

# Plan 2010-2011



## Azerbaijan Executive summary



The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has developed a number of characteristics that make it a better supporter of vulnerable people. These include a country-wide network of regional and local branches; experienced, enthusiastic and committed staff and volunteers; and stronger links with governmental agencies, local and international organisations. The role and function of the society's governance and management has been separated. Branches have been empowered to be better partners of their communities and more and more youth and volunteers take active roles in Red Crescent services.

In 2007, the Azerbaijani government adopted the Law on Red Crescent that determines the status and mandate of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The law also includes pledges to increase governmental support to the National Society for carrying out its activities and for its further development. Furthermore, the law defines the National Society's relationship not only with the government, but also with non-governmental organizations and institutions, as well as local authorities. A presidential decree was adopted in 2004 to provide assistance to local Red Crescent branches and the government also contributes with funds for the headquarters staff salaries and administrative expenditures.

Despite the progress, challenges remain. Owing to high turnover of volunteers, continuous and regular trainings are needed. Most of the branches are dependent on one source of income, which is membership fees, and are either not able to diversify their financial resource base or have not shown interest in developing proper reporting systems. There is a need to intensify dissemination work with the branches to introduce the community-based approach and motivate them to seek new ways of building partnerships and getting additional resources. Not all the branches work with youth and volunteers on a systematic basis. The role of volunteers and youth is still to be strongly advocated for, with more volunteer-based projects to be implemented. Involvement of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in activities of the society is not at the desired level.

The National Society is making efforts to reduce dependency on the International Federation's annual appeal and achieve financial self sustainability. The efforts are focused on developing fund-raising and marketing skills and forging new partnerships to contribute to its expertise development, as well as to ensure new sources of funding. New partnerships have been established with several National Societies like the Polish and German Red Cross, Magen David Adom and the Turkish Red Crescent as well as DIPECHO. The society developed its strategic plan for 2008-2010, which clearly describes the directions in coming years. 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. Existing capacity allows the society to increase the number of people covered by awareness raising activities, achieving positive results by involving PLHIV and progress in terms of safe sex practice.

Azerbaijan has experienced economic growth, ongoing reforms and increased foreign investments, but nevertheless humanitarian needs still exist. Large communities, particularly elderly people living alone, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, disabled people, orphans, women and children are still an issue of concern. Owing to the efforts of the government, the percentage of people living in poverty has decreased from 49 to 13 per cent, though the population in rural areas is still living in difficult conditions as the largest scale of economic growth is concentrated in the oil sector which is a capital-intensive industry that provides employment for less than one per cent of the workforce<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, child and maternal mortality remains high, the number of HIV and AIDS and TB affected people and drug addicts grows quickly and the health system in rural areas remains undeveloped.

Taking into account recent developments in the country, work implemented by other actors and directions highlighted in the Red Crescent strategic plan for 2008-2010, the International Federation's secretariat's plan is in line with the International Federation's Global Agenda goals, while also incorporating the thinking behind the emerging Strategy 2020, the commitments and outcome of the VII European Red Cross Red Crescent Conference and the decisions of the 16th session of the 2007 Federation General Assembly.

Closely linked to Global Agenda goal one, the disaster management programme is designed to enhance the society's disaster preparedness and response capacity and mechanisms. Steps will be taken to improve the organizational preparedness of staff and volunteers as well as increase the awareness in local communities to reduce their vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters. The National Society's health programme targets people living with HIV and TB with prevention and control of the treatment. Moreover increases the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and raise local communities' awareness on preventive health and first aid as well as develop a human influenza pandemic preparedness plan.

Linked to Global Agenda goal three, the ten areas of improvement of the Framework for Action, but also the *enabling actions* of the draft Strategy 2020 around working effectively as a Federation and building strong National Societies, the organizational development programme focuses on improving the skills of Red Crescent staff to scale up and diversify its funding sources and to strengthen the capacity of staff. The programme aims at putting in place a transparent financial system, improving recruitment and management systems to increase the number of active Red Crescent volunteers, strengthening the skills of branches in public relations and fund-raising to be able to deliver sustainable services, improving links with communities through the participatory community development (PCD) approach, improving project planning and management skills of staff, and developing internal and external communication mechanisms. Finally, the humanitarian values programme contributes to Global Agenda goal four on the promotion of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The International Federation will concentrate in the coming period on ensuring its support meets the needs of the National Society. Integration of the country presence into the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's structure is reasonably developed, and *enabling action three* of the draft Strategy 2020 around working effectively as a Federation will give direction to using resources in more creative and innovative ways through alliances and partnerships.

The total 2010-2011 budget is CHF 900,000 (USD 847,663 or EUR 592,746).

[Click here to go to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

## Country context

Azerbaijan is located on the south-eastern slopes of the Caucasus and on the western coast of the Caspian Sea. Neighboring countries are the Russian Federation in the north and Georgia in the northwest, Armenia in the west, and Iran in the south. The exclave of Nakhichevan is bounded by Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, while having a short borderline with Turkey to the northwest.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: UNDP living conditions in Azerbaijan; [http://www.un-az.org/doc/AzerbaijanRCAR\\_2006\\_e.pdf](http://www.un-az.org/doc/AzerbaijanRCAR_2006_e.pdf)

Azerbaijan's high economic growth in recent years is attributable to large and growing oil exports, though the non-energy sector also featured double-digit growth in 2008, spurred by growth in the construction, banking, and real estate sectors. According to the World Bank Global GDP growth in Azerbaijan is projected at approximately 10 per cent in 2009. From 2003 to early 2009 the poverty rate dropped from 49 per cent to approximately 13 per cent. According to the State Statistical Committee only 6.1 per cent of the economically active population remains unemployed. The Central Bank of Azerbaijan is implementing a stable, manoeuvrable monetary policy aimed at strengthening the stability of the banking sector. As a result, there is a fairly stable economic situation in Azerbaijan and favourable macroeconomic dynamics has been maintained. In 2005 the Azerbaijani president issued a decree to prepare a ten year *State Programme on Poverty Reduction* (2006-2015) to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to the State Statistical Committee the state pension is approximately USD 67 per capita per month.

Development Indicators		AZERBAIJAN <sup>2</sup>	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	8,5	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	5,016
Surface area (square km)	86,600	GDP real growth (%)	18.6
Carbon dioxide em. per capita (metric tons) (2004)	3,8	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	6.1
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	98.8	Infant mortality rate (per 100,000)	34
Gender-related development index rate (GDI)	0,743	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	35,3
Human development index value (HDI)	0,746	Life expectancy at birth	72,4
Human development index rate (HDI)	99,6	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	0.1
Population below PPP \$ 1 per day (%)	3.7	People living with HIV aged 15-49	1,944
Population below nat. poverty line (%)	13.2	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000) (2005)	85
<i>Refugees and IDPs</i>		Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit.	
Refugees by country of origin (2006)	126,000		
Number of internally displaced people	572,000		

**Table 1:** Selected development indicators for Azerbaijan

Despite numerous promising achievements, official figures show that the inflation nearly reached 17 per cent in 2007 and was well above 9 per cent in the first quarter of 2008. Food and energy prices are running at a higher rate of inflation. Further, inflation is considered a major risk to economic stability and may be likely to increase in the near future due to the level of fiscal spending and high oil prices.

Gaps exist in the health sector which needs to be addressed including promotion of sound health, development of primary health care services and health facilities. Health reform projects implemented by the government thus aim to strengthen and reform district primary healthcare services, develop a management information system, new pharmaceutical policies and procedures, improvement of and access to primary care services, strengthening of managerial and clinical capabilities of health personnel. 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, UN agencies has developed national pandemic preparedness plan that further became the basis for the country pandemic preparedness plan worked by the Red Crescent in consultation with zone offices and the Geneva headquarters.

In 2009 the virus H1N1 created the risk of pandemic. The International Federation and the National Society mobilized resources to initiate relevant preventive measures. Monitoring has shown that no carrier of the virus has identified among the samples.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, [http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/aze\\_aag.pdf](http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/aze_aag.pdf); The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, <http://www.azstat.org/publications/azfigures/2009/en/004.shtml>; UNICEF Azerbaijan, <http://www.unicef.org.azerbaijan>; Forced Migration, <http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR30/76.pdf>; Internal Displacement, <http://www.internal-displacement.org>; UNHCR, Report June 2007

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a member of steering committee and will be invited to take part in meetings of relevance to its role, and updated on the process. The National Society will also assist the government in awareness-raising and provision of trainings as mentioned within the National Pandemic Plan. So far the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is keeping close contacts with the Ministry of Health and WHO and as first step issued 15,000 leaflets on Preliminary Preventive measures towards H1N1. The leaflets were already distributed in Baku and regions among the population and several governmental and non-governmental organizations and general population.

Child malnutrition is a serious problem particularly in rural areas. According to the Ministry of Health the maternal death rate is reduced from 3.76 to 2.61% per 100,000 new born children and consists 26.3 per cent. Although the rate appears relatively low, the level of underreporting throughout the country is considered as significant compared to other countries. Infant and maternal mortality is especially prevalent in rural areas and where living conditions are low. The other reason is poor nutrition, infectious diseases and overdue requests for assistance as well as insufficient diagnostics.

Within reproductive and childhood health, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO analyzed the reproductive health status in the country. The analysis revealed that challenges to health systems and community involvement affect access to reproductive health services for women and their families. Based on the analysis, WHO assisted national policy-makers and experts to develop a national strategy on reproductive health for 2008–2015.

The number of cancer patients is rising by 10 to 15 per cent per year in Azerbaijan and to date some 24,000 persons are suffering from various types of cancer. Yet the methods and quality of combating cancer have improved. Women are mainly suffering from breast cancer while men are more often suffering from lung cancer.

Sexually-transmitted infections and tuberculosis (TB) are serious public health problems. In the recent years, the number of the people infected with HIV has been increasing. Since 1987 the Republic AIDS Control Centre registered 1,944 HIV infected persons out of which almost 85 per cent were men. The most common source of infection is injecting drug use which accounts for almost 65 per cent. The second source is heterosexual contact which accounts for almost 23 per cent.

In 2007 the number of TB cases was 77 per 100,000 persons according to WHO. The mortality rate was 10 per 100,000. Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) is another challenge within TB. The highest rate was recorded in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where more than one-fifth of all new TB cases were reported as multidrug-resistant. MDR-TB among previously treated TB cases is 56 per cent.

In 2006 treatment with antiretroviral (ARV) drugs begun in the Republic AIDS Control Center free of charge to people living with HIV. The treatment is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and is being continued by the Ministry of Health. So far 227 HIV and AIDS patients have undergone treatment.

Almost 21,000 drug abusers were registered in Azerbaijan in 2008, up from and 19,500 in 2007. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) the number of unregistered drug abusers exceeds the official statistics by many times. In order to deal with the abuse enforced treatment as well as legislation is being pursued.

Azerbaijan has several hundred thousand refugees and IDPs throughout the country. The state authorities address the needs of displaced people through specific state programmes, however IDPs continue being dependent on state allowances and state assistance. Although IDPs benefit from food and cash subsidies, tax exemptions and house furnishing, they enjoy only limited property rights. While the housing standard in rural areas has been improving, a majority of IDPs living urban areas live in sub-standard collective shelters. IDPs are also confronted with normative acts and regulations being interpreted differently by local authorities, resulting in nonconformity in the implementation of relevant policies. Thus additional measures to ensure the sustainability of governmental efforts and to provide a better basis for temporary settlement or permanent reintegration of IDPs are required.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the fact that there is a Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on social protection of disabled persons and on integrated education for disabled children in general schools, they are still a virtually invisible group in Azerbaijan. According to government statistics there are around 275,000 people with various physical disabilities, out of them 49,000 are children<sup>3</sup>. There is still a stark shortage of custom-made entrances, ramps, lifts or toilets designed for people with disabilities. Public buildings, underground passages and railway stations are therefore virtual no-go areas. Medical consultations and medicines for disabled children, social support to disabled children and their integration into society, procreative and informal education of disabled children; special programmes and social events are need to be addressed. The country lacks qualified staff of social workers and responsibility for children is spread across a bewildering array of ministries and local-level commissions, making it very hard for children or families to know where to go when they need help, such as in cases of abuse or family crisis. This is also reducing the ability of the government to allocate resources in a coordinated and efficient way.

Azerbaijan is situated in a geographical zone prone to earthquakes. The slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountains, Gandja and densely populated areas such as the Apsheron Peninsula and the North Caspian region are likely to be seriously affected in the case of earthquakes. Furthermore, heavy showers in the country have frequently led to floods with significant damage to infrastructure and causing human injuries and casualties.

Country disasters		
AZERBAIJAN		
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people
Flood	April 2003	31,500
Earthquake (seismic activity)	November 2000	3,300
Earthquake (seismic activity)	June 1999	9,200
Earthquake (seismic activity)	July 1998	700,000
Flood	June 1997	75,000
Flood	October 1995	6,000
Flood	June 1995	2,800
Flood	April 1995	1,650,000

Source: EM-DAT: OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

Azerbaijan also faces serious environmental challenges. Soil throughout the region was contaminated by insecticide and toxic defoliants used in cotton production during the Soviet era. Caspian petroleum and petrochemicals industries contribute to present air and water pollution problems. The National Society has a limited role to play with regard to environmental challenges, but in some rural areas Red Crescent volunteers organize small campaigns on the preservation of the environment.

**Table 2:** Disasters in Azerbaijan since 1995

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

Based on its strategic plan for 2008-2010 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has identified the following priority areas: strengthening the National Society's disaster preparedness and response capacity and updating its disaster management system; increasing the awareness of the population on health issues through health promotion activities and services; making efforts to change behaviour of people to Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values; developing Red Crescent infrastructure by increasing the number of new Red Crescent local branches and members to provide more effective and qualitative services, and respond to the local needs; developing youth and volunteers management system to improve involvement, registration and management of youth and volunteers; improving voluntary service delivery to socially vulnerable people through all National Society structures; and establishing a stable financial resource base through diversified financial sources.

Among the most vulnerable groups covered by the National Society are communities highly vulnerable to social needs, vulnerable people with little access to resources as well as basic healthcare, internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, orphans, street children, people with physical or mental disabilities, youngsters, PLHIV, TB patients, people ill with hemophilia, elderly people living alone, children and women at detention places. Another target group within capacity building is volunteers and staff at the headquarters as well as the seven regional centres and all branches.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/media\\_11010.html](http://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/media_11010.html)

Gender balance is taken into consideration in designing all programmes and projects and when selecting beneficiaries. The total balance between male and female is 51 per cent to 49 per cent.

Partners within the Movement are:

International Federation	Technical and financial support in designing and implementing programmes
ICRC	TB, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), tracing, <i>Safe Play Area</i> and <i>Detailed Data Collection</i> projects.
Norwegian Red Cross	Main donor for Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes and projects.
Israel Magen David Adom	Training sessions for Red Crescent volunteers and staff on first aid.
Polish Red Cross	Branch development continued with community-based first aid.
Turkish Red Crescent	Bilateral programmes in health and care and disaster management are planned in the frame of the regional cooperation programme.

The National Society also coordinates and cooperates with a range of external actors be it the authorities, organizations and agencies, and private actors:

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO and other UN agencies</li> <li>• Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</li> <li>• International Campaign to Ban Landmines</li> <li>• International Relief Development (IRD)</li> <li>• AIDS Republic Centre</li> <li>• Blood bank</li> <li>• Haemophilia Association</li> <li>• Social Union on Struggling with AIDS,</li> <li>• Institute of Pulmonology (TB)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fovgal Association and Veterinary Services.</li> <li>• MoU with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resource</li> <li>• The Ministry of Education,</li> <li>• The Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise (NHE)*</li> <li>• The Norwegian Embassy to Azerbaijan*</li> <li>• World Vision*</li> <li>• Women Committee*</li> <li>• Statoil*</li> </ul> |
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\*Supporting youth and volunteer activities and the establishment of primary organizations in educational institutions.

The National Society will increase its cooperation with local authorities at regional and branch level to support communities during events and with premises where possible.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

### Disaster Management

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

**Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**

The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities of Azerbaijan has been reduced.

The disaster management programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 76,000.

#### **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

#### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Target groups under component one are staff and volunteers of seven regional Mobile Volunteer Teams, National Disaster Response Teams. The teams will receive trainings in order to increase team members' competency to assist in time of disasters. The total number of staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 216.

Main target groups under component two are women, elderly people, and children living in high risk urban and rural areas. People will be targeted through trainings, workshops, community-based

disaster activities, awareness campaigns and relief. Relief efforts include carrying out needs assessments and providing relief items such as non-food items and kitchen sets. Furthermore trainings on how to cope with disasters will be conducted as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Emergency. The total number of staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 8,576.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent ensures equal opportunities for men and women in its activities, planning process and implementation.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable social and political situation in the country
- Weak cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency that has to be strengthened
- Insufficient number of the staff and volunteers of the disaster preparedness and disaster response department
- Large-scale disasters occurring in the country might be a serious challenge at a stage when the National Society is developing its disaster preparedness and disaster response system

Motivation of volunteers more effectively through organizing trainings with simulation exercises, and strengthening relationships with partners are considered vital.

## Health and Care

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

**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.

The health and care programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 530,799.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.
<b>Component outcome 5:</b> Training for first responders and community members are delivered.
<b>Component outcome 6:</b> The Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

## **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

Health and care programme target groups include children, women, men and elderly people thus covering all age groups. Especially targeted groups are drivers, teachers, schoolchildren, students, sex workers, street children, people living with HIV and TB patients. The National Society will carry out various trainings and campaigns and provide social assistance. The activities will be carried out in rural as well as urban areas and the total number of beneficiaries is expected to be more than 141,700 including some 1,100 Red Crescent staff and volunteers who will receive various training and participate at different events.

The primary target groups for this project are vulnerable people from urban and rural areas with social needs such as people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), internally displaced people (IDP), refugees, orphans, street children, people with physical or mental disabilities, youth, elderly people living alone, and children and women in penitentiary centres. At the organizational level target groups comprise volunteers-peer educators and staff at the headquarters, in seven regional centres as well as in local branches countrywide. Presently there are 1,020 HIV and AIDS peer educators. The selection of target groups is carried out by the headquarters, regional centres and branches in cooperation with local authorities and different stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable groups.

Primary target groups under the educational part of the HIV and AIDS sub-project are children, schoolchildren and students. Special risk groups are sex workers, street children, TB patients including persons newly released from prison as well as PLHIV. The secondary target group includes staff and volunteers motivated to become peer educators in prevention work directed towards their own age groups, as well as highly motivated volunteers working with risk-groups and PLHIV. The geographical locations targeted by the project include Baku and the seven regions of Azerbaijan. A special focus is put on high-risk areas where a growing numbers of PLHIV has been observed recently. An expansion of HIV and AIDS related activities towards increasing number of peer educators, training sessions and events with active participation of marginalized groups is planned.

Community-based integrated health and first-aid activities are essential for building more self-sustainable communities and increasing their capacity to cope with health-related problems. There are 84 health promoters and 3 nurses in Baku and in the regions supervising DOTS treatment. The existing capacity of the society within health and care is expected to expand as a result of Red Crescent efforts. Some 75 health promoters and 55 nurses as well as a network of 35 first-aid instructors at branch level and 5 community-based first-aid teams is planned to be the result. A volunteer network of well-trained health promoters and nurses in Baku and the regions will contribute to increasing community members' knowledge on preventive measures towards various diseases. A network of first-aid instructors and community-based teams will strengthen their own capacity to respond rapidly to daily emergencies following natural or man-made disasters.

The treatment of 18 TB patients is under the supervision of Red Crescent nurses. They are supervising DOTS treatment of released prisoners with TB in accordance with government health authorities, namely the national TB programme. The National Society has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health which specifies its role in the field of TB. Red Crescent nurses also assist in identifying and registering patients. Stimulating treatment adherence is crucial, especially in the case of MDR-TB patients. Thus the society will train 35 TB nurses in Baku and rural areas to control DOTS treatment as well as attract people living with TB to its activities.

In total 84 Red Crescent volunteers work to increase public awareness on the safety, the benefits and the importance of donating blood. Club-25, which aims at getting people to donate blood 25 times before the age of 25, already exists in Baku and is planned to be expanded to four other regions in order to increase the number of volunteer non-remunerated blood donors. In targeting

children ill with thalasemia and haemophilia the National Society regularly organizes blood donor recruitment campaigns in close cooperation with the Thalasemia and Haemophilia Association, and the Blood Bank. Another 170 blood donor recruitment volunteers will be trained as to increase public awareness on the safety, benefits and importance of blood donation.

In 2009 the society initiated a one year H2P pandemic preparedness project with financial support of USAID which will be continued till 2010. The other part of the project is spreading information on avian influenza, which will continue till 2011. The project also includes developing a preparedness plan, adapting promotion materials, carrying out training sessions, organizing meetings with government agencies and NGOs and awareness campaigns. Total number of people to be reached is 71,500.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable socio-economic situation leading to increased health vulnerability.
- Problems encountered in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental structures.
- Lack of interest of target groups to participate in Red Crescent events.
- High turn-over of Red Crescent trained staff and volunteers jeopardising the continuity of the National Society efforts.
- Lack of commitment among Red Crescent staff and volunteers to work with people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Emergency situations.

To succeed with its health activities the National Society stresses the importance of organizing more successful campaigns, and motivating volunteers more effectively through organizing various trainings, and strengthening relationships with partners. It is considered especially important to involve targeted marginalized groups in the processes and to create conditions that motivate the targeted groups to provide inputs and influence the carrying out of activities.

## Organisational Development/Capacity Building

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

**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.

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 243,737.

**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.

**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.

Direct target groups are National Society staff and volunteers, who will develop necessary planning, policy documents, fund-raising activities, and cooperate with local authorities and carry out social assistance. The society will provide them with necessary training, follow up the implementation of the strategic plan, statute and policies. The aim is to have staff and volunteers with relevant knowledge and skills to assist the vulnerable groups of the population, strengthen the capacity of the organization at all levels and decrease dependency on donors through successful local fund-raising activities.

Under the branch development component, the primary target group is staff at branch and regional level. Various various training sessions are going to be organized. The secondary target group are vulnerable groups in communities. The total number of people to be covered is 6,341, including 85 staff and 356 volunteers. The number of targeted branches is 57. For the latter the National Society organizes different kind of events and provides social and humanitarian assistance, encourages communities to be well-prepared and self-sustainable to cope with the occurred problems as well as making efforts to focus the attention of local authorities to the problems of people.

Within the youth volunteers project, primary target groups are youngsters, orphans aged 3 to 25, street children, mentally and physically disabled children, HIV and AIDS positive youth, as well as children in correctional institutions. Secondary target groups are members of the National Society youth boards, volunteers and staff at the headquarters and local level. The geographical location is Baku and seven regional centres. The total number of people to be covered is 11,100, including 6,700 volunteers.

The National Society considers gender balance in all projects and activities, particularly in regard to the participation of women in decision-making processes, project implementation, planning, international conferences and workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities. The total balance between men and women is 51 per cent to 49 per cent.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable socio-economic situation in the country.
- Lack of support from local governmental structures.
- Lack of support to the activities of volunteers from at local branches level
- High turnover of volunteers and staff.
- Red Crescent leadership at the central and branch level is committed to stronger engagement with the local communities and resource mobilisation initiatives.
- Communities are not willing to change the status from an aid recipient to an active partner of the National Society.
- Local authorities and organizations express lack of interest to cooperate with the branches.

The outcome of the programme depends on successful campaigns, increased knowledge and skills, more effective motivation of volunteers through trainings, social activities, camps, meetings, and sharing of knowledge and experience, and strengthening relationships with partners.

## Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.</b>
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Tolerant behavior towards the diversity of views, culture, and beliefs widely promoted.
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The principles and values programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 49,464.

<b>Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.
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**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.

**b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

Under component 2, taking into account the fact that along with the importance to make efforts to advocate for the respect of human dignity and promote a culture of non-stigmatization and tolerance towards marginalized communities, it is important to have better skilled and competent staff at all levels of the National Society. The society will concentrate on continuing training and seminars on humanitarian values. The total number of Red Crescent staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 75. Staff and volunteers will then organize awareness-raising campaigns, produce promotion materials, organize events in universities, schools, and speeches on different TV channels.

Target groups under both components include women, men, children, elderly people, and especially such groups as, drivers, teachers, schoolchildren, students, orphans, sex workers, people living with HIV, people with disabilities, IDPs and refugees, street children, and media workers from urban and rural areas. The primary objective of the programme is to change people's attitudes and behavior towards marginalized communities like PLHIV, elderly people, orphans, people with disabilities, TB patients, to promote tolerance, coexistence and respect for human dignity as well as integrate them more into the society. The total number of people to be covered is 3,032.

The target groups are within the following age groups: 14 to 24 years; 25 years and above. Gender balance has been taken into account and the balance between men and women will be 53 per cent to 47 per cent.

People will receive training, participate in seminars, round-table discussions, summer camps, picnics and drawing competitions using humanitarian values related topics, campaigns against stigma and discrimination. Marginalized groups will have an opportunity to participate in the organizational process of the mentioned events. Events like media and education campaigns to respond to HIV-related stigma and discrimination, memorial days to remember those who died from HIV and AIDS will attract the attention of the general public.

**c) Potential risks and challenges**

- The general public is not interested in conducted campaigns.
- Lack of interest of volunteers towards implemented programmes.
- Lack of interest of target groups towards conducted campaigns.

The outcome of the programme depends on more successful campaigns, more effective motivation of volunteers through organizing trainings, social activities, and camps, meetings to share knowledge and experience, strengthening relationships with marginalized groups and frequently involve them to be part of the organizational process. Also surveys will be carried out to explore expectations and challenges among people.

## Role of the secretariat

**a) Technical programme support**

The country office of the International Federation in Azerbaijan is represented by locally recruited staff that provides assistance in planning, programming, reporting, logistics and finance management and monitoring issues. The office coordinates international assistance and helps secure required technical support, facilitating the process of expanded partnerships within and

outside of the Movement. The Europe Zone office will be strategic advisors for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent as they have primary responsibility in programmes and project implementation.

Integrating the International Federation's presence into the National Society's structure, and being more focussed in supporting them in their needs with the current resource limitations is a challenge. In Azerbaijan integration is further developed than in the majority of societies in Europe that embarked upon the policy later. Nevertheless, the wording of *enabling action three* of the draft Strategy 2020 around working effectively as a Federation, and also on humanitarian diplomacy, is giving direction in addressing some of the challenges by using the resources available in more creative and innovative ways through alliances and partnerships. A consultative, analytical process is planned for late 2009 and early 2010, together with National Society stakeholders, on how the International Federation secretariat can structure its field set up to optimise service delivery based upon country planning.

## **b) Partnership development and coordination**

In terms of partnerships and coordination the capacities and resources within the Movement as well as other partners are utilized based on respect and value towards the assistance provided. Collaboration is built on fruitfulness, openness and transparency. Furthermore this work complies with the New Operating Model, which increases the flexibility of the Federation working approach, harnessing new opportunities to maximize cooperation, transparency and accountability. The support in programming will be provided based on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's strategic plan for 2008-2010 and the priorities outlined in this plan.

The collaboration between the International Federation's country office and ICRC will be enhanced especially focusing on the society's capacity development and according to the 30th International Conference in the following identified four areas: humanitarian consequences of climate change; humanitarian concerns generated by international migration; violence, in particular in urban settings; and emergent and recurrent diseases and other public health challenges. The Seville Agreement and Supplementary Measures provide the framework and responsibilities within which Movement components conduct international activities. Another opportunity to mobilize capacities and resources to provide harmonized and effective support to the National Society for implementing the HIV and AIDS project is the Global Alliance on HIV. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is interested to be part of this structure.

## **c) Representation and Advocacy**

Based on its current needs the Azerbaijan Red Crescent needs support in strengthening its capacity and advocacy work. With assistance of the Europe Zone office and the country office, and using the International Federation's experience in strengthening its auxiliary role, the society will build up and maintain its advocacy relationships with the public authorities as well as international organizations and humanitarian actors. This role is obviously shown during International Conferences where National Societies and governments sit side by side as equal partners. The Europe Zone office will arrange International Federation representation in inter-agency discussions as they take place in the region and in-field situations, including the coordination for emergency assistance.

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent recognizes that the empowerment of women and the integration of gender perspectives will increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the organization. Thus the society considers gender balance issue in all their projects and activities; particularly the participation of women in decision-making processes, project implementation, planning, international conferences and workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities. The Red Crescent ensures equal opportunities to men and women to apply for open positions. The percentage of men and women working in the management of the National Society is almost equal.

According to the National Society's strategic plan 2008-2010, developing gender policy with highlighted methods of addressing gender issues, clear roles, responsibilities, needs, interests and capacities of both men and women is one of the main issues and the work on it is planned to be started this year.

# Quality, accountability and learning

To improve the quality of the programmes and ensure their effectiveness, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent uses a *quality assessment template* that was developed by the International Federation's regional representation for Southern Caucasus in 2007. It is a simple tool used by the programme managers comprising of three main parts: 1) basic project information; 2) key questions to be answered at the beginning of projects, in the design and preparation phase; and 3) an impact assessment including 12 generic questions to be answered at the end of the projects to assess what has been achieved.

SPHERE standards are used as the basis for emergency operations run by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent as standard practice. VCA is conducted to identify and find solutions together with the communities, and based on recent results, risk reduction micro-projects will be implemented with the direct involvement of stakeholders at regional level and the target population.

Accountability to the stakeholders, donors, the general population and target groups will be ensured through various reports such as programme updates, annual reports and pledge-based reports, launched on the International Federation's website or submitted to the donors. The society's annual report is shared with international and local organizations, newsletters, articles, and forums organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

The following tools and mechanisms are being applied to better assess programme performance and improve future interventions as to maximize effectiveness and impact:

- **Date Collection.** The society will use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods for monitoring and evaluation purposes including interviews with the people reached and participants in events, questionnaires, surveys and case studies.
- **Field Visits and Meetings.** Field monitoring visits are conducted once or twice a month to check programme progress and assess achievements and challenges. Additionally, there will be organized meetings once or twice with community representatives, vulnerable groups, partners and donors.
- **Reporting.** As an integral part of monitoring and evaluation monthly, quarterly, half-year and annual reports will be developed to monitor and track progress, demonstrate impact and lessons learnt, provide feedback to donors and partners on funds received and ensure accountability and transparency to donors and beneficiaries.

How we work	
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".	<b>Global Agenda Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li><li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li><li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li><li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li></ul>
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