencies like flooding, landslides.
- **Health and care** through harm reduction and social care with special focus on health promotion activities, spreading knowledge on HIV and AIDS and recruitment of blood donors.
- **Organizational development** focusing on financial management and resource mobilization, communication and public relations, and youth and volunteer development.
- **Fundamental principles and humanitarian values** were integrated with other programme areas to partly address its specific activities.

In consultation between the National Society, the International Federation and the main Red Crescent donor the Norwegian Red Cross it was agreed to focus the support from six traditionally carried out programmes/projects to three (HIV/AIDS, branch development and youth and volunteer development). As a result the National Society managed to implement large number of planned

activities in these programmes but had to cancel a number of the activities in others or, alternately use their own limited resources to implement them on a small scale. The International Federation continues to support the National Society in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 500,000 (EUR 367,582, USD 475,928); 68 percent covered. Opening balance is CHF 149,777 (EUR 110,111, USD 142,566); the income so far is CHF 380,493 (EUR 279,725, USD 362,174), thus total funding CHF 530,222 (EUR 389,800, USD 504,695). In reporting period the expenditure was CHF 422,110 (EUR 310,322, USD 401,788), which makes for 79% of the existing funds.

No. of people we help: During the first half of 2010 a total of 64,992 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes and it exceeds the planned 52,864 for this period.

Programme Update January – June 2010 - Azerbaijan		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable families, RC staff and volunteers	3,540
Health and Care	Vulnerable people, youth, children	51,882
Organizational Development	National Society key staff and volunteers, youth, children	9,543
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable people, RC staff and volunteers, youth	27
Total number of people reached		64,992

Table 1: Number of people reached by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent

Our partners: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent had at least five partnerships within the Movement. Outside the Movement the National Society cooperated with numerous actors including state bodies at different levels, the United Nations (UN), and various national and international organizations and agencies.

Context

Azerbaijan's economy had developed successfully throughout the first six months of the current year despite the global financial crisis and economic regression in many countries. In the first half of 2010 Azerbaijan economy grew 3.5 percent. In January-February this year GDP in Azerbaijan was AZN 6.1bn (\$7.596bn), a growth of 5.6% on the corresponding period last year; GDP per capita was AZN 689.6 (\$858.5), a growth of 4.4% on the corresponding period last year.

The state pension has been increased from USD 67 to 130 per capita per month¹ and will be increased by 5% by the end of the year. Pension payments system has been 98 percent² automated, thus pensioners receive benefits on plastic cards.³ Some 36,000 jobs have been created in Azerbaijan in the first six months. In general, nearly 900,000 jobs have been created in the country in the last six years, with 600,000 of them being permanent.

¹ According to the State Statistical Committee

² According to State Social Protection Fund

³ The pension automation system is based on a state pension insurance system development program covering 2009-2015. The program was approved by the president Dec. 30, 2008.

Since 1987 the Republic AIDS Control Centre registered 2,427 HIV infected persons out of which 83.7 per cent were men. 64.4 per cent were infected as injecting drug users; 23.2 per cent through heterosexual intercourse; 0.7 per cent through homosexual intercourse; 0.9 per cent got infected via mother to child transmission; 0.05 per cent got it via blood transfusion and for the remaining 10.8 % it was impossible to determine the transmission vector. 308 people already died from AIDS-related causes.

In May 2010, a new law on HIV/AIDS passed a third reading in the Parliament of Azerbaijan (Milli Meclis). The law was developed by a parliamentary working group based on country specific recommendations for the update of national legislation and normative frameworks on drug control and HIV. The recommendations were made by national experts and supported by UNODC.⁴

On 04 May 2010 heavy rains caused flooding in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river. 20,000 houses have been flooded, 300 of them ruined, and more than 2,000 houses are under at risk of being destroyed. 50,000 acres of cultivated land and pasture are under water. 3 people died in the floods. Total number of affected population in the 7 regions is 70,000. As per the latest information, only in Sabirabad district and its 11 villages more than 24,000 people suffered due to floods.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Expected outcome/result: The number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters has been reduced.

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities of Azerbaijan has been reduced.

Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has well-functioning Disaster Response Teams at all levels for more effective disaster response

Programme component 2: Community Preparedness towards disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Communities living in high risk areas have enhanced awareness on disaster

The National Society is continuing its efforts to create well-functioning disaster response teams in areas prone to disasters. Recently occurred floods in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river demonstrated good skills of previously trained staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms while assessing the situation and providing the affected population with necessary items. The National Society improved and facilitated the relief process by implementing coupon system, enlisting products within food parcels.

Disaster response capacity building

The Disaster Management team of the National Society supported their colleagues from health department/ Human Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) team to develop necessary materials for mapping training further held in the country's regions. Jointly with H2P team they facilitated Health

⁴ The law is focused on preventing the spread of HIV among vulnerable population groups and ensuring implementation of effective and proven preventive methods and approaches.

in Emergency training carried out in six local branches to 195 staff and volunteers, community members as well as members of working groups.

In consultation with the Federation the National Society developed a DREF⁵ application and budget to support 400 families (2,145 people) affected by the floods in Sabirabad region. The Disaster Management team was in charge of all necessary logistics procedures (contacting suppliers, collecting offers, organizing tender commission, hiring workers, negotiating with truck drivers, purchasing items, loading/ unloading and packing, delivering to distribution points). Additionally National Society provided support from its own stock and thanks to support given by the local Cream 21 Company, to another 245 families (1200 people) from Sabirabad and Ganja regions. The support involved food parcels, mattresses, bed sets, blankets, kitchen and hygienic sets, rubber boots, sleeping-bags, jerry cans and tents. More details at: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAZ002do.pdf>

The National Society had established working relationships with the German Red Cross and since last year until May 2010 they supported the Azerbaijan Red Crescent financially in the total amount of CHF 61,237. The funds were used for reconstructing safe play areas in districts placed close to front-line zones. The Danish Red Cross expressed interest in supporting the ARC disaster management activities and it is planned for their representative to visit Azerbaijan Red Crescent soon to further discuss potential cooperation.

Constraints or challenges

Due to absence of funds the National Society was not able to implement activities planned within this programme area, thus several of them were carried out through integration with other projects like Human Pandemic Preparedness.

National Society was actively involved in the preparation of a regional proposal to DIPECHO⁶ in consultation with external partners visiting Azerbaijan. However despite all the efforts, the position of the Government of Azerbaijan was that none of the proposed cooperation is possible until the conflict situation in the region is solved. Therefore, participation of the Azerbaijan National Society in the DIPECHO programme for the region is postponed for a certain period of time.

Health and care

Expected outcome/result: The number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies has been reduced.

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has increased the knowledge of people on health prevention and has reduced public health vulnerability via health promotion activities and the provision of qualified health services.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS has been reduced due to increased awareness of groups at higher risk and the general public on HIV and AIDS.

Component outcome 2: The psychosocial condition of people living with HIV and AIDS has been improved due to the efforts of trained National Society staff and volunteers.

⁵ The Federation's Disaster relief Emergency Fund

⁶ European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department's Disaster Preparedness Programme

In the first half of 2010 a number of Red Crescent trained peer educators conducted awareness sessions with 11,970 schoolchildren, youth, university students and community members, delivering information on the immune system, impact of HIV and AIDS on the human body, transmission and symptoms. The National Society worked on reducing stigma of/ discrimination towards risk groups and on their integration into the mainstream society by organizing different events like summer camp and picnics.

49 new peer educators in Mingachevir and Sabirabad have been trained in the history of the HIV virus, statistics, terminology, general information on the immune system, symptoms, who may be infected, ways of infection and its effects on the human body. Another 48 peer educators from Sabirabad and Lankaran refreshed their knowledge at the experience-sharing meeting. During both events a videoclip titled, *Prevent yourself* was shown and participants did interactive exercise with each other to discuss ways of providing first aid and social support to people living with HIV. Trained peer educators were tasked with spreading their knowledge in their respective communities and have reached an estimated number of 9,700 people in different institutions and communities.

The National Society purchased 650 condoms to be distributed to people at risk, high school students as well as general public during HIV/AIDS awareness-education campaigns.

The National Society organized picnics for 36 people living with HIV and their families in Garadon Rest Home of Sabirabad district and one of the Lankaran region sanatoriums. Red Crescent staff and volunteers/ peer educators worked on creating friendly atmosphere: the events included different interactive games, quizzes, performances organized by volunteers, disco-nights etc.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: TB patients are identified for directly observed treatment (DOT), registered and supported to complete DOTS treatment under the supervision of Red Crescent nurses.

Component outcome 2: Awareness has been increased and stigma associated to TB and HIV and AIDS reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

Programme component 4: Community based health and first aid

Component outcome 1: The National Society has set up a network of health promoters and first aid groups to spread knowledge on preventive health within the communities and how to prepare for different accidents, emergencies and disasters.

Component outcome 2: The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health awareness and first-aid activities.

Component outcome 3: Donor blood supply within the country has increased due to the Red Crescent increased number of volunteer non-remunerated blood donors.

More than 200 women passed medical checkup after seminars on breast cancer.

The National Society organized six donor recruitment campaigns in different institutions and as a result 384 journalists, teachers and students of universities, workers of central post office out of 530 reached by the campaign became blood donors. Another 443 people participated in training sessions on blood donor recruitment held by National Society Club 25 volunteers.

The National Society jointly with WHO marked the 14 June, World Blood Donor Day. Approximately 100 volunteers, representatives of Talasemia and Haemophilia Associations as well as the Association of Blood Donors of Azerbaijan participated in the event, which included presentations, distribution of promotion materials, and live performances.

Five National Society volunteers facilitated training sessions on Red Crescent activities on healthy life style, HIV and AIDS, blood donation, emergency situations at the international youth blood donor camp organized by the Association of Blood Donors of Azerbaijan for 25 Russian speaking young donors from CIS countries.

Programme component 4: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic

Component outcome 1: Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas is conducted.

Component outcome 2: Networking is developed, both internally and externally.

Component outcome 3: One country plan integrating component outcomes four to six is established and operational.

Component outcome 4: Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.

Component outcome 5: Training for first responders and community members are delivered.

Component outcome 6: The Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

The National Society continues to implement human pandemic preparedness project with financial support provided by USAID and technical/consultative support given by the Federation Zone and Country Offices⁷. So far 39,000 people were covered with various training sessions. Health team of the National Society carried out several surveys to pinpoint roles and responsibilities of different governmental and non-governmental agencies towards communities in a pandemic situation, conducted regular monitoring visits to regions to meet with stakeholders, working groups, community members and volunteers, distributed materials, and organized events.

Six regions were covered with 112 volunteers in 19 branches, reaching to a population of approximately 72000. The working groups consisted from representatives of the communities, government structures, staff and volunteers of the National Society in Baku and regions and they were covered with training sessions and awareness campaigns since the project started in 2009. They were informed about H1N1 virus, human pandemic preparedness, prophylactic measures, and mapping, food and livelihood issues. The Federation adapted and adopted different curriculum materials on mentioned topics, simulation exercises and templates on writing pandemic preparedness plan. Almost 4000 brochures and posters (slogan: Your best defence is you) were distributed as well as the video clip explaining immunization, the use of masks and five main rules on protection from the infection.

An independent expert from WHO supported the National Society Health team in developing materials for further simulations/ training sessions planned to be carried out with governmental and non-governmental structures. The main source of information was taken from <http://www.pandemicpreparedness.org>.

National Society was involved in the vaccination campaign by supporting the Ministry of Health and WHO in producing the promotional video-clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl55dg506J0>. The National Society's representatives have in their role of members of the Health Steering Committee contributed to the design of the campaign and creation of the video.

H2P expert team (independent expert on behalf of USAID, CORE Group on H2P issue and H2P coordinator from Indonesia) paid visit to both National Society and the Federation offices to collect information about achievements, constraints, innovations and lessons learned in the Human Pandemic Project to highlight in the report. The report will be a practical tool for human pandemic

⁷ The Ministry of Health in close collaboration with organizations like WHO, the Public Health Reforms Center, the State Agency on Agricultural Credits working on World Bank Avian Influenza and Human Preparedness Project and UN agencies has developed National Pandemic Preparedness Plan that further on became the basis for the Country Pandemic Preparedness Plan towards communities, which Red Crescent develops in consultation with the Zone Office and the Geneva headquarters.

preparedness/response for other National Societies and other organisations sphere as it collects and analyses a number of practical experiences. Several meetings have been arranged with Red Crescent leadership and management, WHO, USAID and World Vision organizations. The guests were informed about the activities carried out and the level of cooperation in the H2P sphere in Baku and the regions. Another visit with the purpose of sharing experiences related to H2P was by the Georgian Red Cross health team. They had meetings with Working Groups on Headquarters and district level, meeting with community members and volunteers.

Head of the National Society Health department participated in the public event held in the Parliament of Azerbaijan and devoted to adopting of the Law on HIV and AIDS.

Constraints or challenges

Efforts need to be made to involve more people living with HIV into the activities of the National Society. More regular training sessions for young people are needed especially in rural areas where the established mentality is a main challenge to overcome. In some remote villages across the country's regions peer educators face serious difficulties while discussing HIV and AIDS matters with local communities or doing any kind of demonstrations during sessions.

There is a necessity to frequently organise health promotion sessions on various topics like infectious diseases, oncological diseases (especially breast and lung cancer as they are the most frequent cases in Azerbaijan), hygienic norms, especially in rural areas. Despite the fact that as part of preventive measures these sessions should be organised before outbreak of any emergency situation, they equally have importance after the emergency occurred. For example after floods there might be risk of spreading infection disease and health promotion sessions on observance of hygienic norms, washing hands, boiling water could help to prevent spreading of epidemics.

Organizational development

Expected outcome/result: Local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability has increased.

Programme purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent positions itself as an effective partner to local communities helping them confront day-to-day challenges and better contribute.

Programme component 1: Improving and strengthening Red Crescent youth and volunteer management and recruitment system

Component outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved its youth and volunteer management, recruitment and motivation system.

Component outcome 2: Voluntary service programmes have been developed and implemented at regional and local levels.

The number of members of National Society increased from 265,056 in 2009 to 292,900 in first half of 2010, which demonstrates increased interest towards activities of the National Society and desire to support the implementation of these activities. More than 23 branches have well-trained staff and volunteers to provide humanitarian services to the beneficiaries. Due to the number of training sessions, the quality of financial and narrative reports received from local branches has been improved. Fundraising initiatives are increased in Baku, allowing the National Society to implement humanitarian events focusing on orphans, IDP/refugee and poverty-stricken families. The Red Crescent volunteers provided vulnerable groups (orphans, internally displaced, handicapped and HIV positive children, children ill with rheumatism and older people living alone)

with psychosocial, health and educational services. The National Society organizes various training sessions at all levels to provide volunteers with different knowledge/ skills as well as events that give them opportunities to demonstrate/ apply this knowledge.

Red Crescent trained 45 new volunteers of two regional centres in providing social support to children with disabilities and orphans and Movement's history and Fundamental Principles. The trained volunteers held workshop sessions in schools of the six regions and continued to pay regular visits to orphanage houses to carry out social activities with children.

The National Society organised a volunteer recruitment campaign in Minagchevir region to mark 8 May, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Day and as result 136 young people decided to become Red Crescent volunteers. Red Crescent held three meetings of youth volunteer boards at central and regional level.

The National Society purchased a computer set and some furniture for a youth club in Astara as well as books, teaching materials and school supplies to be donated to 8 orphanage houses covering 670 orphans and among them 150 disabled children.

Programme component 2: Developing National Society regional and branch network and service to quickly and better respond to needs

Component outcome 1: The National Society's strategic plan and policies have been implemented at branch level.

Component outcome 2: Red Crescent programmes and services are carried out in an effective and timely manner including effective assessments and distribution of items at branch level.

Component outcome 3: Target branches have strengthened their skills in public relations and fund-raising to deliver sustainable services.

Component outcome 4: Red Crescent targeted branches have improved their links with local authorities and communities through the participatory community development approach.

Programme planning and management

The National Society updated the contents of the Proposal and other supportive documents like budgets, activity plans, goal hierarchy submitted to the Norwegian Red Cross for period 2010-2012 with the support of the Head of the Federation Office in Baku.

The secretary general and his deputy participated at the VIII European Conference 2010 held in Vienna. Main topics discussed were *Multicultural interaction in view of increased phenomenon of migration* and *Increasing number of elderly population in Europe*. Another Azerbaijan Red Crescent representative attended the European Coordination Meeting (ECM) on Youth activities organized a couple of days before the Conference. Being a member of Election Committee in Geneva on behalf of Europe Zone, the National Society Deputy Secretary General regularly participates in the committee discussions.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent marked its 90th anniversary. The event was attended by high government officials, ICRC, international organizations and diplomatic corps. The video-congratulations of Presidents of the International Federation and ICRC have been broadcasted during the event. By the decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic related to this event, the President of the National Society has been awarded with the state order medal and its 16 members were awarded with state "Progress" medals. The celebration was extensively broadcasted by all TV channels.

Financial management and resource mobilization

The Red Crescent has received 62,978 Swiss francs from membership fees, private donations and donation boxes. 56,188 Swiss francs were spent on buying presents for around 2,400 orphans and older people (as part of marking special dates during the year), providing families with food parcels,

making new 35 donation boxes and covering National Society administration costs. Japanese embassy in Azerbaijan is looking into providing funding for restoring water-sanitation system in Mazam village of Gazakh region.

Fundraising teams of Georgian Red Cross and Kirgizstan Red Crescent Societies paid visit to both the National Society and Federation offices to receive fundraising training organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Fundraising officer in consultation with the Federation. As one of the facilitators of the event, the Head of the Federation Office in Baku held training on topic: *Fundraising with external and internal partners. Using international and local resources.*

Branch development and community capacity building

The National Society held several training sessions on reporting, public relations and health related topics and its core activities as well as drama/ art/ folklore for 82 community members and volunteers from four districts. 400 specially trained Red Crescent volunteers conducted a survey with 3,500 community members in four districts for identifying new communities in need, creating community initiating groups and further applying Participatory Community Development approach. As a result two more communities were identified for RC activities. National Society organized a number of various events in six districts on healthy life style, First Aid, preparedness for a pandemic situation and devoted to 8 May, the International Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day with active participation of local communities in organizational activities. Total number of participants is 2,160.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to closing of the largest network of supermarkets called "Almali" where Red Crescent used to place its donation boxes this line of income was reduced and the scale of related social activities also had to be decreased. Therefore, it is necessary to design fundraising initiatives at branch level and, where they exist, increase their effectiveness.

Role of the Red Crescent volunteers and youth is still to be strongly advocated for, with more volunteer based projects to be implemented. The National Society programme managers came up with the idea to create a group of trainers on different programmes supported by experienced volunteers within the primary organizations who will further help in organizing and facilitating training sessions and events.

Humanitarian values

Expected outcome/result: Intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion has been reduced and respect for diversity and human dignity has been promoted.

Programme purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Tolerant behavior towards the diversity of views, culture, and beliefs widely promoted.

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Component outcome 1: The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.

Component outcome 2: Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.

Component outcome 3: Decision-makers are made aware of humanitarian problems in the society.

Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes

Component outcome 1: Marginalized groups have been integrated into the society and experience less discrimination and stigmatization.

Component outcome 2: Marginalized vulnerable groups are empowered with enhanced ability to resist and tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence.

Despite the lack of funding, the National Society continues its efforts to spread the knowledge on humanitarian values and, using various Azerbaijan Red Crescent projects organize events towards marginalized groups. A number of schools and other institutions was covered through a dissemination project initiated by ICRC.

Using the HIV and AIDS project the National Society organised a round table discussion for 27 students from one of the colleges and volunteers from Mingachvir Red Crescent regional centre on stigma/discrimination and about the facts of discrimination within their families. The main discussion was about what should be or could be the role and support of volunteers in reducing the stigma as seen in the real life cases.

Support was given to the HIV and AIDS project coordinator to organize the abovementioned picnics for people living with HIV (development of questionnaires, interaction games, discussions on stigma/discrimination issue etc.).

Constraints or challenges

Due to the absence of funding for this project the activities were implemented jointly with other projects: HIV and AIDS, youth and volunteer development and branch development. This way, the National Society reached a smaller number of people than planned, but some activities took place.

Working in partnership

Both the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the International Federation have good cooperation with various Movement partners and a wide range of central and local governmental institutions, various national and international organizations and agencies.

The Head of the Federation Office regularly meets with the cooperation office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to analyze traditional areas of support of both Movement components. As a result of these meetings, it was suggested by ICRC to use the experience and knowledge of Red Crescent in several projects supported by the Federation like first aid, youth and volunteers development, health promotion, disaster preparedness and response, branch development and dissemination of humanitarian values in local branches placed close to front-line zones and covered by ICRC. The initiative should also be taken into account for the new planning period. Several contacts were made with various National Societies including Magen David Adom from Israel, Danish, German, and Italian Red Cross Societies. The second part of the year will be used year to work out new initiatives that might help increase funds and expand the field of action.

Regular contacts were maintained with various ministries at central level and authorities at local level as well as UN agencies in the country, WHO and World Vision, OXFAM, USAID, Public Health Reform Centre and Institute of Pulmonology/ National TB Programme.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes are closely linked to the Global Agenda goals. The National Society regularly monitors and evaluates its programme activities to ensure the most efficient use of the limited resources available and to continuously assess programme progress towards the overall objectives. Monitoring includes a continuous collection of data and analysis of programme activity information. Internal as well as external monitoring was carried out and tools for

data gathering included field visits and meetings, reporting and final evaluations (as described above, e.g. visits of the H2P expert team, Magen David Adom Izrael, as well as internal monitoring visits by the Federation).

Gender issues were addressed by ensuring that all activities carried out by the National Society benefited the most vulnerable regardless of gender. Internally equal access and opportunities for participation and decision-making for both genders are an imperative for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. In the planning process gender equity and diversity were taken into account and emphasized for the rest of 2010 and the same direction will be followed in 2011.

Looking ahead

The National Society continues its efforts to reduce dependency on funding channelled through the International Federation and achieve financial self sustainability via developing fund-raising and marketing skills, forging new partnerships to contribute to expertise development and ensuring new sources of funding. New partnerships have been established with several National Societies such as Danish and German Red Crosses, Magen David Adom Izrael and the Turkish Red Crescent. The society will develop its strategic plan for 2011-2015, which will clearly describe the directions in coming years referring to the Federation's Strategy 2020. The youth department and committee have planned activities to increase the number of volunteer-based projects and endorsement of youth and volunteer policies have been adopted by the presidium of the National Society.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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:

- 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.

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