

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 لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ARMENIA

3 May 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA067; Annual Report; Period covered: January - December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 986,011 (USD 808,025 or EUR 632,860); Appeal coverage: 103.3 % (*Please click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report*).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Armenia Annual Appeal 2005. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA067.pdf

Armenia Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.1. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA06701.pdf

Armenia Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.2. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA06702.pdf

Annual Appeals 2005 for Europe and Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

Turkey and Southern Caucasus Annual Appeal 2006-2007. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA69001.pdf

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

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 ore information please access the Federation website at: www.ifrc.org

Key operational and financial issues

In cooperation with its partner agencies, the Armenian Red Cross continues addressing a part of the humanitarian challenges that today tens of thousands of people face in Armenia. The main focus is on meeting pressing community needs and developing the National Society capacity in the areas where the organisation can invest itself best, namely:

- improving health and social conditions of vulnerable people (health and care programme),
- decreasing population vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters (disaster management), and
- strengthening the organisation to deliver better services aimed at preventing and alleviating suffering (organisational development).

The Red Cross estimates that throughout January - December 2005, it reached over 152,254 people through its programmes.

All programmes were directly implemented by the Red Cross National Society through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. The Federation, through its country delegation in Yerevan and regional delegation in Ankara, has been providing technical support and monitoring the implementation to ensure resources were deployed as planned.

On the whole, donor response to the appeal 2005 has been adequate. To help the Armenian Red Cross achieve its objectives for this year, the Federation raised CHF 1,018,772 (USD 834,550 or EUR 652,630). This is 103.3 per cent of the funding sought, however it includes CHF 306,555 (i.e., 30 per cent of the appeal budget), the balance from the 2004 operation, which was carried over to support the continuation of projects in 2005. CHF 472,500, a donation from the Norwegian Red Cross, arrived in May 2005. In 2005 the Finnish Red Cross provided CHF 141,714 to cover the costs of the Federation's head of delegation in Armenia.



Rapid Response teams help the injured out of the ruins during the Second National Competition of the Armenian Red Cross Rapid Response Teams

The funding, however, was not evenly distributed among the projects. While some received over 100 per cent of what was required (see table below), others were under-funded. As a result, some of the important activities were not implemented. The Armenian Red Cross has been trying to fill the gap through bilateral partnerships, establishing contacts with in-country organisations, national agencies and businesses. For instance, the UNHCR has contributed CHF 30,000 to enable the Armenian Red Cross help around 150 asylum seekers. The Open Society Institute contributed CHF 10,517 to support the work of Red Cross syringe exchange centre in Vandzor. The Lyonese branch of the Committee for Support every year donates around CHF 12,000 to hold a summer camp for children from poor families and provide them with quarterly financial payments. In partnership with the Bavarian Red Cross, the Armenian Red Cross has started a project in Sevan which aims at providing an ambulance

service to people living in remote villages and towns. The Jinishyan Foundation, a local organisation, provided CHF 16,786 to promote safe behaviour among schoolchildren in 52 schools. The total value of the projects implemented by the Armenian Red Cross bilaterally is CHF 69,303 (USD 53,557 or EUR 44,510). The funds raised locally, however, are insufficient to cover the planned work.

The total expenditure in 2005 stands at CHF 864,935, or 84 per cent of the income and 87 per cent of the budget. The funding for 2005 arrived late and caused significant delays. Projects were adjusted to the new timetable and when actual money arrived. This preparatory stage also took some time. Although efforts were made to reschedule the activities and implement them by the end of 2005, some inevitably were postponed until 2006. This means that the amount – CHF 153,837 - allocated for activities not implemented- will be carried-forward to 2006. The table below shows the appeal budget, income and expenditure per each project.

Table 1. Appeal budget, income and expenditure per each project as of December 31, 2005

Programmes/Projects	Appeal budget	Total income	Appeal coverage	Expenditure			Balance
	(CHF)	(CHF)	(%)	(in CHF)	(% of the income)	(% of the budget)	(CHF)
Health and care programme	189,166	178,363	93	149,461	83	79	28,901
Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS	86,695	79,928	92	72,356	90	83	7,572
Social services for vulnerable people	102,471	98,435	96	77,105	78	75	21,329
Disaster management programme	275,059	182,233	66	136,028	74	49	46,205
Disaster preparedness and response	209,925	167,732	80	121,527	72	57	46,205
Population Movement	65,134	14,501	22	14,501	100	22	0
Organisational development programme	495,690	517,315	104	443,798	85	89	73,519
Branch development	273,793	263,519	96	240,553	91	87	22,968
Financial management development	51,890	59,123	114	48,482	82	93	10,641
Youth development	170,007	194,673	115	154,763	79	91	39,910
Coordination and implementation	26,096	140,861	540	135,648	96	520	5,212
TOTAL	986,011	1,018,772	103	864,935	84	87	153,837

Despite time-constraints and delays, Armenian Red Cross recorded notable achievements: about 60,000 people were reached with the messages on HIV/AIDS. Over 42,000 children and their teachers were educated on disaster preparedness. Around 28,500 lone pensioners, refugees and orphans were provided with social and health care. Around 670 new volunteers have been recruited. Due to the participatory community development (PCD) projects, about 1,400 beneficiaries were reached. Progress has been made in strengthening the National Society capacities too. Its branches work better and more in tune with the needs of the communities they help. Volunteer management has greatly improved too. The Red Cross has reorganised its structure so it can recruit more volunteers, better manage and retain them. Financial management has also improved because procedures are now clearer and more transparent. The Red Cross is better prepared for disasters. Its response teams have demonstrated that they can be quick and effective.

Challenges, of course, remain. The most acute one is how to ensure the sustainability in an environment of dwindling international support. The National Society has to continue providing better services and exploring more local funding sources to comply with the progressive co-funding scheme according to which the local National Society will have the task of raising more funds locally. With the support of the regional and country delegations of the International Federation, the Armenian Red Cross will develop a sustainability roadmap leading to minimised dependence of the National Society on Federation assistance through active local fundraising, diversification of funding combined with sound financial management within a four years period. It also needs to prioritise its work according to pressing needs and the capacity it has, strengthen links with the communities, and improve planning and marketing. Retaining volunteers especially in remote regions is a challenge too. In addition, the Armenian Red Cross has to establish cooperation with the organisations of people living with HIV/AIDS to ensure wider access to this vulnerable group as well. To enable the Armenian Red Cross to achieve this, the country and regional delegations of the International Federation will facilitate joint work plans. All these issues are of great importance and have yet to be addressed.

Strengthening the National Society

Health and care

Goal: Health and social vulnerability of people of Armenia has decreased.

Objective: By the end of 2005, some 66,020 people have improved their health and social conditions through better Red Cross service delivery.

Achievements, impact & constraints

Reducing vulnerability to communicable diseases - sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis

The project is designed to help the Armenian Red Cross expand the network of volunteer trainers to educate the local population on the factors that put them at risk of communicable diseases – sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Since January 2005, the Red Cross trained some 135 volunteer youth leaders as peer educators on HIV/AIDS in Vanadzor, Stepanavan and Spitak through training sessions on sexually transmitted illnesses, HIV/AIDS and TB prevention. During the reported period, the trained volunteers initiated discussions in their communities and reached some 5,000 people. The issues discussed by the volunteers vary from how the disease is transmitted and how it can be prevented. Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS was also discussed, challenging the youngsters' misconceptions. Each of the participants was provided with leaflets, booklets - '*safe sex is your choice*', and '*live without regret*', posters and stickers on HIV/AIDS to counter myths about HIV/AIDS transmission.

To help volunteer trainers in their work with the communities, the Red Cross developed a manual on teaching methodologies. Challenges, however, the trainers face, are compelling. Women feel embarrassed to discuss their sexual behaviour. School directors often forbid talk about safe sex because they think this is not an appropriate topic of conversation for a society raised on conservative values. The task of Red Cross volunteers is to challenge local taboos, which is not easy and requires perseverance.

As there is still a necessity to control the alarmingly growing problem of TB¹ in the country, the Red Cross continues to focus on training and distributing printed materials containing key information on TB and its transmission. Training is conducted through a network of volunteers in Lori region in north Armenia (one of the three regions with high prevalence of TB). The Red Cross also assists the state dispensaries in delivering medicines to TB patients, who cannot collect drugs themselves because of health problems and/or lack of money to pay for transport. The Red Cross's role is also to monitor the patient's compliance to the treatment. The

¹ The number of tuberculosis in Armenia has increased alarmingly from 590 in 1990 to 8,082 in 2004. In 2004, 1,558 new cases were registered.

treatment follows the internationally-recommended TB control course – DOTS². Medicines are supplied by the German Government. Five Red Cross volunteer social workers - four in Vanadzor and one in Stepanavan – have been involved in the project. The Red Cross social workers bring the patients medicines and record progress of their treatment. During the reported period four social workers visited 145 patients with TB who had just been released either from the TB dispensaries or prisons. In addition, 104 TB patients living in hard social conditions received food parcels.

The Red Cross organised seven special training sessions for Red Cross youth leaders, staff, social workers, nurses, TB patients and their family's members, in total 1,219 people. The main topics discussed during the training sessions were symptoms, treatment course, consequences of TB, TB prevention for family members and STI/HIV/AIDS prevention practices, struggle against discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS, drug usage, harm reduction concept, methods of contraception, peer education and communication methodology, sexual behaviour and behaviour change practices.

It is estimated that due to the training sessions, distribution of printed educational materials and broadcasting of video-films on the television all over the country, the total number of people informed on TB and HIV/AIDS prevention is about 60,000.

The Armenian Red Cross has developed and published a new manual on TB in cooperation with Association of Phthisiologists. The manuals were distributed to the regional branches equipping them with information on TB and how to work with people ill with TB.

The HIV/AIDS and TB prevention efforts of the Armenian Red Cross are a part of the National Society's long-term strategy, an important component of which has been its harm reduction work with drug addicts. With funds from Open Society Institute, the Armenian Red Cross syringe exchange centre continues distributing syringes and condoms in Vanadzor city, one of the country's three big cities. Since January 2005, the centre has distributed 11,000 sterile syringes and 5,000 condoms to 50 drug addicts. The centre employs a social worker and a consultant narcologist. Most drug addicts visiting the centre are former patients of the Red Cross consultant. The centre also has two volunteer outreach workers who take syringes, condoms and Red Cross educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention to the places where drug addicts usually get together.

Social services for vulnerable people

The main objective of the project is to improve health and social conditions of some twenty thousand vulnerable people, including single elderly, internally displaced persons, refugees, disabled people, large families and orphans, through the Red Cross social centres. To achieve this, the focus is on helping the staff and volunteers of 13 most active centres³ to increase their professionalism and skills in order to develop more relevant activities to respond to pressing needs in their communities. Thus, in June and July, Red Cross organized seminars on participatory rapid appraisal and project planning for staff and volunteers of the regional branches. Seminars enabled the regional branches to improve the micro-projects implemented by the social service centres aimed at addressing part of the health and social needs of their communities. The projects developed later by the regional branches were reviewed and approved by a joint Federation and Armenian Red Cross working group. The micro-projects started in August and vary from distribution of food, medicine and second hand clothes to small-scale repairs, measuring blood pressure and glucose level. In tandem, two more seminars were organized for volunteer nurses of regional branches on HIV/AIDS and Maternal and Child Health.

² DOTS: once patients with infectious TB have been identified using microscopy services, health and community workers and trained volunteers observe and record patients swallowing the full course of the correct dosage of anti-TB medicines. Sputum smear testing is repeated after two months, to check progress, and again at the end of treatment. A recording and reporting system documents patients' progress throughout, and the final outcome of treatment. For more information on DOTS please see What is DOTS at <http://www.who.int/gtb/dots/whatisdots.htm>. Complete treatment of TB requires at least six months of daily therapy with three or more antibiotics following the initial treatment period.

³ In total, the Red Cross has a network of 23 social centres.

The 13 target regional social service centres have continued providing their traditional services. Throughout the year, the centres supported 27,932 vulnerable people. These were mainly lone pensioners, single mothers, veterans of war and disabled people. Services included: psycho-social consultations, medical check-ups, measuring of blood pressure and glucose, and intramuscular injections. The Red Cross centres also distributed food, clothes, hygiene items and medicines. Some people were helped with cash (four to six US dollars). In Ararat, Armavir, Vayots Dzor, Shirak and Sevan, the centres manage clubs (separate rooms in Red Cross branches) for lone pensioners to socially interact - meet with each other, watch TV and play games.

About 300 volunteers were involved in the operation. They regularly visited home-bound beneficiaries to clean their houses, change electrical bulbs, chop fire-wood, repair a door or a window, do shopping, bring newspapers, or simply chat to show their care and moral support, which was often more welcomed than anything else. Many elderly people not only face daily problems but, separated from children and grandchildren, they begin to feel useless and isolated. The Red Cross, through its volunteers, helped them grow in confidence. The centres also offered sessions on health issues, including HIV/AIDS and healthy life-style. During the year, in total 5,840 people were trained. The table below shows the type of services provided by the centres and the number of people reached during the year.

Table 2. Services provided by the Red Cross social centres in June -September 2005

Service provided	People assisted
Food distribution	791
Clothes distribution	11,126
Distribution of medicines and medical supplies	817
Psycho -social consultations	2527
Blood pressure measuring	2483
Measuring sugar level in blood	589
Injections	48
Home visits	204
Minor home repairs	129
Club visits	103
Food for work	253
Other services	232
Events for vulnerable people	118
Distribution of wheelchairs	18
Seminar participants (HIV/AIDS, healthy lifestyle)	5840
Distribution of stationary	2754

Medicines, food and hygiene supplies were procured with the project money; some items were donated by the population, private enterprises or in-country organisations in response to the Red Cross appeal for community support for marginalised people, voiced regularly on local television. For instance, the Tavush, Stepanavan and Lori social service centres received donations of stationery and second-hand clothes from different local companies and entrepreneurs.

Since 2004 the Armenian Red Cross has been cooperating with Armenian Branch of a non-governmental organization (NGO) called International Relief and Development. During September, 3,500 people in Tavush and Armavir regions have received 157 bales (7,850 kg) of second-hand clothes. Later on the same agency provided wheelchairs to distribute among disabled beneficiaries.

Disaster Management

Goal: Vulnerability of the population to natural and man-made disasters has reduced.

Objective: The Armenian Red Cross positions itself as a key humanitarian actor in disaster management.

Achievements, impact & constraints

Strengthening Armenian Red Cross preparedness for disasters

Strengthening the disaster preparedness and response capacities has always been central for Red Cross. During the year, the Armenian Red Cross held numerous training sessions on rescue, logistics, tracing during disasters and needs assessment for 80 volunteers of its rapid response teams⁴. In addition, 12 regional and one zonal disaster management coordinators were trained on disaster management and response. The same also underwent a training of trainers course on basic rescue. Besides, Red Cross organized “National Disaster Response Team” training for its 12 coordinators and six volunteers. The training was held based on Federation standards for “Regional Disaster Response Team” training course.

In summer Red Cross organized theoretical and practical training sessions in five regions on basic rescue issues to prepare regional response teams for the upcoming Second National Competition of Armenian Red Cross Rapid Response Teams. The Competition was organized for four days for 170 participants from 12 rapid response teams and was aimed at strengthening the practical knowledge and skills of Rapid Response Teams in disaster response. The participants had to demonstrate their skills and capacities providing immediate assistance to the injured people in different situations, such as helping them out of ruins and car accidents. The participating teams were awarded with certificates and prizes. Yerevan Rapid Response team took the first place, followed by Aragatsotn and then Sevan teams. The event was covered by mass media.

The Armenian Red Cross is a part of “Arzagank” (response) project implemented by the Emergency Management Administration (EMA)⁵ jointly with the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency. Eight Red Cross volunteers from Lori and Syunik regional branches attended a practical training on disaster preparedness and response held within this project. Four Red Cross volunteers were qualified as trainers and trained another 10 volunteers in their regions. To evaluate the first phase results of ‘Arzagank’ project, the Swiss agency organized theoretical and practical tests in Lori and Syunik regions. Twenty volunteers and four instructors passed the testing. Further, a round table was held to discuss the first phase of the project. As the results were positive it was decided to start the second phase of the project in other regions.

The Red Cross conducted Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) round-tables in Lori, Shirak and Gegharquniq regions to present the VCA method to locales. The Emergency Management Administration, Municipalities, local authorities and local NGOs assured of their readiness to respond to problems to reduce risk and vulnerability of communities to disasters.

The Federation delegation in Yerevan assisted the Armenian Red Cross in procuring additional emergency stock items - blankets, spoons, knives, jerry cans, kerosene lamps, plates, and pots - for 500 people. The items were stored in the regional warehouses. The Red Cross now has the resources to distribute emergency relief items to some 2,000 people. Additional rescue equipment (ropes, carbines, loops) for 12 Red Cross rapid response teams were purchased too.

⁴ The Armenian Red Cross has 13 regional and three zonal disaster preparedness and response centres to coordinate disaster management activities in central, northern and southern regions. Each centre has a coordinator and a rapid response team of 12 volunteers trained in disaster management. The teams assist authorities to respond to major local emergencies. The Red Cross also has a professional rescue team - Lore – with experience, expertise and equipment to respond to disasters within hours.

⁵ Emergency Management Administration (EMA): A government body that develops policies and acts on behalf of the government to protect the population of Armenia in times of emergency and/or military situations.

Strengthening community capacities to mitigate the effects of disasters

In tandem, with strengthening its own capacities to cope with emergencies, the Armenian Red Cross has been strengthening those of communities too by raising their awareness of the most common hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides and fire that annually affect thousands of people. It has prioritized working with schoolchildren because the 1988 earthquake showed this group is among the most vulnerable to disasters. During the reported period, Red Cross volunteers organised 95 simulation evacuations for 3,587 teachers and 42,000 schoolchildren based on the 'evacuations from schools' manual, developed by the Red Cross in 2003. The exercises were dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Red Cross, celebrated this year, and were broadly covered by the local media.

A total of 240 schoolchildren were also trained on the risks and threats of the main disasters. Some 150 children from five regions participated in a quiz organised by the Red Cross in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Education and the Crises Management Academy to test youngsters' knowledge of natural and man-made disasters. Additionally, a one week training session was organized at seven schools on natural and man-made disasters for pupils which were followed by performances based on the poems of "Aghetik" educational books.



Selecting the best pictures of "Children against disasters" drawing competition

"Children against disasters" drawing competition was conducted by Red Cross. 325 children from 13 schools countrywide took part in five day sessions on natural and man-made disasters after which they drew scenes of a disaster they imagined. Later on an exhibition of the pictures drawn by children was conducted and 36 best ones were selected to develop the 2006 calendar which will be printed early in 2006.

Jointly with Crisis Management Academy acting under Emergency Management Administration /EMA/ and Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection, the Red Cross developed and printed 3,000 copies of new educational material on earthquakes with a pre and post questionnaire to raise public awareness on how to act before, during and after an earthquake.

And lastly, the Red Cross initiated a new project on mine awareness. An agreement on cooperation was signed with the Ministry of Defense of Armenia to start raising funds for the project. For the moment discussions are underway with ICRC Armenian Delegation to fund this project.

Population movement

The project aims at enhancing the Armenian Red Cross capacity to help asylum seekers and refugees build a new life in Armenia, advocate for the respect of their rights and prevent human trafficking. Unfortunately, the project has received only 22 per cent of its budget. This has been enough to start only some of the planned activities to increase public awareness of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a growing problem in Armenia. It is estimated that several thousand individuals were trafficked between 2000 and 2004. Most are women and children, who are offered work abroad but in reality, find themselves in brothels subject to exploitation. The trafficked people are not only victims in the receiving countries, but in their home countries too, where they stumble across a harsh and unforgiving attitude. They need help to be reintegrated into their communities.

The Red Cross has established contacts with relevant organizations to gather information - statistics, analysis, policies and activities - on trafficking in Armenia and the world. A booklet was then prepared in Armenian language and printed in 1,500 copies. The booklet challenges xenophobia, racism, discriminatory policies, practices and attitudes towards trafficked persons. It contains interviews with trafficked people as well as basic

but essential messages to flag humanitarian needs of trafficked people, who are often perceived as criminals. The booklet also refers to various international laws on trafficking such as UN convention on organised criminality, and additional protocols on the prevention and punishment of human trafficking. In addition, 15 round tables and training sessions have been held countrywide. A video film was also developed on human trafficking and was broadcast by TV.

The anti-trafficking work of the Armenian Red Cross is coordinated with other members of the UN Theme Group on Anti-Trafficking, the State Interagency Commission on Counter Trafficking and the European Red Cross and Red Crescent network, that was established in May 2004 to combat human trafficking, and of which the Armenian Red Cross is a member too. Regular meetings are held with a number of non-governmental organisations, such as Hope and Help, CARITAS, UMCOR and Democracy for Today.

Outside of the Federation appeal, the Armenian Red Cross continues its cooperation with the UNHCR to assist asylum seekers, individually recognized refugees and persons with temporary asylum. Assistance includes cash (approximately 20-60 US dollars per family) and basic relief items (food and hygiene supplies). In 2005, 63 families have received assistance and consultations from Red Cross. 151 refugees attend Red Cross organised computer and/or Armenian language courses. The Red Cross is also helping refugees explore employment opportunities.

Organizational development

Goal: The Armenian Red Cross has strengthened its organizational capacity and become a better functioning National Society, helping to prevent and alleviate suffering.

Programme objective : The Armenian Red Cross has increased accountability to its beneficiaries and partners, strengthened links with local communities and increased the network of active young volunteers who are valued members of the organization.

Achievements, impact & constraints



Armenian Red Cross social workers distribute food parcels to TB patients.

Branch development

One of the ways to strengthen the capacities of regional branches is to work through participatory community development (PCD) approach. The approach enables prioritization of community projects based on local needs and strategic directions of the National Society embedded in its strategic plan. The PCD was first piloted in 2003-2004 and implemented in 13 communities. It proved to be a successful tool. The implementation of micro-projects which started in late 2004 was completed in 13 communities in May 2005 (one micro-project in each community).

The new ones with funds from Norwegian Red Cross started in June and finished in December in another 13 communities. This time the projects

included integration of disabled children into civil society, employing the previously established gym for disabled children, regular check-ups and care for TB patients. The objectives of the projects were decided together with its partners (mostly with Local Authorities, National Societies and beneficiaries). In total, 1,400 beneficiaries were reached via micro-projects.

The projects implemented with PCD methodology taught a lot to Armenian Red Cross. They helped to increase the independence and skills of the regional branches in carrying out micro-projects, strengthen the contacts

between Regional Branches and respective communities, increase the understanding of objectives of the Red Cross among beneficiaries and staff/volunteers of branches and finally, enhance the quality of service delivery to the more vulnerable in the community.

However, the achievements are not without difficulties, among which the problem of mobilization of community resources and insufficient time for implementation of micro-projects (two to four months) is prioritized. Yet, the biggest constraint was the limitation of financial resources for each project. Improvement is still needed to ensure community involvement in all stages of the project cycle. In 2006 the country and regional delegations of the International Federation plan to conduct additional training to improve the implementation of the programme on the community level.

In order to enhance the skills of those who are engaged in organizing activities and service delivery, a workshop on project planning process (PPP) was organized for Red Cross headquarters by the Federation Delegation in Armenia. The workshop was facilitated by the Turkey Delegation Regional Organizational Development Delegate. It aimed to refresh the knowledge of the Red Cross staff on the above process and enhance their skills on local fundraising through discussions and watching a video film prepared by the Federation.

Since at the end of the year the regional branches were supposed to present their strategic plans, the Armenian Red Cross held a workshop on the shortcomings and achievements of regional branches. The discussions touched upon all activity spheres (regional branch development, social, medicals, disaster preparedness and response, youth) and community needs. The workshop would help them to better plan and formulate their strategic plans. Based on the Strategy of Armenian Red Cross, the regional branches presented their own strategic plans for four years. The plans are yet to be approved by the presidium.

Youth and volunteer development

One of the most important assets Red Cross has is its volunteers. They are involved in various activities to help Red Cross fulfil its goal and reach its beneficiaries countrywide. One of the areas the volunteers are actively involved in is the ecological problems and preservation of Lake Sevan. Traditionally, the Armenian Red Cross organizes youth summer camps to clean the coastal areas of the lake and draw public attention to ecological problems of the country. Weekly meetings were arranged for the 13 youth leaders to discuss organizational issues of the camp. Some 120 volunteers from 11 regions of Armenia were involved in four camps set up on different coastal areas of the lake. Along with clean-up activities, participants arranged various workshops on Red Cross work and priorities, ecological, cultural, and other issues, debates and discussions on the problems of youth. Sport contests, tours to historical sites, where they cleaned the surroundings were also organized. During the official closing ceremony of the camp, the results of the workshops were presented, the winners of different contests and nominations were announced. The contests also included a team contest which aimed to raise knowledge on International Humanitarian Law among volunteers. About 50 guests from donor organizations, youth NGOs, Mass Media attended the ceremony, which concluded with an evening visit to the church on lake Sevan peninsula, where the volunteers made a huge cross with torch-lights.

The youth volunteers raised about USD 200 to continue the “Clean Sevan” project by organising a sale of items with Red Cross Youth and “Clean Sevan” emblems in popular public places.

The Armenian Red Cross is continuously improving the existing mechanisms of its volunteer management. For the last two years Armenian Red Cross Youth has been undergoing a major reformation process, as a result of which in 10 regional and two Community branches Regional Youth leaders and boards with three to five members have been elected. Regional branch leaders and volunteers have continuously participated in training sessions in the youth activity spheres as well as youth programme development, effective management and other important issues to refresh knowledge and improve their skills in the main activity fields.

In tandem, the Armenian Red Cross developed a new project package called “Youth Development” and presented it to the regional chairpersons and youth leaders. During the presentation, all questions connected with youth strategy, current activities, reporting system and report formats for the work with the regional branches were clarified.

One of the most important activities for youth, which stimulates big inflow of volunteers, is peer education. In this regard 52 peer educators delivered school sessions on HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, Red Cross humanitarian values for over 1,500 children of 52 schools all over Armenia. Under the “Bridges of Friendship” mini project in all the regions of Armenia, minor events were organized dedicated to the International Children’s Day where schoolchildren filled and distributed 2000 friendship boxes among orphanages, vulnerable and disabled children, hereby building bridges of friendship. Besides, a meeting with the regional branch youth leaders was organized to discuss the most pressing problems the volunteers have faced within the project and the ways of solving them.

The Armenian Red Cross Youth has been designing and implementing projects on supporting the vulnerable communities. In this regard 60 volunteers from nine regional and two community branches were involved in “Psycho-Social Care for Elderly Refugees” mini project to assist 490 lonely elderly refugees by visiting them twice a week, helping with household duties, shopping, providing psychological support. The project also includes material assistance, such as distribution of bed-clothing, hygiene items, food parcels (oil, rice, tea, sugar, canned meat, macaroni, sweets). The elderly have a chance to get into contact with each other through the Birthday celebrations, social events such as concerts, folk ballet performances, outings, visits to museums and churches.



The Red Cross volunteers celebrate New Year party together with the lone elderly refugees

The Armenian Red Cross Youth is assisting children from refugee families living in dormitories through the “Smiley Club” mini project, which aims to alleviate isolation of refugee children and help them integrate with their local peers. Within the framework of the project 20 youth volunteers organize daily workshops on English language, computer skills, painting, singing and sport games for 100 children aged 6 - 12 in the dormitory’s Red Cross room equipped with furniture, a computer, and other necessary stuff for the workshops. The volunteers organize monthly events, cultural visits as well as camping during summertime. In the Smiley Club mini project workshop curriculum has been refreshed recently, new workshops were suggested by the volunteers and included in the project. The volunteers organized New Year and Christmas Carnival with children and a performance of

Armenian national fairy-tales. A hundred children received a New Year present package containing sweets and toys.

To enhance the public awareness on the Red Cross work in Armenia and promote voluntary movement throughout the country, the youth volunteers organized mass events, dissemination sessions in educational institutions, fund raising concerts, money gathering marching and participate in different actions dedicated to significant dates in Red Cross and voluntary movement history. “YOUTH RED CROSSroad” newsletter is keeping people informed of Red Cross Youth life, important news, events and other issues.

Essential world days are never forgotten. The Armenian Red Cross Youth joined the fight against AIDS on December 1. In all regions they organized training sessions, round table discussions and awareness campaigns by walking in city centres and distributing HIV/AIDS information posters/cards as well as condoms and red ribbons to the population in streets, cafes and other public places. About 200 people joined the evening party to gain more information on HIV/AIDS and Red Cross Youth activities.

The Armenian Red Cross places great importance on how to recruit and retain its volunteers. To encourage the participation of youth volunteers in Red Cross activities, in 13 regional and community branches minor events such as hiking tours, historical trips, and two-day camps, social evenings were organized. These activities helped recruit 670 new volunteers.

Financial management development

The project aims at helping the Armenian Red Cross improve its financial management to provide transparent accounting and better donor reporting. The focus is on the Red Cross regional branches. This is important as more and more Red Cross projects are implemented in the regions, which means, the amount of money managed by regional branches has increased. To illustrate this, a few years ago the headquarters was making an average of 30 transfers a year to the regional branches. In 2005, it made around 30 transfers every day.

The Armenian Red Cross has been renewing its subscription to a quarterly national financial newspaper 'IRTEC' (Legal Information Searching System) to keep abreast of any new changes in the national legislation. The SoftMaster computer software was also regularly upgraded to match new legislative and financial reporting requirements. The finance staff of Red Cross participated in seminars organized by the Ministry of Economy to learn about changes in legislation. The Chief accountant has been attending English language courses to be able to prepare reports in English.

The Armenian Red Cross held a seminar on the latest changes to the national legislation and accounting for regional branch chairpersons and heads of departments at the headquarters, in total 37 people. Experts invited from the Government talked about the changes. Additionally, during the seminar new reporting requirements were presented.

In October, a round table was organized with participation of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Tax Administration and donors to discuss problematic issues and application of new laws in practice, in total 16 participants. This endeavour cast light on many obscure issues and helped to prepare the financial reports to the state in a better way.

The financial report is attached below. Please [click here](#) to return to the title page and contact information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ARMENIA

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA067
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	189'166	275'059	0	495'690	26'096	986'011
B. Opening Balance	47'171	-33'252	19'038	274'451	-853	306'555
Income						
Cash contributions						
Finnish Red Cross					33'938	33'938
Norwegian Red Cross	110'527	123'644		238'329		472'500
C1. Cash contributions	110'527	123'644		238'329	33'938	506'438
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Finnish Red Cross					9'176	9'176
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)					9'176	9'176
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Norwegian Red Cross	20'664	14'501	-21'548	7'047		20'664
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	20'664	14'501	-21'548	7'047		20'664
Inkind Personnel						
Finnish Red Cross					98'600	98'600
C5. Inkind Personnel					98'600	98'600
Other Income						
Deficit Write-off		77'340				77'340
C6. Other Income		77'340				77'340
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	131'191	215'485	-21'548	245'376	141'714	712'217
D. Total Funding = B + C	178'362	182'233	-2'510	519'826	140'861	1'018'772

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	47'171	-33'252	19'038	274'451	-853	306'555
C. Income	131'191	215'485	-21'548	245'376	141'714	712'217
E. Expenditure	-149'462	-136'028	2'510	-446'307	-135'648	-864'935
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	28'901	46'205	0	73'519	5'212	153'837

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA067
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		189'166	275'059	0	495'690	26'096	986'011	
Supplies								
Shelter					273		273	-273
Construction		2'995			3'889		6'885	-6'885
Clothing & textiles	557				136		136	421
Food	4'388	9'076			23'287		32'364	-27'976
Medical & First Aid	10'043	5'025			958		5'984	4'059
Teaching Materials	24'298	17'770	24'605		37'811		80'186	-55'888
Utensils & Tools	24'000	10	26'987				26'997	-2'997
Other Supplies & Services	157'686	6'453	32		12'916		19'401	138'285
Total Supplies	220'971	41'330	51'624		79'270		172'225	48'746
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles					-13'023		-13'023	13'023
Computers & Telecom	3'950				5'102		5'102	-1'152
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment				11	1'984		1'995	-1'995
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	3'950			11	-5'937		-5'925	9'875
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	36'737	8'002	7'763		35'471	739	51'976	-15'238
Total Transport & Storage	36'737	8'002	7'763		35'471	739	51'976	-15'238
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	92'400					175	175	92'225
Delegate Benefits	69'200				0	127'255	127'255	-58'055
National Staff	240'495	8'446	7'894		35'075	-3'658	47'756	192'738
National Society Staff		32'772	24'790		94'522	3'812	155'896	-155'896
Consultants		7	670		3'500		4'177	-4'177
Total Personnel Expenditures	402'095	41'225	33'354		133'096	127'584	335'260	66'835
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	73'169	3'578	4'270		21'573	-700	28'721	44'449
Total Workshops & Training	73'169	3'578	4'270		21'573	-700	28'721	44'449
General Expenditure								
Travel	11'730	2'523	2'449		6'782	91	11'844	-114
Information & Public Relation	87'821	3'271	11'989		30'085	-12	45'333	42'488
Office Costs	40'933	11'594	6'310		35'682	17'658	71'244	-30'310
Communications	23'486	2'352	2'483		9'934	7'586	22'354	1'132
Professional Fees	6'958	429			1'858	104	2'391	4'567
Financial Charges	5'040	-6'277	-3'955		-173	576	-9'829	14'869
Other General Expenses	9'030	8'000	4'743		18'054	-26'379	4'419	4'611
Total General Expenditure	184'998	21'891	24'020		102'221	-376	147'756	37'242
Depreciation								
Depreciation					5'041		5'041	-5'041
Total Depreciation					5'041		5'041	-5'041
Program Support								
Program Support	64'091	9'715	8'842	-163	29'010	8'401	55'804	8'286
Total Program Support	64'091	9'715	8'842	-163	29'010	8'401	55'804	8'286
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		23'721	6'155	-2'358	46'562		74'079	-74'079
Total Operational Provisions		23'721	6'155	-2'358	46'562		74'079	-74'079
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	986'011	149'462	136'028	-2'510	446'307	135'648	864'935	121'076
VARIANCE (C - D)		39'704	139'031	2'510	49'382	-109'552	121'076	