

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

AZERBAIJAN

MAAAZ002

30/April/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2010-31/12/2010



National Society Health department organized Seminar on Avian and Human Influenza pandemic for staff and volunteers at one of its local branches/ Photo by Azerbaijan Red Crescent

In brief

Programme outcome: All programmes and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) are aligned and contribute to Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people.

Programme summary: The International Federation continues to support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in its efforts to provide efficient and good quality services to the most vulnerable groups within the following programmes:

- **Disaster management** was mainly focused on providing support to people affected during various emergencies like flooding, landslides.
- **Health and care** through harm reduction and social care with special focus on health promotion activities, spreading knowledge on HIV and AIDS and recruitment of blood donors.
- **Organizational development** focusing on financial management and resource mobilization, communication and public relations, and youth and volunteer development.
- **Fundamental principles and humanitarian values** were integrated with other programme areas to address the specific cross-cutting issues.

After consultation between the National Society, the International Federation and the main National Society donor – the Norwegian Red Cross it was agreed to focus on the support of three (HIV and AIDS, branch development and youth and volunteer development) traditionally carried out programmes/projects instead of six. A number of the activities in other programmes were cancelled or implemented on a smaller scale due to the limited resources of the National Society. The International Federation continues to support the National Society in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget was CHF 670,056. Opening balance was CHF 149,777; the income was CHF 361,144, thus total funding CHF 510,921 (76 per cent). Total expenditure was CHF 400,253, which makes for 78 per cent of the existing funds. Additionally the National Society received CHF 171,321 (USD 150,953 or EUR 122,201) from the

International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). TAG International Development¹ allocated CHF 8,754 (EUR 6 738, USD 9,500). Danish Red Cross bilaterally allocated CHF 27,283 (EUR 21,000, USD 29,600). Bilaterally German Red Cross allocated funds in the amount of CHF 61,237 (EUR 47,126 USD 66,438). Japanese Embassy allocation CHF 58,599 (EUR 45,096, USD 63,576).

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: The National Society reached 260,542 people in 2010 via the activities supported through the annual plan. Additionally, 2,195 people were reached by the Flood response operation funded through DREF allocation. In 2011 it is planned to cover 60,120 people.

Programme area	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable families, RC staff and volunteers	3,540
Health and Care	Vulnerable people, youth, children	211,634
Organizational Development	National Society key staff and volunteers, youth, children	37,781
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable people, RC staff and volunteers, youth	7,587
Total		260,542
DREF Floods operation (MDRAZ002)	Families affected by floods	2,195

Our partners: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society had at least five partnerships within the Movement. Outside the Movement the National Society cooperated with numerous actors including state bodies at different levels, the United Nations (UN), and various national and international organizations and agencies.

Context

In 2010, the Azerbaijan economic growth slowed down to approximately 3.7% (9.3% in 2009), although the impact of the global financial crisis was less severe than in many other countries in the region. GDP per capita is \$11,000 (\$10,600 in 2009). Unemployment rate is 0.9% (6% in 2009); inflation rate 5.1% (1.5% in 2009); population living below the poverty line is 11%. Individual accounts were opened for 160,523 socially insured people in 2010 as a result of the activities within the government's program on development of the pension-insurance system in 2009-2015.

Since 1987, 2,427 people were registered as HIV infected²: 83.7 per cent were men; 96 per cent were Azeri citizens and 4 per cent were foreigners. 308 people already died from AIDS-related causes. 64.4 per cent of all HIV infection cases have been injecting drug uses. According to official statistics, nearly 25, 000 drug addicts have been recorded in Azerbaijan in 2010, about 6 000 of them youth.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has in 2010 completed the implementation of treatment programs for prisoners with tuberculosis in Azerbaijan. Starting in 2011, the treatment program will be implemented by the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan. Since 1995 and until today ICRC provided treatment to more than 10,500 prisoners suffering from tuberculosis; 5,400 prisoners successfully completed treatment.

On 4 May 2010 heavy rains caused flooding in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river. Approximately 60,000 hectares of cultivated land and pasture was under water. Three people lost their lives and the total number of affected people in seven regions was around 70,000. Only in Sabirabad district and its 24 villages more than 24,000 people have been affected. Some 20,000 houses have been flooded, 2300 of them ruined.

¹ TAG ID is a non-profit, apolitical, international organization devoted to bringing expertise to people in developing nations.

² The Republic AIDS Control Centre, 2010

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Expected outcome/result: The number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters has been reduced.

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities of Azerbaijan has been reduced.

Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has well-functioning Disaster Response Teams at all levels for more effective disaster response

Achievements

The National Society is continuing its efforts to create well-functioning disaster response teams in areas prone to disasters. Recently occurred floods in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river demonstrated the good skills of previously trained staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms while assessing the situation and providing the affected population with necessary items. The National Society improved and facilitated the relief process by implementing coupon system, enlisting products within food parcels, thus helping the receivers manage the goods.

Programme component 2: Community Preparedness towards disaster risk reduction

Component outcome: Communities living in high risk areas have enhanced awareness on disaster

Achievements

The Disaster Management team of the National Society supported their colleagues from health department/ Human Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) team to develop necessary materials for the mapping training (Health in Emergency) that was later carried out in 20 local branches to 650 staff and volunteers, community members as well as members of working groups.

As a response to the floods in May 2010, the National Society requested a DREF allocation of 171,321 CHF in order to support 400 families (2,195 people) evacuated from Sabirabad villages and temporary placed in schools, administrative buildings and camps of Shirvan town, Hajigabul, Imishli and Zardob districts. Additionally National Society provided support from its own stock and thanks to support given by the local Cream 21 Company, to another 240 families (1200 people) from Sabirabad and Ganja regions. The support involved food parcels, mattresses, bed sets, blankets, kitchen and hygienic sets, rubber boots, sleeping-bags, jerry cans and tents. The Disaster Management team was in charge of all necessary logistics procedures (contacting suppliers, collecting offers, organizing tender commission, hiring workers, negotiating with truck drivers, purchasing items, loading/ unloading and packing, delivering to distribution points). National Society finalized the operation with beneficiary satisfaction survey conducted among 60 families. **Floods operation MDRAZ002:** <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAZ002fnr.pdf>

Throughout the year, the National Society provided humanitarian support to 288 families (1,188 people) affected by various natural and man-made disasters like fires, landslides and earthquakes through its own funds in the amount of CHF 49,822.

The National Society had established working relationships with the German Red Cross and since 2009 until May 2010 they supported the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in reconstructing 9 safe play areas in districts placed close to front-line zones. Danish Red Cross expressed interest in supporting disaster management, first aid and branch development activities and the activities in these three areas started in December, to last until June 2011.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to absence of funds the National Society was not able to implement activities planned within

this programme area, thus several of them were carried out through integration with other projects like Human Pandemic Preparedness, through bilateral support of Danish Red Cross or with National Society's own funds.

National Society was actively involved in the preparation of a regional proposal to DIPECHO (European Commission's Humanitarian Aid) department in consultation with external partners visiting Azerbaijan. However despite all efforts, the position of the Government of Azerbaijan was that the cooperation is possible only after the conflict situation in the region is solved. Therefore, participation of the National Society in DIPECHO process is postponed for a certain period of time, but National Society representatives regularly participated at regional DIPECHO group members meetings held in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Health and care

Expected outcome/result: The number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies has been reduced.

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has increased the knowledge of people on health prevention and has reduced public health vulnerability via health promotion activities and the provision of qualified health services.

The National Society continued activities in the areas of HIV and AIDS, community based health and first aid as well as blood donation. Several new projects were started in 2010 like Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) project³ with 20 patients in Baku financially supported by Eli Lilly and Company Foundation and in close cooperation with the National TB Control Programme run by the Ministry of Health (NTCP)⁴ and Harm Reduction project in six regions of Azerbaijan with financial support of the Italian Red Cross. The International Federation Country and Europe Zone offices, as well as the headquarters in Geneva provided technical and coordination support. The purposes are to reduce number of MDR TB cases in the country, encourage patients receiving treatment, promote the healthy life and dignity of those impacted by drug use and reduce harm caused by drug-abuse. Also in 2010 National Society finalized human pandemic preparedness project implemented with financial support provided by USAID.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS has been reduced due to increased awareness of groups at higher risk and the general public on HIV and AIDS.

Component outcome 2: The psychosocial condition of people living with HIV and AIDS has been improved due to the efforts of trained National Society staff and volunteers.

Achievements

63 new peer educators have been trained in the history of the HIV virus, statistics, terminology, general information on the immune system, symptoms, who may be infected, ways of infection and its effects on the human body. Another 54 peer educators refreshed their knowledge at the experience-sharing meeting. Red Crescent trained peer educators who then organised awareness sessions, round-table discussions and campaigns to spread the knowledge among schoolchildren, youth, university students and in their respective communities and have reached an estimated number of 39,535 people in different institutions and communities.

National Society organized several events among 5,500 people devoted to the 1st of December – World AIDS Day at Baku city and in regions with marches on central streets, round table

³ AzRC discussed and agreed the project and all related technical issues with Chief of Institute of Lung Diseases/NTCP Coordinator and signed Memorandum of Understanding.

⁴ The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, a tax-exempt private foundation established by the company in 1968, awards cash grants for philanthropic initiatives aligned with the company's corporate responsibility priorities.

discussions, meetings with families of people living with HIV and AIDS and gifting them presents, drawing competitions and quizzes, concerts and performances.

National Society printed 1,400 educational brochures with guidelines on protection that were and will be distributed during different events like workshop sessions, round table discussions, marking WAD, visits to the meetings and conferences abroad, to local/ international organizations, government structures as well as general public. The National Society also purchased 1,900 condoms to be distributed to people at risk, high school students as well as general public during HIV/AIDS awareness-education campaigns.

The National Society organized picnics for 38 people living with HIV and their families in Garadon Rest Home of Sabirabad district and one of the Lankaran region sanatoriums. Red Crescent staff and volunteers/ peer educators made efforts to create friendly atmosphere: the events included different interactive games, quizzes, disco-nights, performances. With support of AzRC fundraising department two targeted families were provided with hygienic kits and food parcels

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: TB patients are identified for directly observed treatment (DOT), registered and supported to complete DOTS treatment under the supervision of Red Crescent nurses.

Component outcome 2: Awareness has been increased and stigma associated to TB and HIV and AIDS reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

Achievements

Four Azerbaijan Red Crescent trained nurses paid regular visits to 20 people with Multi drug resistant (MDR) Tuberculosis living in four Baku city districts and encouraged them to continue and complete their regular treatment. They were people with very low incomes, caring for many children, living with multiple health problems and/or disabilities, alcohol and drug addicts and former inmates. MDR TB patients followed by National Society nurses had monthly health check up visits to TB Dispensaries. Two times per month a psychologist paid visits to MDR TB patients accompanying the trained nurses in order to provide psychological support.

The National Society paid regular monitoring visits to the patients to keep an eye on the implementation progress, reveal challenges and give recommendations. As a result of project implementation six patients out of 20 were taken for in-patient treatment due to health condition, while other 14 will continue their treatment in the next year.

National Society produced draft versions of MDR TB project and budget for further continuation in 2011 and shared them with the International Federation's Country and Europe Zone Offices and headquarters in Geneva for comments and feedback. The discussions with Global Fund on AIDS TB and Malaria and Ministry of Health representatives on possible future support (e.g. in supporting refreshment trainings and covering the nurses' transport expenditures) are still in progress.

Programme component 3: Community based health and first aid

Component outcome 1: The National Society has set up a network of health promoters and first aid groups to spread knowledge on preventive health within the communities and how to prepare for different accidents, emergencies and disasters.

Component outcome 2: The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health awareness and first-aid activities.

Component outcome 3: Donor blood supply within the country has increased due to the Red Crescent increased number of volunteer non-remunerated blood donors.

Achievements

More than 85,712 people improved their knowledge on health related topics, first aid and blood donation. In total, 248 health promoters, first-aid instructors, National Society Club 25 volunteers and blood donor recruiters organized learning sessions among various groups of population. As

a result of the sessions more women signed up for health checks. In total, 200 cases of breast cancer among the women were detected. Due to blood donor recruitment campaigns and promotion activities of volunteers 1,807 journalists, teachers and students of universities, workers of central post office out of 3,175 became blood donors and National Society could increase the number of blood donation campaigns for children with blood insufficiency (anemia) and diseases (hemophilia and thalassemia).

The National Society jointly with World Health Organisation marked the 14 June, World Blood Donor Day. Approximately 100 volunteers, representatives of Thalassemia and Haemophilia Associations as well as the Association of Blood Donors of Azerbaijan participated in the event, which included presentations, distribution of promotion materials, and live performances.

Programme component 4: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic

Component outcome 1: Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas is conducted.

Component outcome 2: Networking is developed, both internally and externally.

Component outcome 3: One country plan integrating component outcomes four to six is established and operational.

Component outcome 4: Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.

Component outcome 5: Training for first responders and community members are delivered.

Component outcome 6: The Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

Achievements

Due to savings within some lines of the project budget Azerbaijan Red Crescent could increase the number of regions planned to be covered from four to six and target population from 71,500 to 76,560. The National Society created 15 working groups, Technical Committee (TC) and H2P trainers group at all levels (headquarters, regional centres and local committees) consisting of 149 staff and volunteers as well as partners from local authorities, representatives from ministries, chiefs/directors of local health and sanitarian-epidemiological structures, emergency, sport, culture, youth, education and communication departments, media agencies, national and international NGOs and community members. National Society carried out more than 40 training sessions, presentations, individual and group meetings for staff and volunteers, partners and community members, using 600 (adapted/adopted and translated into Azeri) hard copies of H2P curriculums, simulation toolkits, guidelines on use of individual protection tools and templates on writing pandemic preparedness plan shared by the International Federation, partners or taken from internet. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent additionally printed 27,000 leaflets, two video-clips, two kinds of posters with the message being "Your best Defence is you", as well as 315 survey and mapping reports. With its H2P messages the National Society reached massive population especially in remote areas, with poor health system and difficult access to health services, in order to prevent further spreading of the disease and reduce the risk of pandemic. This also created the opportunity for communities to share their problems and directly apply for support. National Society regional centres and local branches partly improved infrastructure and increased the credibility and visibility among communities and local authorities.

Based on the abovementioned activities the National Society developed the Country Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan (CIPPP). The CIPPP cleared up roles and responsibilities as well as actions planned to be taken by each structure towards support to communities. It complements the National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness plan (NIPPP)⁵ and can be used in case of any pandemic. The document can be further updated and expanded as per need (e.g. emergencies or defining the role of the National Society in the National Emergency Plan).

Along with many other National Societies dealing with H2P issues, AzRC activities and experience were highlighted in the consolidated report prepared by the independent expert team on behalf of USAID, CORE Group on H2P issue and H2P coordinators from the International

⁵ NIPPP developed by the Azerbaijan Government in close cooperation with local and international organizations in period 2008-2009. The key activities in NIPPP are related to capacity building of existing health structures (hospitals, training of specialist working in health structures and increasing of the laboratory capacities).

Federation Zone offices and headquarters in Geneva. The report might be used as a practical tool for human pandemic preparedness/response for other National Societies and organisations as it includes a number of practical experiences.

National Society was involved in the vaccination campaign by supporting the Ministry of Health and WHO in producing the promotional video-clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl55dg506J0>. The National Society's representatives have in their role of members of the Health Steering Committee contributed to the design of the campaign and creation of the video.

Programme component 5: Harm Reduction

Component outcome 1: The situation on drug usage within the regions has been estimated and contacts with local authorities have been created.

Component outcome 2: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to work with drug users has been established.

Component outcome 3: The communities' awareness on harm of drugs has been raised.

Achievements

The National Society carried out preliminary assessment of the situation with drug users in the selected regions, with close support of local authorities. Then the Red Crescent conducted a workshop to launch the project and introduced the staff and volunteers of the branches with the aim and the planned activities for implementation period.

Sixteen staff and volunteers from these branches designed a module on working with drug users (methodology on how to reach structures working with drug users and drug users themselves, what tools might be used for this and which psychological aspects must be taken into account when working with both groups).

The other training was on how to approach the drug users and included: explanation skills on approaching services/ institutions working directly with drug users and drug users themselves. Materials have been taken from the Internet <http://www.harmreduction.org/section.php?id=72> and focused topics were *Take charge Take care or 10 Tips for Safer use, Code of Good Practice for NGOs Responding to HIV/AIDS and Overview of Harm Reduction and Sterile Syringe Access*. The methodology applied consisted of several components: organizational (meetings, round table discussions, training sessions), technical (official letters, contacts) and psychological (correct and clear messages towards decision makers and drug users) parts.

In one of the regions the National Society carried out a Public Relations event on Harm reduction with active participation of drug users and local branch volunteers among more than 500 people. 2,000 printed items on drug using were typed and distributed among the community members during the event.

So far the main achievement is that drug users agreed to be part of the project. Another achievement is that local authorities were actively involved in the implementation process and created all necessary conditions to meet people in charge of the issue.

Constraints or Challenges

Efforts need to be made to involve more people living with HIV to the activities of the National Society. There is a necessity to frequently organise training sessions especially in rural areas where the established mentality is the main challenge to overcome alongside poor access to health services on HIV and AIDS, infectious and malign diseases (especially breast and lung cancer as they are the most frequent cases in Azerbaijan). Hygienic norms to prevent spreading and to reduce the harm of the diseases also need to be increased. The cooperation with partners is generally good but sometimes the coordination mechanisms need to be improved. The National Society is making sure that it is always emphasising the need for better coordination and continued communication between all stakeholders.

A survey conducted among nurses and MDR TB patients, demonstrated the acceptance of and positive attitude towards the National Society initiative among both groups. It also highlighted the difficulties they regularly face: unemployment, low income, necessity to receive monthly food

provisions, as well as regular individual psychologist' visit and supportive drugs to decrease the side effects of the treatment. It was not always easy to establish contact with patients, and to explain the importance of the treatment or to convince them to persevere. Due to long distances between patients' places of residence and dispensaries, as well as occasionally invalid addresses provided, the allocated transport expenses were not enough for the nurses who had to spend more than it was budgeted for. Additionally, the nurses need individual protection tools like gowns, masks, gels, gloves as they are in close contact with patients and in addition to treatment control provide injections, measure temperature and blood pressure.

Organizational development

Expected outcome/result: Local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability has increased.

Programme purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent positions itself as an effective partner to local communities helping them confront day-to-day challenges and better contribute.

So far the total number of Red Crescent volunteers is 21,098 out of which 420 were recruited in 2010 as a result of volunteer recruitment campaigns. National Society enlisted 7,225 primary organizations and 290,310 members at the end of 2010. Compared to 2009 this represents an increase of 14 per cent. The National Society established an electronic system for membership management in 15 local committees to increase their capacity to offer more services for the existing members and facilitate recruitment of new ones. It is planned to roll out this method to other local committees should the necessary technical equipment be available in future. So far Azerbaijan Red Crescent has printed out 4,000 membership cards to be further distributed at local committees' level for registration and management of members.

The National Society Secretary General has initiated the project on resource mobilisation and signed an agreement with several banks in the country. The name of the project is "Let's Donate 1 AZN for Humanity" and it is based on voluntary donation of ATM users.

At the moment 38 branches have well-trained staff and volunteers to provide humanitarian services to the beneficiaries and the quality of financial and narrative reports received from them has been improved due to the training provided to them. In the Jar community of Zagatala district the project writing skills developed in the branch helped to solve a problem with bad road: community members applied to local authorities with request and they allocated finances for repairs.

The National Society updated the contents of the Proposal and other supportive documents submitted as project proposal to the Norwegian Red Cross for period 2010-2012 with the support of the Head of the Federation Office in Baku.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent started the development of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in line with the International Federation Strategy 2020: meetings with project managers, representatives of Red Crescent Youth Committee and primary organizations at educational institutions were already carried out. Soon it is planned to share draft version with Federation Country and Zone Offices in Budapest.

The National Society's communication policy and strategy papers have been drafted. The National Society actively uses modern network opportunities, and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=324673369269> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/AzRedCrescent#> accounts have been created in the reporting period.

Programme component 1: Improving and strengthening Red Crescent youth and volunteer management and recruitment system
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Component outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved its youth and volunteer management, recruitment and motivation system.

Component outcome 2: Voluntary service programmes have been developed and implemented at regional and local levels.

Achievements

Red Crescent trained 3,314 volunteers on leadership, writing projects, providing social support to children with disabilities and orphans, on health and First Aid skills, HIV and AIDS and humanitarian values, disaster preparedness and response and Movement's history and Fundamental Principles. The trained volunteers held workshop sessions for 4,190 schoolchildren in Baku city and six regions. National Society purchased and issued 750 module training folders, 700 T-shirts and caps, 300 certificates, diplomas used at different events and a computer set and some furniture for a one of the youth clubs. Volunteers demonstrated received skills while providing 3,756 people from vulnerable groups (orphans, internally displaced, handicapped and HIV positive children, children ill with rheumatism and older people living alone) with psychosocial, health and educational services, providing them with second hand clothes collected by volunteers, cleaning their houses, preparing food, staying on day duty.

The Red Crescent Society organized 16 central and regional youth volunteer board meetings in six regions. The members were able to share information on carried out activities, challenges and plans for further months.

The National Society organized six days educational summer camp for 47 orphans from Lankaran orphanage house. Seven National Society volunteers helped to implement planned activities with support of six teachers from orphanage houses. The programme included acquaintance with Movement's history, different quizzes, games, performances. Another 3 day educational summer camp was organized for 25 volunteers from regional centers in Lankaran, Mingachevir and Sabirabad. The programme included short workshop sessions on leadership, providing social support, First Aid skills, HIV and AIDS and humanitarian values. Most of the time was allocated to work in groups, brainstorming, writing small-scale projects as well as sport and intellectual games.

Programme component 2: Developing National Society regional and branch network and service to quickly and better respond to needs

Component outcome 1: The National Society's strategic plan and policies have been implemented at branch level.

Component outcome 2: Red Crescent programmes and services are carried out in an effective and timely manner including effective assessments and distribution of items at branch level.

Component outcome 3: Target branches have strengthened their skills in public relations and fund-raising to deliver sustainable services.

Component outcome 4: Red Crescent targeted branches have improved their links with local authorities and communities through the participatory community development approach.

Achievements

Programme planning and management

In relation to the International Federation's initiatives linked to Strategy 2020 (data bank and Federation wide reporting system (FWRS), anticipated updates of Federation web page, digital IT systems, humanitarian diplomacy issues, new key dimensions for development of National Society in line with Strategy2020), the National Society already responded to several Federation surveys providing information on its capacity. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society appointed the focal person for FWRS and thanks to financial and technical support of Federation Europe Zone Office/ PMER department as well as Regional meeting in Bishkek this person received relevant training.

The secretary general and his deputy participated at the VIII European Conference 2010 held in Vienna. Main topics discussed were *Multicultural interaction in view of increased phenomenon of migration* and *Increasing number of elderly population in Europe*. Another Azerbaijan Red Crescent representative attended the European Coordination Meeting (ECM) on Youth activities organized a couple of days before the Conference. Being a member of Election Committee in Geneva on behalf of Europe Zone, the National Society Deputy Secretary General regularly participates in the committee discussions. During 2010 National Society staff and volunteers had various opportunities

to participate in a number of international meetings and trainings, summer camps organized abroad with financial and technical support of the International Federation's Country and zone offices, ICRC or partner National Societies.⁶

First aid trainers within the communities already could apply received skills by helping in several cases of heart attacks and bleeding and there were several health promotion sessions organized for pregnant women.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent marked its 90th anniversary. The event was attended by high government officials, ICRC, international organizations and diplomatic corps. Videos of congratulations speeches of Presidents of the International Federation and ICRC have been broadcasted during the event. By the decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic related to this event, the President of the National Society has been awarded with the state order medal and its 16 members were awarded with state "Progress" medals. The celebration was extensively broadcasted by all TV channels.

Financial management and resource mobilization

Raising funds through donation boxes and establishing links with different humanitarian international and local donor organizations as well as corporate sector are key priorities in the development of the fundraising policy of Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. The activities are quite successful in Baku. There are several initiatives in Ganja also but the activities generally need to be further rolled out through other regions. The Red Crescent has received CHF 901,064 from membership fees, private donations and donation boxes – twice as much as in 2009. CHF 482,472 were spent on providing 20,495 large/ indigent families/ families who lost breadwinners, older people and children with chronic diseases or different disabilities, orphans, older lonely people, refugees and IDPs, migrants (as part of marking special dates during the year and monthly humanitarian aid provision) with food parcels or presents, organizing celebrations, purchasing school supplies and teaching materials, manufacturing 35 new donation boxes and covering the administrative costs of the National Society. Japanese embassy in Azerbaijan provided the National Society with funding for restoring water-sanitation system in Mazam village of Gazakh region.

Fundraising teams of Georgian Red Cross and Kirgizstan Red Crescent Societies paid visit to both the National Society and Federation offices to receive fundraising training organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Fundraising officer in consultation with the Federation. As one of the facilitators of the event, the Head of the Federation Office in Baku provided training on topic:

Fundraising with external and internal partners. Using international and local resources.

The National Society has organized audit of carried out expenditures in period 2008-2010 with financial support of the International Federation and ICRC Offices. The results were mostly positive (the documentation on finance expenditures prepared in proper manner, supportive documents present, no discrepancies between income and spending). The main recommendation was to install specialized financial software to improve the quality of financial operations and system and facilitate the financial procedures as well as to further utilize network capacities for finance operations.

Branch development and community capacity building

The National Society organised several training sessions on reporting, public relations and health related topics as well as drama/ art/ folklore for 198 staff and volunteers and community members from four districts. 400 specially trained Red Crescent volunteers conducted a survey with 3,500 community members in four districts for identifying new communities in need, creating community initiating groups and further applying Participatory Community Development approach. As a result two more communities were identified for Red Crescent activities. The National Society organized a number of different awareness campaigns on health promotion (against smoking and use of drugs, on HIV and AIDS, compliance with hygienic rules, preparedness for a pandemic

⁶ ERNA group members in Minsk, Belarus; on preparation Red Cross and Red Crescent VIII Europe Regional Conference in Budapest, Hungary; on Harm Reduction in Rome, Italy; on Humanitarian Principles and Diplomacy and module training for National Societies' leaders in Geneva, Switzerland; regional meeting of the President of International Federation and ICRC delegates with leadership of National Societies in Kiev, Ukraine; workshop on correct usage Red Cross and Red Crescent corporate brands in London, Great Britain; training on writing projects in Cliental, France; summer camps in Bursa, Turkey and Vienna, Austria;

situation), community-based disaster preparedness, First Aid, dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and devoted to several key Movement and international days with active participation in organizational and preparation activities, demonstrations of various performances of local communities, Red Crescent local branch staff and volunteers, high grade schoolchildren and students as well as the representatives of local authorities Total number of participants was 4,250.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to closing of the largest network of supermarkets called “Almali” where Red Crescent used to place its donation boxes this line of income was reduced and the scale of related social activities also had to be decreased. Therefore, it is necessary to design fundraising initiatives at branch level and, where they exist, increase their effectiveness.

Due to lack of funds it was impossible to produce some of the planned promotion material, thus the project staff used materials produced by other departments and postponed some of the activities for the next year. Gender policy has not been developed yet.

The role of the Red Crescent volunteers and youth should be strongly advocated for, with more volunteer based projects to be implemented. The National Society programme managers came up with the idea to create a group of trainers on different programmes supported by experienced volunteers within the primary organizations who will further help in organizing and facilitating training sessions and events.

Humanitarian values

Expected outcome/result: Intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion has been reduced and respect for diversity and human dignity has been promoted.

Programme purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Tolerant behavior towards the diversity of views, culture, and beliefs widely promoted.

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values
Component outcome 1: The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement’s fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.
Component outcome 2: Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.
Component outcome 3: Decision-makers are made aware of humanitarian problems in the society.

Achievements

Despite the lack of funding, the National Society continues its efforts to spread the knowledge on humanitarian values and, using various Azerbaijan Red Crescent projects organize events towards marginalized groups. A number of schools and other institutions were covered through a dissemination project initiated by ICRC.

Using the HIV and AIDS project the National Society organised a round table discussions for 758 students from colleges and universities as well as volunteers from six regional Red Crescent centres and 15 local branches on stigma/discrimination and about the facts of discrimination within their families. The main discussion was about what should be or could be the role and support of volunteers in reducing the stigma as seen in the real life cases.

Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes
Component outcome 1: Marginalized groups have been integrated into the society and experience less discrimination and stigmatization.
Component outcome 2: Marginalized vulnerable groups are empowered with enhanced ability to resist and tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence.

Achievements

The HIV and AIDS project coordinator organized the abovementioned picnics for people living with HIV (development of questionnaires, interaction games, discussions on stigma/discrimination issue etc.).

Constraints or challenges

Due to the absence of funding for this project the activities were implemented jointly with other projects: HIV and AIDS, youth and volunteer development and branch development. This way, the National Society reached a smaller number of people than planned, but some activities took place.

Working in partnership

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the International Federation cooperated with Movement partners and a wide range of central and local governmental, non-governmental, national as well as international organizations and institutes including:

- The Federation secretariat at zone and country level and ICRC.
- Sister National Societies including Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Magen David Adom.
- Ministries and public authorities, agencies and centres covering health, social affairs and labour, science and education, culture, sports, youth, emergency, crisis and rescue and mine clearing.
- UN bodies and agencies including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID, the World Health Organization (WHO), OCHA, World Vision, OXFAM, Open Society Institute and UNICEF.
- TAG International Development and Eli Lilly and Company Foundation.
- Networks or membership organizations working in the field of harm reduction, HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis including the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS and TB (ERNA), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Alliance on HIV and TB.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes are closely linked to the Strategy 2020. The National Society regularly monitors and evaluates its programme activities to ensure the most efficient use of the limited resources available and to continuously assess programme progress towards the overall objectives. Monitoring includes a continuous collection of data and analysis of programme activity information. Internal as well as external monitoring was carried out and tools for data gathering included field visits and meetings, reporting and final evaluations (as described above, e.g. visits of the H2P expert team, Magen David Adom Izrael, as well as internal monitoring visits by the Federation).

Gender issues were addressed by ensuring that all activities carried out by the National Society benefited the most vulnerable regardless of gender. Internally equal access and opportunities for participation and decision-making for both genders are an imperative for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The split of men and women working in the management of the AzRC is almost 50-50. In the planning process gender equity and diversity were taken into account and will be followed in 2011.

Looking ahead

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent actively learns and applies the knowledge and expertise of the International Federation in the field of resource mobilization and establishment of new partnership within the country and abroad to be able to further implement projects. As a result of successful fundraising, membership fee collection and contributions from the government's budget the National Society has covered up to 80% of its core costs and some of the projects activities, contributing to the projects' sustainability. New partnerships have been established with several National Societies such as Danish, Italian and German Red Crosses and Magen David Adom Izrael. The society will develop its strategic plan for 2011-2015, which will clearly describe the directions in coming years referring to the Federation's Strategy 2020.

The existing structures at headquarters, regions and districts level, human resources and technical capacities and expertise ensure the projects' sustainability and help to continue implementation after the external funding ends. The National Society has improved its cooperation with the government, local and regional authorities, other stakeholders and beneficiaries and created stronger links with local communities. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society has provided local communities/ volunteers with skills and knowledge, which will further give scope to respond to day to day challenges, make their lives safer and healthier, and enable them to act in times of necessity and by that ensure longer-term sustainability of the project.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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