

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ARMENIA

30 June 2003

Appeal No. 01.77/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 908,304 (USD 623,149 or EUR 617,232)

Programme Update No. 1;

Period covered: January-May 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 75.5% (on date of report issue - see attached weblink for latest situation).

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017703.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 222,327 (USD 164,000/ EUR 144,000)

Programme Summary: The Federation supports the Armenian Red Cross to develop capacity with a focus on community-based projects. Most programmes are implemented with funds carried over from last year. Additional contributions have been received this year from the Finnish and Japanese Red Cross Societies allowing the national society to pursue health and disaster management initiatives. Further support, however, is required to ensure implementation of all planned activities.

Operational developments

The breakup of the Soviet Union, the ensuing independence for Armenia and the collapse of the Russian economy have ushered in a period of continuing economic and social decline. These changes have led to a reduction in the capacities of the people of Armenia to meet basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing and health care. The outbreak of hostilities with Azerbaijan has exacerbated this situation by adding the problem associated with large population migrations, resulting in many thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. To compound the situation, Armenia is extremely disaster prone. The earthquake in 1988 killed 25,000 people and brought about enormous damage to the infrastructure of the country. The huge economic decline in early years of transition in the former Soviet republic of Armenia has not yet been reversed.



Despite government economic reforms, foreign investment and assistance by international organisations, economic recovery is slow. The situation is dominated by crushing poverty, high unemployment, rising prices and the collapse of health and social services. 55 per cent of the population is considered poor and 22.9 per cent extremely poor¹. Poverty in Armenia is particularly prevalent among the uneducated, unemployed, disabled and families with several children, as well as in rural areas among the landless. Almost 67 percent of all unemployed were women. Increases in global prices for foodstuffs and raw materials have put additional burden on vulnerable communities.

The continued territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh remains unresolved. Despite a cease-fire in 1994, no lasting solution has been reached and Armenia's longest borders, with Azerbaijan and Turkey, remain closed. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons remain in urgent need of help.

The period saw political tensions and low-level instability after the presidential and parliamentary elections in March and May 2003. Mass rallies and marches by thousands in support of the defeated opposition candidate were daily events in the centre of Yerevan.

The country was not spared from natural disasters either. The winter frost, the harshest in decades, with temperatures falling to 30 degrees below zero, has caused significant damage to crops. Floods from heavy rains and extensive snow melting in early April combined with strong winds and snowfall later in the month, damaged houses, roads, bridges, drinking water and irrigation networks in most regions.

All this dramatically increases the role of Red Cross. Its priority areas are to:

- contribute to improving the health of vulnerable people through advocacy and timely interventions;
- increase its disaster management capacity to effectively respond to disasters and reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable people, and
- promote the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to bring about a change in people's behaviour and a willingness to work together to find solutions to community problems, reduce violence, xenophobia and discrimination.

The Federation supports the local Red Cross to become a well-functioning organisation assuming all operational and financial responsibility for the implementation of programmes. The overall goal of the Federation is to help the Armenian Red Cross build the capacity to support the country's most vulnerable through better service delivery and advocacy in the four core areas and the three strategic directions of the Federation's Strategy 2010.

Health and care

Goal: The complementary role of the Armenian Red Cross Society and its impact on community health and well-being are maximized.

Objective: The Armenian Red Cross Society contributes to improving the health of vulnerable people by advocacy, timely interventions and 'bridging the gap'

Expected result 1: The vulnerability of 20,000 young people to sexually transmitted illnesses (STI), HIV/AIDS is reduced by 2004 through peer education, public awareness campaigns, support to the STI/HIV/AIDS centres and advocacy campaigns for the prevention or discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Progress/Achievements: The Armenian Red Cross conducted training workshops on STI/AIDS for 147 youth volunteers from 14 regions of the country. The training included basic knowledge on STI, HIV/AIDS and prevention, drug addiction, related complications and dangers, free discussions between participants and youth leaders of the Armenian Red Cross Society and analysis of possible complicated situations in sexual practice. Experts from the AIDS prevention centre, narcological centre and STI medical centre were invited to provide lectures. In each phase, a survey was carried out among the youth on AIDS through a special questionnaire. The

¹ Human Development Report – Armenia, UNDP 2001

results showed a significant increase of the knowledge after training as well as a willingness to work as youth leaders to conduct peer education in their native villages and towns. All the participants were provided with educational leaflets on healthy sexual behaviour and methods of STI/HIV/AIDS prevention.

The Red Cross published 25,000 – 5,000 in Russian and 20,000 in Armenian – copies of a booklet on safe sex and distributed them to volunteers, university students and schools through their branches. The explanatory dictionary on sexual health, developed by the Red Cross last year, was edited and 2,600 copies were printed for distribution to young people across the country. 140 test systems for early detection and treatment of syphilis and HIV/AIDS were provided to the republican centre for AIDS prevention, STD medical centre, haematological centre and regional hospital in Goris.

Impact: Through peer education and the public awareness campaign, the vulnerability of youth in Armenia to HIV/AIDS decreases.

Constraints: Harsh weather prevented training in winter, which was postponed until June 2003. Technical constraints delayed the printing of the sexual health dictionary.

Expected result 2: A total of 12 first aid teams of the Armenian Red Cross are formed in 2003 and provide sustainable community-based first aid (CBFA) services in six border regions of Shirk, Lori, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik in accordance with a new streamlined first aid structure and guidelines and clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Progress/Achievements: The project could not be implemented because of no funding. The Armenian Red Cross organised some First Aid training through a bilateral programme with UNICEF and other local partners.

Expected result 3. A total of 23 social service centres of the Armenian Red Cross provide 50,000 vulnerable people (the single elderly, internally displaced persons, refugees, handicapped, large families of perished soldiers, and orphans living institutions) with socio-medical services of better quality in cooperation with local authorities and non-governmental organisations working in the same field.

Progress/Achievements: The social service centres in the Armenian Red Cross offices throughout the country, provided vital assistance to lone elderly people, refugees, IDPs and other vulnerable groups. The centres offered psycho-social consultations, medical check-ups (blood pressure, blood glucose) and distribution of essential drugs prescribed by polyclinics. The centres serve all vulnerable persons who come for assistance. The average monthly attendance of beneficiaries in January-May 2003 was 5,000. The centres also distributed basic food items, medical and hygiene supplies – in-kind donation from international donors and local population – to lone elderly, many of whom are bedridden and handicapped.

In an effort to develop self-sustainable solutions to the running costs of the social centres, last year the Armenian Red Cross initiated pilot projects in six branches, which were completed in February 2003. Through these projects, 10,880 people received assistance from the centres:

Service provided	People assisted
Basic health care	3,038
Home care for bedridden	252
Clothes	6,799
Food	332
Firewood	119
First Aid and hygiene supplies	260
Consultations	139
Home repair	26
Visits to community rooms	115

This year, the second phase of the pilot project started to strengthen the programmatic capacity of the Armenian Red Cross at branch level. Red Cross staff was trained on the legislation, rules and regulation on the social welfare sphere, as well as the project planning process (PPP). The branches then developed six projects with budgets ranging between CHF 2,900 and CHF 3,400 that envisage the establishment of a social club for elderly people, home visits to bed-ridden, basic health care and support in house repair for 1,443 vulnerable people. The national society signed 35 cooperation agreements with local authorities, public and private polyclinics, schools and local companies to ensure long-term support and implementation of the projects.



Community care: beneficiaries enjoy the warm welcome at an Armenian Red Cross social service centre.

Impact: Social service centres offer assistance to any vulnerable person who comes for help. The strategic value of the centres lies in its nation-wide humanitarian delivery network through which the Armenian Red Cross, and other humanitarian organisations, can reach and serve the vulnerable in all parts of the country. Through pilot projects, the Armenian Red Cross seeks to utilise regionally available resources to ensure the social centres continue providing much-needed support to vulnerable communities. By developing long-term partnerships with local institutions, maximising the potential of youth volunteers, and engaging media in raising public awareness of the needs and capacities of the national society, the Armenian Red Cross strives to decrease its dependency on international donors.

Constraints: The prevailing situation in Armenia highlights the need to increase the Red Cross complementary role and services to vulnerable communities as the overall socio-economic situation shows little sign of improvement. A big challenge facing the Red Cross in Armenia is to develop the human and material resources in an environment of dwindling international support to ensure continued delivery of services to vulnerable communities.

Expected result 4: Treatment in specialised health institutions of 400 TB patients in nine regions. Chronic malnutrition rates among children in 17 IMCI pilot villages of Geghakunik reduce 25 per cent by 2004.

Progress/Achievements: The project did not receive funding and could not be implemented. Outside of the current appeal, the Armenian Red Cross supported, by the American Red Cross, trains volunteers to disseminate basic health messages in local communities to reduce child mortality rate. With assistance of the Hellenic Red Cross, the Armenian Red Cross also provided basic drugs against TB to public health institutions.

Disaster Management

Goal: The vulnerability of the population to disasters and their impact are reduced.

Objective: The disaster management capacity of the Armenian Red Cross Society is increased to effectively respond to disasters and reduce the impact on vulnerable people in high-risk areas by focused and timely response and public awareness campaigns.

Expected result 1: Preparation of 70,000 people living in high-risk communities for disasters is developed through public awareness, training, simulation exercises and the creation of ten community-based disaster management models by the end of 2004.

Progress/Achievements: The emergency management department of the Armenian Red Cross has developed a number of public educational materials on disaster management:

- 5th issue of an educational picture book with poems for children, 'Aghetik' – a cartoon character symbolising a small-scale disaster - was designed in cooperation with the Crises Management Institute. The book will be printed and then distributed to schools across the country.
- 500 copies of a booklet on the most common disasters in Armenia – hail, fire, landslide, earthquake, gas explosion and environmental protection – were printed and distributed to the public through Red Cross branches.

Additionally, the Red Cross developed a manual on 'evacuation from schools' in cooperation with the Crisis Management Institute. 8,000 copies of the manual were printed and distributed to schools in Yerevan. The Armenian Red Cross then organised a one-day seminar for 105 school teachers and school management according to the manual

In an effort to raise public awareness of the most common disasters in Armenia, the Red Cross conducted basic educational sessions across the country. The main focus was on children of 13-15 years. At the end of each session, the Red Cross organised a drawing competition on the topic 'children against disasters'. The 12 best pictures were selected for a Red Cross calendar. 2,000 copies of the calendar were then printed and distributed to the public through Red Cross branches. The Armenian Red Cross also held a quiz among school children on disaster preparedness-related issues. Six teams from 12 schools in Yerevan took part. The winners were awarded with honourable diplomas and presents.

Red Cross volunteers organised awareness sessions in schools for 1,500 children aged 9-10 based on the education picture book for children 'Aghetik'. At the end of the sessions, children performed drama on how to prepare for the most common disasters in the country.

Impact: The target communities, particularly children, have increased awareness of the most common disasters in the country, which strengthen their potential coping mechanisms. The profile of the Armenian Red Cross has increased. Cooperation with the Ministry of Education and private, as well as public schools has enhanced too.

Constraints: The Armenian Red Cross has to strengthen its community-based efforts. It has to yet develop community-based disaster management models.

Expected result 2: The disaster management mechanisms of the Armenian Red Cross are built with skilled staff and volunteers, sufficient material and technical resources. Its disaster management activities are coordinated with relevant governmental agencies and other organisations working in the same field, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Progress/Achievements:

- The Armenian Red Cross organised a simulation exercise for a rapid response team in Vayots Dzor.
- A six-day training on rescue operations was conducted for the Armenian Red Cross regional rapid response teams based in Lore, Shirak and Armarir regions, which are prone to earthquake.
- Since January 2003, the rapid response team of the Armenian Red Cross in Lore received 46 calls for emergency assistance. As a result of their timely and efficient response, 17 lives were saved.
- Rescue gear - including sleeping bags, tents, electric torches, rucksacks, jerry cans and cooking sets – were provided for regional response teams and basic equipment for educational outdoor activities for public. The Armenian Red Cross is developing the educational outdoor activities, which will raise public awareness and generate income for the national society to support its disaster management initiatives.
- The disaster management department of the Armenian Red Cross has started to develop an early warning system.
- The Armenian Red Cross cooperated with government agencies such as Emergency Management Administration, crisis management institute, the national survey for seismic protection, fire brigade, ministry of internal affairs and ministry of health. Government agencies and non-governmental organisations took part in Red Cross sponsored training workshops and simulations exercises with their own teams. The simulation exercise on evacuation was organised jointly with the Government's Emergency Management Administration and the Armenian Red Cross rapid response team based in Vayots Dzor.
- The Red Cross coordinated its disaster management efforts with embassies, UN agencies and international organisations, including UNDP, UNICEF, USAID and UMCOR to share knowledge and experience and avoid duplication.

- Regular internal consultations were held by the Armenian Red Cross to review training needs, plans and activities. The meetings of disaster preparedness coordinators were held monthly to discuss the general structure, long-term planning and programme implementation.

Impact: The Armenian Red Cross has made a significant progress to become one of the most active and effective players in disaster management. It has lifted its profile among the public and governmental agencies. The simulation exercise and rescue training has enhanced the disaster management skills of the Red Cross staff and volunteers. Ongoing internal discussions have increased understanding of the needs and capacities of the national society.

Constraints: Frequent changes in the government's structures and staffing hamper the Armenian Red Cross efforts to finalise the national disaster plan. In addition, due to harsh socio-economic situation, it is difficult to get support to disaster management efforts. As a result, the national society continues to largely depend on external funding to pursue disaster management initiatives.

Expected result 3. The integration and naturalisation of 5,000 refugees through vocational training of socio-medical assistance, public awareness and via cooperation with the government's department for migration and refugees and the UNHCR.

Progress/Achievements: Due to lack of funds, the project could not be implemented.

Organisational Development

Goal: The capacity of the Armenian Red Cross is increased at all levels to fulfil its mandate to alleviate suffering of vulnerable people.

Objective: The capacity of the national society is increased to take over all operational and financial responsibilities for the implementation of the programmes by the end of 2004.

Expected result 1: The Armenian Red Cross improves its legal base, capacity and performance in accordance with the plan of action for the implementation of the Strategy 2010. It coordinates capacity building through programmes to achieve overall organisational development of the national society.

Progress/Achievements: Within the branch development initiatives, the Aragatson regional branch focused on improving the professional skills of its staff and volunteers. It developed volunteer recruitment and management systems, lifting the profile of the Red Cross through internal consultation, training for staff and members and increased public relations. The branch recruited 700 new volunteers and 94 new members.

The Ararat, Armavir and Vayots Dzor Branches focused on strengthening links with local partners. 55 staff and volunteers received training on the Armenian Red Cross statutes, its strategy and priorities, as well as project planning process.



At the sharp end: community-based Red Cross volunteers help families repair their homes.

The best volunteer was identified through a contest on the knowledge of the Movement, the Fundamental Principles, Armenian Red Cross history, mandate and work.

The regional branch in Yerevan offered psychological rehabilitation activities to over 20 disabled people. The beneficiaries were involved in wood carving, carpet weaving and tapestry in their houses.

The best works were exhibited on 8 May, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. The project aimed to help people resolve mental and emotional traumas. Volunteers from the regional branch in Lori offered basic home repairs to 74 vulnerable people.

Efforts continue to strengthen the human resources of the Society by attracting new members and volunteers from within and outside vulnerable communities. In January-April, 1,870 people applied for Red Cross membership and 2,300 volunteers were mobilised for community projects implemented by Red Cross branches.



Helping hand: Red Cross volunteers offer tea to lone elderly at a social centre.

The Armenian Red Cross has carried out regular training for its staff to provide effective services. The focus has been on analysis of achievements and constraints encountered by branches in programme implementation. Financial resource development was another important issue discussed.

Seminars were held on how to refine the structure of the organisation as well as community development initiatives, a core activity of the Armenian Red Cross Society.

In April, the Armenian Red Cross launched a cross community development model project to strengthen capacities at community level.

Within the framework of this project, the national society will develop a manual on community development mechanisms. Red Cross staff and volunteers will then be trained on participatory rapid appraisal, based on which a vulnerability assessment in target local communities will be carried out. The seven branches will then develop pilot projects tailored to local communities. Funding for this project has been secured from the Federation's capacity building fund. Implementation will start in July 2003.

The Armenian Red Cross has initiated some structural changes at the headquarters. The organisational development department has been closed and their responsibilities have been vested in a chief advisor to the President of the Armenian Red Cross. Furthermore, the national society has established a monthly forum for regional branches, local authorities, partner organisations and agencies to discuss needs and capacities, share ideas and experiences.

Impact: Through training and internal discussions, the national society contributes to strengthening professional skills of its staff and volunteers. Discussions on achievements and lessons learned contribute to the improvement of overall performance. The new organisational structure aims to strengthen the programme management mechanisms with an increased focus on regional branch development and community-based approach. Regional branches take initiative in trying to find self-sustainable solutions to ensure continuation of vital services to vulnerable communities.

Constraints: The presidential elections in February/March and then parliamentary elections in May hindered the efforts to lobby for adoption of the Red Cross Law by the government of Armenia. Efforts, however, will continue once the new parliament is in full function. Low level insecurity during the elections had a negative impact on branch development efforts. The new structure introduced by the national society brought in some uncertainty and confusion among staff. This had an adverse affect on programmes. The national society has to develop effective evaluation systems to measure effectiveness of its programmes and impact of its services on vulnerable people.

Expected result 2. The Armenian Red Cross takes over all operational and financial responsibilities for the implementation of the programmes by the end of 2004 by improving its structure at headquarters and the branches, reporting system, programme management and financial and accounting system.

Progress/Achievements: Work continues to finalise restructuring of the Society's financial management system to make it transparent and more effective. Within this initiative, the Armenian Red Cross introduced a new chart of accounting. A check-list has also been developed to ensure timely and regular reports. In May, the Federation organised a workshop for its colleagues at the local Red Cross to discuss the new working advance bank transfer system, accounting and financial reporting. The Armenian Red Cross chief accountant also attended a course on the tax issues. Another finance officer received training on international accounting standards. The software for accounting used by the Armenian Red Cross finance department was upgraded to international standards. Agreement was signed with a local information company to provide the Armenian Red Cross with regular updates on finance and tax related issues in Armenian legislation. The national society plans to audit its financial management structures and systems to ensure effective restructuring of its financial management.

Impact: The changes in the accounting system will gradually increase transparency and accountability of the Armenian Red Cross towards its donors and beneficiaries.

Constraints: Due to the changes of the key staff at the finance department, the restructuring of the financial system at the National Society has been progressing slowly. Following discussions with the national society management, the process has been put back on track and significant improvements have been achieved.

Expected result 3: An active participation of 2,000 Red Cross youth volunteers in various activities and the provision of services that reinforce commitment to and knowledge of the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Progress/Achievements: A youth club was established in Yerevan to organise activities. The club was renovated, furnished and equipped with a copy machine and an audio player. The Federation donated four computers to establish an internet café for the youth. The opening ceremony was in April. The club will generate income for the national society through internet café, photocopying, translation and typing services, as well as computer training.

Two training seminars were provided to 18 youth leaders of the Red Cross from 13 regions to strengthen their capacity to work with the youth.

Youth volunteers from Yerevan visited a local boarding school and distributed toys and friendship boxes to kids. The boxes have a name and address of the volunteer who made them so that correspondence and friendship can be exchanged

Armenian Red Cross youth volunteers visited elderly refugees every month offering social-psychological services, including personal and domestic hygiene, cooking, shopping, nursing and distribution of food and tea and milk. Youth volunteers from Kotayak and Armavir branches prepared and presented cards and souvenirs to elderly women on International Women's Day.

Impact: The Red Cross youth plays a key role in the development of the Red Cross in Armenia. The Armenian Red Cross has young, energetic and committed staff in all regions advocating tolerance and coexistence, and disseminating humanitarian messages to young people.

Constraints: To date all the branches of the Armenian Red Cross have youth programmes. The challenge is to ensure their sustainability in an environment of dwindling international support. A number of income generation projects have been initiated, such as printing and selling of T-shirts, caps, pens and calendars with Red Cross emblems. However, the income raised is insufficient to ensure the continuation of the youth activities.



8 May celebrations took place in the garden of the Red Cross rehabilitation centre

Humanitarian Values

Goal: A positive change is made in the behaviour of national society staff and volunteers, authorities and communities.

Objective: The information and dissemination capacity of the Armenian Red Cross is increased to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Expected result 1. A total of 1,000 staff and volunteers of the Armenian Red Cross have a better understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and apply them in their work with vulnerable people.

Progress/Achievements: The information department of the Armenian Red Cross provided training for regional information officers on information management techniques and media relations. To strengthen the media/public relations capacities of its branches, the Armenian Red Cross organised an internal competition on the best newsletter and article. Cameras were presented to the six branches that were the most active in projecting the work of the Red Cross. Additionally, the Armenian Red Cross, supported by the ICRC, organised a seminar on Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Fundamental Principles, and International Humanitarian Law for 35 Red Cross staff and volunteers at the headquarters.

Impact: More people in the Red Cross have better understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and apply them in their work. Dissemination and information capacities of the national society have strengthened to bring about a positive change in the behaviour of its staff and volunteers.

Constraints: Due to lack of funds, the national society could not carry out the planned training for its staff and volunteers.

Expected result 2: The Armenian Red Cross has more effective communication with public authorities and the community, ensuring an understanding of the role of the Armenian Red Cross and the Movement, reinforcing its independence and the role of its emblem.

Progress/Achievements: Promotion of humanitarian values is an integral part of key programmes of the Armenian Red Cross – disaster management, HIV/AIDS, social service centres, and information activities. Information of the Movement's Fundamental Principles was included in all training sessions.

To lift the profile of the Red Cross, a number of events were organised on 8 May, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Celebrations took place in the gardens of the Armenian Red Cross international post-trauma rehabilitation centre. A rescue drill was demonstrated by the *Lore* rescue team. First aid teams showed off their skills. The video on the Red Cross in Armenia was broadcast by a national TV channel. The launch of the new phase of the worldwide *Truth about AIDS* anti-stigma campaign was promoted. The Armenian Red Cross contributed to the campaign by launching 28,000 HIV/AIDS educational leaflets (*see right*) in two languages: Armenian and Russian, which provide information on HIV/AIDS transmission as well as dispelling common myths and misconceptions on HIV/AIDS transmission.



A number of articles and press-releases on Red Cross operations were published in the local media.

TV reports on the national society programmes for IDPS and refugees. 600 copies of the 2002 Annual report in Armenian and English were printed and distributed to partner organisations, government agencies and the public through the Red Cross branches.

Impact: The visibility of the national society rose through increased media coverage of its events and activities. As a result, beneficiaries and the public have a better understanding of operations of the Armenian Red Cross, its mission and objectives.

Constraints: More needs to be done to spread the message of the power of humanity to bring about changes in behaviour of people, increased tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings.

Expected result 3. An advocacy component is included in all programmes of the Armenian Red Cross. Staff and volunteers are involved in the efforts to reduce discrimination and promote a culture of non-violence.

Progress/Achievements: Speaking on behalf of the people in need, within the Federation's global advocacy priorities such as HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness and promotion of humanitarian values, is a priority area for the Armenian Red Cross. This has been pursued through dialogue with the Government and other concerned parties, private diplomacy, communication and conference or public statements of the Federation's policies. Particular focus has been on the need to address growing intolerance and dissemination of first aid skills in the community. Advocacy in favour of people affected by HIV/AIDS has been an important task of the Society's efforts too. The Armenian Red Cross has made significant progress to become one of the most effective players in disaster management in Armenia advocating a significant role of mitigation and preparedness through raising awareness.

Impact: The Armenian Red Cross advocates more vociferously on behalf of the vulnerable, strengthening its position as a key humanitarian player in the country.

Constraints: The national society – with Federation assistance – needs to develop its capacity to represent the voice of vulnerable communities in Armenia at various local, regional and international forums.

Federation Coordination

Goal: Effective and efficient assistance is provided to the Armenian Red Cross in developing itself into a well-functioning national society.

Objective: Resources of partner national societies and other organisations are best used in supporting Armenian Red Cross programmes.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation has been facilitating various meetings with partner organisations to avoid duplication and ensure effective response to needs. Regular tripartite meetings have been held between the Federation, ICRC and the Armenian Red Cross to review the Movement-related issues and discuss joint actions. The Federation revised the existing cooperation agreement with the Armenian Red Cross articulating more clearly their specific roles and responsibilities in implementation of various Federation-supported programmes.

The Federation helps the Armenian Red Cross develop effective coordination with humanitarian actors in the country. The plan of action envisages updating an existing cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) based on the feedback from key partners. The CAS will help the National Society to articulate in what areas it requires support; and how its actions will fit into broader and coordinated humanitarian efforts to assist vulnerable communities.

Impact: Coordination with partner organisations ensures maximum impact of the national society's capacity building. By developing a common strategy, the components of the Movement follow a path towards greater unity, co-operation, sharing, participation and harmonisation. Effective networking with national authorities helps the Armenian Red Cross better position itself as an auxiliary to authorities and secure government support to the National Society to fulfil its role.

Constraints: The Armenian Red Cross has to be more proactive in developing effective networking. Through effective programmes, the Red Cross is recognized as a credible partner in addressing the humanitarian challenges confronting the country. However, this foundation needs to be consolidated to maximize the impact of the humanitarian efforts in Armenia. The Federation will therefore continue to strengthen coordination with the UN and NGOs as well as various international organisations seeking to optimise their support to vulnerable people.

International Representation

Goal: The credibility of the Armenian Red Cross and the Federation's international persona are enhanced.

Objective: The Federation's policies and the national society's agendas are promoted to create an environment favourable to Red Cross activities in Armenia.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation supports the Armenian Red Cross to develop effective coordination with humanitarian actors in the country, including UN agencies, government authorities, and other. A structured dialogue with the Armenian Government continues to further define the role of the Armenian Red Cross and explore the support the government is prepared to provide to enable the national society to play this role.

Impact: The Red Cross has stronger links with the Government representatives and other key humanitarian actors in Armenia to better coordinate humanitarian efforts, avoiding duplication and providing adequate, more effective support to vulnerable people. A diversified donor support will ensure sustainability of the programmes and services to the vulnerable people.

Constraints: More work needs to be done to increase the visibility and credibility of the Red Cross as an important humanitarian actor and partner by promoting the Federation's policies and the Armenian Red Cross agendas.

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