

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Azerbaijan

Appeal no. 01.77/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Below: click on programme title to go to relevant text and figure to go to country programme budget

Programme title	2004 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Health and care	196,558
Disaster management	507,628
Organisational development.	605,339
Total	1,309,522¹

¹ USD 998,000 or EUR 844,000.

National Context

The humanitarian challenges confronting Azerbaijan are significant. The World Bank classifies Azerbaijan as a poorly developed country, despite socio-economic progress over the past few years. 50 per cent of households are considered poor and 17 per cent very poor. The continued territorial dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unresolved. The large number of internally displaced persons has been the most visible sign of the conflict. Almost 10 years after the ceasefire in 1994, more than 570,000 people displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts continue to live in precarious conditions. Resettlement is progressing slowly. Return programmes remain limited. A fragile social support system, poor public health and vulnerability to disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, exacerbate the situation. As a result,



vulnerable groups remain marginalised. The Federation's 'traditional' groups of beneficiaries – elderly living alone, disabled, chronically ill patients and internally displaced – continue to depend largely on external support.

The development indicators below reveal the extent of the challenge to empower those most in need. Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes, supported by this Appeal, seek to contribute to a coordinated effort to reduce vulnerability in the country.

Azerbaijan development indicators at a glance

(Source: www.undp.org/hdr2003)

Total population (2001)	8.2 million
Annual population growth rate (2001-15)	1%
Life expectancy at birth (2001)	71.8 years
Infant mortality rate	74 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate	80 per 100,000 live births
People living with HIV/AIDS age 15-49 (2001)	<0.10%
Public expenditure on health (1990-2000)	1990: 2.7 % of GDP 200: 0.6% of GDP
GDP per capita annual growth rate (1990-2001)	-1.3%
People living below USD 1 a day (1990-2001)	3.7%
Adult literacy rate (age 15 and above)	97%
Internally Displaced People (2001)	573,000

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

National Society Strategy:

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has had a considerable role in meeting the country's humanitarian challenges. The national society is one of the oldest organisations in Azerbaijan. It was founded in 1920 and recognised by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1995. It has a network of seven regional centres and 83 local committees, 166,000 members and 14,000 volunteers across the country.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has consistently responded to social and health vulnerabilities, as well as, natural disasters that have affected thousands of people during the last decade. With the support of the Federation and partner national societies, it continues to deliver better services to people in need. In 2003, the Red Crescent revised its statutes – in conformity with the Federation's global guidance for national society statutes – to make the organisation more effective in supporting vulnerable communities.

After consultations with key stakeholders, primarily its beneficiaries, the Red Crescent identified the most pressing needs in communities and how best the Red Crescent could address these. From this process a strategic work plan was drawn up, focusing on the following priorities:

- strengthening disaster management mechanisms,
- developing community-based health and care programmes with a focus on preventive measures and increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS,
- promoting humanitarian values with a focus on branch development through a participatory community development approach,
- reducing vulnerability of youth, and
- strengthening volunteerism.

The strategic work plan of the Red Crescent is in line with Strategy 2010 – the Federation's main mission and programme priorities document – and the Berlin Charter adopted by European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in April 2002.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context:

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 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 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.

The challenge facing the Red Crescent is to build on achievements. To this end, the overall goal of the Federation's 2004 appeal is to **help the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society strengthen its capacity to support the country's most vulnerable people**. The Federation secretariat strives to gradually hand over responsibility for activities to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, phasing out the Federation's presence in the country.

The assistance sought in this country programme is in line with the national society's strategy and is guided by the Federation's plan of action for 2004-2007. It aims to 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 (organisational development).

The Federation and other components of the Movement will continue to coordinate with the authorities and humanitarian actors. In addition, the Federation Secretariat will promote the Red Crescent and its policies in the international arena as well as create awareness of the conditions and issues facing those people affected by disasters.

The Federation will support the Red Crescent through its delegation in Azerbaijan. Technical expertise will also be offered from a regional delegation in Ankara. Since January 2003, the delegation in Turkey has assumed responsibilities for the southern Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – as well as Turkey.

The Federation's regional team has expertise in a variety of fields, including planning, reporting, organisational development, disaster preparedness and response. Training, consultations and coaching will be provided. The regional delegation will also promote networking, partnerships and knowledge sharing between the national societies.

Strengthening the National Society

1. Health and Care [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

The health challenges facing Azerbaijan are considerable. 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 (see development indicators above). Despite more immunisation, measles and whooping cough are still widespread.

The rate of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is also increasing. The national AIDS prevention centre estimated in July 2003 that 555 people had HIV/AIDS. 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.



Safe blood can save lives: Red Crescent staff donates blood to children ill with thalassemia.

Thousands of people require blood transfusions. This life saving procedure can put patients at risk if the blood is contaminated. Most transfusion centres have not been testing blood to screen for such things as HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and C. Additionally, the number of donors has 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 crisis. Insufficient blood reserves in the country contribute to the growth of morbidity and mortality. The UNDP has been trying to help the Government raise funds to address this critical issue. In 2002, the Norwegian Government allocated USD 500,000 to assist the Ministry of Health to establish safe blood banks. However, these banks need constant replenishment.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been working to improve community health since its inception. In the 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. The Red Crescent concentrates on community-based activities, particularly reproductive health, nutrition and raising health awareness, including of HIV/AIDS.

The Red Crescent has made considerable progress. It has a health promoter in every regional centre enabling it to reach more people. Through health education, vulnerable communities are more conscious about how to prevent disease. In 2002-2003, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent trained 43 volunteers as health promoters. They have since worked with 28,000 internally displaced people and communities in the southern camps and settlements in Darnagul, Surakhani, Narimanov, Yasamal and Binegedi. The volunteers have raised awareness of reproductive health, family planning, nutrition, personal hygiene, infectious and preventable diseases and the importance of immunisation

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is part of a global effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since 2001, the organisation has been providing peer education among teenagers. Seventy-nine volunteers, trained as trainers, have been discussing information on HIV/AIDS prevention with young people. Additionally, Red Crescent volunteers have been organising weekly seminars on HIV/AIDS in cooperation with the Sexual Transmissions Infections Treatment Clinic. Over the last two years, 1,102 people attended these seminars.



Being proactive: Red Crescent volunteers distribute brochures on HIV/AIDS at the Zagubala beach

Education and risk reduction are both effective ways of reducing the rate of HIV/AIDS. In 2004, the Red Crescent will continue to promote awareness among its staff and volunteers of this illness. Red Crescent members, volunteers and staff will be encouraged to be knowledgeable on HIV/AIDS prevention so that they in turn can help others. The national society will also strengthen youth peer education initiatives in schools and elsewhere to promote healthier attitudes and behaviour among young people. The Red Crescent will continue to tackle discrimination of people living with AIDS. Removing the stigma associated with the illness will help reduce its spread.

A system of voluntary, regular non-remunerated blood donation is widely recognised as a proven way to provide safer blood. 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 will assist the centre to recruit blood donors through awareness campaigns and community mobilisation. Representatives of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, Federation Baku delegation and National Blood Transfusion Centre visited the Norwegian Red Cross in March 2003 to learn from their experience of blood donor recruitment.

Progress has been made, but more needs to be done, including better cooperation with other humanitarian actors. Partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Centre, Ministry of Health, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and other organisations will strengthen the auxiliary role of the Red Crescent to the Government in reducing health vulnerabilities in Azerbaijan.

Goal: Health vulnerability of people of Azerbaijan has reduced.

Objective: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society is a key humanitarian actor contributing to improving health of vulnerable people with a focus on preventive health.

Expected Results:

- **Health promotion and education:** Knowledge of target communities of basic health problems – reproductive health, personal hygiene, prevention of infectious disease, nutrition and immunisation – has improved.
- **HIV/AIDS:** The risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS has reduced through strengthened Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to conduct improved awareness activities.
- **Volunteer blood donor recruitment:** The number of non-remunerated blood donors in the country has increased.

2. Disaster Management [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

Azerbaijan is at risk from a range of complex emergencies. Since its independence a decade ago, the country has suffered economic collapse, crushing poverty, disintegration of its social welfare and health systems, mass population movements, and recurring political and military conflicts. It 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.



Building from the ground: Red Crescent volunteers strengthen dams in floods-affected villages

The country is also politically vulnerable. 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.

Technological development of the country has had a downside. For instance, consequences of oil exploration and the growing (often illegal) deforestation are having significant environmental impacts, such as on fisheries in the Caspian Sea and economic bio-resources. The problem of deforestation is compounded by people in rural areas, as well as settlements of

IDPs and refugees, continuing to rely on traditional firewood for heating and cooking because of a lack of electricity and gas supplies. The Apsheron Peninsula with Baku and Sumgait and the Caspian Sea have been particularly hit by pollution to air, water and soil. One significant cause is the high use of DDT pesticide.

Mechanisms to counter the effects of disasters and emergencies in Azerbaijan are weak. Since 1999 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been trying to improve its disaster management capacities and empower local communities to reduce their vulnerability during emergencies. In every region mobile volunteer teams have been trained to provide assistance to those affected by small-scale crises and raise community awareness of disaster management. More recently, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent developed its disaster management policy. It conducted a nationwide vulnerability and capacity assessment to establish a picture of needs and appropriate response. There was also a focus on enhancing skills of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, with support from the Federation and partner national societies. Warehouses were established in four regions to ensure quick and effective response.

Findings from a 2003 assessment indicate that vulnerability in Azerbaijan is still mostly caused by the socio-economic crisis. Elderly people living alone were the most exposed because of insufficient access to social and health services. Large families living in far-flung areas also remain in need of help. In 2002, the Red Crescent established a mobile technical team as an integral part of its disaster management initiatives. The focus was on Geranboy, Khanlar and Samukh regions in western Azerbaijan. Since then the team has repaired 176 homes. Through this work living conditions have been improved and community health vulnerability reduced.

The plight of lone elderly people, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and large families, remains desperate. Lone elderly people receive a monthly pension from the Government equivalent of 20 USD. The continued territorial dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh means thousands of IDPs remain in need. External funding is sought through this appeal to help the Red Crescent mobile technical team to alleviate some of the suffering of these abandoned groups.

First aid has been an important part of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's disaster management efforts. Through training, the Red Crescent has been strengthening capacity of local communities to deal with day-to-day incidents as well as more serious challenges. The Red Crescent started its first aid programme in 1996. The initial focus was on training volunteers and then communities. Later, first aid manuals in Azeri and English were developed, printed and distributed. A number of leaflets on Red Crescent first aid services were also produced for communities who can afford to pay for services to increase their interest in the Red Crescent's first aid training. In 1996-1999, efforts were made to strengthen first aid capacities in regions. Seven first aid instructors in each regional centre received first aid certificates approved by the Ministry of Education. The instructors then trained other staff and volunteers in branches. In 1999-2003, training for vulnerable communities has continued lowering their risk. Since 1996, the Red Crescent trained over 15,700 people. Recently, the Red Crescent received the European First Aid Certificate².



Bridging the gap: Red Crescent volunteers teach local communities basic first aid skills

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has good links with the government and non-governmental organisations. Its disaster management initiatives are part of a coordinated effort to reduce vulnerabilities in the country. The Red Crescent is a member of a state emergency commission, but it has to yet position itself as an effective partner in the Government's national disaster preparedness and response plan. The plan is being developed as a priority.

The national society has many characteristics that make it an effective supporter of vulnerable people. However, there are several areas that need to be improved. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has to build adequate human resources and structures for effective disaster response. As the only national community-based organisation, the

Red Crescent must strengthen its links with all communities. Training for mobile volunteer groups as well as pre-positioning of emergency stockpiles in each region will be a priority too. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent needs to train more first aid trainers at grassroots level to strengthen disaster management capacities of local communities. First aid training for vulnerable communities through trained volunteers will, therefore, continue. Additionally, the Red Crescent will market its first aid courses to those who can pay. An integral part of its disaster management initiatives is home repairs to lone elderly and other vulnerable groups in remote areas.

The Federation's appeal 2004-2005 is based on lessons learned. It is drawn from an integrated plan to strengthen the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's ability to support vulnerable people. It complements the work of other components of the Movement. The Federation through its country delegation will assist the Red Crescent to reduce community risk via better preparedness, response and recovery initiatives. The Federation's regional delegation in Ankara will offer additional technical support. A regional disaster response team is planned. Such a team would better use existing national society capacity in the region and provide more effective help to those in need. The regional disaster response team will address food, health and shelter needs. It will also work in food security, nutrition, construction, advocacy via the media and other specialised areas. The regional delegation in Ankara would oversee training.

² The European First Aid certificate – issued by the Reference Centre in Paris to confirm that services meet certain standards – was introduced by the Red Cross Societies of the European Union in May 1993, on recommendations of a working group on First-Aid education. The certificate is recognised across Europe.

Goal: Vulnerability of the population of Azerbaijan to disasters has reduced.

Objective: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a key humanitarian actor contributing to strengthening coping mechanisms of vulnerable communities and providing effective support to victims of disasters.

Expected Results:

- **Disaster preparedness and response:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has developed a comprehensive disaster management structure at the secretariat and branch levels with greater capacity in disaster response.
- **First Aid:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened capacities to provide effective and sustainable first aid training to communities through trained volunteers at all levels.
- **Mobile technical team:** Living conditions of lone elderly and other vulnerable groups in remote areas have improved through minor home repairs provided by Azerbaijan Red Crescent mobile technical team.

3. Humanitarian values [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

Promotion of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles – including humanity – is a priority area of Red Crescent work in Azerbaijan. It strives to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and encourage respect for human beings. It also attempts to reaffirm respect for International Humanitarian Law and human rights. The Red Crescent is in a unique position to bring this about through its mandate, presence in all parts of the country and national network of volunteers.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been promoting humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles through its programmes, training and public awareness campaigns. In 2003, some 120 seminars were conducted for over 3,000 Red Crescent staff and volunteers so they better understand how humanity and other Red Cross and Red Crescent principles can bring people together.



Reaching communities: Through competitions, the Red Crescent strengthens knowledge of the Movement and its Fundamental Principles among children in IDP camps.

The Red Crescent has been participating in the Federation’s global campaign against HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination. Promoting humanitarian values was an integral part of its nationwide campaign on voluntary blood donation launched in May 2003. More than 70 people took part, 45 of whom, gave blood for children suffering with thalassemia. Red Crescent volunteers also organised a campaign against tobacco, in cooperation with a leading national newspaper.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent regularly promotes its programmes, through local media and internationally through Federation communication channels, such as its website. Several press briefings and articles have raised understanding of the Red Crescent’s work and mandate. Additionally, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent receives support from the ICRC for dissemination and tracing activities, in which the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values are core components.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent will step up efforts to profile tolerance and discrimination issues, in coordination with the Federation’s global action to reduce violence in the community. The Federation will help the national society strengthen its information capacity and develop activities to promote a culture of non-violence and respect for diversity in the resolution of differences. The message of humanity will be spread among larger groups of the population. Attention will be directed to promote respect between drivers and pedestrians to increase safety on

roads. Increasingly, young people and volunteers will act as agents to change behaviour and increase mutual understanding in communities, and within the organisation.

Goal: Behaviour of people has changed to increase tolerance, non-discrimination, mutual understanding and respect for human beings.

Objective: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened capacities to promote a culture of non-violence and non-discrimination.

Expected Results:

- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society advocates for and with vulnerable people on better safety on roads, and reduced harm of drugs and stigmatisation.
- The image of the national society as one of the key humanitarian actors in the country preventing and alleviating suffering of vulnerable people and addressing issues of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for human beings has increased, taking benefit of the Federation's global action to reduce discrimination and violence in the community.

4. Organisational Development

[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

Organisational development supported by the Federation aims to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of Red Crescent service delivery to vulnerable communities. It is one of the priorities of the national society reflected in its strategic work plan for 2003-2005.

In 2002, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent initiated a self-assessment to check that its programmes are responsive to local needs and focused on the areas where the organisation can have the greatest impact. The leadership of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is committed to change. The Red Crescent revised its statutes to create a solid foundation and separation of governance and management to increase the organisation's effectiveness.

Because branches work in communities and know best what are the local needs and opportunities, it is vital that they are strengthened. Community-based initiatives – such as the Sabirabad branch's assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) from Nagorno-Karabakh – have reinforced self-reliance.

An evaluation of the Sabirabad community development project revealed a need to improve programme management capacity at branch and regional levels. Based on these findings, a pilot branch development project to bring the national society closer to communities was initiated in mid 2003. It was based in the Red Crescent's two regional centres and six local committees. Initial steps have been made and efforts will continue in 2004. Stronger branches will work with communities so they are stronger and better able to be involved in decisions directly affecting their lives.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, supported by the Federation, has assisted IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh since 1993. Its initial focus was on large emergency relief to help people living in seven camps in Sabirabad, Saatli and Bilasuvar. Over the years, however, priorities have shifted to stimulate IDPs to take a more proactive role in their own development. Consequently, a number of community development projects have been initiated. The projects worked particularly with women, children and lone elderly people. Initiatives have included out-of-school activities – drama, fine art, folklore and chess tournaments – for children and various skills training, such as sewing, knitting, hairdressing, shoe repair and mechanics, for others.

The return of IDPs to their homes remains unlikely. Community development initiatives have to be strengthened in the current difficult circumstances of lower international support as well as political, social and economic instability. Red Crescent branches will continue to help integrate IDPs into local communities. Since January 2003, the Federation handed over the project to the Red Crescent regional centre in Sabirabad. This was an important step towards strengthening the sustainability of community development initiatives. Plans for 2004-2005 envisage extending community development activities to local vulnerable communities too. Assistance to IDPs is an integral part of Red Crescent branch development.

Another priority area is volunteers. Statistically, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has more than 14,000 volunteers. They are the backbone of all Red Crescent activities, helping the National Society run successful programmes and assisting thousands of vulnerable people in need. The dedication of volunteers reduces the cost of activities and enables the Red Crescent to reach more people. The spirit of volunteering brings alive the Red Crescent's commitment to humanity. Their motivation and energy inspires other people to join their work. Many give when they are in need themselves. However, because of Azerbaijan's socio-economic difficulties, widespread poverty and high unemployment, it is difficult to retain volunteers.



Helping hand: IDP women in the southern camps receive valuable skills training.

In the past two years, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society has made considerable progress in the organisational development of youth and volunteers. Communication between the headquarters and regional centres has improved. There is regular information flow between the youth department at headquarters and volunteers countrywide. In addition, the Red Crescent publishes and distributes a monthly youth bulletin to share knowledge and experience of volunteers from different regions. In 2003, the Red Crescent started to develop an electronic database of volunteers. It has improved the recruitment system and ensures volunteers are more involved in training and other Red Crescent programmes. Furthermore, a module training system is being developed to improve the capacities of volunteers.

Recently, the Red Crescent initiated a process to organise volunteers in formal structures at national and regional level. This enabled volunteers to participate in decision-making within the Red Crescent. Central and regional youth and volunteer boards have been established. Also, the Red Crescent developed a youth policy to acknowledge 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. In 2003, for the first time, the central board participated in international forums as a governing body of the Red Crescent youth in Azerbaijan

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is working towards understanding how to make volunteers more valued members of the organisation. The aim is to develop an effective system to recruit, manage and retain volunteers. Focus will be on young people, as they can act as agents of change in shaping the future of the country and the Red Crescent.

The Red Crescent is trying to strengthen links with communities it works so that projects are more focused and responsive to local needs. To achieve this, the Red Crescent supported by the Federation has focused on improving its programme planning and management skills. In 2003, headquarters staff were trained on the standard Federation planning tool, the project planning process (PPP). The process continued through regular meetings with programme managers, coaching and on-the-job training. Progress has been made, but programme planning and management skills at branch and community levels also need strengthening. Training planned for 2004 within the current programme will be an integral part of the Red Crescent's branch development efforts, which have been intensified over the last few years. In 2003, the national society leadership visited a number of branches and local committees to encourage more focused activities at local level and strengthened partnerships with



Needs focused: the work of volunteers with orphans and disabled children is a priority

communities, government authorities and other organisations.

In an environment of declining international support, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent needs to diversify its financial sources to ensure it provides sustainable assistance to the country's vulnerable people. In 2003, the Red Crescent established a committee to coordinate all national society fundraising activities. Income generation initiatives of past years have had little success. The Red Crescent needs to develop new ways to generate funds from a wider range of sources. As part of this initiative, the Red Crescent plans to systematise its membership scheme so that it is a more constant source of income generation.

The Federation's regional delegation in Ankara will support the national society to strengthen its financial management system to ensure greater transparency and accountability to donors, partners and beneficiaries.

Goal: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has positioned itself as an effective partner to vulnerable communities supporting them to confront their challenges.

Objective: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a better functioning national society providing assistance with greater impact and relevance to vulnerable communities.

Expected Results:

- **Programme planning and management skills development:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened capacity to provide more responsive and focused services to vulnerable people by strengthening programme planning and management skills of its staff and volunteers, systematising its membership scheme and diversifying financial sources.
- **Branch development:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has stronger branches contributing to empowering communities to exercise the basic right to be involved in decisions directly affecting their lives.
- **Community Development:** The national society has increased capacity to improve self-reliance of internally displaced persons and local vulnerable communities.
- **Youth development:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has a more participative youth volunteer network assisting in the provision of services to vulnerable communities.

5. Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships

The Federation Secretariat has been assisting the Azerbaijan Red Crescent since 1993 in its response to the country's socio-economic crisis and collapse in health care provision. The dire situation since the dissolution of the Soviet Union has been compounded by a military conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

For years, the Federation has been a partner to the national society supporting it to provide emergency relief to vulnerable communities. However, in 1997, a comprehensive assessment of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent resulted in the Federation focusing more on supporting development programmes instead of relief. This support to the national society has included assistance to: organise leadership training; develop a strategic work-plan; establish a regional network to reach larger communities; and reorganise the financial management system.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has assumed increased responsibility for programme management but more progress is needed. The Red Crescent continues to depend largely on external support to deliver its services, which is of concern particularly in an environment of declining international support. To address this, the Federation in its coordinating role, has helped the Red Crescent to: establish partnerships and bilateral contacts; diversify its financial base; and maximise the use of limited resources to provide better support to beneficiaries.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has good links with government and non-governmental organisations. All its programmes are part of a coordinated effort to support those in need. The national society, however, has a long way to go to position itself as the country's leading humanitarian organisation. Via the development of a cooperation agreement strategy, the Federation will assist the national society to articulate in what areas it requires support and how its actions fit into a broader and coordinated humanitarian effort to assist vulnerable people.

6. International Representation and Advocacy

The Federation, through its delegations in Baku and Ankara, will continue to promote the Red Crescent and its policies in the international arena. This will include raising awareness of the conditions of, and issues facing, those

affected by disasters and vulnerable people generally. Advocacy in favour of people affected by HIV/AIDS and the importance of effective disaster preparedness will be part of the Federation's effort. Speaking on behalf of the vulnerable will be pursued through dialogue with Governments and other concerned parties, private diplomacy, communications, and conferences or public statements of policy.

The Federation Delegation will work to help the Azerbaijan Red Crescent build strong and productive partnerships with the government, international and national organisations, as well as NGOs in areas consistent with the national society's programmes and policies.

Azerbaijan appeal 2004

This appeal highlights the main aspects of the Federation's assistance programme in Azerbaijan. It draws on a more detailed plan of action, guiding international support to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The plan is constructed along the lines of a logical framework whereby activities feed into expected results, which feed into project objectives (where relevant), programme objectives and designated goals. The plan of action includes all activities, indicators, means of verification, assumptions/risks, detailed budget plans, timetable of implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

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

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[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.77/2004

Name: Azerbaijan

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	57,070	0	0	0	0	57,070
Clothing & textiles	8,940	29,580	0	5,250	0	0	43,770
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	3,940	0	0	3,940
Teaching materials	580	3,800	0	0	0	0	4,380
Utensils & tools	0	8,400	0	0	0	0	8,400
Other relief supplies	0	15,205	0	0	0	0	15,205
SUPPLIES	9,520	114,055	0	9,190	0	0	132,765
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	13,950	0	0	0	0	13,950
Computers & telecom	0	22,250	0	7,980	0	0	30,230
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	36,200	0	7,980	0	0	44,180
Warehouse & Distribution	0	6,900	0	0	0	0	6,900
Transport & Vehicules	11,183	44,229	0	55,057	0	0	110,469
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	11,183	51,129	0	55,057	0	0	117,369
Programme Support	12,776	32,996	0	39,347	0	0	85,118
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	12,776	32,996	0	39,347	0	0	85,118
Personnel-delegates	29,400	58,800	0	103,000	0	0	191,200
Personnel-national staff	33,065	82,875	0	139,228	0	0	255,168
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	62,465	141,675	0	242,228	0	0	446,368
W/shops & Training	23,908	52,732	0	59,068	0	0	135,708
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	23,908	52,732	0	59,068	0	0	135,708
Travel & related expenses	9,177	9,036	0	26,049	0	0	44,262
Information	55,447	32,552	0	117,738	0	0	205,736
Other General costs	12,082	37,253	0	48,682	0	0	98,016
GENERAL EXPENSES	76,706	78,841	0	192,469	0	0	348,014
TOTAL BUDGET:	196,558	507,628	0	605,339	0	0	1,309,522