

THE CAUCASUS: ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, AND GEORGIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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Despite limited donor support this year the Federation has re-oriented programmes towards supporting longer-term solutions in rehabilitation of social and physical infrastructures. This, however, attracts less interest and attention from the Federation's traditional donors in this region, and the Federation is increasingly concerned over the well-being of the most vulnerable specifically related to the needs of the elderly living alone.

The context

The social situation in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is characterised by crushing poverty, excessively high unemployment rates, and rising prices. Despite slight economic growth, widespread poverty in these countries continues and living conditions continue to deteriorate. The region is also prone to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and flash floods, and a key concern is the inadequacy of disaster preparedness strategies to respond effectively. Health care and social welfare systems in each country have been severely affected, and this, together with efforts to protect the most vulnerable from the sharp side of transition, provides a strong justification for well-targeted humanitarian programmes in each country.

The social and health situation throughout the region has dramatically increased the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Federation continues to concentrate its efforts on strengthening the capacity of each National Society in order to provide a self-sustaining infrastructure of relief and rehabilitation assistance. Thus, the 2000 programmes focus on the need to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable, and at the same time reflect the need to

further encourage self-sufficiency among vulnerable groups and the National Societies, as the Federation's emphasis shifts towards the development of working structures and systems as well as ensuring quality of service through better targeting and monitoring.

Latest events

Armenia •

Armenia has been facing a severe food crisis due to summer drought that damaged most of the crops in the northern six regions of Armenia. The crops most severely damaged have been cereals, potatoes and cattle fodder. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) experts the most devastated by the drought are small subsistence farmers, who have already suffered severe deprivation during the last decade. A number of relief initiatives are being planned, with food relief efforts being led primarily by WFP in the northern regions, with other donors interested in food relief in selected southern areas of Armenia. The Armenian Red Cross and the Federation have been active participants in these planning efforts and will play a leading role in planned relief distribution efforts.

The OSCE, charged with finding a solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, resumed its work in October 1999. The three co-chairs of the group conducted a five-day tour of Armenia, Nagorni Karabakh and Azerbaijan in July 2000 and even though no fresh proposals were brought to the negotiating table, a renewed commitment from all the sides to reaching a solution was observed.

Azerbaijan •

Human rights issues and the lack of freedom of speech has become a prominent issue in Azerbaijan following arrest of an editor-in-chief of the Yeni Musvat newspaper, known for writing critical articles about the authorities. 20 newspapers went on three days strike demanding the authorities to put an end to the pressures on the press. There have been demonstrations in various areas in response to the deteriorating conditions in the country. Following the fall of National Currency in relation to USD, prices for imported foodstuff have increased by 20-30%. This is linked to this year's drought, which devastated the vegetation in Azerbaijan in plains, half-plains, steppes, forests and even that of highlands (Alpein). Grasslands have also been destroyed, meaning there will be little fodder for animals.

At the UN Millennium Summit, President Aliyev appealed to the international community not to curtail the level of assistance to Azerbaijan as the situation of IDPs is still desperate.

Georgia •

A dry winter followed by a prolonged drought with temperatures into the 40s devastated crops in southern and eastern Georgia (especially in the regions of Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Shida Kartli). Normally temperate, this region which produces much of Georgia's wheat and sunflower crop is facing in places a total harvest failure. FAO and WFP have completed a needs assessment, concluding that some 696,000 people will require food aid through next year's harvest and some 26,000 tonnes of seed will be needed for planting in the next season.

Georgia became the 137th member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Membership will give Georgia access to global markets at preferential tariff rates, which is expected to help to boost exports and stimulate economic growth.

Three ICRC employees were kidnapped in the Pankisi Valley for ten days during August. The kidnapers, who apparently never made any demands throughout the incident, remain at large. The Pankisi Valley in the Akhmeta region of Georgia is sheltering approximately 7,000 refugees from neighbouring Chechnya. ICRC as well as the Federation and other international organisations carry out various relief programmes in the Valley.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Armenia •

Disaster Response

Thanks to financial assistance of Britain's Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross, the *Social Service Centres (SCCs)* project was able to continue to the end of August 2000. During this quarter, the 23 SCCs positioned in the Armenia Red Cross Society (ARCS) offices throughout Armenia had 16,503 visitors. 4,133 beneficiaries received direct aid in the form of second-hand clothes, donated by Swedish Red Cross. Medical consultations and medicines were provided to 4,037 persons. Red Cross volunteers paid 571 home visits. 3,500 beneficiaries were assisted with food and hygiene items. The others were provided with support in the form of information or advocacy from the SCCs staff. Funding is now being sought to continue the project as an important element in the current regional development initiative of the ARCS (see section on *Capacity Building*).

Within the framework of the *Population Movement (PM)* project's activities, the *Public Awareness Campaign* translated its information bulletin on PM activities into Russian and Armenian for distribution to refugees. 5,000 copies of the Russian version of the Refugee Law of RA, which was adopted in March 1999, was printed and distribution to refugees in the regions through the ARCS branch organisations began. The *summer camp* was attended by 50 most vulnerable refugee and 50 non-refugee children. *Skills Training for Refugee Women*, which started last quarter is running smoothly with regular attendance by 30 women of English, Armenian and Computer lessons. Distribution of basic medicines, medical supplies and hygiene items for the *Medical Services for Non-CIS Asylum Seekers* component is ongoing. Health education materials were translated and distributed to beneficiaries through the ARCS medical services. Preparations for the *Psycho-social Services to Elderly Refugees* project got underway. Within the framework of the project, 45 Red Cross volunteers will be providing 330 elderly refugees with social-psychological services, including: social support (personal and domestic hygiene, cooking, shopping), nursing, distribution of medicines, medical supplies, food and editorials.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

The *Disaster Preparedness* project continues to develop and strengthen the 11 ARCS regional and 3 zonal DP centers and their volunteer staffs with both general and technical DP training, and to build volunteer-based, mini-versions of these capacities at the sub-regional levels within selected regions. A seminar on '*Disaster Management and Population Protection in Emergency Situations*' was held in the regions. The participants included the Red Cross staff. A simulation exercise, '*Together Against Disaster*' was organised in Sjunik region by the Emergency Management Administration in co-operation with the ARCS, relevant governmental and non-governmental structures. ARCS continues to develop its relationships with all members of the national DP community, and has begun to work closely with a number of NGOs who wish to become involved in DP issues. DP public education efforts continue, and a local donor is being sought to support a mass printing and distribution of DP training modules throughout Armenia.

Health

First Aid (FA) training courses continue, as does the preparation of the FA instructors by certified trainers. The FA also started preparations for 30 10-minute video films on FA topics as teaching aids. Three scenarios were elaborated by the ARCS for three TV tutorial classes. Support from Armenia's well developed FA project is being provided to Georgia, and a weeks training in Yerevan is planned for the National Society and Federation FA counterparts in October.

The ARCS in close co-operation with the Armenian Ministry of Health started the project, *Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis* funded by the Hellenic Red Cross. This quarter, the first round of

medicines for DOTS therapy of 800 new cases of Tuberculosis (200 prisoners and 600 civil people) were distributed through the network of existing TB institutions.

Humanitarian Values

Geneva and Armenian Delegation have continued to support an important cross-border humanitarian initiative between Armenia and Turkey. The operation plans and programming for spinal cord rehabilitation treatment among the victims of Turkey's recent earthquake at the ARCS ***International Post-Trauma Rehabilitation Centre***, are in progress. Renovation of the IPTRC premises has started.

The ARCS Information Department was actively involved in educational aspect of the Disaster Preparedness project.

Intensive discussions on how to make the dissemination activities useful took place during a dissemination seminar held for the ARCS community branch instructors. Weak and strong points were outlined and new guidelines for future seminars were elaborated.

Capacity Building

As reflected in its new Strategic Plan 2000, one of the most important and challenging objectives facing the ARCS is its decision to take the successful regional office development process of 1997/1998 down to the community branch level. With a limited budget, this effort is being executed through an integration of efforts and funds from the Netherlands Red Cross' two-year, bilateral, regional ***Institutional Development*** project. This quarter, much of the ARCS efforts were keyed to enhancing the management and operational systems and controls needed to sustain ID initiatives, with substantial positive results, including a recent WFP bilateral request that ARCS use its network to distribute 25,000 MT. of drought relief food to 176,000 small-farm drought victims in Armenia's six northern regions. Network distribution of the first 500 of 1,000 wheelchairs, private donation through the American Red Cross, to spinally injured persons throughout Armenia has begun.

Azerbaijan •

Disaster Response

The ***Southern Camps Agriculture*** project continue without secured funding surviving on the returns of its Credit Loan and Income Generation component. New vegetable seeds and fertilizer, rubber boots and gloves, fuel and spare parts for water pumps from already existing stock were distributed among the kitchen garden holders for the autumn harvesting season. There are currently 1,503 families, who together with family members, are cultivating approximately 119,96 ha. of land in and around the camps. 186,652 kg. of wheat and 94,134 kg. of vegetable were harvested by kitchen garden holders in summer. The minimal assistance was also given to the IDP commercial wheat growers. In addition, the Federation has been providing IDPs with technical support, such as dividing land into plots, constructing dams and making irrigation canals. The irrigation plan and fuel for pumps are already under control of the Kitchen Garden Committees (KGCs) in all camps, as well as updating lists of the kitchen garden holders. It is anticipated that the Federation will gradually phase-out from direct support and the KGCs ultimately will take over responsibility for the whole project by the end of 2001. In order to increase effectiveness of their work, training in planning, management and control will be provided by a locally identified NGO.

The ***Credit Loan and Income Generation*** component is continuing only to monitor the repayment of loans. Some loan takers face difficulties in repayment of the loans due to different reasons, such as low productivity of agricultural crops, different animal disease, low selling prices in market, lack of pastures or hot weather. Up to now, out of 265 loan takers, 41 have been fully repaid, leaving 224 to be monitored. The last loan repayment is scheduled to be made at the end of 2001.

Within the ***Children's Support*** component of the ***Southern Camps Community Development*** project, which aims to keep the children physically and socially healthy and to increase awareness of children's issues, an inter camp football competition was held. Volunteers (94 so far) from the camps

have been assisting the National Society in organising various activities, such as drama, folklore, and fine arts for children, to help them learn healthy lifestyles such as hygiene, dental care, and anti-malaria campaign. There are 2,170 IDP children involved in this project. Health education posters and leaflets were distributed to local school in Sabirabad. 297 hygiene kits, which were received as donation from Operation Mercy through UNHCR, will also contribute to the health education campaign in camps. 20 volunteers from the IDP camps received training in health promotion, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement principles, childcare and primary education from the locally contracted NGO *Buta*. The training will continue in next quarter as well. Red Crescent volunteers were participating in distribution of school materials, donated by EXXON-Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC, to IDP children in Southern Camps. Preparations got underway for the *Assistance to Disabled Children* component.

The Federation have continued the series of workshops for the *Women's Committees* in community mobilisation, effectiveness and self-reliance. The attention now will be directed towards developing needs assessment skills and action planning. Some of the committees have already made assessments and identified their concerns - such as garbage disposal and latrine emptying. Within the framework of the project, latrines for disabled persons in all seven camps will be built. Beneficiary lists were prepared by the women's committees. The work will be implemented by volunteers identified by the women's committees.

Within the *Special Assistance to the Most Vulnerable IDPs* component, 41 lonely elderly, identified in the camps, were supplied with furniture and crockery.

32,500 IDPs in all seven camps were assisted with food including wheat flour, green beans, sugar, vegetable oil and salt under the *Southern Camps Food Relief to IDPs* project funded by ECHO. Parallel to food distribution, a vulnerability survey was conducted to more adequately target the needs of the Southern Camps' population. All registered beneficiary families (6,558) partook in the surveying. For each of the seven camps, a report detailing vulnerability status was produced, together with a breakdown of the vulnerable categories. 25.2% of those surveyed were found to be vulnerable according to predefined criteria. The complete report of the assessment is available upon request.

Each of the 3,712 IDP families living in the Southern Camps received pieces of corrugated iron, timber and nails to construct a proper roof. Construction materials were procured with the financial assistance of EXXON-Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC. Distribution for the remaining 76 families will be implemented in the next quarter.

With the financial support of the Swedish Red Cross, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent (AzRC) continues its *Meal on Wheels* project in Sabirabad and Alibairamli providing hot meals twice a week to 50 bedridden elderly. Red Crescent volunteers make weekly visits to the market for collection of donations and foodstuffs. Next year the project is planned to be extended to another two regions subject to availability of funds.

The *Southern Camps Water Sanitation* project continues supplying treated water (approx. 60 litres per person per day) to the seven IDP camps in Sabirabad.

Construction work has been proceeding according to plan in the Federation's innovative pilot project, the *Fisuli Repatriation Project (Shukurbeyli Pilot Project)*, wherein 160 families originally from the village of Shukurbeyli have been working with the Federation and AzRC in designing their return. By the end of this quarter, 85 homes and latrines were built or rehabilitated with co-operation and input of the homeowners. Preparations have been made for the commencement of the second phase of reconstruction of houses. Another 80 houses will be reconstructed with the financial assistance of the German Government through the German Red Cross. Within the framework of the project, a local company has been identified for the supply of construction material. The rehabilitation work is planned to start in the beginning of November 2000. The Federation is seeking funding to facilitate repatriation

of another 160 families from the camps by rehabilitation of another 160 houses in liberated villages next year.

Under the Project's *Community Development* component funded by ECHO, local authorities allocated five ha of land for the *Green House* project, income from which will be utilised for further projects. Monitoring of the loans granted within the *Income Generation* component continued. This quarter, 11 more loans were given to the villagers. Most of them are related to cattle breeding and do not exceed USD 1,000 per loan. Up to now, out of 60 loan takers, two have been fully repaid, leaving 58 to be monitored. The last loan repayment is scheduled to be made in 2002.

The educational process, including computer, English language and business-marketing courses for 30 IDP women aged between 18-23 years old, ended under the *Population Movement (PM)* project. Successful students were awarded with certificates. The professional skills developed during the studies will help the refugee and IDP women to compete for jobs on an equal footing with the local population. 10 IDP students already became volunteers of the AzRC. The AzRC have continued developing co-operation with other relevant agencies within the *Emergency Fund for Most Vulnerable Refugees and Stranded Migrants* component. 40 IDP children were sent to summer camp with 40 non-IDP children to share experiences and to learn about the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and Principles. The information department of the AzRC has prepared a video-film on the AzRC activities within the PM project's *Public Awareness component*, which is hoped to raise the profile and image of the National Society. The film was shown on the national TV. It is being translated now into English and Russian languages and will be distributed to the donor community and other international NGOs. Preparation for the *Psycho-social Rehabilitation in IDP Centres in Baku* got underway. Under this component, community rooms will be established in four IDP collective centres. The rooms will be supplied with basic furniture and equipment. Psychological rehabilitation activities will include, drama, folklore, and fine-art. Training workshops for the IDP volunteers on basic knowledge of child development, age-related symptoms and child psychology, will be conducted by psychologists contracted by the Federation. A proposal for a new project *Mobile Technical Teams* was developed. The project will provide assistance to 4,000 IDPs accommodated in small collective centres and private accommodation in a form of minor repair works, such as repair of electrical systems, roofs and windows, as well chopping and stacking firewood. AzRC continues negotiations with UNHCR on possible involvement of the AzRC in operations providing assistance to Chechen Refugees.

Disaster Preparedness

With the financial assistance of the Norwegian Red Cross, the *Disaster Preparedness* project will begin next quarter. The project seeks to facilitate a greater understanding of the nature of hazards and risks present in the community, of the vulnerable people most likely to be effected, and of the resources available to reduce risk. The project will support the AzRC in planning and implementation of a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, and in development of a regional risk, resource and response plans.

Health

With financial assistance of EXXON, the *First Aid* project continued to train instructors throughout Azerbaijan. 54 first aid training sessions were conducted this quarter. 653 people (IDPs, nurses, volunteers, university students and teachers, youth, and general public) were trained. A possibility of drafting agreements between the AzRC and respective Ministries on obligatory FA training for drivers, policemen, firemen and school children was discussed by the FA co-ordinator with the AzRC leadership.

The *Basic Health Care and Health Education for IDPs in the Southern Camps* project ended with the last donation of medicines and medical supply to district authorities on the condition that they provide free medical service to IDPs who come to their polyclinics for treatment. The responsibility for clinical services in each of the seven Southern Camps has been given to International Medical Corps.

The Federation support for health activities in the camps will now focus on strengthening the capacity of the AzRC and to target those areas of public health, which are not addressed by the Government, namely that of health promotion and education. The new project ***Health Promotion in the Southern Camps***, funded by the Netherlands Red Cross, will further support creative and participatory community based health promotion and education within the primary health care context, focusing on endemic and seasonal illnesses. Thus, campaigns relating to water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health, family planning, immunisation and the prevention and treatment of local health problems, will be addressed. It is also anticipated that these activities will be extended to relevant repatriation/resettlement areas and also through regional areas targeted through the Community Development programme.

The AzRC health promoters are continuing to do surveillance and testing for malaria, and supervise treatment compliance for identified cases in the Southern Camps on a regular basis. Following an anti-malaria spraying of camps, completed by the Red Cross health promoters with the assistance of volunteers, a decrease in cases has been observed. The Red Cross health promoters continue to collect and analyse health information, and monitor sanitation condition in the camps. The Red Cross health promoters also provide the IDPs in the camps with consultations on family planning, STDs, diarrhoea, sanitation, personal hygiene, immunisation, first aid and nutrition. Following a training session to health promoters, the number of women taught about importance of breastfeeding has increased.

Thanks to an injection of funding from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the ***Visiting Nurses/Food Assistance to the Socially Vulnerable*** project, will be able to continue to the end of October 2000. During the reporting period, the AzRC nurses continued to pay visits to 6,960 bedridden lonely elderly currently on the National Society roster, providing social and medical services. Within the additional round, 3,650 food parcels with wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, pasta, sugar and soap, were delivered through the AzRC branches in Baku. Since the Government of Azerbaijan is unable to assume responsibility for this project, any abrupt disruption of medicine and food distribution would leave one of the most vulnerable sectors of the population without any means of support. Therefore, the Federation is seeking funding to continue the project under a revised approach, which will develop complementary role of the AzRC, leaving behind the clinical and curative approach and focusing on health promotion and education, as well as basic social care.

The Health Departments of the Federation and the AzRC, in close co-operation with the Azerbaijan Centre Response to AIDS, are working on a proposal for a new project ***Care and Support for People Living with AIDS***. The project will include a large component of care and support for HIV positive people and their families, as well as community education to reduce the enormous stigma and isolation currently caused by the disease.

Humanitarian Values

The Federation and the AzRC information departments continue to focus on building awareness of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the Fundamental Principles, tracing and dissemination.

Capacity Building

Following the review of the current governing and management structure of the National Society within the ***Institutional Development*** project, training needs for the AzRC staff and volunteers, both at the headquarters and the regional level, were identified. These include training in vulnerability assessment, project planning and implementation, human and financial management. A two-day workshop on project proposal writing and budgeting was organised for the AzRC staff. The Red Crescent volunteers in Sabirabad and Alybajramli received training on targeting, reporting, Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, history of the Federation and Red Crescent activities. In order to develop understanding of what is a well-functioning National Society, consultations and discussions with the AzRC leadership continue on a regular basis. The ***Income Generation*** component of the project is currently under review. To support the AzRC work with volunteers, guidelines on managing volunteers, including a code of conduct for volunteers was drafted. Preparations for the ***Financial***

Management project has started. The project aims to improve timeliness, quality and transparency of financial and management information within the AzRC as one component of an update to the AzRC management structure and working practices. The project anticipates purchase, installation, and fluent use of a computerised accounting system in the National Society headquarters.

Georgia •

Disaster Response

Rehabilitation of the first 15 centres within the framework of the ***Emergency Rehabilitation of Collective Centres Accommodating IDPs*** project, supported by the USAID was completed. The work included mainly repair of roofs, sewerage, glazing and electricity. Rehabilitation of the remaining 25 centres has been progressing satisfactorily.

The first stage of on-site work within the ***Emergency Rehabilitation of Water Sanitation System in IDP Collective Centres in Georgia***, supported by the Swiss Agency for International Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance, has finished. The work included clearing out of basements; replacing drain pipes, vertical and horizontal risers; repairing communal toilet facilities; and installing toilets and sinks in three of 11 IDP collective centres, which had been identified within the framework of the project based on the following criteria: centres that require urgent repair of water sanitation system to reduce a serious threat to the health of residents.

Thanks to a contribution from the US State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, the ***Mobile Technical Teams*** were able to continue assistance to IDPs in small collective centres and private accommodation, lone elderly, and other vulnerable groups in the form of minor construction and repairs. Making 3-4 interventions per day, the teams assisted 262 families in third quarter. The teams worked mainly on repairing and installing electrical systems and glazing. The teams have been also accompanied by volunteer doctors who have been visiting homes within the villages where the teams work.

Community Development for IDPs in Collective Accommodation project continue encouraging the IDP community of 30 collective centres (approximately 49,000 beneficiaries) to help itself by encouraging socialization within the collective centres, motivating the beneficiary IDPs to take more active part in their future and less dependent on humanitarian assistance via relevant, productive training, small business start up loans and kitchen garden supplies. 484 beneficiaries are attending different courses in the ***Skills Development*** component (computers, English, hairdressing, tailor, English preparatory). Within the framework of the project, a drawing competition "What a Wonderful World" was held in all collective centres. The winners were awarded with special prizes. The Georgian Red Cross Society (GRCS) agriculture consultants conducted monitoring of crops within the ***Kitchen Garden Component*** and provided consultation as requested by beneficiaries. There are currently 7,000 families, who together with family members, are cultivating approximately 700 ha. of land around the Collective Centres. The need for a changed approach to the Community Development project was discussed with USAID, the GRCS and other relevant agencies. The concept of Red Cross office-based services, supporting branch development of the GRCS and facilitation of demand-driven community initiatives, has been developed in a proposal for next year. The GRCS CD Coordinators would work closely with community mobilisers identified within the IDP communities and with technical support of the Federation would facilitate project implementation.

The summer camp for IDP and vulnerable local children, organised within the ***Population Movement (PM)*** project, was attended by 85 children. They spent two weeks on the seaside in Kobuleti. In addition to participating in different recreational games, the children partook in educational activities such as composition writing and learning about Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and values. A film about the summer camp was shot within the framework of the ***Public Awareness*** project. The IDP social assistants continued the work with IDP women and children in accordance with the ***Psycho-social rehabilitation of IDP Women and Children in Tbilisi*** component. During the reported period, psycho-medical consultations were provided to 120 IDP adults. Attention was also

directed to working sessions on conflict management and legal issues. Booklets concerning parent-child relationships were printed for the general population. Preparations for the second *Grass-root Population Movement seminar* in West Georgia got underway. The purpose of the seminar is to train the GRCS network on issues pertinent to displacement as well as to forge concrete cooperation mechanisms with the local authorities. Participants of the seminar will include representatives of local authorities and GRCS branch organisations in Racha-Lechkhumi, Samegrelo and Imereti regions. Representatives of relevant national and international agencies will be also invited. An assessment and preparatory work has been carried out within the *Integration of Formerly Deported Meskhetians* component.

The *Socio-economic Survey of the IDP Community in Georgia* was completed. The survey compared the socio-economic conditions of IDPs with those of the local population in Georgia. It found major differences between these two groups in employment, income and housing. The unemployment rate of IDPs in private accommodation is twice as high as that of the local population, that of IDPs living in collective centres is three times as high. Income (from all sources) is correspondingly higher for the local population. The difference between the three groups (i.e., locals, IDPs living in private accommodation and their counterparts living in collective centres) is substantiated by the higher expenditure (relative to total income) on food by IDPs, and this especially applies to IDPs living in collective centres. There is a much greater possession of durables such as television sets and washing machines among locals compared to IDPs. IDPs, especially those living in collective centres, have poorer housing compared to the local population. They tend to live in more overcrowded conditions, have access to fewer facilities such as toilets or kitchens and are more likely to live in accommodation with broken windows and a leaking roof. Fewer differences were found between IDPs and the local population with respect to health and education. The survey also found that some vulnerable groups, such as households with no earner, are more commonly represented among IDPs and particularly by those living in collective centres. Whereas households consisting of the elderly (who receive an abysmally low pension) are more commonly found in the local population. Since IDPs constitute only six percent of the population, the local population evidently contains many more vulnerable households in absolute terms than the IDP community. The survey points to a selectivity in policies, focusing on the areas where IDPs are more vulnerable such as employment and housing. The survey's report is being finalized and will be available shortly. It is hoped that it will be a useful tool for the targeting of assistance in Georgia.

The *Assistance to Chechen Refugees, Other Displaced and Local Population* project continues the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Chechen refugees and local population of 12,500 in the Pankisi Valley. The activities include: the provision of essential medicines and medical supplies, supporting the referral system and transport for patients to Akhmeta District Hospital, maintenance of a health surveillance system, monitoring sanitary conditions, implementing a health education campaign and case management training for health personnel. Further counseling was conducted by the visiting nurses and social assistants for Chechen school children and their parents putting in practice skills acquired during training sessions within the Population Movement's *Psycho-social Rehabilitation to Chechen Refugees* component. Art therapy was again one of the key methods applied by social assistants. A *nutritional survey* of the Chechen refugees and local population living in the Pankisi Valley was conducted. The survey revealed acute and chronic malnutrition problems as well as a high rate of Vitamin D deficiency states. The Federation is currently discussing with UN agencies a possibility of providing supplementary food assistance to the region. The security situation of August 2000, occasionally delayed the implementation of planned activities.

The *Agricultural Assistance in Adigeni* project, funded by Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross, ended this quarter. Within the framework of the operation, some 3,200 households were provided with seed potatoes, fertilizer, insecticide, training and information on useful contacts.

Based on the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment report and discussions with government representatives, humanitarian organizations, local administrative authorities in various regions, and private households, the Federation has established a plan of action in response to the drought in southern and eastern Georgia. The Federation is making an appeal to assist 50,000 urban-based vulnerable persons in the entire country who are considered by the Federation as particularly vulnerable due to the affects of both the current drought as well as Georgia's deteriorating social welfare system; In addition, the Federation in collaboration with WFP, is preparing a food aid operation to assist 220,000 people affected by the drought in two rural areas of southern Georgia - Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli. WFP will be providing the commodities and the distribution costs, while the Federation will take full responsibility for distribution of the bulk food and will provide monitoring of the operation.

Disaster Preparedness

Progress continues on each of the disaster preparedness initiatives under the **DP** project, including: the selection, capacity assessment and upgrade of the DP regional offices; the hiring and training of regional DP co-ordinators; the design of the DP public education/information materials; the co-ordination with GRCS and Federation counterparts in First Aid, Community Development, Dissemination, Information, Institutional Development, Population Movement, Health and Youth and the continued interaction with Government authorities and counterpart agencies to find areas for their DP participation and/or support. 15,000 disaster-awareness posters and 60,000 risk-specific leaflets (four topics) were printed and initial distribution begun. Within the project the following trainings were conducted: Basic DP training for the GRCS regional chairpersons and DP Coordinators; joint DP-Dissemination-Information training; rapid assessment for DP coordinators, and regional basic rescue training.

Health

To date, 3,000 people were trained in the GRCS FA centres within the **First Aid** project. Training was conducted by the GRCS FA Co-ordinators. The Federation Monitor visited Armenian Red Cross to learn from the excellent standard setting and recording practices in place there. Discussions with respective Ministries on possibilities of drafting a law providing for obligatory FA training for drivers, policemen and firemen are ongoing. This law will be an integral part of the National FA Policy. Discussions are ongoing regarding the development of a written marketing strategy for GRCS.

Humanitarian Values

The information departments of the GRCS and the Federation have continued provision of information coverage for the ongoing Red Cross operations in Georgia through local mass media. The GRCS Information Department was actively involved in the educational aspect of Disaster Preparedness project.

Capacity Building

Over the quarter, the **Institutional Development** project has been implementing numerous GRCS ID initiatives, including: National Society Strategic Plan implementation; National Society administrative office set-up; Initial Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) design; construction of GRCS training centre and ID Office; DP-related regional infrastructure development and English-Language capacity building. A broad initiative has been launched to develop GRCS' regional offices through aggressive capacity building at the regional and grass roots levels. This plan has been endorsed by GRCS leadership and was rolled out to all GRCS management and staff. Regional development plans are being prepared by National Society Department Heads and their Federation counterparts to create capacities in Disaster Preparedness, First Aid, Youth, Community Development, Dissemination, Relief and Health. Beyond increased services, quality and vulnerable served, it is hoped this new approach will create the comparative advantage which will draw traditional and new donors back to Georgia. The GRCS HQ staff has been revitalized by a number of talented and English-speaking young managers. General management training for the GRCS HQ staff, department heads and regional chairpersons is currently underway.

As part of the continued training in the *Financial Management Support* project, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross, the GRCS Financial Department completed input of the GRCS accounts from January 2000 forward into its new accounting system. Training in the use of the software for the spreadsheet package (Lotus) for the GRCS finance department continues.

Outstanding needs

Since 1993 the International Federation's Emergency Assistance Programme in the Transcaucasus region enjoyed almost full coverage of its funding requirements. Unsettled conflicts and consequences of the political, social and economic transition have affected millions of people in this region. Obvious hardships of these effects generated substantial solidarity and response from the international community, including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, governments, international organisations, and the public at large.

The most recent assessments of the situation with the most vulnerable conducted by the International Federation in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia clearly confirmed that the plight of the Federation's "traditional" groups of beneficiaries (elderly living alone, IDPs, patients with chronic diseases, single women head of households) has not improved and, in many instances, has become even worse.

At the same time, reorientation of the International Federation's assistance programmes towards supporting longer-term solutions in rehabilitation of social and physical infrastructures attracts less interest and attention from the Federation's traditional donors in this region. This tendency might have further negative influence on the well-being of the most vulnerable in 2000. This specifically relates to the needs of the lonely elderly. No funding was available as of July 2000 to support this primary group of the Federation's beneficiaries through the established structure of Visiting Nurses and recently created infrastructure of Red Cross and Red Crescent Social Service Centres that has already become fully operational since the middle of 1999.

Other important projects have also received less than required support.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation continued to maintain an effective working relationship with its partners both at the headquarters level and in the field. Special attention has been given to exchanging strategic information with the donor and counterpart agency community. The Federation has been attending interagency coordination meetings. Regular consultations were carried out with local government representatives. The Federation and the National Societies have been active participants in the planning efforts in response to the damage caused by the severe drought in Georgia and Armenia.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

For details please refer to the Federation's Desk Officer, E. Parfenov at phone +41 22 730 7325 or email: parfenov@ifrc.org

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Caucasus						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.31/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				11/03/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				15,783,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 54.4%
Balance carried forward from 1999				724,860		
AMERICAN - GOVT		1,200,000	USD	1,888,800	15.02.2000	GEORGIA, IDP
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		50,874	USD	90,225	18.09.00	ARMENIA: NETWORKING FUND, SUMMER CAMPS, PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		35,221	USD	62,464	18.09.00	AZERBAIJAN: PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION, NETWORKING FUND, SOUTHERN CAMPS
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		60,918	USD	108,038	18.09.00	GEORGIA: NETWORKING FUND, INTEGRATION OF MESKHETIANS, SUMMER CAMPS
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		90,000	USD	149,850	10.04.00	EXXON
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		25,391	GBP	65,763	17.01.00	GEORGIA, FINANCIAL MGT PROG.
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		24,000	GBP	62,160	18.01.2000	SURVEY OF INTERN. DISPL. PERS.
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		127,451	GBP	330,098	02/07/00	
BRITISH - RC				10,000	11.05.00	GEORGIA, COSTS OF HEALTH DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	25,700	07.06.00	COSTS OF HOD
ECHO		450,000	EUR	707,220	03.08.00	DEGE06
ECHO/FINNISH RC		500,000	EUR	805,750	04.02.2000	MOU NOT YET SIGNED
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		73,161	EUR	113,853	31.05.00	DP
GERMAN - GOVT		495,400	DEM	386,857	20.06.00	AZERBAIJAN, REHABILITATION OF HOUSES IN FIZULI DISTRICT
JAPANESE - RC		60,400	USD	103,435	21.09.00	PURCHASE OF 2 4wd TOYOTA FOR AZERBAIJAN RC
KUWAIT - RC		30,000	USD	53,205	06.09.00	AZERBAIJAN, VISITING NURSES
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		519,000	NLG	359,767	27.10.00	AZERBAIJAN
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		414,000	NLG	286,981	27.10.00	GEORGIA
NORWAY - RC		30,000	USD	47,220	17.02.00	REIMB. MISSION COSTS, CDP COORDINATOR
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,369,658	NOK	260,704	27.07.00	AZERBAIJAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		768,376	NOK	146,254	27.07.00	GEORGIA
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		809,061	NOK	153,999	27.07.00	AZERBAIJAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,078,749	NOK	205,332	27.07.00	ARMENIA
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		250,000	SEK	46,926	31.03.00	AZERBAIJAN - MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,550,000	SEK	291,865	30.05.00	AZERBAIJAN - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		700,000	SEK	131,810	30.05.00	AZERBAIJAN - CAPACITY BUILDING
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		500,000	SEK	94,150	30.05.00	FIZULI REPATRIATION
SWISS - GOVT/RC				100,000	06.07.00	
SWISS - GOVT				300,000	22.09.00	GEORGIA
SWISS - GOVT				200,000	24.10.00	FIZULI REPATRIATION PROJECT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				8,313,286	CHF	52.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 6 MONTHS
BRITISH - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
JAPANESE - RC				10,000		DELEGATE 2 MONTHS
NETHERLANDS - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
NEW ZEALAND - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
NORWAY - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
SWEDEN - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 5 MONTHS
SWEDISH - RC		600'000	SEK	112,980	31.03.00	
SWITZERLAND - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 5 MONTHS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				272,980	CHF	1.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - PRIVATE / EXXON				416,242	10.04.00	AZERBAIJAN
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		104,392	GBP	270,375	17.01.00	GEORGIA, ADIGENI PROJECT
NORWEGIAN - RC				19,967	15.02.00	ARMENIA - IPTRC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				706,584	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PAM162, PAM510,PAM533, PAZ009, PAZ014,PAZ501,PAZ507,PAZ545,PAZ563,PGE006,PGE501,PGE533,PGE556,PAZ565						