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Annual report AZERBAIJAN

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This report covers the
period 01/01/2011-
31/12/2011



The Azerbaijan Red Crescent organized a big campaign devoted to 14 June World Blood Donor Day and under the slogan "More Blood. More life". A big blood drop prepared by Red Crescent volunteers and young members of Children and Young people Peace Network was collected during event. AzRC/Information department

In brief

Programme outcome

All programmes and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) are aligned and contribute to the IFRC Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people.

Programme summary

The International Federation continues to support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in its efforts to provide efficient and good quality services to the most vulnerable groups as well as in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results. Thus under the **Disaster management programme** the focus was mainly on providing support to people affected during various emergencies like flooding, earthquake, landslides and fires. In **Health and care programme** the National Society reached people through training sessions, promotion of healthy life style and awareness raising, harm reduction, blood donors' recruitment campaigns, visits to people living with Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) and events like picnics, summer camps with participation of people living with HIV (PLHIV), drug users. Under **Organizational development** the focus was on financial management and resource mobilization, communication and public relations, organizing various events within communities, youth and volunteer development. **Fundamental principles and humanitarian values programme** was an integral part of activities in other programme areas like HIV and AIDS, harm reduction, youth and volunteers.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 498,585, of which CHF 220,995 or 44 per cent covered during the reporting period (including opening balance and income). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 210,364 that is 42 percent of the budget and 95 per cent of the actual funding. Closing balance was CHF 10,631 and will be transferred to the next year period. Some of the funds were received in the second half of 2011 and are funding for programmes that runs into 2012.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached

During 2011, a total of 141,668 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes exceeding the planned number of 138,517 See *table N1*.

Programme area	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable families, RC staff and volunteers	5,899
Health and Care	Vulnerable people, youth, children	71,869
Organizational Development	National Society key staff and volunteers, youth, children	62,356
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable people, RC staff and volunteers, youth	1,544
Total		141,668

Our partners

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society had at least six partnerships within the Movement like International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross, Danish, Italian, Austrian Red Crosses, Magen David Adom National Society. Outside the Movement the National Society cooperated with numerous actors including government bodies at different levels, UK's Department for International Development (DfID), the United Nations (UN), and various national and international organizations and agencies.

Context

According to the National Statistics Committee the poverty level in Azerbaijan decreased 5.2 times over the last eight years and amounted to 7.6 percent in 2011. The average monthly pension amounted to CHF 174¹. Unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% in 2011; about 94 000 new jobs were created and 72.7 thousands of them were permanent jobs.

About 175,400 children were born in Azerbaijan last year and this is the highest index for the last 17 years. The birth rate per 1,000 people increased from 18.5 to 19.4 compared to 2010. So, 53.8 percent of newborn are boys, 46.2 percent - girls. About 49.6 percent of the population are men, while women make the remaining 50.4 percent.

Serious efforts are being undertaken in Azerbaijan to prevent floods in territories where floods and mudslides are frequent. 600 meters of dikes were built during the year in areas prone to dangerous flooding on the banks of the Kur, Araz and mountain rivers.

There are 400,000 disabled persons in Azerbaijan: out of them 56,000 are children. Different measures are taken in the country in order to improve their living conditions and ensure their employment. At present, 14 medical rehabilitation centres for disabled persons operate in Azerbaijan.

DOTS plus treatment² of inmates diagnosed with Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) was

¹ The number of pensioners was 1.278 million people as of late 2011. Some 306,800 people have social benefits, 34,300 people have a scholarship for special services to Azerbaijan, 547,800 people receive targeted social assistance as of 2011.

² Directly Observed Treatment, Short course

started in 2011 and with great success: a 72% success rate is one of the highest in the world. According to statistics there are 6,269 MDR TB patients³ all over Republic.

The HIV/AIDS Centre registered 3,199 cases of HIV infection between 1987 and 1 December 2011⁴. Of these 113 are foreigners, 2,525 are men. 289 of the infected are being treated and 424 have died. Most of the infected people are intravenous drug users or have been infected from heterosexual sex. Azerbaijan has announced a large-scale battle with drug addiction and intensified measures taken in 2010. At the end of 2011, 26,700 drug addicts have been registered and 80 per cent of them are using the heavy types of drugs⁵. The Ministry of Education conducted educational work among pupils and students living in border areas and plans to expand network out-of-school centres to combat the drug.

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

Outcome:

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

Achievements

The staff and volunteers of the National Society that have been previously trained in disaster preparedness and response demonstrated good skills while assessing the situation in several regions where disasters struck and providing the affected population with necessary items. Thus 4,824 people living in the regions affected by various natural and man-made disasters like downpours, earthquakes, landslides, fires, snowfalls and flooding received food and non-food items from the National Society stock or purchased with its own funds. Also the National Society has replenished its central warehouse with non-food items⁶ to be able to provide support to 435 families or 2,175 people hit by various disasters.

As a part of the regional cooperation team in Disaster Preparedness and Response and due to the request of Turkish Red Crescent the Azerbaijan Red Crescent representatives were nominated to the monitoring group of the team. The group was tasked to observe various phases of humanitarian activities towards Syrian population moving to Turkish territory fleeing from the military activities in Syria. Regular reports on monitoring food and non-food support were submitted both to Turkish Red Crescent and Federation Europe Zone Office/Disaster Management Coordinator⁷.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent used its website to collect funds for helping Japan after the cataclysmic earthquake of 2011. It should be also mentioned that the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a donation of \$1 million via the Red Cross Society of Japan. Another support campaign launched through the website and called “You are not alone” was due to earthquake in Turkey and drought in Somalia <http://www.redcrescent.az/en>; <http://www.redcrescent.az/somalia->

³ Out of this number 1,235 MDR TB patients are newly registered in 2011. Also 671 consists XDR TB cases. Among the patients are inmates, released inmates and civilians.

⁴ According to AIDS Prevention Center

⁵ According to the Ministry of Health and State Commission on combating drug trafficking

⁶ The items includes rubber boots, tents, hygienic sets, kitchen sets, mattresses, blankets, gas stoves, jerry cans, beddings, towels, carpeting, women clothes and sleeping bags

⁷ Monitoring was done based on criteria established within Federation Emergency Response Catalog

[campaign/joined-to-support-campaign-to-somalia/en/](#).

Fundraising campaign towards	Collected funds/CHF
Cataclysmic earthquake in Japan	148
Earthquake in Turkey	26,823
Drought in Somalia	15,796
Total	42,767

Programme component 2: Community Preparedness towards disaster risk reduction

Outcome:

- Communities living in high risk areas have enhanced awareness on disaster preparedness and response

Achievements

The National Society has finalized the project bilaterally supported by the Danish Red Cross and started in 2010. Activities implemented in disaster management, first aid and branch development areas included developing training modules, carrying out training sessions, simulation exercises and awareness campaigns among targeted communities, purchasing first aid kits, printing and distributing information materials and covered 745 people in total. Due to new contribution submitted by DFID/British RC the National Society has started implementing activities under the project named Building safer communities through capacity building of the Red Crescent local branches. So far six training sessions, simulation exercises, awareness campaigns were organized for 330 Red Crescent staff and volunteers of three targeted regions and community members living in areas prone to disasters to give relevant knowledge, train Red Crescent disaster response teams and increase awareness towards disasters specific to chosen areas. 10,400 public and promotion materials like First Aid kits, brochures on First Aid rules and security rules during flooding were issued and distributed among the volunteers and community members.

Constraints or Challenges

Available funds allocated either bilaterally or through the International Federation enabled the National Society to implement activities planned within specific projects under this programme area. Due to funding constraints, several activities had to be carried out through integration with other projects like branch development and First Aid. Still there are certain issues like replenishment of stocks in all seven regional centres or at least regions prone to disasters, increasing number of disaster response teams, having telecommunication specialists. To be able to cover these plans, the National Society needs to increase its funding and get as much support of various donors as possible.

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 National Society carried out various activities in the areas of HIV and AIDS, community based health and first aid as well as blood donation and continued projects like Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB)⁸ and Harm Reduction⁹ started in 2010 with increased number of patients, nurses, regions and communities. The International Federation Country and Europe Zone offices, as well as the headquarters in Geneva provided technical and coordination support.

⁸ The AzRC implements the MDR TB project among 20 patients in Baku with financial support of Eli Lilly and Company Foundation and in close cooperation with the National TB Control Programme run by the Ministry of Health (NTCP)

⁹ The AzRC implements Harm Reduction project in six regions of Azerbaijan with financial support of the Italian Red Cross

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Outcomes:

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

Achievements

111 new peer educators 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 120 peer educators refreshed their knowledge at the experience-sharing meeting. Peer educators trained by Azerbaijan Red Crescent have organised awareness sessions, round-table discussions and campaigns to spread the knowledge among schoolchildren, youth, university students and in their respective communities and reached an estimated number of 39,064 people in different institutions and communities.

The National Society organized meeting in the open air for 38 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and their family members in Lankaran region Masalli district and two days picnic in Ismayilli region for another 22 PLHIV and their family members with own funds and support of its staff and volunteers. Red Crescent created a friendly atmosphere for the participants, organized interactive games and walks, provided PLHIV and their family members with hygienic kits and food parcels.

National Society printed 3,600 educational brochures with guidelines on protection as well as posters that were and will be distributed during different events like workshop sessions, round table discussions, marking of the World AIDS Day, visits to meetings and conferences abroad, to local/international organizations, government structures as well as general public.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Outcomes:

- TB patients are identified for directly observed treatment (DOT), registered and supported to complete DOTS treatment under the supervision of Red Crescent nurses.
- Awareness has been increased and stigma associated to TB and HIV and AIDS reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

Achievements

Since beginning of the year four Azerbaijan Red Crescent trained nurses continued their regular visits to 12 people with Multi drug resistant (MDR) Tuberculosis living in four Baku city districts, identified as being at high risk of defaulting on treatment and encouraged them to continue and complete their regular treatment¹⁰. Since May 2011 number of both patients and nurses was increased, thus eight nurses observed the treatment of 38 patients. MDR TB patients followed by the National Society nurses also had monthly health check up visits to TB Dispensaries. By the end of the implementation period 26 patients completed their treatment and due to the National Society's efforts will return continue normal living, now in good health. As for other patients, five of them died, three refused to receive treatment as drugs of the second level are heavy and have undesired side effects and four patients changed their place of residence from city to region or continued the treatment at a hospital.

Two times per month a psychologist paid visits to MDR TB patients accompanying the trained nurses in order to provide psychological support. Project coordinator paid regular monitoring visits to the patients to keep an eye on the implementation progress, reveal challenges and give recommendations.

¹⁰ Chosen MDR TB patients are people with very low incomes, caring for many children, living with multiple health problems and/or disabilities, alcohol and drug addicts and former inmates. In addition to treatment control nurses measured patients' temperature, blood pressure, shared patients' complaints with doctors and created opportunity for additional visits, helped with receiving disability pension.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent nurses, as part of a joint survey team, were involved in a survey named KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) carried out among MDR TB patients. It was an initiative of USAID/Abt Associates and Public Health Reform Centre (PHRC) with the purpose to explore from different aspects the level of patients' adherence towards treatment.

Programme component 3: Community based health and first aid

Outcomes:

- 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.
- The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health awareness and first-aid activities.
- Donor blood supply within the country has increased due to the increased number of Red Crescent volunteers as non-remunerated blood donors

Achievements

The National Society health promoters, first-aid instructors, National Society Club 25 volunteers and blood donor recruiters increased and improved knowledge on health related topics of more than 22,082 people via organized learning sessions and awareness/ blood donation/ skill sharing campaigns. As result of blood donor recruitment campaigns and promotion activities of volunteers, 404 journalists, teachers and students of universities and workers of central post office as well as the National Society staff and volunteers out of 1,276 reached became blood donors. Despite a big desire of all participants to give their blood, not all of them met the relevant health requirements¹¹.

14 June, World Blood Donor Day was marked in Azerbaijan with this year's topic being "*More blood More life*" by organizing round tables and meetings of governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the issues of blood donation, awarding Azerbaijan Red Crescent's 20 regular blood donors with special testimonial diplomas for giving blood and recruiting blood donors for benefit of ill people¹². See more at www.redcrescent.az, <http://www.facebook.com>, <http://twitter.com/#!/AzRedCrescent>.

So far various efforts were made by government of Azerbaijan and the National Society to increase the number of blood donors in Baku and the regions. For the last seven years only via Azerbaijan Red Crescent recruitment programme for Non-remunerated blood donors some 4,021 people became blood donors. The Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan included blood donors' recruitment in its plan of action and there is a telephone hotline established to serve this purpose.

Programme component 4: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic

Outcomes:

- Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas is conducted.
- Networking is developed, both internally and externally.
- One country plan integrating component outcomes four to six is established and operational.
- Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.
- Training for first responders and community members are delivered.
- The Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

Achievements

Due to the limited funds the Azerbaijan Red Crescent was able to organize only a few initiatives under this programme component, which were merged with community based health and first aid activities concentrating on awareness of communities of pandemics.

¹¹ There are certain categories of choosing blood donors: people with low level of haemoglobin, low blood pressure, low weight, or who have suffered an illnesses like hepatitis cannot be blood donors.

¹² More than 1,300 patients in the country were officially registered as ill with hemophilia and among them 600 are living in the capital of the country. There is a high necessity to develop the existing system of registration of patients to have more exact data.

Programme component 5: Harm Reduction

Outcomes:

- The situation on drug usage within the regions has been assessed and contacts with local authorities have been established.
- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to work with drug users has been strengthened.
- The communities' awareness on harm of drugs has raise

Achievements

In continuation of the process started last year 72 staff members and volunteers from the eight targeted branches were trained on monitoring and evaluation¹³, methods of dissemination of information and public awareness on the issues of drug use. The National Society applied a module developed earlier on working with drug users in eight piloted communities among 87 community members. The National Society carried out five Public Relations events on Harm Reduction with active participation of 57 drug users and local branch volunteers and among more than 8,500 people. 1,000 leaflets on drug use were produced and distributed among the community members during the events.

The National Society organized picnics with participation of 70 drug users, their family members, as well as the Red Crescent staff and volunteers and representatives of local narcological dispensary and Public Union on Struggle with AIDS – Positive Life Network/Lankaran branch. The participants were involved in discussions on issues of stigma/ discrimination towards marginalized groups. Still today, many people believe they would be denounced by the society if they profess and seek the assistance of specialists. People are afraid of referring to drug clinics because of the discrimination from the wider society and lack of social protection. Educational work among pupils and students living in border areas should be increased along with attention to out-of-school centres to combat drugs and influence gradual change of bad habits.

Constraints or Challenges

People living with HIV were encouraged by the National Society staff and volunteers to actively participate at various events especially in the rural areas, but the quantities of printed materials were insufficient to be distributed to general public. It is also difficult to take photos of drug users and PLVHIV as they are usually very reluctant fearing the consequences of having a higher profile, though they were very active in supporting awareness events. Due to the limited local media capacities at branches level the Azerbaijan Red Crescent mainly uses its own information/communication capacity (web page, newspaper, web links to facebook, youtube, twitter) to highlight carried out events.

Due to long distances between patients' places of residence and dispensaries as well as invalid addresses, nurses working with MDR TB patients were forced to spend more than it is budgeted for. The volume of food parcels given by Global Fund on AIDS TB (GFATM) to patients is reduced and coverage of transport expenses to monthly check up visits cancelled due to insufficient funding. The discussions with Global Fund on AIDS TB and Malaria and Ministry of Health representatives on continuation of project implementation resulted with slight possibility to have financial support only at the end of next year. Individual protection tools like gowns, masks, gel, gloves requested by the nurses were purchased within the National Society local branches' own resources as it is impossible to cover them by given budget.

¹³ Tools used were Questionnaire on Monitoring and Evaluation of the activities within project, IFRC framework for Evaluation, PMER tools and guidelines

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.

So far the total number of Red Crescent volunteers is 22,400. The National Society' had registered 7,850 primary Red Crescent organizations and 290,130 members in 2011. Azerbaijan Red Crescent has printed out 5,000 membership cards to be further distributed at local committees' level for registration and management of members. The National Society developed its Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in line with the International Federation Strategy 2020; it was shared with the Federation Country and Zone Offices as well as with the Federation HQ in Geneva and finally approved by the Presidium of the National Society. The National Society has organized audit of carried out expenditures in the 2008-2010 period with financial support of International Federation and ICRC Offices and shared results of the process both with Country and Zone Offices.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent placed 48 new donation boxes at the markets, trading centres and produced 1,500 annual reports. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Secretary General has had meetings with eight biggest national banks and so far there is a preliminary agreement to support the idea on applying for voluntarily donations from ATM users.

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

Outcomes:

- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved its youth and volunteer management, recruitment and motivation system.
- Voluntary service programmes have been developed and implemented at regional and local levels

Achievements

The National Society trained 475 new volunteers of six regional centres in providing social support to children with disabilities and orphans, leadership and management and Movement's history and Fundamental Principles. Trained volunteers held workshop sessions in the schools, among their peers, community members on various topics and so far covered 10,244 people. Also they provided 3,979 orphans, internally displaced, handicapped and HIV positive children, children ill with rheumatism, psycho-neurology diseases and older people living alone with psychosocial, health and educational services, provided them with second hand clothes collected by volunteers, hygienic kits and school supplies, drawing materials, cleaned their houses, changed clothes, performed blood pressure checkups, purchased medicines and products, prepared food or organized different celebrations with performances, music and games. As an example: one of the celebrations was to observe 1 June, Children Protection Day and along with the mentioned events the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Sumgait city branch staff and volunteers organized an auction of hand made things prepared by disabled children residents of Sumgait city school for children with psycho-neurology problems. The collected funds from the auction were given to the school. A number of young students studying abroad applied to the National Society to join these activities and actively supported the events.

The National Society organised a volunteer recruitment campaigns in six regions with participation of 14,390 people and as result 2,590 young people decided to become Red Crescent volunteers. Azerbaijan Red Crescent held 26 meetings of youth volunteer boards at central and regional level with participation of 889 volunteers. The members of the boards had chance to share information on

implemented activities, challenges and plans for the nearest future.

The National Society celebrated 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day under the slogan **Find The Volunteer Inside You**¹⁴ and by organizing various activities like blood donation campaigns, visits to the houses of older lonely people, meeting at the Association of People ill with Hemophilia and Talassemia, march of the staff members and volunteers in the National Park¹⁵. All events were widely highlighted by the main TV-channels, news agencies, newspapers, via Azerbaijan Red Crescent web page www.redcrescent.az, on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=324673369269>, on Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/user/QizilAypara> and twitter <http://twitter.com/#!/AzRedCrescent>.

The National Society organized three day educational summer camp for 27 volunteers from regional centers in Lankaran, Ganja and Imishli. The programme included short workshop sessions on leadership, social support provision, First Aid skills, HIV and AIDS and humanitarian values as well as work in groups, brainstorming, writing small-scale projects, sport and intellectual games. Another summer camp was organized for 52 children from Lankaran boarding school by introducing the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its history, National Society activities, carrying out First Aid workshops, quizzes, drawing and sport competitions, various performances with children's participation and visits to the museums.

Jointly with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism the National Society organized the event at the International Mugam Center in Baku devoted to 1st and 5th December, World AIDS Day and International Volunteers Day. The event was followed by concert program with participation of popular musicians.

National Society purchased and produced 600 sets of T-shirts and caps, badges, certificates and diplomas, monthly bulletins due to support of donor and within its own funds as well as books, teaching materials and school supplies to be donated to five orphanage houses covering 737 orphans out of whom 234 are children with various disabilities. Additionally the National Society issued 5,000 registration forms and distributed to its local branches.

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

Outcomes:

- The National Society's strategic plan and policies have been implemented at branch level.
- Red Crescent programmes and services are carried out in an effective and timely manner including effective assessments and distribution of items at branch level.
- Target branches have strengthened their skills in public relations and fund-raising to deliver sustainable services.
- Red Crescent targeted branches have improved their links with local authorities and communities through the participatory community development approach

Achievements

Programme planning and management

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent's Communication and Humanitarian Relief policies have been approved by its Presidium and will be distributed among regional centres and local branches with further insurance of their implementation at the field level. The National Society is going to facilitate development of relevant amendments to the Law of Azerbaijan Republic about the AzRC related to membership fees and signing a Collective Chief Agreement with the government. The National Society is going to sign Memorandums of Understanding with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism to expand opportunities to promote its activities. The National Society

¹⁴ It was campaign launched by the International Federation and this has become an overarching slogan for all the events (see www.thevolunteerinside.org). The main purpose was to express gratitude to volunteers who provided their tremendous support in different situations and events, to mention their role in the life of the Movement and promote their efforts in front of partners, government structures, public organizations etc.

¹⁵ This year's celebration also referred to the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteer as well as the European Year of Volunteering.

programme managers created several groups of trainers for different programmes supported by 70 experienced volunteers within 14 primary organizations placed in Baku city who will further help in organizing and facilitating training sessions and events.

Financial management and resource mobilization

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent in close cooperation with the Federation Country Office is looking for new financial opportunities, social networks and corporate sector to support the work of the National Society¹⁶. Recently the National Society produced projects in youth and fundraising areas and submitted to Shoken Fund, Austrian Red Cross and couple of Banks. See table2

New donors	bilateral	Supported initiatives	Given amount/CHF
TAG Development	Int.	Establishing First Aid rooms in Ismayilli and Zagatala AzRC local branches organizing football competitions in Qazax region	29,438
Danish Red Cross		Various activities towards branch development, youth development and First AID	21,570
Japan Embassy		Establishing wells in the regions situated in front-line zones	22,708
Total			73,716

Also the National Society collected CHF 960,236 from membership fees, private donations and donation boxes. CHF 611,020 were spent on providing 25,276 people from various vulnerable groups¹⁷ with food parcels or presents, organizing celebrations, purchasing school supplies and teaching materials as well as production of 48 new donation boxes and covering the administrative costs of the society. At the moment 151 donation boxes are placed at different markets, banks, trade centres, beauty salons, restaurants and confectioneries in Baku city and Sumgayit.

Branch development and community capacity building

The National Society organised several training sessions on public relations, carrying out surveys and organizing drama/ art/ folklore sessions for 193 staff and volunteers and community members from four districts. 288 previously and newly trained Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers conducted a survey with 1,728 community members in eight new communities to further create community initiating groups and apply Participatory Community Development approach. The National Society organized a number of different awareness campaigns on health promotion, community-based disaster preparedness, First Aid, dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and helped organise events related to several key Movement and international days with active participation of local communities, Red Crescent local branch staff and volunteers, schoolchildren and students as well as the representatives of local authorities. Total number of participants was 4,078.

Constraints or Challenges

Insufficient funding did not allow production or purchasing of sufficient quantity of promotion materials like posters, brochures, organizing summer camps with refugees and IDP children. Local branches themselves actively supported some of the activities with their own funds. The National Society partly used materials purchased and produced last year and additionally produced a certain amount using its own funds. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent needs to provide some of the regional centres and local branches with the access to internet to facilitate communication in the fields and information sharing.

¹⁶ International Federation signed agreements with Coca-Cola Company and the Asia Development Bank to expand National Societies opportunities to apply with new initiatives to donors outside of the Movement

¹⁷ Large/ indigent families/ families who lost breadwinners, children with chronic diseases or different disabilities, orphans, lonely elderly people, refugees and Internally Displaced People

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

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Outcomes:

- The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.
- Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.
- Decision-makers are made aware of humanitarian problems in the society.

Achievements

The National Society continues dissemination of activities funded by ICRC at various schools and educational institutions level while humanitarian values initiatives were mainly implemented in collaboration with HIV and AIDS project and with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent own funds by organising round table discussions for 1,538 students from schools, colleges and universities as well as volunteers from four regional Red Crescent centres and 21 local branches on stigma/discrimination and about the facts of discrimination within their families.

With the purpose to spread out the principles of humanity, charity and voluntary service **among the general public and present the activities carried out so far** the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society organized a photo exhibition with the theme *In search of charity and voluntary service* at one of the art galleries. More than 150 photos were received from volunteers of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, Baku office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugee women and Youth Center by the "Heyat" Humanitarian Organization¹⁸ and Haemophilia Association. These photos were judged by the jury consisting from the representatives of the National Society and mentioned organizations. The photo exhibition lasted 3 days and then the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society awarded the winners with diplomas and gave presents.

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

Outcomes:

- Marginalized groups have been integrated into the society and experience less discrimination and stigmatization.
- Marginalized vulnerable groups are empowered with enhanced ability to resist and tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence.

The Harm Reduction project coordinator organized a picnic for drug users and their family members in the framework of the Humanitarian Values project, which included interesting quizzes, interaction games and discussions on stigma/discrimination issues. Please see the Health and Care/ Harm Reduction component of this report for more details.

Constraints or Challenges

The absence of funds reduced the capacity to organize large scale events and produce necessary promotion materials to attract more people. However the Azerbaijan Red Crescent made efforts to compensate by integrating the activities into other projects and managed to implement some activities on a small scale.

¹⁸ Hayat organization is local NGO and works with migrants from Iran, Pakistan, Afganistan and other countries

Working in partnership

The Head of the International Federation Office and Head of ICRC Delegation met regularly during the reporting period sharing updates on the ongoing activities and support of Movement partners along with new initiatives, plans, information on new donors at local and international level etc.

The International Federation informed the Azerbaijan Red Crescent on current Federation initiatives¹⁹ and advised to frequently apply to www.ifrc.org/learning, www.ifrc.org and www.fednet.org, General Assembly, Council of Delegates and 31 International Conference.

The National Society Leadership and Management participated in several events organized by Federation Europe Zone Office in Budapest and Headquarters in Geneva including the Leadership and Co-operation Meeting, consultation meeting on Strategy 2020, integration into the National Societies' Strategic Plans, the International Volunteers Conference devoted to the 10th anniversary of "International Volunteers Year" that was announced in 2001, Statutory Meetings of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Being members of the Advisory Board Commission on Humanitarian Values and Diplomacy issues and Election Committee in Geneva on behalf of Europe Zone, the National Society Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General regularly participate in the committee discussions.

The National Society established contacts with Danish, Austrian and Italian Red Cross Societies, Magen David Adom National Society and TAG International Development organization, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, which already provided support towards implementation of new projects and continuation of the existing ones.

Regular contacts were maintained with ministries of health, emergency, crisis and rescue and mine clearing at central level and authorities at local level as well as UN agencies in the country, WHO, OXFAM, USAID, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Public Health Reform Centre and Institute of Pulmonology/ National TB Programme and Japan Embassy. The National Society became a member of the CCM group²⁰ on TB issues and this provided it with a chance to submit a TB related project that will continue the activities so far in next year period.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes are closely linked to the Strategy 2020. 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. Internal monitoring included collection of data and analysis of programme activity information during field visits of the Secretary General and programme coordinators as well as Head of Federation Office in Baku.

Gender equity and diversity were taken into account and followed in 2011 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. The split of men and women working in the management of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is almost 50-50.

¹⁹ S2020 (focus on strong NSs), Federation wide reporting system, Federation databank, bridging digital divide, OCAC process-rating excellence (accreditation), learning platform/strategy

²⁰ Country Coordinating Mechanisms are central to the Global Fund's commitment to local ownership and participatory decision-making. These country-level multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and submit grant proposals to the Global Fund based on priority needs at the national level. After grant approval, they oversee progress during implementation. Country Coordinating Mechanisms include representatives from both the public and private sectors, including governments, multilateral or bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private businesses and people living with the diseases. For each grant, the Country Coordinating Mechanism nominates one or more public or private organizations to serve as Principal Recipients.

Looking ahead

Reducing dependency on funding channelled through the International Federation and achieving financial self sustainability is one of the main priorities of the National Society. Thus new partnerships have been established with several National Societies such as Danish, Italian and Austrian Red Crosses, cooperation continued with the Turkish and Iranian Red Crescent Societies, DFID. Collections from fundraising activities and membership fees as well as contributions from the government's budget allowed National Society to partly cover some of the projects' activities and administrative costs. The Federation also supported the National Society in developing a Long Term Planning Framework for the 2012-2015 period.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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