

Appeal 2005



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

AZERBAIJAN

Appeal no. 05AA068

Appeal target: CHF 1,032,138

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 181 countries.

Please click on programme title to go to relevant text

Programme title	2005 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Health and care	161,029
Disaster management	375,603
Organisational development	329,713
Humanitarian values	56,702
Coordination and implementation	109,091
Total Please click here to view the total budget for this appeal	1,032,138¹

Related appeals:

Azerbaijan Annual Appeal 2004 (01.77/2004) [please click here to go to the appeal](#)

Azerbaijan photo journal [please click here to go to photo journal](#)

¹ This amount corresponds to USD 818,790 or EURO 667,830

Context



Azerbaijan, a country famed for its oil springs and natural gas sources, continues to face significant humanitarian challenges. Over the last few years, the local authorities in the quest for economic development have stepped up their efforts to reduce poverty and improve the population's living conditions. There have been successes. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank report a reversal in the country's economic decline. Needs on the ground, however, overwhelm government capacities. Large communities, particularly elderly people living alone, disabled people, orphans, women and children, remain marginalised. According to the State

Statistical Committee, 1.3 per cent of the economically active population is unemployed². Salaries remain low particularly in the public health, social services and educational sectors. The major share of household income is spent on food, reflecting the high level of poverty. Child mortality is high compared to other countries in Europe (see development indicators below). The rate of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is also increasing³. Other major health problems include tuberculosis, malaria and childhood infections. Every year, thousands of people are affected by natural disasters because their coping mechanisms are weak.

Azerbaijan development indicators at a glance

(Source: <http://www.undp.org/hdr2003>)

Total population 2001	8,081,000 ⁴
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
Public expenditure on health	1990: 2.7 % of GDP 2000: 0.6 % of GDP
People living below USD 1 a day (1990-2001)	3.7 %

² The percentage is estimated to be much higher, since official statistics identify as unemployed only those who are officially registered (source: UNDP living conditions in Azerbaijan)

³ The national AIDS prevention centre estimated in May 2004 that there are 614 people with HIV/AIDS. Given the lack of countrywide surveillance, this figure is probably a gross underestimate. New cases are increasingly recorded outside of the capital Baku too.

⁴ 51 per cent reside in urban areas, 49 per cent in rural areas. About 13 per cent of the population are refugees and internally displaced people.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

National Society Strategy

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent plays an auxiliary role to the local authorities filling gaps in community provision, that the government has no resources to address⁵. The Red Crescent is one of the oldest organisations in the country, founded in 1920 and recognised by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1995.

The national society works with and for communities to reduce their vulnerability to disasters and their risk of health problems. It tackles discrimination and advocates on behalf of marginalised people on issues that most affect them. Being community-based, the Red Crescent is always among the first to respond to emergency needs (to read more about the Red Crescent work visit its official web site at www.redcrescent.az or read its profile on the Federations' website. *Please click here to go to the national society's profile*

Its strengths include:

- Country-wide network of branches: the Red Crescent has seven regional and 83 local branches with the secretariat in the capital Baku.
- Experienced, enthusiastic and committed staff and volunteers: it has 17,000 members, 14,000 volunteers⁶ and 260 employees who deliver services to people in need.
- Seven trained mobile volunteer teams with 105 members and seven first aid teams ready to respond to emergencies within hours.
- Intimate knowledge of the local needs.
- Many years' of experience of working with people.
- Good infrastructure of offices and equipment.
- Improving cooperation with the local government authorities and mass media⁷.
- Strategic plans and policies.
- Access to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's global network, tools, knowledge and expertise.

There are areas, however, the national society has to improve. Namely, to:

- strengthen its capacity to prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters (**disaster management**); (see disaster management programme logframe below for more comprehensive analysis);
- step up efforts to reach larger groups and reduce their vulnerability to preventable health problems, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (**health and care**);
- strengthen its capacity to advocate for the respect of human dignity and promote the culture of non-stigmatisation and tolerance towards marginalised communities, including people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and disabled children (**humanitarian values**);
- reduce the organisation's dependency on international funding by improving programme planning and management capacities of its staff and volunteers, and strengthening links with local communities, authorities, business groups and other humanitarian actors (**financial resource development**);
- strengthen the capacities of its branches to respond to local disasters, including social and health challenges (**branch development**);
- improve youth and volunteer management systems and structures to encourage youth and volunteers to participate in Red Crescent work with vulnerable people (**youth and volunteer development**).

⁵ The Government of Azerbaijan recognized the auxiliary role of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent through a decree adopted by the parliament in October 1994. The mandate of the organization, its mission and vision is also stipulated in the national society's statutes first adopted and approved by the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan in November 1996 and then revised in 2003.

⁶ More than 10,000 of 14,000 volunteers are young people.

⁷ The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a member of the state emergency commission. In 2004, the government of Azerbaijan issued a decree instructing its various ministries to develop a plan of action to support the work of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. Similar decrees were issued by the authorities at local levels too. Also in 2004, the national society signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, which is mandated by the Government to respond to emergencies/disasters in Azerbaijan. The memorandum defines roles and responsibilities of the Red Crescent and the Ministry during disasters to avoid duplication of efforts. Noteworthy is also Red Crescent cooperation with the Institute of Hematology and Transfusion. The Red Crescent signed an agreement with the institute to help recruit volunteer non-remunerated blood donors through education and community mobilisation.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has identified these areas in its strategic plan for 2005-2007 and will address them with the support of the 2005 appeal. The plan is in line with the Strategy 2010⁸ ([please click here link to the strategy 2010](#)) and the Berlin Charter adopted by the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in April 2002 ([please click here to link to the charter](#)).

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context

The Federation has been supporting the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to meet humanitarian needs in the country since 1993. Considering the limited capacities of the national society, the Federation in the early years of its engagement was directly involved in implementation of relief projects. As the Azerbaijan Red Crescent strengthened, the direct implementation role of the Federation has gradually decreased. Its focus has shifted to supporting the national society in strengthening its capacities to help vulnerable people. Efforts were redirected from traditional large scale emergency relief operations to development, preparedness and prevention. The Federation has concentrated on:

- representing and promoting its member national society on the international arena;
- mobilising international funding to help the Azerbaijan Red Crescent support people in need.
- coordinating and facilitating humanitarian engagement of various partners with the national society to ensure consistency and avoid duplication.
- sharing technical expertise, knowledge and experience through its global network;
- assistance in planning, financial management and monitoring;
- promoting partnerships and knowledge sharing between the national societies in the region;
- helping the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in its dialogue with the government to clarify its roles and responsibilities⁹;
- encouraging the Red Crescent to strengthen links with the communities and other organisations/agencies operating in the country to diversify its income sources.

The Federation secretariat works with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent through its country delegation in Baku with two international and 10 national staff members, as well as a regional delegation in Ankara¹⁰ that offers additional technical support in planning, reporting, organisational development, disaster preparedness and response.

Most of the work of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been supported through the Federation. There have been few bilateral initiatives. The Netherlands Red Cross assisted 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 and supported the blood donor recruitment efforts of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. In 2005, these two national societies will continue partnership with colleagues in Azerbaijan: the Norwegian Red Cross will help in volunteer blood donor recruitment; and the Netherlands Red Cross will support the work of mobile technical teams until August 2005.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will assist the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law¹¹ and the Movement's Fundamental Principles¹², as well as strengthening the tracing service of the national society.

The long-term engagement of the Federation, ICRC and partner national societies has helped the Azerbaijan Red Crescent meet some of the most pressing humanitarian needs and strengthen its capacities to deliver better services.

⁸ Strategy 2010 is the document that guides the Federation's actions from 2000 to 2010. Adopted by the Federation's General Assembly in October 1999, Strategy 2010 was the culmination of a two-year process of consultation with National Societies. Along with an analysis of trends in the external environment, it draws on the lessons learned by the Federation from its performance during the 1990s, as captured in the evaluation report *'Learning from the Nineties'*.

⁹ The legal status of the national society needs to be clarified through a Red Crescent law. A draft law is currently being reviewed by the Prime Minister's office.

¹⁰ The Ankara delegation assumed regional responsibilities for southern Caucasus - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia – as well as Turkey in January 2003.

¹¹ International humanitarian law (IHL) is the body of rules which, in wartime, protects people who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities. Its central purpose is to limit and prevent human suffering in times of armed conflict. The rules are to be observed not only by governments and their armed forces, but also by armed opposition groups and any other parties to a conflict. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977 are the principal instruments of humanitarian law. To read more about IHL: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl>

¹² Proclaimed in Vienna in 1965, the seven Fundamental Principles bond together the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They guarantee the continuity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian work.

Challenges, however, remain as described above under the national society strategy and the 2005 appeal will assist the Red Crescent in addressing them. The overall goal of the appeal is to strengthen the Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to support the country's most vulnerable people.

The appeal is based on the Federation's strategy 2003-2006, which was developed in consultation with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. It is in line with the national society priorities as well as the Federation Europe department's implementation plan ([please click here to link to the Europe planning priorities](#)). The strategy spells out the future directions of the Federation's engagement with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent over the coming two years.

Budget analysis

To achieve the objectives set for 2005, the Federation is seeking CHF 1,032,138. To compare, in 2002, the Federation appeal budget for Azerbaijan was CHF 3 m. It was reduced to CHF 1,896,238 in 2003 and CHF 1,309,522 in 2004. The budget is lower because of the declined needs for international support reflecting improved capacities of the national society as well as the government of Azerbaijan that generates more income from oil resources to address local needs. This is combined with better targeting and increased efforts of the Red Crescent to mobilise local resources via partnership with in-country donors. The national society aims to strengthen its self-sustainability to work with local communities without external support. In tandem, the Federation delegation is planned to be closed by the end of 2006 as laid down in the Federation support strategy to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

The 2005 appeal includes emphasis on disaster management and organisational development which account for 38 and 35 per cent of the total, respectively. The remaining 27 per cent is split between health care (20 per cent) and humanitarian values (7 per cent).

There are two major changes to the Federation approach in 2005, which is mirrored in the budget: a community development project has been merged with the Red Crescent branch development initiatives to ensure better coordination and consistency. Also, five mobile technical teams, that were supported through the Federation in 2002-2004, will continue working in their communities outside of the current appeal, with resources mobilised locally by the national society.

Response to past appeals has generally been good. To illustrate, in 2003 the Federation appealed for CHF 1,896,239 for Azerbaijan and received CHF 2,363,403. In 2004, the appeal coverage was 140 per cent. For 2005, the Federation expects to raise 100 per cent of what is required.

Main partners who have expressed interest to support are the Governments and Red Cross Societies of Norway and Sweden. Funds will also be sought from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and local donors, such as Exxon Mobile and Statoil to support the Red Crescent's community-based work and fight against HIV/AIDS.

An estimated CHF 285,590 will be transferred from the 2004 appeal to support the continuation of activities in 2005.

Strengthening the National Society

1. Health and Care [Please click here to return to the title page](#)

Background, achievements and future directions

Health promotion and education is one of the core activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The national society through a network of trained volunteers¹³ educates communities on reproductive health, family planning, nutrition, personal hygiene, infectious and preventable diseases and the importance of immunisation. Since 2003, the Red Crescent has reached 22,519 people in its work. Main target groups included internally displaced people (IDPs) living in the southern camps¹⁴ and the general population of the biggest cities in Azerbaijan – Baku, Sumgayit,

¹³ By the end of 2004, the Red Crescent had 45 health promoters in Baku, Sumgayit, Sabirabad, Mingachevir, Lankaran and Ganja.

¹⁴ The southern camps were established in 1993 to shelter people fleeing the destruction caused by a military conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2003, the Government has started the resettlement of these people to more durable accommodations. The current population of the camps is 15,028 people (source: Government of Azerbaijan)

Sabirabad, Mingachevir, Lankaran and Ganja. An analysis of the programme indicate that Red Crescent efforts have made a difference. It was encouraging to observe that women, the Red Crescent works with, start talking about family planning during private discussions and education sessions; this was a taboo topic until recently. IDP women, who attended the seminars on personal hygiene and sanitation, mobilised the camp population and organised cleaning of the streets in the camps. Survey the Red Crescent conducts after each training seminar reveals that people are keen to have more information. This confirms the Red Crescent is on the right track and has to continue the work.

The task, the Red Crescent has challenged, however, is complex. Communities, particularly those in remote rural areas, have a poor understanding of the importance of health education and prevention. There are cultural beliefs and taboos too that put additional strain on Red Crescent volunteers who often are forbidden to discuss safe sex with people. It takes dedication and long-term commitment to change the attitude, and consequently, behaviour of beneficiaries. But the Red Crescent is determined to pursue its objective and reduce vulnerability to preventable diseases. It plans to recruit and train more health promoters to reach more people. In 2005, it will prioritise Lankaran and Ganja regions. An additional 18 volunteer health promoters will organise individual and group sessions for 5,760 people, five per cent of the population in the two targeted regions.

Apart from training and distribution of educational materials, the Red Crescent also participates in global campaigns, such as World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on 24 March and World Health Day on 7 April, to raise public awareness and reduce the threat of major health risks. The national society promotes basic but essential messages, such as *'Every breath counts – Stop TB now!'*, *'Let's say no to TB'* and *'Tuberculosis can be cured'*. Campaigns often include discussions with students on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, drug addiction, alcoholism, smoking and blood donation. Students appreciate the chance to freely talk about the issues that are not covered by the school curriculum or discussed at home because of taboos and cultural barriers. Similar campaigns will be organised in 2005.

TB¹⁵, along with HIV/AIDS, is a major public health emergency in Azerbaijan. Official records show 13,594 people have developed an active form of the disease i.e., every 164.4 per 100,000 people¹⁶. Over the last few years, tuberculosis killed 228 people in the country. Since 2002, the Institute of Pulmonology, the Ministry of Health and medical dispensaries supported by a German NGO, Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), have been implementing directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS)¹⁷. In 2003, the programme was piloted in 19 districts. In 2004, it was expanded to another 20 districts. In 2005, the Government is planning to cover additional 28 districts.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, as an auxiliary to the local authorities, can play a significant role in preventing new cases of tuberculosis by breaking the chain of its transmission. Coordination is important to avoid duplication of efforts, as there are few other actors too involved in combating the spread of the disease. The ICRC and the Ministry of Justice have been overlooking the treatment of TB-infected prisoners, while the Ministry of Health and GTZ have been working with the general population.

The Red Crescent, together with GTZ, ICRC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and a national TB centre are members of a working group to coordinate assistance to TB-infected former prisoners, who have started the

¹⁵ TB, or tuberculosis, is a disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria can attack any part of a human body, but they usually attack the lungs. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected. People who are infected with latent TB do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB. But they may develop TB disease at some time in the future. People with TB disease can be treated and cured if they seek medical help. Even better, people who have latent TB infection but are not yet sick can take medicine so that they will never develop TB disease (source: National Centre for HIV, STD and TB prevention).

¹⁶ 2003 statistics.

¹⁷ DOTS: the internationally-recommended TB control strategy. 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](http://www.who.int/tb/dots/whatisdots.htm) at <http://www.who.int/tb/dots/whatisdots.htm>

treatment in prisons and it is important they complete it¹⁸. The national society has committed to observe and record patients swallowing the full course of the correct dosage of anti-TB medicines through a network of Red Crescent nurses. This will be a pilot initiative launched in two-three districts. Additionally, the Red Crescent will focus on educating family members of their beneficiaries on TB prevention. Details of the Red Crescent role and responsibilities are being discussed.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is part of a global effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. The disease is spreading at an alarming rate. Official statistics show that 614 people in Azerbaijan are HIV/AIDS infected. Given the lack of countrywide surveillance, this figure is probably a gross underestimate. New cases are increasingly recorded outside of the capital Baku too. The national society is one of the key players in the country promoting education on the illness. The focus is on young people, who are the most vulnerable. Through training, public discussions and campaigns, the Red Crescent increases awareness on its transmission and prevention. Young volunteers are encouraged to share knowledge among their peers. The Red Crescent also works with sex workers, who are regarded as pariahs in the society. By working with them, the national society is breaking the established taboos and shows the meaning of humanity and impartiality, two of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. By June 2004, the Red Crescent had 162 volunteers trained as trainers. As a result of their efforts since 2002 some 9,042 people know how to protect themselves from the illness. In 2005, an additional 168 volunteers will be trained to help more people. To improve knowledge and professionalism of its volunteers, the Red Crescent will encourage exchange visits between regions. The national society is also planning to open libraries in Red Crescent youth clubs. The libraries will be supplied with books, magazines and periodicals on HIV/AIDS.

Another major problem in Azerbaijan is insufficient blood reserves. Since 2003, the Red Crescent has assisted the Scientific Research Institute of Haematology and Transfusion to recruit volunteer non-remunerated blood donors through awareness campaigns, discussions and community mobilisation. The Red Crescent has 40 trained volunteers with the help of doctors from the national blood bank. Volunteers are divided into eight groups to work in various districts of Baku, the capital. During the last two years, the Red Crescent recruited 180 blood donors. The National Blood Reserves reported in June 2004 that the number of blood donors has increased by 13 per cent thanks to the Red Crescent.

The Red Crescent acknowledges the number is modest. However, it is difficult and time-consuming to change the attitudes and beliefs of people. A Red Cross survey revealed that many feel nervous to donate blood fearing exposure to communicable diseases. People often do not know who to approach to donate blood. Efforts need to continue. In 2005, the Red Crescent is planning to expand its network of volunteers. Four additional volunteer groups will be established and trained. More training and discussions will be organised for schoolchildren and students. Volunteers will also carry out public campaigns on the importance of voluntary blood donation to encourage more people to become regular donors.

Goal

Health vulnerability of people of Azerbaijan has reduced.

Objective

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

Expected results

- 12,760 people¹⁹ have improved awareness on the importance of non-remunerated volunteer blood donation and preventive health including nutrition, reproductive health and family planning, personal hygiene, infectious diseases, immunization and healthy life style through the expanded network of Red Crescent volunteer health promoters. [Please click here to go to the health education and promotion project logframe](#)
- The risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people has reduced through better Azerbaijan Red Crescent awareness activities. [Please click here to go to the HIV/AIDS project logframe](#)

¹⁸ Complete treatment of TB requires at least six months of daily therapy with three or more antibiotics following the initial treatment period.

¹⁹ 5,760 people will attend individual or group sessions on preventive health organised by Red Crescent health promoters. Another 7,280 people will be educated on the importance of the volunteer blood donation.

2. Disaster Management [Please click here to return to the title page](#)

Background, achievements and future directions

Azerbaijan is in a region that is prone to natural disasters. It is particularly susceptible to earthquakes, mudflows, floods, landslides and strong winds that affect thousands of people every year. Since 1999 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been trying to improve its disaster management capacities to reduce community vulnerability to emergencies. It established a mobile volunteer team of 12 to 17 members in each region and has trained them to help people affected by small-scale crises. The teams have also been working with the communities during non-emergency times to raise awareness on the risks and threats associated with the most common disasters. Additionally, the Red Crescent has three first aid instructors in each regional centre teaching local communities. First aid is a proven cost-effective, safe and simple way to save lives in all emergencies, from individual (i.e. car accident) to community (i.e., earthquake). It provides that initial rapid response to protect people and minimise the impact of a health emergency. Since 1996, the Red Crescent reached over 15,700 people.

The Red Crescent has a warehouse and HF/VHF radio stations in all seven regions to ensure quick communication and delivery of basic relief to disaster sites. More recently, it conducted a nationwide vulnerability and capacity assessment²⁰ to map needs and appropriate response. Based on the findings, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent developed a disaster management policy that identifies strategic priorities in preparedness and response. Another important achievement has been the development of a disaster management strategic plan. The plan outlines the organisation's programmes to prepare the population for the consequences of disasters and improve its own ability to respond.

The remaining challenges that will be addressed through the current programme include:

- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has to improve professionalism and understanding among its staff and volunteers of internal operational procedures during emergencies to ensure better coordination within the organisation. Its early warning system needs to be improved too. This will be achieved by establishing clear terms of reference for each department during disasters.
- Coordination has to be strengthened with external partners too to avoid overlap of efforts and deployment of resources where they are most needed. The programme, therefore, will focus on establishing sound emergency response coordination with key stakeholders to improve resource mobilisation and relief distribution during disasters.
- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has good links with government and non-governmental organisations. It is a member of a state emergency commission, but its role in disaster preparedness and response vis-à-vis the local authorities and other humanitarian actors has yet to be clarified and formalised. The Red Crescent, together with its partners, will step up efforts to encourage the authorities to update the Government disaster management plan, which was adopted in 1992, and establish clearer roles and responsibilities for each actor, including the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The national society's disaster management plan will feed into the Government's plan.
- Red Crescent mobile volunteer groups have to practice regularly to improve their skills. Therefore, a number of workshops and simulation exercises are planned for 2005. Emergency stockpiles in each region need to be replenished too. The stock management system has to be centralised to refine warehouse procedures. This will improve delivery of items to disaster victims.
- Old telecommunication equipment also needs to be replaced. In 2005, new VHF handsets and VHF repeaters will be installed. Red Crescent vehicles will be equipped with HF mobile stations. Training for staff on telecommunication will continue too.
- As the only national community-based organisation, the Red Crescent has to strengthen its links with the communities it springs from. It plans to develop training modules and train targeted groups on community-based disaster preparedness, mitigation and first aid. Schoolchildren will be a main target group.

²⁰ Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) is a basic process used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of national societies and/or communities in relation to disaster management. The process is part of the Federation's efforts to fulfil its commitment to reduce people's risk to disaster.

Goal

The vulnerability of the population of Azerbaijan to disasters has reduced.

Objective

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened its capacity to prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters.

Expected results

- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened its disaster response capacities by improving professionalism of its volunteer teams, replenishing emergency stocks and improving internal communication.
- Communities living in disaster prone areas have better awareness of the risks and threats of the most common emergencies.
- Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved coordination in disaster response within the national society as well as with other key actors including the local authorities, the United Nations and other agencies. [Please click here to go to the project logframe](#)

3. Humanitarian values [Please click here to return to the title page](#)**Background, achievements and future directions**

Humanitarian values are about changing people' attitudes and behaviour to promote tolerance, co-existence and respect for human dignity. Because of its special status and thousands of volunteers and members all across the country, the Red Crescent is in an ideal position to challenge the different labels that divide people. In Azerbaijan, the turmoil in the country and surrounding region after the break-up of the Soviet Union and other factors such as stigmatisation of people living with HIV/AIDS and marginalisation of lone elderly people, migrants, disabled children and orphans, drug addicts and sex workers, have shown how acute the problem is and how much the country requires an organisation, which protects humane dignity as well as spreads the message of humanity and impartiality.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is stepping up its efforts to challenge violence and discrimination in all its forms and promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity. In 2004, the national society has started a series of training for its volunteers so that they will share the message of non-discrimination with their communities and try to change attitudes and behaviour.

In 2005, the work will continue. More volunteers will be trained. The Red Crescent will bring people together so that they learn to respect each other. It plans to organise a number of activities to facilitate socialisation of Red Crescent volunteers with people living with HIV/AIDS to help them overcome fear, myths and misconceptions. The Red Crescent will also organise discussions with students on the lives of those who have suffered stigmatisation to raise awareness and encourage action against discrimination. Cooperation with mass media will be important to tell the world about the Red Crescent work as well as the values and principles that guide it to set an example and encourage more people to join the national society in promoting humanity.

Another issue, the current programme will address, is the poor understanding of humanitarian values within the national society, as not many know what they mean and how to promote them in the real world. A number of workshops and discussions are planned to stimulate the debate among Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Goal

Respect for human beings has increased.

Objective

- Azerbaijan Red Crescent has strengthened its capacity to advocate for the respect for human dignity and promote a culture of non-stigmatization and tolerance towards marginalised communities, including people living with HIV/AIDS, elderly people, orphans and disabled children. [Please click here to go to the project logframe](#)

4. Organisational Development [Please click here to return to the title page](#)

Background, achievements and future directions

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 accompanied by social and economic deterioration and political instability in Azerbaijan and the surrounding region, has affected the capacities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to assist the most vulnerable people. In 1994, the Government recognised the Red Crescent as the only national non-governmental humanitarian organisation in the country. It failed, however, to provide any support to the national society's auxiliary role to alleviate the suffering of tens of thousands of the most in need.

Since 1999 the Federation, within its mandate, has been supporting its member national society to strengthen its organisational capacities. The Red Crescent has progressed in developing policy documents, mission and vision; improving its human resource management and the quality of its services to beneficiaries. The national society statutes were revised to make a clear distinction between its governance and management functions. This was an important move to improve accountability to partners and beneficiaries and consequently, effectiveness of the organisation.

In 2001, the Red Crescent developed a strategic plan defining priority areas in line with the Federation's Strategy 2010. In 2004, reflecting on achievements as well as remaining challenges, the national society, supported by the Federation regional delegation in Ankara, has started revising the plan to establish focused directions for 2005–2007. Continuous capacity building of its staff and volunteers as well as strengthening the financial sustainability of the organisation are two major areas. Strengthening branches is another. This has been an important part of organisational development because the national society's effectiveness hinges on the capacity of the branches to deliver good services.

The Red Crescent has seven regional centres coordinating the work of its country-wide network of 83 branches. Their capacities vary. All, though, have trained staff and volunteers, and basic infrastructure. Each regional centre has a mobile volunteer team and youth coordinators/trainers. All branches have members and primary organisations (community groups that are registered as Red Crescent members), although they have varied capacity to collect membership fees. Some branches are active, particularly in providing health, first aid and social care to vulnerable people in their communities as well as disseminating humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles to larger groups. They have good contacts with the local authorities that provide them with material or technical support. Other branches, however, have yet to strengthen such partnerships. They have poorer programme planning and management capacities. The major weakness, however, is a fragile link with the local communities, caused by a lack of community-based work and dependency of branches on external support.

The 2005 appeal will assist the Azerbaijan Red Crescent branches to strengthen their programme planning and management. Via better programmes, the Red Crescent will be able to better respond to local needs, as well as strengthen partnerships with the local communities, authorities, other NGOs and the business groups. A number of workshops on programme planning, management and reporting are planned for Red Crescent staff from regional centres as well as the headquarters. The appeal also supports training for Red Crescent branch staff to improve their understanding of the national society statutes, including different mandates of the governance and management functions, work with members and primary organisations.

In tandem, the Red Crescent will continue working in a participatory community development (PCD) approach in four targeted branches to help them know and understand local needs; design better programmes to support communities in finding solutions to their day-to-day social and health problems; mobilise local resources and strengthen the sustainability of the Red Crescent work in an environment of a dwindling international support. Progress will be evaluated at the end of the year 2005 and findings will form the basis of future planning, which, it is expected, will see the expansion of the initiatives to other branches and new communities.

Through the youth and volunteer development project, which is the third component of the Red Crescent's organisational development programme, the national society will work to improve its management systems and structures to encourage youth and volunteers to be more valued members of the Red Crescent and participate more in the provision of services to vulnerable communities. In particular, work will continue to establish a youth

organisation that will offer wider opportunities to volunteers to take part in decision-making of the national society. The organisation is planned to be set up in 2006. Volunteers will be offered various training opportunities to improve their technical capacities. They will be encouraged to design and implement social support activities in their regions in cooperation with the Red Crescent local committees and primary organisations within the priorities, mission and mandate of the Red Crescent. Additionally, the Red Crescent will establish youth clubs in regional centres to offer its volunteers a place to meet, communicate, and have access to telephone/Internet. By the end of 2004, the Red Crescent planned to have four clubs. In 2005, an additional three clubs will be set up.

Goal

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent positions itself as an effective partner to support communities in confronting day-to-day challenges.

Objective

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is a well-functioning national society providing better services with greater impact and relevance to the country's vulnerable people.

Expected results

- Azerbaijan Red Crescent staff from the secretariat in Baku and regional centres have strengthened programme planning and management capacities to ensure effective implementation of the strategic plan and programmes/projects. [Please click here to go to the programme planning and management skills development project logframe](#)
- Four branches of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent have strengthened links with local communities and reduced dependency on external support by initiating responsive and focused programmes and mobilising local resources. [Please click here to go to the branch development project logframe](#)
- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has more active youth and volunteers providing services to vulnerable communities via better management system and structures. [Please click here to go to the youth and volunteer development project logframe](#)

For further details related to Azerbaijan please contact

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- *Azerbaijan Delegation: Sabira Baratbayeva (Programme Coordinator); Phone 994 12 98 37 72 or 994 12 98 16 7; Fax 994 12 98 55 01; email baku02@ifrc.org*
- *Turkey and Southern Caucasus Regional Delegation: Carl Nuclear (Head of Regional Delegation); Phone +90 312 441 42 92; Fax +90 312 441 38 66; email ifrcr06@ifrc.org*
- *Federation Secretariat: Sylvie Chevalley (Desk officer); Phone 41 22 730 4276; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email sylvie.chevalley@ifrc.org*

All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct (For details, please go to the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/>) and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project. (For details, please go to the website at <http://www.sphereproject.org/>)

This appeal reflects a range of programmes to be implemented in 2005, and the related funding requirements. These are based upon a broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products (logframes) are available through hyperlinks in the text or can be requested through the respective regional department at the secretariat in Geneva. The programmes were developed with the relevant national societies, taking account of the activities of other organisations. The programmes also respect and support the wish of all countries and international organisations to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. (For details, please go to the website at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>)

For further information on all aspects of the Federation, please go to the Federation's official web page at <http://www.ifrc.org>

BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 05AA068

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	0	0	1,200	0	0	1,200
Clothing & textiles	6,400	32,500	0	5,250	0	0	44,150
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	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	1,800
Teaching materials	1,984	34,430	0	14,600	0	0	51,014
Utensils & tools	0	26,500	0	0	0	0	26,500
Other relief supplies	4,753	12,500	0	2,680	0	0	19,933
SUPPLIES	14,937	105,930	0	23,730	0	0	144,597
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	60,240	1,700	0	0	0	61,940
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	60,240	1,700	0	0	0	61,940
Warehouse & Distribution	0	1,100	0	0	0	0	1,100
Transport & Vehicules	12,942	26,764	6,288	30,562	0	0	76,556
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	12,942	27,864	6,288	30,562	0	0	77,656
Programme Support	10,467	24,414	3,686	21,431	7,091	0	67,088
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	10,467	24,414	3,686	21,431	7,091	0	67,088
Personnel-delegates	9,321	15,510	4,163	37,746	102,000	0	168,740
Personnel-national staff	31,684	52,700	17,893	107,084	0	0	209,361
Consultants	328	1,095	0	0	0	0	1,423
PERSONNEL	41,333	69,305	22,056	144,830	102,000	0	379,524
W/shops & Training	15,062	37,709	2,069	47,410	0	0	102,250
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	15,062	37,709	2,069	47,410	0	0	102,250
Travel & related expenses	12,107	9,760	5,171	7,685	0	0	34,723
Information	39,951	9,883	7,758	24,677	0	0	82,269
Other General costs	14,230	30,498	7,974	29,388	0	0	82,090
GENERAL EXPENSES	66,288	50,141	20,903	61,750	0	0	199,082
TOTAL BUDGET:	161,029	375,603	56,702	329,713	109,091	0	1,032,137