

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

THE CAUCASUS:

21 August, 2002

ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN

Appeal No. 01.48/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 5,911,994; Programme budget revisions are underway and will be communicated shortly.

Beneficiaries/target groups (if available): N/A

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: Period covered: 1 January - 30 June, 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 53.1%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,773,966 (USD 1,851,953 or EUR 1,887,931)

Operational Developments w

Regional

Over the reporting months, no substantive progress towards reaching an agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno Karabakh was made, mainly owing to domestic hostility to concession in both countries. Both President Aliyev and President Kocharian issued uncompromising statements to this effect in recent months. The appointment by both presidents of special envoys to represent them in the talks with the OSCE Minsk Group followed by their first meeting in Prague on 15 April 2002 did not result in any significant progress. The World Bank worked out the programme on development of trade and transport communications between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which had been interrupted more than 10 years ago following the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh. According to the World Bank, both countries have been suffering losses as estimated \$300-400 mln a year caused by the blockade of a transport connection. The World Bank's programme includes a number of projects targeting the communication, transport and trade systems of the entire South Caucasus region.

Armenia

After a decade of economic reforms in Armenia, one of the big challenges facing the Government is to deal with the widespread poverty with 55% of the population living under the poverty line. Despite some positive shifts in the depth and severity of poverty and the decrease of extreme vulnerability from 27.7% to 22.9%, general poverty is not reduced. A targeted social assistance system introduced in 1999 is being improved with the creation of social assistance councils under the auspices of the regional social service centers. The elaboration of a draft law on social assistance envisages a shift toward a differentiated allowance scheme aimed at improving economic condition of the most vulnerable households.

The unprecedented migration level of the last decade has had a negative impact on the country's demography and can be counted among the key factors responsible for more than a twofold decrease in population growth rates. Migration also affected the country's economic development and national security.

Early this year the Armenian Government introduced a new VAT system which affects all humanitarian assistance programmes. At the request of humanitarian organizations working in the country, the Humanitarian Assistance Commission (the Government's coordinating body of humanitarian assistance) organized a meeting with regard to a new VAT regulation and procedures to be followed by the organizations engaged in the humanitarian aid projects to get a VAT exemption.

Azerbaijan

In January 2002, president G. Bush signed a document waiving a measure adopted in 1992 that restricted all aid to Azerbaijan, with the exception of humanitarian aid and aid for democracy (*Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act*). The waiver on section 907 will lead to the US assistance to Azerbaijan aimed at strengthening its border security, with a particular view to assisting in the campaign against terrorism.

A summit to resolve the status of the Caspian Sea was held in Turkmenistan in April 2002. However, the talks ended in deadlock, with the summit less a forum for discussion than an opportunity for the five littoral states (Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran) to restate their positions on this long-standing dispute. No multilateral agreement on the status of the sea was reached, primarily because Iran and Turkmenistan contest ownership of several major oil fields with Azerbaijan. The five states are not likely to change their positions on how the sea should be divided into national sectors, making expectations for an early resolution of the status of the sea rather pessimistic.

Economic situation in the country remains rather stable, with real GDP growth being 4,7% during the first quarter of 2002. A major restructuring of the government and the public sector started after the IMF demands, continued over the past months, although the government's implementation of some of its reform obligations under the IMF/WB Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility Strategy falls behind schedule.

Presidential Decree of 13 May 2002 '*On Improvement of living conditions of IDPs settled in five IDP Camps in Bilasuvar region*' marked the initial step undertaken by the Government of Azerbaijan to resettle the residents of the Southern Camps. According to the Decree, 192 billion Manats (about 40 mln USD) from the State Oil Fund will be allocated for the construction of houses in 19 new settlements in the Fizuli and Bilasuvar districts, where some 3,719 IDP families currently living in the five Bilasuvar camps will be resettled by the end of the year 2002.

Armenia

Disaster Response w

With the support of the Japanese Red Cross Society forty-nine staff members of twenty three Social Service Centres (SSC) continued to provide 8,384 beneficiaries with various services (food, medicines and various supplies, basic health checkup, information, home visits, consultation, etc.) by mobilizing local resources. The distribution of the Swedish Red Cross donated secondhand clothes was carried out in the Social Service Centres.

Regional and community branches of the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) strived to promote cooperation and community involvement in SSC activities. The staff continued its efforts to increase the number of volunteers and youth supporting their actions. 124 volunteers took part in various activities of the SSC's such as distribution of food and various other supplies. The SSC's also worked to promote cooperation with local authorities.

The ARCS encouraged the SSCs to find self-sustainable solutions to their running costs, with the support of the Japanese Red Cross Society. After a tender for implementation of income generating projects in regional

branches, aimed at financing the activities of the SSC's, a project of international freight forwarding activities was selected. Under this project a secondhand truck was purchased and renovated.

The Social Service Centres Project was completed in June 2002 and, drawing on experiences gained in the first half of 2002, it is planned to provide more focused assistance to selected SSCs in the second half of the year. The ARCS, with the support of the Federation Delegation, has already identified 8 SSCs that are more advanced than others in terms of sustainability of SSC services and a new SSC project, if approved, will focus on increasing their self-sustainability and introducing their best practices to other centres.

The implementation phase of the *Population Movement Programme* started in January 2002. Funded by Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration at the US State Department (BPRM), the Programme includes 3 components.

Under *the Project for Psycho-Social Services for Elderly Refugees* 60 volunteers were given a special training. The volunteers visit 330 beneficiaries twice a week while a psychologist contracted by the ARCS is providing consultations. Social evenings and charity dinners were organized in 3 regions covered by the project - Kotayk, Armavir and Yerevan. During these events beneficiaries received gifts, newspapers, medicines and food parcels (containing oil, sugar, canned fish).

Within *the Public Awareness Campaign Component*, the Population Movement Department of the ARCS actively cooperated with relevant local and international organizations working in Yerevan such as UNHCR, IOM, Armenian Young Lawyers Association, Armenian Sociological Association. The ARCS was included in a working group on counter-trafficking led by the OSCE and IOM.

Based on the contract with the "Audiovisual reporters" company preliminary shootings for two films - "Armenia as an Asylum", "Refugee Women" - and a TV spot started. All three materials will be produced and broadcasted early September.

Within *the Skills Training Component* 30 refugee women are currently involved in English and computer courses at the International Post-Traumatic Rehabilitation Center (IPTRC). At the start of each training the participants were provided with appropriate text books, exercise books and stationery.

Disaster Preparedness w

Co-funded by the Norwegian and Finnish Government/Red Cross Societies, the new *Disaster Preparedness Programme* started in April 2002, while the implementation of the 2001 DP Programme was just completed.

The Emergency Management Department (EMD) of the ARCS continued the development and publication of DP specialized literature. 7 training modules developed by EMD were published and distributed to both the ARCS DP regional structures and the Government's Emergency Management Administration (EMA). A hard copy and electronic version of a booklet on EMD activities were distributed to all governmental, non-governmental and international agencies, as well as embassies and foreign missions accredited in the country. Training modules for "Public Awareness Campaign" were developed, printed and distributed to the ARCS DP&R coordinators. A photo album with detailed characteristics of each item was developed and included in the DP&R emergency stock. Close cooperation was maintained with mass media to introduce the DP messages and activities to the general public. In particular, radio programmes on young rescuers competitions and ARCS' rescue structure were aired constantly by the "Liberty" radio.

In close cooperation with EMA, American Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council, the EMD organized 5 training seminars in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Tsakhadzor, and Yerevan to increase the ARCS staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills. A simulation exercise on earthquake was organized in Vayots Dzor with participation of the ARCS rapid response groups. During the evacuation exercises conducted in 6 secondary schools in several marzes (regions), 3,809 students were "evacuated" within minutes. During these exercises first aid and rescue demonstration were given by regional rapid response forces. In Kotayk region a pilot competition "Young Rescuer" was conducted in January.

All the activities undertaken within the framework of the project have been carried out in close cooperation with the EMA, Ministry of Education and Science and local representatives. Close cooperation has been

established with the US Embassy in Armenia, which made in-kind donation of special equipment and emergency stock. As a continuation of close cooperation with UNDP and based on the results of the Young Rescuers Competition, a pilot project was conducted in Lori region and a similar competition will be organized in northern parts of the country (Shirak, Tavush regions). As a result of close working relations with the American Red Cross, the training for the Search and Rescue Dog Handlers was organized in March 2002.

Humanitarian Values w

The National Society continued to carry out dissemination and information activities with its limited resources. With the guidance of the HQ, dissemination officers of Regional and Community Branches of the Armenian Red Cross Society carried out various dissemination activities for 67 educational and 30 non-educational institutions. In total 15,700 were trained by the dissemination officers. 45,100 copies of dissemination materials were distributed throughout the country. All ARCS activities were largely covered by mass media and the National Society published monthly newsletters and leaflets. The Information Department organized 34 TV broadcastings, 8 radio programmes, 24 newspaper articles, 11 electronic press releases. The image of the ARCS was enhanced through various campaigns and events such as the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Adoption of Geneva Conventions, 100th Anniversary of awarding the first Nobel Prize to Henry Dunant.

Health and Care w

The First Aid Training Methodological Training Center organized 14 basic first aid courses, 12 brief and 4 regular FA courses with the enrollment of 402 participants. 336 of them were certified as first aiders. 5 “FA basic skills” training games were held with the participation of 100 children aged 10-14. 9 “First Aid Basics” training games were also conducted for 68 children of 7-10 and 3 “Safety Behavior” training games for 38 children of 4-6.

Within *HIV/AIDS Project* supported by the Norwegian Government/Red Cross Society 4,000 copies of “Sexological Explanatory Dictionary were published in both Armenian and Russian. The books were distributed among youth in Yerevan and all regions of Armenia by youth leaders/volunteers, dissemination officers and trained participants. Training workshops on STI/AIDS were conducted for 122 ARCS youth leaders and volunteers from Yerevan and all regions. A survey was carried out among youth on AIDS through a special questionnaire developed with the help of the medical department and the results were summarized. Trained volunteers also participated in a national radio talk show and in the march against AIDS on the World AIDS Day. Medication and test-systems (3,300 syphilis test systems and 624 HIV/AIDS tests) were procured within the framework of the project and distributed to the STI Center, maternity homes, hematological institute.

The project is completed as of April 2002 and the new project started as of June 2002, thanks to the donor’s continuous support.

Organizational Development w

The funding support from the Norwegian Government/Red Cross made it possible to continue the *Organizational Development Project* aimed at assisting the ARCS Headquarters, 8 regional branches (RB) and 17 community branches (CB). In order to improve the interrelated cooperation and coordination of the activities within the national society structure, new reporting formats were developed and put into effect in March. A CB development model was elaborated which will be in two CBs as a pilot project. Around 60 seminars and workshops were conducted by regional and community branches with different themes. Besides, 350 staff of RBs and CBs participated in the workshops held by other organizations. With the help of the headquarters, the RB/CBs were able to provide humanitarian assistance and services to 2,000 beneficiaries through relief projects, 7,440 beneficiaries through socio-medical support, 10,670 beneficiaries through dissemination, and 4,130 beneficiaries through information campaigns. Close contacts have been maintained with international organizations such as UNHCR, IOM UMCOR, UNICEF, etc., and efforts were made to improve relationship with state institutions and local authorities. On June 18-19, the Federation Secretariat’s OD department hosted the “National Society in Transition” project final meeting in Yerevan. All three National Societies involved in the assessment process (ARCS, Mongolian and Kazakhstan RC societies) and OD department representatives from Geneva were present.

To create a transparent system of internal financial controls and procedures, the ARCS arranged for an external auditing on the one hand and implemented a *Financial Development Project (FDP)* on the other hand. Under the FDP supported by the British Red Cross, the ARCS and the Federation Delegation jointly produced a document regarding the measures to be taken to put into effect the recommendations made by a previous auditing company. The first draft of an accounting and financial procedures manual was prepared and is being developed for internal use. A two-day financial training seminar was organized for the Finance and Accounting Department staff. Another training seminar was organized for the ARCS department heads and programme managers. A training seminar “Accounting/financial standards and procedures” was organized for 21 regional and community branch chairmen and accountants. Two accountants are currently being trained in new chart of accounting and accounting standards facilitated by the “Armenian Accountants and Auditors Association”. A coding structure for expenses and income in the projects is currently adapted and utilized. A reporting system for management, tax authorities, government structures has been settled and used. The reporting system performs reports with all necessary analysis.

There was no external funding for the *Youth Project*. With limited resources the RC Youth Department organized several training courses, environmental hikes/actions, tree planting, etc. Young volunteers were actively engaged in providing support and services to elderly refugees and other vulnerable people and took active part in RC events and campaigns.

The Youth Department developed and submitted a project “Youth and Financial Resource Development” to the Capacity Building Fund for its funding consideration, and the proposal was approved. This project with a special emphasis on initiating self-sustainable Red Cross youth activities will be implemented in the second half of the year.

Regional Cooperation w

The implementation of the 2001 programme continued until 2002 mainly because of an unexpected delay in programme implementation caused by the problems experienced with the Georgian Red Cross Society. For that reason, workshops and meetings were rescheduled and held between the National Societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan without the participation of the GRCS. In March, a youth component was added to the programme.

A regional health meeting took place in March 2002 in Yerevan to exchange experiences in the field of health, first aid and social welfare, and come up with a joint plan for further capacity building activities in the second year. A regional DP training workshop was also held in Yerevan at the end of January in collaboration with the relevant emergency management authorities of Armenia. A common basic training module “Natural and Man-made Disasters” and a glossary of terms in the field of disaster preparedness and response were developed and used during the workshop. Another regional DP meeting took place in Baku in March, in which the two National Societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan developed the fundamental principles of strategy in disaster preparedness and response for the National Societies in the southern Caucasus. A regional community development meeting was held in March in Yerevan in order to achieve greater understanding of community development activities within the region and to discuss and finalize its concept. A regional information meeting was organized in February in Baku with the participation of the information and dissemination officers of the two National Societies for exchange of information and experiences. A pilot regional newsletter “the Caucasus Highlights” was produced in April. The first regional youth meeting was held in March in Yerevan to discuss the role of youth leaders and exchange ideas for future cooperation.

As an attempt to draw out lessons learned from the first year’s programme implementation, the achievements and constraints were reviewed by coordinators of each activity area through the circulation of an evaluation questionnaire. This will be utilized as a tool to further improve the programme implementation in 2002. Drawing on the experience of 2001, the programme, now in its second year with the continued support of CBF, will put a stronger focus on the involvement of the leadership of the National Societies in their organizational development.

However, considering the recent political tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan, it was decided to temporarily freeze the programme implementation. The programme is thus suspended for the time being but will resume as soon as the situation allows it.

Coordination and Management w

The Federation's Delegation in Armenia has assisted the ARCS in effectively meeting the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and taking over full operational and financial responsibilities for programme implementation from the Federation. In particular, it has assisted and advised the National Society in making its programmes responsive to the local vulnerability, developing itself into a well-functioning national society, improving its profile in the country, and working together effectively.

Based on its Strategic Workplan, the Armenian Red Cross Society and the Federation Delegation have been working on a *Cooperation Agreement Strategy*. The draft was submitted for comments to the Secretariat early this year. A revised draft was sent out to the Armenian Red Cross Society's partners for comments and discussions in order to incorporate all stakeholders' input. Unfortunately, despite reminders, the ARCS and the Delegation hardly received any comment to their draft. The Secretariat would like hereby to strongly encourage partners to contribute their views and perspectives in order to set out their plans and objectives for inclusion in the document.

Communication has been maintained with the Federation Secretariat on the progress of relief operations, development programme and resource needs. Efforts were made to ensure that the Federation's human, material and financial resources are efficiently and properly managed. Relations were maintained with the other Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in-country, the UN, NGOs, as well as the embassies and missions of donor governments.

Outstanding needs

The implementation of the projects funded in 2001 (DP, Health and OD) was finalized in April 2002. The response to Appeal 2002 to date partially covers the needs, but the initial appeal target will clearly not be met. A revision of the programmes is underway and revised appeal budgets will be finalized within the current month.

Azerbaijan

Disaster Response w

Under the Swedish Red Cross funded *Community Development (CD) Programme in the Southern Camps*, the Federation continued to provide support to the Sabirabad RC Center staff and volunteers in their regular activities within the six small projects, namely 'Meals on Wheels', 'Children Support Project' (CSP), 'Women Committees' (WC), 'Skills Training Centres' (STC), 'Special Assistance Project' (SAP) and 'Training for the National Society'.

Within the *Children Support* component, further efforts were made to ensure efficiency of the project implementation through developing capacities and skills of the CSP volunteers. Experts from BUTA (local NGO) were invited to deliver training on psycho-social rehabilitation of children to the CSP volunteers involved in organizing the IDP children's out-of-school activities in the four circles (fine arts, drama, sports and folklore) in all seven camps and Shukurbeyli village of Fizuli district. During the reporting months, the project volunteers assisted the National Society in arranging various community activities in the camps. A number of concerts linked to national holidays and celebrations were organized in all seven camps, where the CSP circles' attendants performed role-play shows, dances and songs.

Contributions made by Exxon Azerbaijan and the Norwegian Embassy made it possible to continue with a monthly distribution of a total of 1,000 copies of the "Shakar Villasi" children newspaper to the IDP children in 18 schools and six CSP centers in the Southern Camps as well as to those in the Shukurbeyli village school (Fizuli district). One of the topics covered by the newspaper over the reported period was a Countrywide Championship linked to the *Peace Education Programme*, where the Children Boxing team from camp C3 won two medals.

The Federation's and national society Community Development staff continued to provide training to the *Women Committees* aimed at strengthening their role as the leaders for self-help activities within the community. Particular emphasis was put on training for the Women Committee in the newly rehabilitated village of Shukurbeyli of the Fizuli district, where the Committee is relatively new compared to those in the camps. The national society Sabirabad Regional Center CD staff organized a series of workshops on community mobilization, effective meetings and self-reliance, as well as on the Red Cross/Red Crescent fundamental principles and humanitarian values for the Women Committees both in Shukurbeyli and in the camps. During April 2002, Women Committees in all seven camps and in Shukurbeyli were closely involved in identification of beneficiaries for the Swedish RC donated used clothes distribution, which was completed by the end of May 2002 and covered a total of 3,040 most vulnerable IDPs. Within the final phase of the *Special Assistance Project*, Women Committees in two camps mobilized communities for the construction of latrines for the three most vulnerable project beneficiaries. During the concerned period, the Women Committees in the camps initiated the First Community Groups Meeting, which marked starting of what is planned to be a regular *coordination meeting* aimed to bring together various community groups to share problems, plans and lessons learned. *Skills Training Centers Project* continues to train young people in the camps on various skills through the courses such as 'sewing', 'knitting', 'hairdressing', 'shoe making' and 'mechanics', which are at the moment operated by 10 instructors and have capacity to train 19 students during a time period. Over the reporting months, a total of 38 young people in two camps (C1 and C6) graduated from different courses operating within the project. In March 2002, the project trainees displayed their handmade works such as carpets, saddlebags, socks, cushions, etc. on a Sales Exhibition organized in Imishli by CHF staff. Some of the displayed items were purchased by the visitors.

The *Meals on Wheels Project* continued to provide food support to the most vulnerable local population in the Sabirabad, Alibayramli, Fizuli and Agjabedi districts. Twice a week the volunteers of the AzRC regional centres local branches delivered hot meals to a total of 100 lone elderly in their respective districts. Following the scheduled reduction of the Federation's financial support to the project, further efforts are being made by the national society local branches to attract private donors and raise some funds to ensure the self-sustainability of the project.

Under the *Training to the National Society* component, the Federation's Sabirabad Field Office continued to focus on developing and strengthening the capacities of the Sabirabad Regional Center and its local branches as leading community-based structures. Over the reported period, further efforts were made by the Delegation's CD staff to ensure ongoing training to the RC Regional Center CD staff and volunteers on programme and resource management. Assistance was provided to the Regional Center by the Delegation's staff in designing a model for training on Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and its fundamental principles to be provided to the various community groups in the region.

With the rehabilitation of 167 houses (against 160 originally planned), construction works within the two-year Shukurbeyli Rehabilitation and Repatriation Project successfully came to an end by the beginning of the year 2002. New ***Rehabilitation and Repatriation (RR) Project*** designed to facilitate return of some 140 IDP families from the Southern Camps to their homes of origin in the village of Alkhanli of Fizuli district was launched in October 2001. To reporting date, the construction of the first batch of 14 houses has been completed, while preparations for the construction of the second batch of 14 houses is ongoing with the cooperation and input of the returnees responsible for the actual construction work. A so-called *Construction Council* aimed at facilitating the implementation of the project was set up to ensure cooperation and coordination among all parties involved. A total of five members of the Construction Council represent the *IDPs* settled both in the Southern Camps and in Alkhanli, as well as the *local authorities* (Administration of the village), the *National Society* (chairman of the RC local branch) and the *Federation* (Field Delegate). Implementation of the project is being closely coordinated with the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Actions (ANAMA), which had finished mine clearance of the areas for the construction of the first 40 houses by mid February 2002. Mapping of the area earmarked for construction of the next 100 houses was completed by the project staff and forwarded to ANAMA for further actions.

The ***Community Mobilization*** initiative within the framework of the Federation's operation in Fizuli continued to focus on developing a sense of community spirit and implementing a number of community based activities among the returnees in the rehabilitated village of Shukurbeyli. Regular community meetings have been held to identify main concerns in the village. The *Income Generation* component of the Fizuli programme continued to

regularly monitor the repayment of 112 loans given to the IDPs repatriated to Shukurbeyli. While the issue of final installment of funds by ECHO for continuation of the loan/credit scheme for repatriates is still pending, the Federation has been receiving a huge number of new applications for loans from the returnees.

With the financial assistance of the Exxon Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC (Exxon Azerbaijan), the ***Southern Camps Agriculture Project*** continues to support some 282 small holders (1,338 family members) organized through a total of seven *Small Holders Committees*. By the end of February 2002, the irrigation of winter wheat that was sown in the autumn and the first application of nitrogen were completed. The distribution of oil and diesel for irrigation purposes was carried out in those camps that rely upon the six water pumps, purchased last year. In June 2002, the winter wheat was harvested, with yields surpassing expected results (3.6 - 4.3 ton/ha). Over the reported period, a considerable amount of machinery, equipment and mobile buildings were purchased within the framework of the Exxon Azerbaijan funded ***Food Processing Project***. These purchases will allow for the packing, grading, storage and distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables to the local market, and possibly direct contracts with the major catering companies that operate in Azerbaijan. Further efforts were made to ensure the project's sustainability in the long term, with the focus placed on training of the beneficiaries. "Farmer to Farmer" technical assistance provided to the Agriculture Project in the beginning of March by a ACDI/VOCA¹ research agronomist, marked the first round of the scheduled regular training for the Small Holders Committees. Further training was delivered by CHF² to the small holders in C4, Gravel Factory and Bahramtapa.

The *Credit Loan and Income Generation* component continued to monitor repayment of the loans during the reported period. So far, a total of 60 loans have been completely paid off leaving some 205 loans to be monitored. During the reported period, discussions were held over handing over the project to the National Society.

The ***Population Movement (PM) programme*** continues to develop a capacity within the AzRC to implement projects aimed at providing assistance and social or legal counseling to the displaced. Within the *Skills Development* component of the programme, the six-month English language and computer skills training courses were launched as of January 2002 at the AzRC HQ. Six persons were contracted to work in the capacity of instructors for the so-called *vocational courses* targeting a total of 30 young IDPs and refugees aged between 16-25, as well as a group of the AzRC volunteers. Also, paid courses were initiated for general public to ensure self-sustainability of the project in future. Income generated through the paid courses made it possible to partly cover the salaries of instructors.

Over the reported period, further efforts were made to expand activities within the Population Movement programme to the regions through the AzRC regional centers and local branches. Seminars were held in Ganja, Mingachevir, Agjabedi and Barda for the staff and volunteers of the regional centres and their local branches to train them on the tools of conducting a survey amongst the IDPs to assess their living conditions and needs. Red Crescent instructors were provided with six questionnaires to be filled in by their target groups. Joint activities of the AzRC PM and Relief departments and the national society Sabirabad Regional Center's staff and volunteers made it possible to organize the two-day New Year festivities and arrange for distribution of the New Year Food parcels to some 1,200 IDP children in the Southern Camps.

With financial assistance from the US State Department Bureau for Population and Refugee Movement (BPRM), *Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of IDPs* project continued to support the development of various community activities such as knitting, sewing, carpet weaving and art exhibitions, covering a total of nine IDP settlements in six districts of Baku area (Binagadi, Azizbekov, Yasamal, Nasimi, Absheron and Surakhani). The community centres involved in the project have been regularly provided with required supplies for their activities. Currently, the project targets some 231 predominantly female beneficiaries (192 children and 39 adults). Efforts are being made to keep a balanced approach through involving the IDP boys into activities, such as making some simple tools and equipment for knitting/sewing, etc. This, it is believed, will contribute to a psycho-social rehabilitation process of the children. IDP communities have been encouraged to organise cultural and other communal activities in conformity with the specific conditions of their areas. A sales exhibition of handicrafts made by the IDPs settled in Mingachevir, Barda, Agjabedi and Ganja was organized

¹ ACDI/VOCA - *Agriculture Cooperative Development International* (international NGO)

² CHF - *Cooperative Housing Foundation/ Community Habitant Finance* (international NGO)

at the end of May in Baku. Though no considerable money was made through the sales of IDPs' handmade items, the exhibition however served to increase the self-reliance among IDPs and public awareness of IDP issues.

Disaster Preparedness w

Although there were no funded DP projects during the reported period, the DP department of AzRC continued to pursue the DP initiatives relying on minor funds within the National Society. AzRC was quick in responding to a gas explosion in a residential area of the Dashkesen district in January 2002. Shortly after the disaster, the Ganja Regional Center's *Mobile Volunteer Team* (MVT) made up a list of beneficiaries and carried out needs assessments among the affected families. Further to the needs assessment, the Ganja MVT arranged for distribution of relief items, such as mattresses, blankets, heaters, some household items and winter clothes from the existing stock to the 10 most vulnerable disaster affected families.

Through the *First Aid* project, a central component of the AzRC's nation-wide Disaster Preparedness programme, a total of 15 first aid training sessions were provided to 249 persons, including IDPs, volunteers, MVT members, and youth. The National Society First Aid Co-ordinator provided assistance with the national and regional DP seminars. End of a two-year Exxon Azerbaijan funded First Aid project on 31 December 2002 urged the National Society to intensify its efforts aimed at fundraising and self-sustainability of the FA programme. A number of local and foreign companies that were contacted during the reported period expressed their interest in paid First Aid training courses for their employees. The DP and FA departments of the national society are elaborating mechanisms for arranging paid courses for clients.

Progress has been made over the reporting months in developing DP educational materials. '*Guidelines for Mobile Volunteer Teams*' were printed out and presented to all departments at the National Society Headquarters and the Baku Regional Center. Presentation of the Guidelines to the MVTs in the other regional centers, seven in total, will be made during the next reporting period. An illustrated First Aid storybook '*Let's Learn Together*' had been compiled and will be printed out in more than 100 copies by July 2002. The reader friendly storybook is based on true facts /accidents that happened in the Southern Camps, and aims at dissemination of First Aid knowledge and life saving skills.

Humanitarian Values w

During the reported period, the Federation Delegation's and the AzRC' Information departments continued to focus on increasing the general public's awareness of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and its fundamental principles and humanitarian values with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Government/Norwegian Red Cross. Through regularly issued bulletins, press/news releases and fact sheets, the AzRC' and Federation's operations were extensively covered by the local press published in Azeri, Russian and English. An informal annual meeting with the mass media representatives organized at the beginning of January 2002 brought together the National Society's counterparts, representing various newspapers, news agencies and TV channels. The meeting was aimed to acknowledge cooperation of those journalists who contributed to improving the image of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the country during the year 2001.

Articles linked to the 82 anniversary of AzRC on 10 March 2002 were published in several national newspapers while the interviews of the National Society leadership were broadcasted through the local and Turkish TV channels. On 7 May, the National Society organized a ceremony with participation of country celebrities, representatives of counterpart agencies, diplomatic missions, oil companies, international and local NGOs, and mass media. Embassies of Norway, Turkey, Iran, USA and Egypt, Ministry of Health, two humanitarian organizations (UMCOR and ADRA), the international companies Exxon Azerbaijan and Coca-Cola, and 16 representatives of media were awarded with Honor Diplomas for their contribution to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent activities. Opportunity was also taken to launch the Global Campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. More than 170 young volunteers participated in an Art Competition announced on April 8, 2002 in a number of schools in Baku area. On 6 May, exhibition of drawings on "Take a look! Stigma kills!.." and "Power of Humanity" topics was organized at the AzRC Headquarters, and the best 13 young artists were also awarded with Honor Diplomas and presents. All events related to celebration of the 8th of May, World RC/RC Day, in Azerbaijan, was broadly covered by local and Turkish press, TV and radio channels.

Health and Care w

31 December 2001 marked the end of the fourteen-month Public Health Promotion and Health Education in the Southern Camps Programme funded by the Netherlands Government/the Netherlands RC. Through implementation of the Health Promotion in the SC programme, the complementary role of the AzRC in relation to health and care in the community dramatically increased. Activities developed here have become models for the AzRC' health activities in other regions. Given the above, the Delegation and /national society attach a great importance to the continuous public health activities both in the Southern Camps and countrywide. While funding for further activities under the Health Programme is being sought, the AzRC Sabirabad Regional Center's health promoters and first aid instructors continued to regularly conduct the Health Promotion tutorials in all seven camps during reporting months targeting the Women Committees, which are expected to further disseminate the information in the camps, thus contributing to increasing the IDP communities' awareness on health issues. Weekly health education tutorials conducted by the Surakhani RC Regional Center volunteers at the STI Treatment Clinic in the Ramani district of Baku area also continued over the reporting months, covering a total of 265 persons. Main topics of the tutorials targeting the Clinic's patients (mainly the young street girls) were STI/HIV/AIDS and Family Planning issues, while particular emphasis was made on increasing the trainees' awareness on prevention of conventional STI (gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydeous, etc.). In June 2002, further to the visits to the IDP settlements in the Darnagul and Yasamal districts of Baku area, the National Society started up the health promotion and health education activities in the Yasamal district settlement.

Following up on the Netherlands RC funded five-month *Pilot HIV/AIDS Peer Educational Project in the Baku Residential Area* (August-December 2001), a post-training Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey was conducted during the reported period, and covered the three Azeri schools in Baku area. Over the first quarter of the year, a five-day training course on HIV/AIDS issues was delivered to the AzRC young volunteers. Training was facilitated by the "IHLAS" (local NGO) instructors and targeted 11 *peer educators* from the three Russian schools in Baku city area. *'Teenager to Teenager about HIV/AIDS'* training was delivered by the AzRC volunteers/peer-educators for a total of 48 teenagers in Orphanage house # 3 and in "Umid" Street Children's Center (Baku area) in February 2002. The Federation's Health Department supported the national society's Youth, Health and First Aid departments' initiative to extend some activities within the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign to the regions through the seven AzRC Regional Centers. Further financial support is required to ensure continuation of the planned activities.

Organizational Development w

The Federation continued to support the national society's capacity building process under the Norwegian Government/RC and the Swedish Government/RC funded ***Organizational Development Programme*** with a focus being placed on improving the *financial management* system, increasing competence and skills of the AzRC Regional Centres and Headquarters staff in *programme and resource management*, improving the National Society's *fundraising* skills, and establishing *good governance* practices within the AzRC leadership. Implementation of the British Red Cross funded *Financial Management* project contributed to improved timeliness, quality and transparency of financial and management information within the AzRC. To ensure improvement of the reporting system and the procedure recording, training on fluent use of the computerized accounting system installed in 2001 continued over the reported period. Further actions aimed at development of financial reporting and budgetary control systems within the National Society imply installation of software and provision of training on the use of the programme in the national society regional centres, and further in the local branches.

Progress was made in improving the management of volunteers that are actively participating in service programmes implemented by AzRC. In January 2002, a working group for the newly launched *Orphanage activities* was set up under the Youth and Volunteers department, and a total of five orphanages were identified for the future activities. During the reported period, the three-month English courses have been organized for the national society volunteers in all seven regional centers with a financial assistance of the Embassy of Norway in Azerbaijan, targeting some 12 - 18 volunteers in each national society regional center. Under the Norwegian Government/RC funded *Youth Exchange Programme*, agreement was achieved between NRC and AzRC on participation of at least two national society volunteers at the National Summer Camp in Norway.

Different *fundraising* methods were tried out by the national society's Income Generating department during the reporting months, such as submitting business plans on development of some small-scaled businesses in the regions to the local and international business community present in the country, approaching various grant-giving organizations, organizing the charity pop-concerts, etc. Among the achievements of the national society in its fundraising efforts over the past months, 2,000 USD granted by the UNDP to the AzRC local branch in Gabala for implementation of a *Road reconstruction project*, and 3,000 USD of the Empress Shoken Fund's grant given to the AzRC Surakhani local branch for launching the *Youth/ Girls Center* should be noted.

A process of reviewing the current Statutes of AzRC is ongoing. Following up on feedback from the *Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission on National Society Statutes*, some amendments to the AzRC Statutes were drafted by the AzRC Working Group on the Statutes, and submitted to the concerned structures of the national society for consideration. Annual Conference of the AzRC Executive Committee was held on February 9, 2002 that focused on discussions over the adoption of the AzRC Strategic Work Plan (SWP) for the years 2002-2004 and bringing new Statutes of the National Society in conformity with the SWP. Ensuring adoption of the *Law on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society* by the Parliament, and approval of the final version of the AzRC SWP (2002–2004) were stated among the main objectives of the National Society in 2002. A two-day workshop on 29-30 May 2002 brought together the Delegation's and the national society's senior management staff and the national society regional centres coordinators to discuss the national society's SWP and to design the outlines of the future cooperation strategy.

Coordination and Management w

The Federation delegation in Azerbaijan continued to assist and advise the National Society in *capacity building, organizational development* and other development programmes. While the capacities of the National Society in the regions and at the HQ are being strengthened, some staff changes within the Delegation have been designed for the next reporting period to ensure a smooth hand over of some of the activities both in the Southern Camps and in Baku. This, it is believed, will positively influence the process of capacity building and increasing competence and skills of the AzRC regional centres and HQ staff in programme and resource management.

Communication had been maintained with the Federation secretariat on the progress of ongoing operations, development programme and resource needs. Relations were maintained with the other Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in-country, the UN, NGOs, as well as the embassies and missions of donor governments in order to raise programme funds and coordinate Federation activities with programmes of other agencies, and to build the profile of the Federation to the international community, the media, the government and the people of Azerbaijan.

Outstanding needs

Several projects have been or will be finalized shortly. The programme therefore requires further support to ensure the continuation of the planned activities. However, the initial appeal target will clearly not be met. A revision of the programmes is underway and revised appeal budgets will be finalized within the current month.

For further details please contact: Sylvie Chevalley, Phone : 41 22 730 42 76; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: chevalle@ifrc.org.

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

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekens
Director
External Relations

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department

The Caucasus						ANNEX 1	
APPEAL No. 01.48/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				21.08.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CASH							TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5'911'994		53.1%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1'401'429			
EXXON		27'000	USD	45'028	05.12.2001	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOOD PROCESSING	
EXXON		60'000	USD	93'342	20.05.2002	AGRICULTURAL PROJECT	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		58'024	EUR	86'003	07.03.2002	ARMENIA DP	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		809'061	NOK	156'401	29.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEV., DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HUMANITARIAN VALUES	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'618'123	NOK	312'803	10.06.2002	ARMENIA: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV., PRO . COORDINATION	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'500'000	NOK	300'450	14.08.2002	REPATRIATION & RUNNING OF REFUGEE CAMPS	
SWEDISH - RC		1'100'000	SEK	177'320	22.04.2002	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
SWEDISH - GOVT		950'000	SEK	150'195	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				97'600		P69001	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				92'900		PAM015	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'913'471	CHF	49.3%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			42'710			
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			91'334			
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			30'554			
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			59'959			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				224'557	CHF	3.8%	
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF		