

# ANNUAL REPORT



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

## AZERBAIJAN

22 April 2004

### In Brief

**Appeal No.** 01.78/2003

**Target:** CHF 1,896,238 (USD 1,301,071/ EUR 1,288,397)

**Coverage:** 105.3% ([Click here to go directly to the Financial Report](#))

**Appeal 2004:** Azerbaijan No. 01.77/2004 (click below)

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/017704.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017704.pdf)

*This document reports on and analyses achievements within the International Federation's 2003 annual appeal for Azerbaijan. The activities supported by this appeal fell within the Federation's longer-term support strategy for Azerbaijan. This is continuing in 2004 and is being supported by Appeal 01.77/2004 (see above).*

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### Overall analysis

The year 2003 saw remarkable improvements in Azerbaijan's economy, largely owing to external investment in the energy sector. Year-on-year real GDP growth was recorded at 11.2 per cent. Agriculture and industrial output also improved by 3-5% compared to the last year's indicators.

Experts evaluate positively Azerbaijan's performance under its three-year poverty reduction and growth facility programme. The programme was launched with the support of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and includes an activity plan for 2003-2005. It foresees the development of a new repatriation plan for thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs), who have been the most visible sign of the continued territorial dispute with Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh. Another priority area for the Government is the rehabilitation of the so-called 'liberated areas' – the territories lost and recaptured by Azeri forces; housing for 8,800 families; upgrading infrastructure in the camps accommodating displaced people<sup>1</sup>, education and health. Additionally, the Government, with the United Nation Development Programme's support, has undertaken to revise its strategy to

<sup>1</sup> The seven camps in Sabirabad, Saatli and Bilasuvar districts were established by the Government of Azerbaijan in 1993 to provide a temporary shelter for people fleeing war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

reduce unemployment. It also initiated a pension reform to benefit 100,000 pensioners (as an initial step) in the north-eastern regions of Azerbaijan that received the least assistance over the years. There are 745,301 pensioners in Azerbaijan in total.

Since 2001, the government of Azerbaijan has been making efforts to provide a more comprehensive response to the needs of IDPs, who almost 10 years after the ceasefire agreement in 1994 continue to live in very precarious conditions, compared to the rest of the population. Authorities devoted more of their oil revenues to resettlement programmes and social aid. An annual average of USD 72 million has been allocated to the assistance and search for durable solutions for these people. In August 2003, 3,558 families were moved from a camp in Belasuvär to better accommodation. In addition to new houses, these people were provided with agricultural land and livestock.



*Adding colour: Azerbaijan Red Crescent was part of a global effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.*

Despite successful efforts of the Government to address vulnerability in the country, challenges, such as widespread poverty particularly in rural and remote areas and poor social welfare, remain. The health problems facing Azerbaijan are considerable too. Many of the problems are preventable and stem from a lack of knowledge. Prevalent illnesses include malaria, tuberculosis and childhood infections. Child mortality remains high compared to other countries in Europe. Despite more immunisation, measles and whooping cough are still widespread. The rate of

sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is also increasing. In December 2003, the national AIDS prevention centre registered 587 HIV/AIDS-infected people. Given the lack of countrywide surveillance, the figure is probably a gross underestimate. New cases are increasingly recorded outside of the capital Baku too. Azerbaijan's already precarious public health sector is further weakened because of a lack of finance. Only 0.6 per cent of GDP is allocated for health.

The country is susceptible to earthquakes, mudflows, floods, landslides and strong winds. Floods in 2003 killed at least two people, affected some 4,000 families and had a significant economic impact.

Politically there were developments too. Violent clashes were reported on the streets of Baku in the aftermath of Azerbaijan's presidential elections in October 2003. At least two people were killed and several hundred injured during the mass protests in the capital. International observers said the poll fell short of international standards.

Amid these events, there was ongoing vulnerability. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has had a considerable role in meeting humanitarian challenges in Azerbaijan. The overall goal of the 2003 Federation programme was to assist the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in supporting the country's most vulnerable people and achieve:

- reduced health vulnerability of people of Azerbaijan (health and care)
- reduced impact of disasters on vulnerable communities (disaster management)
- more tolerant and less violent behavior in the community (humanitarian values)
- a better functioning national society able to provide high quality assistance with greater impact on and relevance to the country's vulnerable people (organizational development).

Remarkable progress was made under each of these programmes. Under **health and care**, the Red Crescent initiated volunteer blood recruitment. Several blood donation campaigns were organised and a number of

volunteer blood donors were recruited. A network of health promoters was established too across the country to reach more people. By educating people, particularly youth, the Red Crescent effectively combats the spread of HIV/AIDS and stigma associated with it.

Red Crescent efforts were concentrated on improving its **disaster management** capacities to better address challenges of natural and man-made disasters and empower local communities to reduce their vulnerability during emergencies. In 2003 the focus was on updating a vulnerability and capacity assessment, development of disaster management policy and plan, as well as enhancing skill of its staff and volunteers. The vulnerability and capacity assessment will help the national society better understand humanitarian challenges confronting the country and tailor its programmes more effectively to provide relevant services to people in need. The Red Crescent also stepped up its advocacy initiatives with the Government and other stakeholders to draw their attention on the needs of large groups of refugees and internally displaced people who years after they fled the war and destruction in Nagorno-Karabakh, continue to depend on external aid.

The programme is a part of a long-term capacity building plan consistently pursued by the national society with the support of the Federation and other partners and aims to build experience, knowledge and structures to achieve effective disaster preparedness and response. Although progress has been made, efforts will need to continue.

The **organizational development** supported the continuation of the change process initiated by the Red Crescent few years ago in accordance with the Federation's Strategy 2010. The ultimate goal is to hand over both operational and financial responsibility from the Federation to the national society so that it independently addresses humanitarian needs in the country. An important achievement was an announcement by the presidium of a clearer division between governance and management reflected in the new statutes of the Red Crescent. This led to timely resolution of daily management issues and effective services to beneficiaries.

Another important achievement was the Red Crescent work with its young volunteers. Central and regional youth and volunteers boards the national society established in 2003 ensure that volunteers are represented at the governance and management of the national society and actively participate in the decision-making process as well as strengthening of the coordination mechanism.

Significant progress has been made on finding alternative funding sources within the country. A fundraising working group explored ways to diversify the organization's financial base. A number of fundraising activities were organised and some income was raised.

Efforts were also made to position the Red Crescent as an important actor in building the civil society in Azerbaijan and strengthening its auxiliary role to the Government. There was increased attention from the Government towards the work of the Red Crescent. A decree signed recently by the Cabinet of Ministers shows their greater attention and appreciation of the Red Crescent and its work as well as the government's willingness to support the only indigenous, volunteer, community based and countrywide organization in Azerbaijan.



*Picture this: children painted these pictures within a Red Crescent organized drawing competition to express their attitudes and thinking on HIV/AIDS.*

Through the humanitarian values programme, the Red Crescent encouraged respect for other people and a willingness to work together to find solutions to community problems through its mandate.



*Tidy work: Red Crescent staff and volunteers together with employees of a local newspaper and the Ministry of Ecology organized a campaign 'clean town'.*

The Federation supported the Red Crescent through its country delegation in Baku and a regional delegation in Ankara. Most activities progressed as planned. The appeal coverage was 105 %. At the beginning of the year, many programmes were implemented with the funds carried over from 2002 as the funding for the appeal 2003 arrived later during the year. Main donors were the Norwegian government through the Norwegian Red Crescent, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through Swedish Red Cross, Federation's Capacity Building Fund, European Commission Exceptional Assistance Programme (EXAP) and two oil companies - EXXON Azerbaijan Operating Company

LLC (EXXON Azerbaijan) and Statoil Azerbaijan. The Netherlands Red Cross supported the Red Crescent branch development project under the organisational development programme.

Not all programmes, however, were funded equally, some of them received full funding, while others were under or over funded. Humanitarian values programme received only 54 per cent of the funds requested, while organisational development, youth and volunteers development, as well as community development projects had over 100 per cent coverage. Other projects that suffered financial constraints were disaster preparedness, mobile technical teams and population movement.

Lack of funds had a negative impact on the operation. The Red Crescent had to prioritise activities and adjust its initial plan. A number of initiatives, ultimately, were not implemented. Thus the Red Crescent was unable to carry out planned awareness campaigns against discrimination, violence and stigmatization under the humanitarian values programme. Campaigns under the disaster preparedness project were cancelled too.

As mentioned above, some projects received funding later during the year and affected the original plan of action. For instance, the establishment of two mobile teams in Guba and Nakhchevan was delayed to 2004.

There were operational constraints too such as structural changes within the Red Crescent, as well as emergency interventions that hindered progress. Also, there were personnel changes in the national society- several staff left the organisation for better paid jobs and new people were recruited. This slowed the implementation and some planned activities, such as health promotion initiatives, were postponed to 2004.

Due to late arrival of funds, the national society could not spend all money. The remaining balance at the end of the year was CHF 322,360.46 (17 % of appeal budget). With donors' approval, the amount will be transferred to 2004 to continue activities as described in the Federation appeal 2004.

## Health and care

**Goal:** Health vulnerability in Azerbaijan is reduced through health education and advocacy.

**Objective:** Community-based health promotion in the areas of nutrition and good sanitation practices, HIV/AIDS education and first aid is developed and linked more closely to preventive activities through the disaster preparedness programme.

**Expected result 1:** Creative, community-based first aid and health promotion activities are maintained by the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in all regions covered by the regional centres, through training of 90 volunteers in health promotion, distribution of training material and first aid kits, and seminars on focal issues such as breast feeding, and prevention of diarrhoea and malaria.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been working to improve community health since its inception. In early 1990s, during the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Red Crescent concentrated on emergency response, such as helping malnourished people, encouraging immunisation and preventing outbreaks of water and sanitation-related diseases. A decade later, the focus is preventive health.

In 2003, the Red Crescent efforts were directed to strengthen the organisation's role in the national plan on preventive health by enhancing community based first aid initiatives and establishing a network of health promoters across the country to reach more people.

The Red Crescent trained **51** volunteers as health promoters and first aid instructors to disseminate knowledge about reproductive health, family planning, healthy nutrition, personal hygiene, infectious and preventable diseases, child health, cardiovascular diseases, importance of immunization and basic first aid skills in their communities. Some **21,619** people were reached during the year through group or individual sessions. Main target groups were internally displaced people living in the southern camps, orphans and students.

The Red Crescent also conducted a number of seminars on key health issues, such as TB. Over 900 people – mainly IDPs from the camps and Darnagul settlement - attended a seminar on TB in March. Malaria is another



*With the people: Red Crescent volunteers teach basic first aid to local communities in Azerbaijan.*

critical issue prioritised by the Red Crescent. After the devastating floods in the south eastern Azerbaijan, Red Crescent volunteers in cooperation with the Sabirabad Hygiene and Epidemiology Centre sprayed antimalarial chemicals in 2,500 houses in 14 villages and three IDP camps in Sabirabad, the areas most exposed to the disease. They also distributed thousands of leaflets and posters to educate people and prevent outbreak of epidemics.

For the first time in the history of its existence, the Red Crescent celebrated the International First Aid day with

a demonstration of first aid skills and distribution of information materials to the public. Some 300 volunteers and staff participated in the celebrations.

Insufficient blood reserves contribute to the growth of morbidity and mortality. When thousands of people require blood transfusions, blood donors are few. Their number has dramatically reduced from 130,000 in 1986 to 16,000 in 2000 – in the wake of the break up of the Soviet Union and the ensuing economic crises. The Red Crescent is uniquely placed to contribute to improving the country's blood supply. Last year, it strengthened cooperation with the National Blood Transfusion Centre via a memorandum of understanding. The national society has undertaken to assist the centre to recruit blood donors through awareness campaigns and community mobilization.

The first campaign was held in May 2003. Red Crescent staff at the headquarters were encouraged to donate blood. 45 people were recruited to help children suffering with thalassemia. Similar campaigns were held in Sumgait and Baku mobilising Red Crescent staff and volunteers, students and other people through media and personal contacts. In total, the Red Crescent recruited 96 blood donors.

The Red Crescent acknowledges that better coordination and integration within the organisation can bring better results. In July 2003, various departments of the Red Crescent united efforts and organised a joint campaign at a public beach under the slogan '*unity is the power*'. Volunteers demonstrated first aid skills and distributed leaflets on safe blood, HIV/AIDS and blood donation related issues as well as other Red Crescent activities. They talked to people about importance of preventive health and encouraged them to become volunteer blood donors. The campaign proved successful; people showed interest and willingness to learn more about the organisation and its work, including volunteer blood recruitment.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent worked in partnership with the Interagency Coordination Committee of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, Ministry of Health, Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology, World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank and UNHCR. Red Crescent contribution to increasing health awareness has been well appreciated by all stakeholders, and more importantly, by beneficiaries.

**Impact:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has a health promoter and a first aid instructor in every region allowing it to reach more vulnerable people across the country. Through health education, vulnerable communities are more conscious about health measures and have increased their ability to deal with day-to-day incidents as well as more serious challenges.

In December 2003, the Red Crescent conducted a survey among 812 IDPs in camps and Darnagul district of Baku to measure the impact of the Red Crescent health prevention activities. The survey revealed that beneficiaries much appreciate the Red Crescent efforts and follow advice of their volunteers. 83 people said they used condoms; 40 persons applied first aid skills; 49 IDPs visited a doctor as soon as they noticed first symptoms of malaria and prevented aggravation of the illness. Sabirabad and Saatli are considered high risk areas with high morbidity caused by malaria. This year, however, fewer cases of malaria were registered. The progress can be attributed to health education efforts. 29 IDPs reported they had consulted with doctor as soon as they detected first symptoms of tuberculosis. Four of them confirmed the disease. 26 of those interviewed used respirator masks during the cold season to protect themselves from acute respiratory infectious diseases.

The feedback is encouraging and confirms the Red Crescent programme is on the right track. Efforts, however, need to continue. The survey confirmed that communities are keen to have more information on family planning, prevention of infectious diseases, personal hygiene, immunization and healthy nutrition.

Equally significant is progress made with volunteer blood donor recruitment. Cooperation with the national blood transfusion centre helped to increase the number of donors and strengthen the auxiliary role of the Red Crescent to the Government in reducing health vulnerabilities in the country.

Despite undeniable progress of the last few years, the population, particularly women and children, remain highly vulnerable to preventable diseases largely because of the widespread poverty, fragile social support system and insufficient financing of public health sector, as well as lack of information. Health promotion and education both are effective ways of reducing morbidity and mortality and are reflected in the Red Crescent strategic work plan

2003-2005. Over the coming years, the Red Crescent will build on its achievements of the past years and continue work to increase people's awareness of basic health problems through its health promotion teams.

**Constraints:** The complexity of the programme lies in the poor understanding among the communities of the importance of health education and prevention. Its success very much hinges on the dedication of volunteers to consistently pursue the objective to change the attitude, and consequently, behaviour of beneficiaries.

Heavy floods in March and later in May put additional strain on the limited resources of the national society and did not enable to implement all planned activities. Personnel changes in the management of the health department caused delays too.

Resettlement of IDPs from the Belasovar camps, including 16 Red Crescent health promoters, disrupted temporarily the work. Health promoters, however, soon were regrouped and the work resumed.

**Expected result 2.** Ten Red Crescent youth volunteers from each regional centre are able to conduct HIV/AIDS peer education among teenagers, adults, and affected communities.

HIV/AIDS is a global problem and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is part of a global effort to stop its spread. Since 2001, the organisation has been providing peer education among teenagers. In 2003, it concentrated on expanding the network of trainers in the regions, so that they could share information on HIV/AIDS prevention with more young people.

**Achievements:** 35 volunteers from seven regional centres were trained as trainers on HIV/AIDS in a four-day workshop organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. This brought the total number of Red Crescent volunteers trained on HIV/AIDS since 2001 to 79. Volunteers used Federation *You cannot get AIDS by...* stamp designs during their sessions. They also designed individual art-works to express what they feel about the disease, and stigma associated with it. All volunteers received information kits and HIV/AIDS certificates.

Peer educators then disseminated information on HIV/AIDS, and its ways of transmission and prevention to 4,767 youth in seven regions through individual and group sessions. Additionally, two volunteers from the Surakhani branch organized seminars on HIV/AIDS on weekly basis at the skin-venereal hospital in the Ramani district of Baku city: a total of 821 sex workers attended these seminars. The participants were provided with educational materials.

HIV/AIDS awareness was integrated in many Red Crescent events. A one-day education session organised by the Red Crescent for 100 children from families affected by armed conflicts at the summer camp in Pirshagi is one example.

In December, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent joined other members of the International Federation to celebrate the World AIDS Day and organised a number of activities across the country within the global campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

The celebrations started with a gathering of staff and volunteers at the state theatre of musical comedy in Baku. Well-known pop-stars joined the national society and raised their voices against the spread of AIDS in the communities. The event began with candlelight procession to music by Freddy Mercury, who died of AIDS. Following the procession, young actors from the Pantomime Theatre group presented the play 'Love Story', which described relationships between men and women and emphasized the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

In one of the regions, Sumgayit, Red Crescent staff and volunteers jointly with Ministry of Sport and Tourism conducted a peaceful march under the slogan 'Youth against the AIDS' through the central street of the city, distributing brochures to people. A similar event was organized in Sabirabad region too.

In Lankaran, 20 peer educated volunteers organized HIV/AIDS-related quizzes in two orphanage houses. In Mingechaur peer educators organized two-days training for 200 young people as well as a disco for participants at the end of the training.

In Azizbecov, the Red Crescent organised a seminar on HIV/AIDS and its prevention for **100** students. Representatives of local authorities and non-governmental organizations too attended the seminar.

A similar event was conducted for **30** employees of the Caspian Sea Oil Gas Construction Trust in response to their request, as well as 120 students of Economical College in Sabunchu. A debate on HIV/AIDS was facilitated among **25** students of the Azerbaijan Economical University, which is a primary organization of the Red Crescent.

The video clip "Protect yourself!" was screened during the quizzes, training and discos and also appeared on television.

The Red Crescent printed and distributed thousands posters and booklets on HIV/AIDS, as well as T-shirts and badges with an emblem promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Impact:** The Red Crescent is one of the key players in the country combating the spread of the disease through education. The focus is on youth people, who are the most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Through training, debates, public discussions and campaigns, the Red Crescent increases people's awareness of HIV/AIDS, its ways of transmission and prevention. Young volunteers are encouraged to share knowledge on the disease among their peers. Feedback from beneficiaries indicates an increased interest towards the issue. One remarkable development is the Red Crescent's work with sex workers, who are patients of the republican skin-venereal hospital. The Red Crescent helps medically protect these people, who are regarded as pariahs in the society. But it is also an excellent example of tolerance and coexistence, and shows the true meaning of humanity, a Fundamental Principle of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

**Constraints:** The project envisaged the provision of syringes to drug addicts to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission. Drug addicts are another group highly vulnerable to the disease. Specifications of the syringes were to be delivered by health authorities; however the specifications were not forthcoming. Eventually, as the process was taking longer than envisaged, the Red Crescent adjusted its plans and procured condoms instead. Condoms were distributed to youth, IDPs, drug addicts and the general public during HIV/AIDS and other health training sessions and campaigns.

Structural changes within the Red Crescent in spring 2003 prevented an early start of peer education training and halved the number of trainees. Nonetheless, the original plan will still be pursued and another 35 volunteers will be trained as peer educators in early 2004. Subsequently, the funds earmarked for the training will be carried over to 2004.

## **Disaster Management**

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

**Objective:** The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has a well-functioning and effective disaster preparedness and disaster response programme to ensure its capacity to alleviate the consequences of **disasters on the affected population**.

**Expected result 1:** The disaster management policy and plan of Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, based on a regularly updated Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), are developed and disseminated to all stakeholders. The status of the national society and its auxiliary role to the government in disaster preparedness and response is clarified.

**Achievements:** Azerbaijan is at risk from a range of complex emergencies. Mechanisms to counter their effects are weak. Since 1999 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been trying to improve its disaster management capacities to better address challenges of natural and man-made disasters and empower local communities to reduce their vulnerability during emergencies. This year the focus was on updating its vulnerability and capacity assessment report, development of disaster management policy and plan, as well as enhancing skill of its staff and volunteers.

Back in 2001, the Red Crescent carried out a full-scale vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) to:

- understand the nature of hazards as well as risks of natural and man made disasters in Azerbaijan;
- establish a picture of needs and appropriate response;
- enhance the disaster preparedness programme and activities of Red Crescent.

Two years after, in 2003 the Red Crescent conducted another assessment through visits to communities and surveys to measure the progress and identify remaining or new risk areas. Based on findings, it updated the VCA and published the latest version of the report both in Azeri and English languages. The report has been distributed to all key stakeholders, including government authorities, UNDP, UNHCR and USAID.

The VCA will be a tool for the Red Crescent to design more focused, relevant and responsive programmes. It is therefore important that it is understood and used at all levels of the organisation. To achieve this, the Red



*Rebuilding life: the Federation helped 830 returnees reconstruct their homes in Alkhanli and start again after years of displacement.*

Crescent initiated seminars for branch leadership to explain the significance and relevance of the VCA in their work. During the year, seven such seminars were held in Ganja, Mingechaur, Baku, Sumgayit, Sabirabad, Lenkoran and Nakhchivan. Representatives of local authorities too attended the seminars.

Based on the findings of the VCA, the Red Crescent developed a disaster management policy that identifies strategic priorities of the organisation in disaster preparedness and response.

Efforts then concentrated on the development of a disaster management plan to enable the Red Crescent consistently carry out activities to be better prepared and respond effectively to emergencies. The Red Crescent established a working group to conduct consultations at all levels of the Society and draft a two-year plan in 2004.

The Federation, through its regional delegation in Ankara, provided relevant materials that will help the Red Crescent to accomplish the task.

In parallel, the Red Crescent initiated a dialogue with the Government to clarify its role in disaster preparedness and response. Meetings were held with officials at the Ministry of ecology and environment, which is also a member of the state emergency commission. Consultations continue.

**Impact:** A shared disaster management policy will help the Red Crescent respond to emergencies in an effective manner. The VCA will enable the National Society to better understand the humanitarian challenges confronting the country and tailor its programmes more effectively to provide relevant services to vulnerable communities. The document was much appreciated by all stakeholders and will be instrumental in the development of a national disaster management plan.

**Constraints:** As mentioned above, several staff members of the Red Crescent, including the disaster management department staff, left the organisation for better paid jobs and new people were recruited to fill in the vacant positions. The personnel changes delayed the finalization of the VCA until the end of June. The floods operation caused further delays particularly in the development of the disaster management plan. In addition, the project experienced financial constraints. Limited funds did not enable to print more copies of the VCA report. The Federation is seeking support to print an additional 200 copies in 2004.

**Expected result 2:** Disaster management volunteers and first aid groups are identified with the assistance of regional centres and branches; training programmes in disaster needs, assessment and tracing, as well as basic intervention are developed.

**Achievements:** The Red Crescent has a mobile volunteer team of 12 to 18 members in each region to provide assistance to those affected by small-scale crises and raise community awareness of disaster management. The teams were established in 2001. The 2003 programme supported the training of the teams on advanced needs assessment and disaster response including setting up of tents, evacuation of people from buildings, tracing during emergency situations and first aid. Additionally team leaders together with 19 staff members of the Red Crescent attended a workshop on disaster preparedness and response organised by the Iranian Red Crescent in May 2003.

The Red Crescent established also a first aid group in six regional centres. Each group consists of five people, trained on first aid by Red Crescent regional instructors. More training is planned for the teams in 2004.

In the meantime, the Red Crescent has been making efforts to raise community awareness of disaster management:

In August 2003, 70 Red Crescent staff and volunteers conducted a simulation exercise on first aid for people on a beach in Nabran. Volunteers also distributed to the public brochures and leaflets on non-remunerated blood donation, HIV/AIDS and the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Mingechaur team leader conducted a seminar on disaster preparedness for 15 volunteers in the region. Volunteers committed to establish a disaster preparedness club in 18 schools in Mingechaur.

For the first time in the history of its existence, the Red Crescent celebrated the International First Aid day with a demonstration of first aid skills and distribution of information materials to the public. Some 300 volunteers and staff participated in the celebrations.

An integral part of effective disaster management is tracing to help family members separated during emergencies or disasters reunite. In an effort to strengthen its tracing service across the country, the Red Crescent trained 94 volunteers and staff members of regional branches on tracing during emergencies. Efforts were also made to improve cooperation with local media to increase effectiveness of the service.

**Impact:** Well trained mobile volunteer teams and first aid groups operating across the country are important elements of the Red Crescent's disaster preparedness and response strategy. They enable the organisation to strengthen links with communities at grass-root level to enhance their coping mechanisms as well as respond to emergencies better. A vivid illustration of this was the teams' intervention during the devastating floods in south eastern regions. They were first on the scene rushing in relief materials – food, blankets, as well as kitchen and hygiene articles. Red Crescent volunteers helped reinforce dikes with sandbags, provided first aid to the affected population and distributed emergency relief items to 18 families, evacuated from Subh Island and temporarily settled in public buildings.

The flood operation provided valuable learning and growth opportunities for the Red Crescent. Capacities of people at the national society have strengthened as management was exposed to new operational methods, requiring rapid decision-making and intense multi-actor coordination. Staff and volunteers benefited from on-the-job learning. Lessons learned will be analyzed and integrated into ongoing programmes.

Success of the programme has contributed to strengthening partnerships. The offer of representatives of the Mingechaur region Civil Defense to train the Red Crescent mobile volunteer team in the region is one example.

**Constraints:** Training of Red Crescent volunteers has not followed the initially agreed plan mainly due to the floods operation, which diverted Red Crescent resources. A number of public awareness campaigns on disaster management were not carried out either but will be a priority in 2004.

**Expected result 3:** Emergency stocks for a total of 200 families, with adequate warehouse facilities, are available in all seven regional centres. Communication means, including telecommunication equipment, maintenance and training, are provided in the seven regional centres and headquarters.

**Achievements:** The Red Crescent established warehouse facilities in Lenkoran, Ganja, Mingechaur, Nakhchivan and Baku. In Nakhchivan and Lenkoran, the Red Crescent was assisted to repair the existing warehouses. It is planned to repair a warehouse in Sumgayit too in 2004. Also basic equipment for mobile volunteer teams was purchased and stored at the warehouses in Mingechaur and Ganja. This will enable the Red Crescent to dispatch supplies more quickly and effectively in case of emergencies.

The Government allocated radio frequencies for Azerbaijan Red Crescent VHF and HF radios. Radio communication between the headquarters and Sabirabad, Mingechaur and Lenkoran regional centres was set up. Vehicles were equipped with VHF and HF radios. Regional centre staff was provided with handsets too and trained on how to operate the radio equipment.

**Impact:** Availability of warehouse facilities at the regional level will enable the organisation to store and dispatch supplies rapidly in case of emergencies. Improved communication between regions and the centre will allow the Red Crescent to transmit information on disasters or emergencies to the headquarters in a timely manner ensuring rapid response to future emergency needs of affected communities.

**Constraints:** The Red Crescent remains without warehouse facilities in two regions – Sumgait and Sabirabad. It is negotiating with government authorities to solve the problem, but the process progresses slowly. In Sabirabad, for instance, the premises allocated by the government were too big and required huge repair works. Alternative premises are now being discussed. Red Crescent did not establish emergency stocks either as included in the Federation's annual appeal because of shortage of funds.

The Red Crescent has been making efforts to secure communication towers in rural areas from the Government. The Ministry of Communication offered a 50 per cent reduction, but the price remains too high. Negotiations continue.

**Expected result 4:** The capacity of the national society to improve self-reliance of displaced persons, thus reducing their dependency on outside assistance, is increased via rehabilitation of housing in Alkhanli village and agricultural support through technical advice and initial inputs to 140 repatriated IDP families.

**Progress/Achievements:** The year marked the end of the repatriation/rehabilitation project initiated by the Federation in 1999. Initially, the focus was on 170 families from Shukurbeyli village in Fizuli, one of the 'liberated areas'. 176 houses were constructed or repaired and 112 loans were provided to returnees - on average USD 1,000 per loan - to start income generation activities to sustain themselves. The project was successful and the Federation decided to help more people to return. In 2002-2003, it focused on Alkhanli village in the same district. The village was identified in consultation with relevant government bodies, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and potential returnees.

Before the conflict, the village of Alkhanli had 574 houses with a population of 650 families. International Rescue Committee (IRC), supported by the UNHCR, reconstructed 147 houses. The Federation directed its attention to help another 143 IDP families living in the camps and willing to return to their native village voluntarily.

In October 2003, renovation of the last house in the village of Alkhanli was completed and handed over to owners. By the end of the operation the Federation rehabilitated or constructed a total of 151 houses (55 were constructed and 96 rehabilitated), instead of initially planned 140. Savings, made on the utilization of construction materials, enabled the Federation to work on additional 11 houses.

During house rehabilitation, construction teams adhered to the standards established by the government's Agency for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Areas (ARRA). According to these standards, the Federation repaired/constructed five square meters for each family member. Each house was at least 15 m<sup>2</sup>. The focus was on rebuilding and painting walls, repairing roof and floor, windows and doors, as well as electricity cables. Toilets

were constructed outdoors. At least one member of a targeted family participated in the works. The construction teams were supervised by a Federation team of five.

Project implementation was coordinated with the National Agency for Mine Actions (ANAMA), which had cleared the village from mines before the construction works started. The village had been littered with mines, legacy of the military conflict between two neighbouring countries.

By the end of the project, the Federation had some remaining construction materials to repair a village school. The school building had once been a stable. It had seven classrooms in a dilapidated condition. The Federation supported the repair of floor, ceiling, partitions, doors and windows. The electrical system was also restored and two outdoor toilets were built.

In addition to home construction and rehabilitation, the Federation assisted villagers in producing food and other agricultural commodities to increase their self-sustainability. Initially, the Federation procured seeds, fertilizers and equipment for spring and winter planting to help 55 families. Winter planting was completed in autumn 2002 and spring planting in April 2003. In summer 2003, villagers harvested 70 bales of Alfalfa/Lucerne, 400 kg of sunflower, 3,780 kg of onion and 109 tonnes of wheat, two tonnes from each ha compared to only one tonne collected by other farmers in the district. Later during the operation, the government allocated additional 200 ha of land for the remaining 175 families in the village. The Federation assisted these people too with seeds and fertilizers for winter planting.

The project also facilitated the formation of effective communities by developing a sense of community spirit among its beneficiaries. It helped people organize themselves into various committees – agricultural, Agsagal (old men), women and children – to strengthen community management of resources.

The Federation organized regular training for committee members to improve their skills and knowledge to address day-to-day problems. Committees were trained on identification of community resources and their utilization, development and management of community funds and psychosocial rehabilitation of children. Agricultural committees were trained on improved land cultivation and crop management techniques.

Savings made by the Federation on the seeds procurement - the procurement of the seeds was arranged for locally and not internationally as it was initially planned – enabled the construction of a warehouse. The Federation also procured a mill for the village. The mill was installed in the warehouse, which now has storage, a mill and also a meeting room for committee members.

**Impact:** The project facilitated the return of families to their places of origin after eight years of displacement. By the end of October 2003, 230 families (830 people) have returned. Work of Federation construction teams has been praised and will be used by the government Agency for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Areas (ARRA) as the best model in future repatriation projects to liberated areas.

The Federation established an effective system to monitor utilization of construction materials. Thanks to the efficient management of the project, the Federation was able to assist more people than initially planned: 11 more houses were repaired or constructed, the village school was rehabilitated too and a number of other vulnerable families benefited from construction materials remaining from the project

Villagers have started rebuilding their lives. They have kitchen gardens. Community groups are active and try to help villagers solve their day-to-day problems. Families have established small businesses.

Through the agricultural component, 55 families completed a one-year cycle of land cultivation, both winter and spring. Another 175 families were assisted to plant winter seeds. Villagers produced their own food and agricultural products to feed their families. Their self-sustainability has been strengthened leading to reduced dependency on external aid. New skills and knowledge acquired through training, enabled farmers to increase yields, which will in longer term, improve their living conditions. The project also provided an opportunity for a meaningful occupation for returnees and enhanced self-esteem of this vulnerable group.

**Constraints:** At the beginning of the operation, families were emotionally vulnerable. They did not believe in their own capacities, their self-esteem was low, community links were weak and they were not interested in

organizing themselves into committees. This slowed project implementation. Continued meetings with Federation community development officer helped villagers restore their self-confidence and resulted in their full participation in project activities. Gradually families began to form themselves into interest groups and participate in finding solutions to their problems.

Recent assessments identified two main problems facing families in Alkhanli. These are lack of sufficient potable water and poor condition of irrigation facilities. Local water reservoir had not been maintained during the past 10 years because of financial problems. The Federation supplied village residents with water pumps to irrigate fields. The pumps, however, need fuel, which is expensive. A more cost effective and sustainable solution remains to be found. The Federation approached the State Committee on Refugees and IDPs to attract their attention to these problems. Representatives of the Melioration and Water Resources Committee visited Alkhanli to study the situation. Based on preliminary assessment results, the committee is planning to repair four artesian wells in the village.

Another issue that raises concerns is a village school. The school can accommodate only 250 of 800 children of school age in the village. Although this issue has been addressed with the Cabinet of Ministers, it remains unresolved.

Although repatriation of IDPs is limited, as the territorial dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unresolved, some have the opportunity to return to their places of origin. The Federation, however, exits from direct relief assistance in Azerbaijan and shifts its focus on developmental programmes. Several international agencies operating in Azerbaijan, such as the Norwegian Refugee Council and International Rescue Committee are interested in continuing construction/rehabilitation of houses for people willing to return to Fizuli district. The Federation has established good cooperation with these agencies to share experience and facilitate strengthening of partnership links with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

In 2004-2005, the Federation will support the work with IDPs living in the camps through community development initiatives to stimulate them to take a more proactive role in the development of their own futures. In parallel, focus will be on the capacity building and development of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent so that the national society can better provide assistance to IDPs and other vulnerable people of the country.

**Expected result 5:** A total of 60 displaced people and 30 refugees receive skills training and psycho-social support, through training in computer and English skills. Organization of a two-week summer camp for 200 IDP and refugee children and support to vulnerable people living in remote areas of Azerbaijan is provided through implementation of mobile technical teams activities in Quba, Ismaili and Lenkoran.

**Achievements:** 60 teenage IDPs and refugees completed English language and computer skills training during 2003; 30 of them were trained on the history of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the Fundamental Principles. At the end of the courses all graduates received certificates and became members of the Red Crescent.

The Red Crescent also organised summer camps with various sport, cultural and educational activities, including sightseeing and competitions, in Zagulba and Mardakan for 235 displaced children. In Zagulba camp, every child received school equipment donated by the ICRC. One of the camps was co-funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Azerbaijan.

The Red Crescent in Ganja organised a New Year party for 300 IDP children from Hojali and orphans. All received presents.

Findings from recent assessments indicate that the main source of vulnerability in Azerbaijan is still mostly caused by the socio-economic crisis. Elderly people living alone are the most vulnerable because of insufficient access to social and health services, as well as large families living in far-flung areas. In 2002, the Red Crescent established in Geranboy a mobile technical team as an integral part of its disaster management initiatives. In 2003, the Netherlands Red Cross supported the team to repair and install electrical systems, roofs and windows in **237** houses for vulnerable people in Khanlar, Gedebe, Dashkesen and Samukh districts of Ganja region. Beneficiaries were selected either by Red Crescent branches in consultation with community representatives, or beneficiaries - either themselves or through representatives - who approached the local Red Crescent for

assistance. 160 volunteers helped the team during repairs. Through this work, the Red Crescent mobile team has improved living conditions and reduced community health vulnerability.

The success of the team encouraged the Red Crescent to establish another two teams in Ismayilli and Lenkoran to assist lone elderly and other vulnerable groups in remote and isolated areas. Each team has three constructors and a driver. Team members were trained on first aid, safety during construction and selection of beneficiaries. The mobile team in Ismayilli will cover four districts - Ismayilli, Shemakha, Gabala and Gobustan. The Lenkoran mobile technical team will cover another four districts- Astara, Lerik, Yardimli and Lenkoran.

**Impact:** The training courses directly helped individual beneficiary IDPs to become less dependent on humanitarian assistance. Five teenage IDP and refugees, who graduated from a six-month English language and computer skills training courses in June, found a job. More young people are interested to improve their skills and knowledge. The Red Crescent received 170 requests for help.

The summer camps brought fun into lives of children. Through games, they learned about the power of humanity, respect for human being, tolerance and coexistence. The Red Crescent received many letters of gratitude from their parents.

Mobile technical teams improve living conditions of many vulnerable people in far-flung areas. They also lift image of the national society and strengthen its link with the communities as well as government authorities.

**Constraints:** Funding for mobile teams arrived late and delayed the procurement construction materials, uniforms for mobile team members and equipment. The procurement was finalized in January 2004. The project also envisaged the establishment of two more mobile teams - in Guba and Nakhchevan. However, late arrival of funds did not enable to achieve this either in 2003 and will be implemented in 2004.

## Organisational Development

**Goal:** The capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan are strengthened to enable it to provide needed services to the most vulnerable population.

**Objective:** The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has improved its functioning with sufficient and relevant operational and management capacities to develop and implement programmes on the central and branch levels.

**Expected result 1:** The national society has strong management skills, as well as the ability to identify strategic priorities, and support and motivate its own human resources. The knowledge and understanding of the Federation's means and tools to support the national society's development and capacity building is increased, as well as readiness to make use of these services.

**Achievements:** The Red Crescent of Azerbaijan has experienced major personnel changes in the last few years prompting the need to focus on strengthening skills and professionalism of new people that came into the organisation. Strengthening planning capacity of the Red Crescent is an important element of the organizational development efforts. Better planning can play a key role in improving the quality of programmes, and manage



*Dig this: on International Volunteers Day, Red Crescent volunteers planted 7 000 trees in various districts of Baku and elsewhere*

ment of staff and financial resources. With support of the Federation's regional organisational development programme manager, Red Crescent headquarters staff were trained on the standard Federation planning tool, the project planning process (PPP). Similar training was provided for 25 chairmen of regional branches. The programme also supported a five-month English language course for headquarters staff.

The development work at the national society was boosted with the return of the Red Crescent's executive secretary after 10 months in Norway under an exchange programme with the Norwegian Red Cross. The national society presidium announced clearer division of management and governance functions in the Red Crescent as stipulated in the organization's new statutes. An executive director was appointed to address daily management issues at the headquarters level.

In June 2003, a deputy executive director participated in organizational development training in Spain. The training helped the senior staff member better understand dynamics of organizational change

**Impact:** National society management enhanced understanding of the project planning process, which, it is hoped, will ultimately lead to programmes that are more responsive to local vulnerability and focused on the areas where they can have the greatest impact.

Clear division of functions among the leadership of the national society has improved the effectiveness of their work. Daily management issues are now solved quicker.

**Constraints:** One of the major challenges is to strengthen the culture of strategic thinking at all levels of the organisation that is built on an analysis of internal strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats. New staff members that joined the organisation in recent years also need to improve their understanding of the Red Crescent strategic directions. Additionally, more efforts are required to increase the knowledge and understanding of the Federation's means and tools to support the national society's capacity building, as well as readiness to make use of these services. The executive director is taking steps to improve the organization's management system, but more remains to be done.

**Expected result 2.** The development of the headquarters of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, seven regional centres and 83 local branches is strengthened in the fields of programme management, financial management, human and material resources, through quarterly training activities and the development of specific plans and roles.

**Achievements:** 2003 was announced as the year of visits to regions and branches by the decision of the XX General Assembly of Azerbaijan Red Crescent. Following this decision, the president of the Red Crescent and head of the organizational development department visited 31 branches to better understand their capacities and needs so that headquarters can better support them. The visits also aimed at encouraging more focused activities at local level and facilitating strengthening of partnerships with communities, government authorities and other organisations. A number of meetings were held with key stakeholders, including beneficiaries, in the regions. Authorities in 30 districts issued decrees on increasing their support to the Red Crescent local organisations as a result of the visits. They have pledged to help Red Crescent create more primary organisation (community groups linked to the Red Crescent) and recruit new members.

Strengthening of the national society membership scheme was a main topic of two-day seminars conducted by the Red Crescent for 43 branch leadership in Lenkoran, Ganja and Sabirabad. Representatives of local authorities participated in the seminars too. The branches discussed ways to attract new members and form new primary organizations.

In 2003, the Red Crescent enlisted 37,537 new members. This brings the total number of Red Crescent members to **167,537**, which is 29% more than it was in January 2003 (130,000).

The Red Crescent is making efforts to systematise its membership scheme so that it is a more constant source of income generation. In 2003, 146,357 USD was collected as membership fees, which is 48 per cent more compared to 2002. 15 per cent of the income, i.e., 21,508 USD, was transferred to the Secretariat of the Red

Crescent. The remaining amount stayed with local committees to cover their administrative expenses and support some other locally organised events.

The Red Crescent also concentrates on increasing the number of primary organisations to strengthen its links with communities and recruit more members. Since January 2003, 375 new primary organizations were established, which brings the total number to 3,563.

In June 2003, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent launched a pilot branch development project in Sumgayit and Mingechaur regions. Three branch committees in each of these regions have been selected. The aim is to strengthen the overall structures and capability of the national society to reduce vulnerability of local communities through better programmes with increased community participation.

As an initial step, the Red Crescent conducted a preliminary assessment of the targeted branches to identify their material and human resources, as well as determine their programme implementation capacities. This was followed by a workshop to introduce a participatory community development concept to regional centre and branch staff.

Participatory community development teams have then been formed in each branch. Each team consists of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, as well as representatives of local authorities, health and education departments and non-governmental organizations. 10 Communities were selected to pilot the project.

The branches were equipped with computers and other office facilities, such as an overhead projector to make training and seminars at branch level more interesting and presentable. The project supported the establishment of internet connection too. Also, three vehicles were procured for the Mingachevir, Sumgayit and Ismayilli branches to reach far flung communities. Branch staff and volunteers were provided with caps and T-shirts with the Red Crescent emblem to wear during various events and campaigns and raise the visibility of the local Red Crescent branches among the communities. Branch staff and volunteers were trained on how to disseminate information on the Movement, its history, work and the Fundamental principles. They also received computer training. Community members were trained as First Aid trainers and health promoters.

All branches held general meetings with their communities in all six districts, where the project is piloted, to introduce new participatory community development approach. Community initiative groups were established too to help people identify and prioritise their problems and needs and advocate with local authorities as well as assist international and national non-governmental organizations to respond.

Red Crescent branch volunteers together with the community members conducted a survey of communities according to pre-developed questionnaire to identify vulnerability areas, as well as determine the level of people's interest in Red Crescent activities. This was the first experience for the branches of working together with the communities.

The project is ongoing. In 2004, it is planned to continue training on:

- Project Planning Process (PPP) for branches and communities;
- fundraising and public relations for branches;
- training of trainers in social care and disaster preparedness for communities.

It is also planned to carry out three small-scale income-generating projects as well as fundraising campaigns to help Red Crescent local committees strengthen sustainability. Community members will be encouraged to develop project proposals and fundraise locally. It is anticipated that they will also be able to conduct health promotion activities and apply their first aid skills in practice.

The branch development project received CHF 293,170. In 2003, 33 % of the income was spent. As agreed with the donor, the balance will be used to continue the project in 2004.

**Impact:** The Red Crescent headquarters stepped up its work with branches. They acknowledge that strong branches will increase the effectiveness of the organisation. The leadership visits, various training for staff and

volunteers, as well as new initiatives, such as pilot development project, strengthen capacities of branches to provide better quality services to people in need.

It is difficult to measure the impact yet. But progress made so far is encouraging. Participatory community development concept, introduced in 2003, was well received by Red Crescent branches. Community members too showed a great interest and willingness to participate and contribute to identifying needs in their regions as well as finding sustainable solutions.

Local authorities committed to support the project as best as they can. They actively participate in the work of the participatory community development teams. The community initiative groups that were established in each piloted district will play an important role in bridging the gap between their communities and other stakeholders - donors, non-governmental organisations and the Government. The enthusiasm of local authorities and the support of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent leadership motivate local branches and strengthens their self-confidence to introduce the new style of working.

**Constraints:** Preparation for the pilot branch development project took longer than envisaged. Preliminary assessment revealed the branches had many technical problems that needed to be solved to start the project. Branch staff required training too to strengthen their programme management capacity and increase their understanding of the participatory community development approach.

Another challenge was mobilizing young people and women as older generations continue to think that they know everything better and youth and women have no say in decision making process.

**Expected result 3:** The ability to raise funds from different sources for national society programmes is improved by establishing a strict fundraising policy and plan, and ensuring that staff members are trained accordingly.

**Achievements:** Fundraising is a priority area of the Red Crescent's capacity building efforts reflected in its strategic work plan. Over the last few years, the national society initiated a number of projects to generate its own income. Some were successful. However, it continues to depend on external support. In 2003, the Red Crescent established a working group to explore the possibilities to broaden funding sources. The group has started drafting a fundraising policy and a plan of action, which will be presented to the Baku Secretariat of the Red Crescent for review and approval

In parallel, the Red Crescent continued its traditional income generation activities, such as a poultry farm in Ujar, beauty salon in Narimanov district, First Aid training and collecting money through donation boxes. There were some private donations too. Thus, two citizens of the United States of America donated USD 2,500 to organize wedding ceremonies for IDPs and refugees.

Some USD 16,524 was collected during the year, which is 64 per cent more compared to what was collected in 2002.

The Red Crescent received in-kind donations too. Thus the Arabian Islamic Youth Assembly, the embassy of Saudi Arabia, EXXON Operating Company, Norwegian Royal embassy and Turkish Youth Support Organization provided food and school supplies for 550 IDP and refugee children from Xojali, Baku and Southern camps.

The funds raised locally were spent on procurement of relief items - food, clothes and school supplies - for vulnerable people, including lone elderly, orphans, refugee and IDP children.

The Red Crescent has been focused on the strengthening partnership links with the Government, local enterprises and organizations. Results are encouraging. The Cabinet of Ministers issued a decree instructing the Ministry of Economic Development to help the Azerbaijan Red Crescent improve its working conditions and financial bases. More recently the newly elected President of Azerbaijan signed another decree on the increase of Government support to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society.

**Impact:** In an environment of dwindling international support, it is essential for the Red Crescent to have its own reliable source of income to continue vital services to vulnerable people. The viable plan of action based on

realistic assessment of threats and opportunities will help the organization strengthen the sustainability. The policy will regulate its initiatives to ensure they are in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and the mandate of the Red Crescent.

The decrees signed by the cabinet of ministers and the president demonstrate their appreciation and willingness to support the only national, indigenous and community-based organization.

**Constraints:** The national society still largely depends on external resources. Efforts need to continue to diversify the organization's funding base and help more people in need.

In 2004, work will continue to strengthen fundraising capacity of the organisation. Training of Red Crescent staff and volunteers on fundraising is planned. A number of campaigns will also be carried out in target regions and Baku. Efforts will be made to build and maintain contacts with government and international organizations, business corporations as well as the general public. More donation boxes will be established. The fundraising group will be meeting regularly to review the progress and generate new ideas.

**Expected result 4:** The legal base of the national society is consolidated through the adoption of the Red Crescent law by 2004 and formalization of relations with governmental offices and regulatory bodies.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, with technical and legal assistance of the Federation and the ICRC, revised its statutes last year to ensure division between Governance and Management and articulate clearly its mission and mandate. The statutes were reviewed in conformity with the Federation's global Guidance for National Society Statutes and followed an internal, participatory process. The new statutes were adopted by the national society at the 20th extraordinary General assembly in March 2003.

To consolidate the legal framework of the National Society, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with the Federation's support and in coordination with the ICRC, has continued to advocate with the Government on the adoption of a new national law on the Red Crescent in accordance with the new statutes of the National Society. The draft of the Red Crescent law was submitted to the government for comments but still needs additional work and adoption.

**Impact:** The revision of the Statutes was a significant achievement of the internal change management process. The law will help the national society achieve a clearer status in the country.

**Constraints:** Absence of the Red Crescent law regulating the status of the organization remains a major challenge restricting the national society to seize all opportunities to strengthen its material and technical base. The draft law, as reported above, is being discussed by relevant commissions in the Milli Mejlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan) and needs further work to be finally adopted.

**Expected result 5:** The number of volunteers of the national society taking an active part in service programmes is increased. A management system is developed, a volunteer board and policy of national society is set up, and specific training models for volunteers in core activities are developed.

**Achievements:** In 2003, volunteers and youth development efforts focused on the recruitment and registration of new volunteers, preparing guidelines for volunteers, establishment of regional youth and volunteer boards, training of volunteers on how to work with orphans and disabled children and raising their awareness of HIV/AIDS. Attention was also directed towards encouraging volunteers to take a more active role in various Red Crescent activities.

The major achievement was the establishment of a youth and volunteers board at the national level. The creation of such a board had been discussed at the General Assembly in March 2003 and was included in the new statutes of the national society. The board has an elected chairperson with two deputies and 15 members. It acts as a coordinating body on youth and volunteers related issues. The board ensures that volunteers are represented at the governance and management of the national society and actively participate in the decision-making process. One of the main tasks of the board is to help the society attract, effectively manage and retain volunteers across the country.

Later during the year, the Red Crescent also established regional youth and volunteer boards in Baku, Sumgayit, Sabirabad, Lenkoran, Ganja and Mingeçaur. There are now six regional boards across the country. The Red Crescent is considering establishing one more board in Nakhchevan in line with the recent structural changes within the organisation.

The boards have been meeting regularly during the year – regional boards met twice in this year, the national board held its fourth meeting in October 2003. During these meetings volunteers discussed various issues concerning their work. They reported on their activities and shared experiences; regional youth board leaders reviewed their achievements and sought feedback on how to improve coordination mechanisms to deliver more effectively.

The Red Crescent developed the statutes for its regional boards to help them coordinate their activities more effectively. The draft has been reviewed by the central board and submitted to the presidium for approval.

Another significant achievement was the development of a youth policy that acknowledges the important role of volunteers in the Red Crescent not only as beneficiaries but as equal partners in the development of the organisation. The policy also defines their responsibilities.

The Federation supported a number of training sessions for Red Crescent volunteers to help them improve their professionalism. Noteworthy is the work of three social workers from *Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise* organization. They trained 24 Red Crescent volunteers, who work with orphans in Shagan orphanage. The training helped volunteers learn new techniques to work with disabled children. For example, they learned how to make postcards and animals from cardboard and cotton wool, as well as to decorate candle holders with semi-precious stones. Another 15 Red Crescent volunteers from Sumgayit were trained on how to improve their work with 30 home-bound disabled children. After the training, volunteers started to apply into practice what they had learned. For example, they have started to teach disabled children how to look after themselves independently without anybody's help thus helping them regain self-confidence.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent regional centre in Baku has established good contact with their colleagues in the Nedre Eker branch of the Norwegian Red Cross. Through this cooperation, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent aims to share knowledge, experience and best practices on the work with volunteers and youth. Two youth delegates from the Norwegian Red Cross, who were in Azerbaijan on a bilateral exchange project, held a seminar for Red Crescent volunteers on how to work with orphans in Mardakan settlement.

The head of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent youth and volunteers department together with a Norwegian counterpart visited the Iranian Red Crescent to learn from their experience of youth work. Later during the year the Azerbaijan Red Crescent attended an international conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth Coalition for Peace and Friendship in Iran. 20 countries were represented at the conference. The Conference adopted a declaration with recommendations on how to promote peace and friendship all over the world. This Declaration will be brought to the attention of the Federation statutory bodies and the Council of Delegates at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva.

The Red Crescent has been encouraging its volunteering to take part in various projects designed to help vulnerable people; in many instances volunteers were taking initiative to organise activities. In Sumgayit, for example, with the financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, they organised a performance for disabled children on the International Day for Disabled Persons. After the performance, children read poetry and danced. All of them received gifts from the Red Crescent.

Also, two summer camps were organised with financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, Statoil and Representation of Arabian Islamic Youth Assembly in Azerbaijan, for a total of 180 orphans and children from families affected by armed conflict. All teachers and doctors at the camps were Red Crescent volunteers. Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers were joined by seven volunteers from the Norwegian Red Cross.

Red Crescent volunteers also developed a monthly bulletin that contains news on Red Crescent youth and volunteer activities. With the Federation's support, the Red Crescent printed and distributed 11 issues of the bulletin within and outside the organisation.

The Red Crescent celebrated International Volunteers Day on 5 December by implementing a number of activities with active participation of volunteers:

- 7,000 trees donated by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) were planted in districts of Baku and few other regions;
- 32 Red Crescent young volunteers dressed in T-shirts with Red Crescent emblem organized a cycle-athon in central streets of Baku to increase the visibility of the national society and promote the volunteerism.
- In Mingechaur, volunteers held a seminar about the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the history of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent for 40 new volunteers. After the seminar, volunteers organized a discotheque.

**Impact:** The National Society largely stepped up its work with volunteers and youth. By establishing the youth and volunteer boards, the Red Crescent offered to its volunteers a forum to discuss, share ideas and participate in the decision-making process of the national society. Functions and responsibilities are well defined for each board member, which enables regional Red Crescent volunteers to act effectively. Motivation among volunteers has lifted. They are eager to contribute. The number of volunteers taking an active part in Red Crescent programmes has increased from 14,000 in December 2002 to 14,876 in December 2003.

The work of our colleagues from *Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise* organization has had a significant impact too, which can be seen in the effectiveness of Red Crescent volunteers' work with orphans and disabled children.

The activities, in which Red Crescent volunteers were directly involved helped many vulnerable people. The summer camp for disabled children encouraged the process of their rehabilitation and social adaptation. Interest to orphans and vulnerable children among volunteers and the public has increased too.

Youth volunteers play an increasingly important role in disseminating the truth about the HIV/AIDS. Training provided by the Red Crescent raises awareness and helps prevent the spread of this deadly disease. A vivid illustration of the success is the willingness of the youth to learn more and share the knowledge with their friends.

In 2004, volunteers are planning to continue their active work with orphanages and disabled children, as well as lone elderly people; there are also plans to involve some of them in various sport activities, drama and dancing groups.

A Federation youth development delegate, supported by the Norwegian Red Cross, will work along with the national society offering her guidance and support. The delegate had previously worked with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent as a bi-lateral youth delegate.

**Constraints:** The project envisaged the development of specific training modules for volunteers in core activities to increase their skills and knowledge. The modules however have not been developed yet because the Red Crescent, in an effort to systematise its training and avoid any duplication of efforts, is in the process of developing data on all training sessions for volunteers planned by its various departments. The data will then be analysed to enable the youth department develop relevant training modules that would complement the plans of other departments.

Although considerable progress has been made, much more remains to be done. It is necessary now to build on the achievements to strengthen the National Society capacity so that it can effectively harness the inspiration that exists among its volunteers. It is an important and exciting challenge.

Youth and volunteer development remains a priority for the Red Crescent and the Federation will continue supporting the national society in its change process as outlined in the Federation's four year support strategy for 2004-2007. Progress in 2003 has paved the way for new achievements in 2004. In the New Year, attention will be directed towards strengthening volunteers' participation in project assessment, planning and implementation, as well as improvement of recruitment, registration and training system.

**Expected result 6.** Increased capacity of the national society to improve self-reliance among returnees by encouraging community mobilisation and community development, thus reducing their dependency on outside assistance.

**Achievements:** The current project supported the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's regional centre in Sabirabad to improve self-reliance among internally displaced people in the camps and vulnerable people by encouraging community mobilization.

Sabirabad shelters thousands of IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, supported by the Federation, has been assisting this group since 1993, when the Government of Azerbaijan established seven camps in Sabirabad, Saatli and Bilasuvar districts to provide a temporary shelter for people fleeing war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the beginning, the Red Crescent support was of an emergency relief nature. Eventually, however, the focus shifted to more developmental initiatives. As of January 2003, all the community development initiatives previously implemented by the Federation, were handed over to the Red Crescent's Sabirabad regional centre. This was an important step towards strengthening the sustainability of the project. It also contributed towards strengthening capacities of the branch, which is essential for the national society to strengthen its links with local communities. Red Crescent concentrated on women, children and lone elderly people.

Women were assisted to organise themselves in committees and contribute to solving day-to-day problems of their communities. The Red Crescent facilitated a number of training sessions for them to strengthen their planning and management skills. The committees played instrumental role in coordinating distribution of various relief supplies to the most vulnerable IDPs. Thus, they assisted to identify beneficiaries on a number of occasions to distribute wheelchairs to disabled children, baby sets and parcels with second hand clothes. On the International Volunteers Day, women committees mobilised volunteers and organised cleaning of the camps.

Additionally, the Red Crescent has been providing various skills training such as sewing, knitting, hairdressing, shoe repair and mechanics creating motivation within IDP communities to take a more proactive role in the development of their futures. Some 122 young people attended different courses run by 11 instructors, who work on voluntary basis in the camps. 34 IDPs completed a six-month training course on sewing, weaving, hairdressing, mechanics and shoemaking and were presented with diplomas in August. In September, another 22 people started a six-month course and will continue in 2004.

Children were encouraged to take part in out-of-school activities – drama, fine art, folklore and chess tournaments. The aim was to keep the children physically and socially healthy. Within sport circle Red Crescent staff and volunteers organized different competitions such as football, boxing and chess tournaments. Winners were presented with gifts.

The Red Crescent also trained 30 volunteers as trainers to conduct puppet shows for children in the camps and promote the message of humanity through performance.

**Impact:** Community development initiatives effectively implemented by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent contribute to reducing the dependency of IDPs on outside assistance. The target communities become more self-reliant. Women's committees play an instrumental role in promotion of health, hygiene and sanitation in the camps. Another good example of the success is that in September 2003, three graduates of the skills training centre found a job: one woman started to work at the hairdresser's in Baku, while two others joined a sewing workshop in Sabirabad. Different competitions and quizzes, give an opportunity to children to enhance their intellectual capacity and improve their physical state.

**Constraints:** The project envisaged initiation of a number of new community development activities in Sabirabad, as well as expansion of some of the old ones to local settlements. However, during the course of the operation, it has become obvious that the national society was not ready yet for new challenges because of its capacity. Its work, therefore, was limited to maintaining the activities inherited from the Federation – work with existing women committees and children as well as skills training for IDPs.

In parallel, however, efforts were made to strengthen skills and professionalism of Red Crescent branch staff. A number of training sessions were conducted to encourage them to be innovative. This has had an effect. Towards the end of the year, the branch started to identify vulnerable communities in the areas surrounding the camps. On its own initiative, it contacted local NGOs to provide training for women committees on community development related issues and introduced training for its beneficiaries in planning and sustainability. This is a tiny but significant step. The work, however, has to continue to diversify activities of the branch and reach more vulnerable people in local communities too.

In an effort to improve living conditions of IDPs, the Government resettled more than 50% of the southern camp residents in mid year 2003. Others are planned to be moved to new accommodations by the end of 2004. The Red Crescent is planning to continue its work with those remaining in the camp and organise further training for existing women committees, various sport games for children and skills training – hairdressing, bakery and sewing – for others. In addition, the Red Crescent plans to initiate psycho-social counselling for community members to help them cope with trauma caused by the years of displacement and harsh living conditions. Efforts will also be directed towards expanding the community development work to three local communities which will include traditional community development work and other core Red Crescent activities such as health and care, first aid, disaster management and work with youth.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal:** Behaviour in the community is influenced and discrimination is reduced. A culture of non-violence and non-discrimination is promoted.

**Objective:** Through advocacy, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent promotes the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and at the same time, promotes the culture of non-violence and non-discrimination as committed to in the Berlin Charter.

**Expected result 1:** The national society has a well-planned and pro-active communication strategy. Through provision of computer equipment to the seven regional centres, internal communication and information techniques are improved.

**Achievements:** The Red Crescent drafted a communication strategy and submitted it to the executive secretary for review. The strategy is due to be approved by the Presidium before it can be shared internally. The final version of the communication strategy will be submitted to the Presidium of Azerbaijan Red Crescent in January 2004.

In tandem, the Red Crescent supported its branches in Sumgayit, Lenkoran and Mingeçaur to establish internet/e-mail communication systems. The e-mail connection works well. Regional branches receive regularly various reports, promotion materials, pictures and press clippings.

Supported by the Government of the United States of America through International Research and Exchanges Board, the Red Crescent also developed a web page reflecting various activities of the organisations. The page was updated twice during the year. By the end of the year, the Red Crescent also purchased a private domain [www.redcrescent.az](http://www.redcrescent.az) and will transfer soon its web site.

**Impact:** The communication strategy will serve as a basis for providing clarity and direction for Red Crescent communications activities at national and regional levels. It will ensure consistency in decision making throughout the organisation as well as defining the boundaries for the conduct of its staff.

Thanks to the improved communication systems, volunteers and staff in regions share information with the headquarters timely. A good example is the recent floods in south-eastern regions of the country. The local committees sent information rapidly to the headquarters on the extent of damage caused by the disaster. This information then formed the basis for the effective response operation.

**Constraints:** Occasional power cuts disrupt the email connection with Lenkoran.

**Expected result 2:** Higher awareness among the population of Azerbaijan of the humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles was achieved through nationwide campaigns in media and through distribution of materials and education on recognition and respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem, as well as campaigns against discrimination, violence and stigmatization.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been disseminating humanitarian values and fundamental principles across the country by distributing awareness materials - notebooks, posters, brochures and calendars - through branches and at various training sessions/workshops.

Red Crescent has been regularly promoting its programmes through local and international media. Its projects were highlighted in 13 local newspapers both in Azeri and English languages. During the year, 31 TV reports on Azerbaijan Red Crescent activities were broadcasted by four local as well as two international TV channels - Turkish STV and Commonwealth of Independent States' "MIR" TV. The leadership of the national society gave few live interviews to local TV channels. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent also signed the agreement with the TV channel "Lider" that broadcasted 13 weekly TV programmes about Red Crescent work. A Red Crescent film on earthquake and HIV/AIDS response was shown too. In all these programmes and stories, the message was about humanity, tolerance, compassion and coexistence.

Promotion of humanitarian values was an integral part of nationwide campaigns on voluntary blood donation launched by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in May. More than 155 people took part and 96 of them became donors for children suffering with thalassemia.

Red Crescent volunteers also organised a campaign against tobacco, in cooperation with one of the leading national newspapers, in which the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values were key core components.

Within its efforts to promote a culture of non-violence and non-discrimination, the Red Crescent raises awareness of HIV/AIDS among young people. In addition to training to help them take sound decisions and prevent transmission by encouraging healthy living, the Red Crescent contributes to building a tolerant society through public discussions and campaigns. On international day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, for instance, the video *AIDS. Take care!* was screened in several restaurants throughout the day and Red Crescent volunteers distributed leaflets about HIV/AIDS.

Ten Red Crescent volunteers in Baku participated in a campaign 'clean town' organised by a local newspaper in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology in July 2003. Red Crescent volunteers together with journalists of the newspaper cleaned central streets and parks of Baku city. They talked with pedestrians urging them to keep the place clean from bottles, papers, packages or cigarette stubs.

The Red Crescent invited journalists to spend 24 hours with refugee and IDP children from Sabirabad in the summer camp in Zagulba. Life and interests of these children were then widely highlighted in a local newspaper.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent organised a drawing competition on 'help the one who's next to you'. 300 school children from five regions took part in it. The best drawings were exhibited at the Red Crescent headquarters in Baku on 8 May. Winners were presented with diplomas and presents.

The national society has a network of volunteers across the country organising seminars and public awareness campaigns on humanitarian values in their regions. Volunteers through distribution of leaflets and posters spread information about the Red Crescent and its work.

**Impact:** Through dozens of stories published about the plight of thousands of vulnerable people assisted by the Red Crescent, it is hoped, people will become kinder and more tolerant. Various campaigns on voluntary blood donation, harm of tobacco, HIV/AIDS and many others, spread the message of humanity among people in a hope this will encourage respect for human being and contribute to the formation of the civil society free of prejudices, violence and discrimination.

**Constraints:** More needs to be done to spread the message of the power of humanity in order to bring about a change in the behaviour of people, increase tolerance and mutual understanding. The National Society recognizes

the need to have a more focused approach to this work and to profile and project these issues in more depth and more widely. It will continue to build on its dissemination and information capacity and develop promotional initiatives aimed at building a culture of non-violence in the resolution of community differences.

**Expected result 3:** Existing tools of the Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, such as youth guidelines in the Russian version, the CD "From Principles to Action", and the "Seven steps for seven principles" manual were shared at the headquarters, seven regional centers and 83 local branches, all for 170 staff and 830 volunteers.

**Achievements:** The Red Crescent trained 14 volunteers from Mingechaur, Ganja, Sumgayit, Sabirabad, Lenkoran and Nakhchivan regions on basic communication and information systems. The CD 'From Principles to Action' was one of the main tools used by the Red Crescent at the training. Among other issues, the training covered topics such as:

- work with media;
- organisation of training, seminars, meetings, presentations and conferences;
- development of promotion materials (information bulletin, brochure, posters);
- increasing awareness of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the humanitarian values, as well as the International Humanitarian Law and Fundamental Principles.

Volunteers received Russian copies of the CD to continue training in their regions. They also received a number of promotional materials developed by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent such as its annual magazine 'Charity', brochures and leaflets about Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement so that they could distribute them among their colleagues and friends in the regions.

Two Red Crescent volunteers in Mingechaur trained another five volunteers on humanitarian values and the importance of volunteerism. On International Volunteers Day, the Red Crescent volunteers in Mingechaur conducted a seminar about the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, as well as the history of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent for 40 other volunteers. During the seminar the cartoon 'the history of an idea' was shown to participants.

**Impact:** More people within the Red Crescent know about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They have better understanding of Humanitarian Values. Volunteers strengthened their communication skills.

**Constraints:** Basic information on the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values is now included in all training, but this will need to be developed.

The CD 'from principles to action' is an effective tool, however, few branches could use them in their training as few branches have computers.

## **Federation Coordination**

**Goal:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has become a dynamic and well-functioning national society through the assistance of the Federation.

**Objective:** Through the coordinating role of the Federation, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has established a strong relationship with all stakeholders, which enables it to make the best use of available resources.

**Expected result 1:** Bilateral and multilateral programmes/projects were coordinated to ensure that the priority programmes of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent were supported and maximum impact was achieved in capacity building and through its assistance to the most vulnerable.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent cooperates with all components of the Movement, including bilateral partners, as well as government counterparts and non-governmental organisations.

The main partners supporting the Azerbaijan Red Crescent through the Federation are Swedish, Norwegian, the Netherlands and British Red Cross Societies. On a bilateral basis, the Netherlands Red Cross has been assisting

the national society to repair the homes of elderly and others in need in remote mountainous regions. The Norwegian Red Cross had a youth exchange programme with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. Bilateral contacts have been established between Baku Regional Center and Nedre Eike local branch of the Norwegian Red Cross. The Iranian Red Crescent supported the Red Crescent in Azerbaijan through training on disaster management. In addition, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent works closely and receives support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), especially in the areas of dissemination and tracing.

The Federation Secretariat through its delegations in Baku and Ankara coordinates and facilitates humanitarian engagement. The Federation has been working in Azerbaijan for more than ten years, providing technical and financial support to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in its assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation has also been supporting the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to develop new strategic partnerships with country-based international agencies/organizations. For example, with the Federation's technical assistance, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent developed a project on community based first aid, which was submitted for funding to an oil company based in Azerbaijan.

Another good illustration of effective partnership is the rapid response of the Red Crescent to devastating floods in south eastern regions of Azerbaijan. Following the needs assessment, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent supported by the Federation prepared a request for emergency assistance and presented to local donors and counterparts of the Red Crescent. Several local partners such as USAID and national societies in the region - Turkish Red Crescent and Iranian Red Crescent responded to the request and contributed to the operation.

The Red Crescent continued its successful cooperation with Statoil, European Commission Exceptional Assistance Programme (EXAP) and Exxon, who provided financial support to the national society to help thousands of IDPs in the southern camps survive before they could return home. Their contribution helped to repatriate IDPs to their native village in Fizuli and reduce their dependency on external assistance.

The Federation took initiative to meet health authorities in the flooded areas in Sabirabad, Salyan and Neftchala. As a result of the Federation's advocacy, the Red Crescent in cooperation with local health personnel conducted a health awareness campaign among the floods affected population to avert the outbreak of epidemics. Leaflets and posters on anti malaria measures and diarrhoea were distributed.

Another good example of effective partnership is cooperation of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with the National Blood Transfusion Centre. As reported above, the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding, according to which the national society has undertaken to assist the centre to recruit blood donors through awareness campaigns and community mobilization.

Remarkable was cooperation of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with a local NGO "Hayat" within the branch development project. A community development expert from "Hayat" helped the national society conduct workshops on community development. Their consultation was equally important during community survey.

**Impact:** The long term engagement of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Azerbaijan has had an impact, particularly during the last few years. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent continues to become more effective at reducing vulnerability.

Strategic partnerships between the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and country-based international, as well as nation organisations/agencies will help the Society strengthen its position as a key humanitarian player in Azerbaijan.

The Red Crescent has established good cooperation with local health authorities including the Hygiene and Epidemiology centre in Sabirabad. This was the first time in recent years that the Red Crescent and health authorities at districts level conducted a joint activity.

Experience with "Hayat" helped Red Crescent branches understand better the concept of community development in the local context and contributed to the effective implementation of the project's initial phases such as mapping needs and capacities of the targeted communities, community survey and establishment of community initiative groups.

**Constraints:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has to be more proactive in developing effective networking. The Federation will continue to strengthen coordination with the UN and NGOs as well as various international organisations, who seek to optimise their support to vulnerable people.

**Expected result 2:** The cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) is finalised, adopted and being implemented by the end of 2003, contributing to strong working relationships between the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and stakeholders inside and outside of the country.

**Achievements:** No progress has been made during the reported period. The CAS will be updated after the Red Crescent has finalised its strategic work plan.

**Impact:** CAS will be a key tool in the Federation's efforts to coordinate the programming of various partners. It will help the National Society articulate in what areas it requires support and how its action will fit into a broader and coordinated humanitarian effort to assist vulnerable communities in Azerbaijan

**Constraints:** The CAS process will be launched next year establishing partnership between the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, other components of the Movement and external humanitarian actors.

## International Representation

**Goal:** Recognition for the image, accountability and ability of the Federation and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in their efforts to reduce vulnerability by mobilizing the power of humanity.

**Objective:** To continue to advocate the Federation's Strategy 2010 and policies as well as the priorities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent within Azerbaijan and the region.

**Expected result 1.** National society and Federation staff contribute to the overall goal in international as well as national forums by promoting the seven Fundamental Principles, the Federation's Strategy 2010 and the strategy and programmes of the national society.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent and Federation representatives attended a number of coordination meetings with key humanitarian actors in and outside the country promoting Federation policies, Strategy 2010 and the Fundamental Principles. To list a few:

- In March 2003, representatives of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, Federation Baku Delegation and National Blood Transfusion Centre visited the Norwegian Red Cross to share experience and knowledge on blood donor recruitment with their Norwegian colleagues.
- In September 2003, HIV/AIDS programme coordinator and head of the youth/volunteers department participated in an annual meeting of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) in Latvia. During the meeting, the European National Societies shared experience and discussed how to contribute to the global fight against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.
- At the XVIII International Conference held in November 2003 in Geneva, Azerbaijan Red Crescent was elected a member of the Federation's Disaster Preparedness and Relief Commission. President of Azerbaijan Red Crescent was elected an expert of this commission.
- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent's youth/volunteers and dissemination departments participated in an international conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth Coalition for Peace and Friendship on 16-18 September 2003 in Shiraz, Iran.

**Impact:** The Federation's role in Azerbaijan as an effective coordinator of programme in the core areas is maximized.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent makes efforts to improve cooperation with other national societies as well as local and international agencies. Participation in different forums, knowledge sharing and best practice experience helps the Red Crescent strengthen professionalism resulting in better services to beneficiaries.

**Constraints:** The Red Crescent has made progress in strengthening cooperation with various humanitarian actors. Work, however, needs to continue.

**Expected result 2.** The national society has increased its presence and voice in the national as well as regional fora and coordinates with the Federation its work vis-à-vis the government and donor organizations to mobilize resources to implement its priority programmes.

**Achievements:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been advocated with the government as well as other humanitarian actors on the needs of the flood-affected population. Advocacy in favour of people affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as the need to address intolerance in the community, have been important tasks of the Society's efforts. Remarkable is the Red Crescent advocacy initiatives to the Government and other stakeholders to draw their attention on the needs of large groups of refugees and internally displaced people who years after they fled the war and destruction in Nagorno-Karabakh, continue to depend on external aid.

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

**Appeal No & title: 01.78/2003 Azerbaijan**

Period: year 2003

Project(s): PAZ008, 020, 022, 160, 161, 164, 301, 302, 401, 402, 501, 572, 573, 580,

Currency: CHF

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	1,896,238				
less					
Cash brought forward	654,420				
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>1,241,818</b>				
<b>Contributions from Donors</b>					
Donor - Capacity Building Fund (DCBF)	91,717				91,717
ECHO - AZ SOUTHERN CAMPS/Fin RC/1018 (DE1018)	10,924				10,924
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	11,715				11,715
Netherlands Govt.via Netherlands RC (DGNNL)	154,300				154,300
New Zealand Red Cross (DNNZ)	16,705				16,705
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN02)	19,808				19,808
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN03)	387,189				387,189
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN0)	219				219
Norwegian Red Cross Bosnia contract (DNNO3)	43,021				43,021
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	31				31
Statoil (DPS021)	67,391				67,391
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross # (DGNSE2)	278				278
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	8,614				8,614
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	230,056				230,056
Swiss Government (DGCH)	200,590				200,590
United States - Private Donor (DPUS08)	11,223				11,223
ICELAND				73,000	73,000
NETHERLANDS				61,400	61,400
NORWAY				24,600	24,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,253,780</b>			<b>159,000</b>	<b>1,412,780</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

OPENING	654,420
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	1,253,780
CASH EXPENDITURE	(1,362,470)
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CASH BALANCE	545,730

Appeal No & title: 01.78/2003 Azerbaijan

Period: year 2003

Project(s): PAZ008, 020, 022, 160, 161, 164, 301, 302, 401, 402, 501, 572, 573, 580,

Currency: CHF

**III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	315,830	96,802			96,802	219,028
Clothing & Textiles	28,010	19,510			19,510	8,500
Food & Seeds	9,204	51,050			51,050	(41,846)
Water & sanitation		189			189	(189)
Medical & First Aid	32,500	24,075			24,075	8,425
Teaching materials	52,450	9,916			9,916	42,534
Utensils & Tools	11,250	24,622			24,622	(13,372)
Other relief supplies	50,968	(792)			(792)	51,760
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>500,212</b>	<b>225,372</b>			<b>225,372</b>	<b>274,840</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings	19,602					19,602
Vehicles		44,561			44,561	(44,561)
Computers & Telecom equip.	29,850	28,938			28,938	912
Medical equipment		(654)			(654)	654
Other capital expenditures		32,512			32,512	(32,512)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>49,452</b>	<b>105,357</b>			<b>105,357</b>	<b>(55,905)</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>						
Warehouse & distribution	30,921	16,761			16,761	14,160
Transport & vehicles	126,922	131,992			131,992	(5,070)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>157,843</b>	<b>148,753</b>			<b>148,753</b>	<b>9,090</b>
<u>PERSONNEL &amp; TRAINING</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	207,800	90,722		159,000	249,722	(41,922)
Personnel (regional, national staff)	410,274	417,512			417,512	(7,238)
Consultants	14,300	304			304	13,996
Workshops & training	98,129	48,967			48,967	49,162
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>730,503</b>	<b>557,505</b>		<b>159,000</b>	<b>716,505</b>	<b>13,998</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Travel & related expenses	26,384	33,335			33,335	(6,951)
Information expenses	141,240	86,436			86,436	54,804
Admin./general expenses	167,349	107,489			107,489	59,860
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>334,973</b>	<b>227,259</b>			<b>227,259</b>	<b>107,714</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
	123,255	98,224			98,224	25,031
Operational provisions						
Transfers & contributions						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,896,238</b>	<b>1,362,470</b>		<b>159,000</b>	<b>1,521,470</b>	<b>374,768</b>