

# ANNUAL REPORT



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

## THE CAUCASUS

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*Appeal No.01.48/2002; Appeal target: 5,911,994; Appeal coverage: 75%*

### Operational Developments w

After a decade of economic reforms in Armenia and Azerbaijan, one of the most challenging issues is the prevailing widespread poverty (55 per cent of the population is under the poverty line in Armenia; 43 per cent in absolute poverty in Azerbaijan). Poverty is especially severe in rural areas where there is no possibility to cultivate land, in borderline regions, and also in earthquake zones in Armenia. The lone elderly, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, handicapped, single-headed families and chronically ill people remain to be the most in need of help. The natural and man-made hazards present another major threat. Threats include earthquakes, hailstorms, droughts, floods, as well as radiation leakage from the ageing nuclear power plant in Armenia.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme was launched by the Government of Azerbaijan. This is a 5-year strategy aimed at improving the living conditions of the population. In Armenia, a similar programme was drafted and submitted to the government; it foresees a 2/3 poverty reduction by 2015.

The continued territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unresolved despite the intensive diplomacy of the OSCE Minsk Group and special envoys appointed by both presidents. Any tangible breakthrough in the peace process is highly unlikely before the Presidential elections in both countries, which will take place in 2003.

The International Federation is helping the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and Armenian Red Cross to achieve operational and financial independence, and responsibilities for programmes are being taken over gradually by the National Societies (NSs). Joint efforts are being focused on disaster response, disaster preparedness (DP), health and care, humanitarian values, organizational development, regional cooperation and coordination and management.

In accordance with the Federation's strategy for change, and the European implementation plan, the country delegations in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will report to the Turkey regional delegation as of 2003. Regional planning meetings have taken place in May and October in Turkey in order to start preparation for the regionalization.

### Armenia

#### Disaster Response w

During 2002, a total of 53,604 vulnerable people visited the 23 social service centers (SSCs) of the ARCS. Some 30,213 people were provided with food assistance, consultation, basic medical assistance/services and home care through the support mobilized within the programme as well as from various local resources. The secondhand clothing donated by the Swedish Red Cross was distributed to 29,334 beneficiaries.

The SSCs are looking for self-sustainable solutions to their running costs, with the support of the Japanese Red Cross. After a tender for implementation of income generating projects in regional branches, a project of international freight forwarding services was selected and a secondhand truck was purchased and renovated. However, due to mechanical problems of the truck, the forwarding services did not produce tangible results and the project was completed in June 2002. Lessons learned from this experience will be studied for future income generating projects.

In the second half of the year, more focused assistance was provided to eight selected SSCs (those more advanced and with more potential to perform self-sustainable activities). The SSCs were trained on the legislation, rules and regulation of the social welfare sphere, as well as the project planning process (PPP). Four proposals introduced by six marzes (regions) were selected for the Federation funding. Each of the projects received a grant ranging from CHF 1,590 to 1,700. Rooms for the elderly were created in Vayots Dzor, Armavir, Stepanavan, Yerevan and Masis regions for the lone elderly, and home visits were also made for the bedridden. In total, 2,943 people visited the rooms, and 63 received home care within the projects initiated by the SSCs. In Aragatsotn Marz, through the home services project, fire wood cutting was provided to 38 beneficiaries, and minor repairs at home were provided to 31 beneficiaries. As a result of extensive cooperation and promotion of the SSC activities among the general public and private sector, a charity kitchen for 24 elderly opened in Vedi community branch with direct funding from "Vedi Alco" Ltd.

The emergency assistance to the elderly project was not implemented as there was no funding.

The population movement projects consisted of three components. Within the *Psycho-Social Services for Elderly Refugees* project, 330 elderly refugees living in the communal centers of Yerevan, Abovyan and Echmiadzin were provided with psycho-social services by the 60 young volunteers of the ARCS. Volunteers assisted the beneficiaries in their daily household needs, such as basic shopping, minor repairs, reading newspapers, sharing main concerns, creating favourable atmosphere and enabling the beneficiaries not to feel isolated and lonely. The beneficiaries received food and hygienic parcels, essential medicines, newspapers, magazines, birthday gifts and celebrated birthdays with youth volunteers. Excursions, cultural and social events were organized. As a result of fundraising efforts of the ARCS Youth department volunteers, the international relief and development provided used clothing, bedding, food assistance and hygienic items on various occasions. District governor offices provided space for cultural and social events and charity dinners. Local businesses contributed to the organization of events with local productions (ice cream, sweets, mineral water, refreshments, pasta, etc.). Special arrangements and prices were made for the purchase of medicines for the beneficiaries.

Within the *Public Awareness Campaign*, the population movement department of the ARCS closely cooperated with relevant local authorities as well as local and international organizations working in Yerevan such as UNHCR, IOM, OSCE and Armenian Young Lawyers Association. The ARCS was included in a working group on counter-trafficking led by the OSCE and IOM, and the Prime Minister's office was included in the governmental interagency commission on trafficking as an observer. Two films "Asylum in Armenia", "Refugee women" (20 min. each) and one TV spot on trafficking were produced and transmitted by the national and local TV channels.

Within the *Skills Training For Refugee Women* component, 30 refugee women attended English, computer and accountancy courses. All the participants passed final exams and were awarded with

certificates. Eight participants of the project found jobs and three participants continued their education in a college and university. One participant worked as a volunteer in the Prime Minister's office. The three projects ceased at the end of the year as funding is no longer available. Funding for the continuation of the activities is sought locally by the ARCS as well as through the Federation.

### **Disaster Preparedness w**

The DP programme progressed in the following areas throughout the year, 67 rescue operations were carried out by "Lore" rescue team, and 29 people received help. Telecom equipment (HF and VHF base and mobile stations and handsets) for three disaster preparedness and response (DPR) zonal centers (Yerevan, Stepanavan, and Kapan) were donated and installed by the Austrian Red Cross Telecommunications Emergency Response Unit Team. The emergency management department of the ARCS continued the development and publication of the DP public education materials: six training modules; printed and electronic version of a booklet on EMD activities; handbooks "Disaster Management and "Management during conflicts" (in cooperation with the Crises Management Institute); educational picture books for children called "Aghetik" (small-scale disaster); calendar 2003 "Children against disasters" and others.

"Children against disaster" training followed by a drawing competition, was organized countrywide. The ARCS organized the launch of the "Aghetik" booklets in December in "Khanko Apor" Children's library with the participation of the Ministry of Education, emergency management administration (EMA), CMI, school principals, and other relevant organizations. Ten television and seven radio programmes were aired on the ARCS response structure, young rescuers' competition, presentation of "Aghetik" educational booklets, and the national drawing competition. A total of 557 people attended 13 training/seminars, 367 people participated in five simulation exercises, and 7,011 people participated in 13 evacuations. The meetings for DP coordinators were held monthly to discuss issues concerning the general structure, long-term planning and programme implementation. The Armenia Landmine Impact Survey pilot programme started in Tavush region, with further extension to other bordering zones of Armenia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense, RONCO Consulting Company and Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre. The ARCS participated in the UN Expanded Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) as a member of the working group to elaborate their roles and responsibilities. Five volunteers of the ARCS were awarded with certificates at the mountain rescue and urban rescue training organized by EMA in close cooperation with US Government. The Lore rescue team and Yerevan rapid response team of the ARCS participated in the first national rescue competition; Yerevan rapid response team won the second prize. The ARCS organized a disaster management instructors training in cooperation with EMA. The participants received national certificates, which enable them to provide paid training courses to public institutions and communities at large. Two disaster management instructors organized pilot disaster preparedness training courses for the staff of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Mission Armenia - international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The absence of a law on national disaster preparedness prevented the efforts of the National Society to strengthen its legal base in the field of DP.

### **Humanitarian Values w**

The National Society continued to carry out dissemination and information activities with its limited resources. The dissemination officers of regional and community branches of the ARCS carried out various dissemination activities for 353 educational and 273 non-educational institutions. A total of 70,736 people all over the country were trained. Over 19,000 copies of printed materials were distributed throughout the country. Jointly with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) two seminars were held for eight community branch and 11 regional branch dissemination officers, aimed at improving the dissemination skills and introducing the international humanitarian

law (IHL). A public survey on the Red Cross knowledge was conducted among school children and the general public. A national contest of compositions “Bridges of Friendship” was conducted in 50 schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science. The information department organized 79 TV broadcastings, 14 radio programmes, 14 newspaper articles, 13 electronic press releases, and eight press releases. Public awareness towards the main activities of the ARCS was enhanced through various campaigns and events such as the World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, major celebrations, and also production and broadcasting of five video films, three TV spots, two video footages on various activities of ARCS.

Although dissemination activities were funded by the ICRC and some information activities by the Norwegian Red Cross within the organizational development project, many of the planned activities were scaled down due to funding shortage.

## **Health and Care w**

The *First Aid (FA) Training Methodological Centre* of the ARCS organized 63 first aid training courses and one training of first aid instructors, in which 764 people participated. Some 659 were certified as first aiders and 30 as first aid instructors, 331 participated in 12 FA professional workshops, 11 first aid shows and game-training courses were organized with the participation of 206 people. 300 first aiders and observers from Turkey, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Germany and USA participated in the 6th National Open Competition of the ARCS. The third regional competition of the ARCS was also organized. The ARCS provided FA services for ten sport and mass events. Some 500 copies of booklets on FA activities and competition were edited and published.

Within the sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and AIDS peer education project, 2,000 copies of sexological explanatory dictionary were published in Armenian and Russian languages and distributed among youth in Yerevan and all regions of Armenia by youth leaders/volunteers, dissemination officers and trained participants.

Training workshops on STD/AIDS were conducted for 221 youth leaders and volunteers of the ARCS. Experts from narcological centre and the STD centre were consulted on preparation of educational materials and training programme. The training included basic knowledge on STD, HIV/AIDS and prevention, drug addiction, related complications and dangers, free discussions between participants and youth leaders of the ARCS, analysis of possible complicated situations in sexual practice and games. Experts from the AIDS prevention centre, STD Medical Centre and Narcological Centre were invited to provide lectures. In each phase, a survey was carried out among the youth on AIDS through a special questionnaire. The results showed a significant increase of the knowledge after training sessions, as well as the participants’ willingness to work as youth leaders and to conduct peer education in their native villages and towns. 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 784 HIV/AIDS tests for the first phase, 192 HIV/AIDS tests for the second phase) were procured within the framework of the project and distributed to the STD centre, maternity homes, haematological centre. The development of an educational leaflet for youth on healthy sexual behavior and methods of STD/HIV/AIDS prevention is underway. The ARCS also implemented a tuberculosis control project.

Due to a lack of funds, the planned fist aid projects were scaled down. Due to extremely cold winter and bad road conditions, workshop for HIV/AIDS peer education project was canceled in December.

## **Organizational Development w**

The organizational development (OD) programme aimed at assisting the headquarters of the ARCS, eight regional and 17 community branches continued. In order to improve the interrelated cooperation

and coordination of the activities within the NS structure, new reporting formats were developed and put into effect in March. A community branch (CB) development model was elaborated and launched in two CBs as a pilot project. About 60 seminars and workshops were conducted by regional and community branches with different themes. Some 350 staff members of regional branches and CBs participated in the workshops organized by other agencies. Four workshops were conducted for the headquarters and regional branch staff members of the ARCS. An evaluation of RB/CB activities was conducted at the end of each month and then discussed with the regional branch chairman during the monthly meetings. In October, the regional branch evaluation criteria were revised and a new model was worked out. The regional ranch capacity assessment was conducted through the SWOT analysis and analysis of information on the target groups, material and technical resources, status of regional and community branch. This year, the management of the ARCS made considerable positive efforts in lobbying for the adoption of the Red Cross Law by the government of Armenia. However, the upcoming Presidential Election in February and the Parliamentary Election in May 2003 will again hinder the process of passage through the relevant ministries as well as the Parliament. Continuous efforts are required in 2003 as well.

In June the ARCS hosted the final meeting of the National Societies in the transition project led by the Federation's OD department, with the National Societies of Armenia, Mongolia and Kazakhstan involved in the assessment process.

To develop a more transparent and consolidated system of internal financial controls and procedures, the ARCS implemented a financial development project (FDP). The first draft of an accounting and financial procedures manual was prepared for internal use. Financial training seminars were organized for the staff members of the finance and accounting departments, department heads and programme managers of the ARCS, 21 regional and community branch chairmen and accountants. Training of regional branches were conducted by the finance department of the ARCS covering topics such as budgeting, financial reporting, use of financial forms and chart of accounts for the taxation authority as well as for the Federation. The reporting system was introduced which performs reports with all necessary analysis. However, due to changes in the ARCS key finance staff, the financial restructuring process did not progress as planned.

Within the branch development component, a competition of project proposals was conducted jointly by the Federation's delegation. Six regional branches were selected to implement four projects: "The disabled help each other" (Yerevan), "Development" (Aragatsotn), "RB development" (Ararat, Armavir, and Vayots Dzor), and "Home Services" (Lori). These projects are currently underway under the supervision of the OD department of the ARCS.

Within the information component, the information department of the ARCS organized a training with 12 volunteers from regional branches on how to organize information activities and build and develop effective relationships with mass media. They were also encouraged to be proactive after the training and provide inputs for the newsletter and gradually develop and publish their own newsletters.

Within the framework of the youth and financial resource development programme, "Clean Sevan 2002", an ecological protection initiative and a youth camp was organized in August to draw the attention of the public and relevant bodies to the ecological problems of the Lake Sevan. A total of 45 volunteers from 11 regional branches participated in cleaning of the coastal area of about 40 kilometres, and apart from various ecological workshops, Red Cross training's were held for the participants. This initiative of the Red Cross youth of the ARCS was widely highlighted by mass media. A seminar on "The Main Strategy of Youth Development " for 18 youth leaders of the regional branch was conducted in Yerevan at the end of November. Youth volunteers of the ARCS took active part in various programmes implemented by the departments of the NS such as first aid

national competition, HIV/AIDS educational campaigns, distribution of food and secondhand clothing, disaster preparedness campaigns, etc.

Premises were allocated at the headquarters of the ARCS for the establishment of the Red Cross youth club. The renovation of the room is under preparation. The activities to be undertaken by the youth club will be computer and language skills training, Internet café, production and sales of various promotional items and others.

Through "Fund raising" Ltd. activity of the ARCS, 1,000 T shirts, 1,000 sweat shirts, 1,300 pens and 500 caps, 500 calendars were produced to be sold. The activities are intended for the self-sustainability of the youth activities. The youth department developed and printed 500 copies of 2003 calendar highlighting various youth activities and programmes.

## **Coordination and Management w**

The Federation's delegation in Armenia assisted the ARCS in meeting the needs of vulnerable people and, as an ongoing process, in preparing to take over from the Federation full operational and financial responsibilities for programme implementation. Main directions of the capacity building efforts were programme development and proposal writing, including the introduction of project planning process, programme management, narrative and financial reporting, resource mobilization, and logistics. Together with the NS, the delegation developed the plan of action for its self-assessment, revised the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) and maintained effective relations with the other Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in the country, UN agencies, NGOs, as well as the embassies of donor governments.

## **Conclusions**

The implementation of the projects occurred without major constraints. However, there is still a long way to go to develop the ARCS into a "well-functioning National Society" and there is a need for closer coordination among the parties concerned. The changes in many staff members under the new ARCS leadership which came into office in 2001, especially in the finance and administration, affected the process in preparing the NS to take over full operational and financial responsibilities for programme implementation from the Federation. Nevertheless, working under the newly established regional delegation in Turkey, further efforts will be made by the Armenian delegation in 2003 to support the NS organizational development and capacity building, with a focus on the core area programme management, financial restructuring, resource mobilization, proposal development and reporting with improved accountability and transparency.

## **Azerbaijan**

### **Disaster Response w**

**Objective 1: To increase self-reliance of internally displaced persons, thus reducing their dependency on external assistance.**

#### **Achievements:**

- ***Community Development Programme in the Southern Camps***

Supported by the Federation's Sabirabad Field Office, the Sabirabad Regional Centre of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) implemented four small-scaled projects - 'Meals on Wheels', 'Children Support Project', 'Women Committees' and 'Skills Training Centres'.

The Women Committees were provided with practical training and technical assistance aimed at strengthening their role as the leaders for self-help activities within the community. The Women Committees were involved in identification of beneficiaries for the Swedish RC donated used clothes

distribution in all the seven camps and covered a total of 3,040 beneficiaries. The distribution took place in April and May. In July 2002 they identified beneficiaries for distribution of “mother and baby parcels” for pregnant mothers. As a result, a total of 1,080 IDP families were targeted within the three rounds of distribution. Through the special assistance project (assistance to the most vulnerable, particularly disabled people), the women committees mobilized resources for construction of latrines for three families. The Women Committees in Camp C1 and C3 mobilized communities for the construction of houses for the three vulnerable families.

The Skills Training Centres Project continued to train young people in the camps on various skills such as sewing, knitting, hairdressing, shoe repair and mechanics, with a capacity to train 28 students during a time period. A total of 57 young people in C1 and C6 graduated from different courses operating within the project. In March 2002, the project trainers displayed the students handmade works such as carpets, saddlebags, socks, cushions, etc. in a sales exhibition. In autumn, instructors and the graduates of sewing and knitting workshops participated in the newly established handicrafts-women’s association aimed at assisting the IDP women to organize sales exhibitions and sell their handmade products.

The children support project (CSP) component continued to provide meaningful activities for IDP children in all seven camps as well as in the village of Shukurbeyli, involving them in the out-of-school time activities in four main circles: drama, fine art, folklore and sport. In summer 2002, the CSP staff members and volunteers organized football and boxing tournaments, youth championships in the southern districts of the country and a countrywide championship. A local NGO, BUTA, was contracted by the Federation to deliver to the project staff a two-day training on psycho-social rehabilitation of people experiencing various social problems, and on various tools to involve children into community activities/social life through different games and plays.

During a ceremony linked to the 1 September - Knowledge Day, the Exxon Azerbaijan donated colored ABC, Mathematics and Encyclopedia books to 18 schools in the seven camps. A concert and role-play organized by Red Crescent volunteers involved in folklore and drama circles was performed by the children from C1. Donations by Exxon Azerbaijan and the Norwegian Embassy made possible a weekly distribution of 4,000 copies of the “Shakar Villasi” children newspaper to the IDP children in the 18 schools as well as to the children in the Shukurbeyli village. The distribution will continue in 2003.

The meals on wheels project provided regular food assistance to 100 lone elderly in the Sabirabad, Alibayramli, Fizuli and Agjabedi districts. Following the scheduled 50 per cent reduction of funding provided through the Federation, the NS local branches were focusing on fundraising activities through attracting private donors to ensure continuation and self-sustainability of the project.

The southern camps agriculture project supported some 282 small landholders (1,338 family members) organized through a total of seven *Small Holders Committees*. By the end of February, the irrigation of winter wheat that was sown in the autumn and the first application of nitrogen were completed. Machinery and equipment were purchased. Additional 41 IDP families from the Sabirabad camps (205 family members) were identified, agricultural committees created among them, and assistance given to prepare and sow 50 hectares of land. Technical assistance, training, support with irrigation and supply of inputs were provided. Continuous support to previous small landholders from 2001/2002 programme was given in form of support to infrastructure (irrigation) and technical advice.

**Objective 2: To ensure successful repatriation of 100 families to the Alkhanli village in the ‘liberated areas’ of Fizuli district by involving the families in planning and actual reconstruction of their homes.**

**Achievements:**

Repatriation and rehabilitation project designed to facilitate return of some 143 IDP families from the Southern Camps to their homes of origin in the village of Alkhanli of Fizuli district is progressing smoothly. Implementation of the project is being closely coordinated with the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Actions (ANAMA), which finished mine clearance of the areas for construction of the first 40 houses by mid February 2002. A construction council was set up to facilitate the implementation of the project and to ensure cooperation and coordination among all parties involved. Some 60 families (228 family members) were successfully repatriated to the first rehabilitated 40 houses. At the same time, mapping of the area earmarked for construction/rehabilitation of the 100 houses was completed by the project staff and forwarded to ANAMA for further action. Unfortunately, the mine clearance process was delayed, and consequently the construction could not start as planned. In August, ANAMA finished mine clearance of all houses according to the map and construction of the first houses could start.

Out of the 100 houses, 50 were damaged and will have to be rehabilitated and renovated, and 50 were destroyed and will have to be completely rebuilt. In total 70 houses have had final drawings completed by the Federation's engineer and estimations for total construction materials were prepared. During the winter months, due to weather conditions, the work mainly consisted of renewing and rehabilitating the existing 50 houses. A first batch of 14 houses was finalized in December, with two other batches due by March 2003. In the spring 2003 work will start on building the remaining 50 houses for those returnees whose homes were completely destroyed. The project is expected to be completed by October 2003.

**Objective 3: To increase self-reliance of returnees by encouraging community mobilization and community development thus reducing their dependency on external assistance.**

**Achievements:**

- ***Community mobilization***

This initiative continued to focus on developing a sense of community spirit among the returnees in Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli villages. Regular community meetings were held to identify main concerns in the villages. Community-based activities were coordinated through the Women Committees, Agriculture Committees, Aksakal (Elderly) Committees and Youth and Children Committees. During the autumn, the agricultural committees in Alkhanli mobilized the repatriates for sowing 50 hectares of winter wheat within the framework of the *Agriculture project*, while further 50 hectares of land were prepared for the spring sowing.

**Objective 4: Assist refugees, displaced and asylum seekers with effective legal counseling, skills training and psycho-social support through the population movement (PM) resource centre of the AzRC.**

**Achievements:**

The population movement programme has provided psychological assistance, social and legal counselling to the displaced. Within the skills development component of the programme, a six-month English language and computer skills training course was launched in January, the second phase in July, targeting 30 young IDPs and refugees aged between 16-25, priority given to young women. The PM seminars were held in Ganja, Mingchevir, Agjebadi and Barda for the staff members and volunteers of the RC on conducting surveys among IDPs to assess their living conditions and needs. New year food parcels were distributed 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), the 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 five IDP settlements in six districts of Baku area. The project targeted 180

children and 40 women. A summer camp was organized for 100 most vulnerable IDP children from the Southern Camps. In November, a five-day sales exhibition of handicrafts made by the IDPs settled in Mingachevir, Barda, Agjabedi and Ganja welcomed more than 1,000 visitors in Khagani Trade Centre, Baku. Though no considerable money was made through the sales of IDPs' handmade items, the exhibition served to increase the public awareness on IDP issues.

## **Disaster Preparedness w**

### **Objective 1: To develop a disaster policy for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.**

#### **Achievements:**

A disaster management policy was drafted, presented to the AzRC governing board and shared with the seven regional centers. It is expected that the policy will be approved and printed in March 2003. Progress was made in establishing and strengthening relationships with the State Emergency Commission, Azerbaijan Special Project Investigation, ICRC, UNDP. Representatives of the UNDP, the ICRC, the International Federation and AzRC came together in August for the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) coordination meeting. Discussions were held over the necessity of updating the VCA which was conducted in 2000.

### **Objective 2: To develop disaster response plans with operational procedures for disaster response and local disaster preparedness and response programmes.**

#### **Achievement:**

The mobile volunteer teams (MVT) were formed in each of the seven regional centers. During the autumn and winter, training sessions were conducted on basic disaster classification. And as a case study, the MVTs of Baku and Ganja regional centers made up a list of beneficiaries and needs assessments among affected families after a gas explosion in a residential area of the Dashkesan and house fire in Shamakhi (160 km from Baku) districts. Further, according to the needs assessment, the Ganja MVT arranged for distribution of relief items and winter clothes from existing stock to the 13 most vulnerable families, also affected by the gas explosion. Progress was made in developing DP educational materials. "Guidelines for Mobile Volunteer Teams" were printed and presented to the members the MVTs of the seven regional centers as well as to all departments at the headquarters of the National Society.

### **Objective 3: To develop training modules and train staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness.**

#### **Achievements:**

The "Fovgal" association (countrywide recognized local NGO providing training/consulting on DP and R) started to conduct training among all seven MVTs on Disaster Classification in Azerbaijan; the training will be completed by February 2003. One-day training seminar on disaster preparedness project planning was held in Baku in August for 14 coordinators and first aid instructors from the regional centers as well as the eight staff members of the headquarter. Based on the vulnerability and capacity assessment, small scale project proposals such as "Prevention of environmentally linked diseases", "anti-alcoholism and anti-smoking campaigns", "prevention of forest fires", "vaccination" were prepared by regional coordinators and planned for future implementation.

### **Objective 4: To secure a minimum contingency stock to assist the victims of local disasters.**

#### **Achievements:**

Logistic preparation for procurement of basic tools was made in December. It is anticipated that this will be completed along with improvements of warehouse facilities in spring 2003.

**Objective 5: To strengthen the existing and to ensure the additional material resources needed to effectively carry out planned disaster activities.**

**Constraints:** Owing to lack of funding this objective was not initiated.

**Objective 6: To integrate the disaster preparedness programme into other Red Crescent programme activities to strengthen both the preparedness and services provided to vulnerable groups on daily basis.**

**Achievements:**

In collaboration with the first aid and health department of the AzRC, the mobile volunteer teams of Baku and summit regional centers were mobilized in the implementation of the awareness campaigns on prevention of drowning cases and HIV/AIDS in the Apsheron Peninsula of the Caspian Sea.

**Humanitarian Values w**

**Objectives 1 and 4: To develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of the movement within the National Society; to facilitate and enhance communication in the regional centers and contacts between them and the headquarters.**

**Achievements:**

More than 3,165 volunteers, HIV/AIDS peer educators, MVTs, staff and members of the AzRC in the headquarters as well as in all regional centres were addressed during the year, with a total of 103 seminars and training sessions on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, humanitarian values and the Movement's fundamental principles. Dissemination activities during various meetings facilitated by NGOs, government agencies, schools and universities contributed to enhancing the public awareness of the Movement and its principles and to increasing the number of volunteers involved in the activities of the AzRC to the benefit of the most vulnerable.

**Objective 2: To raise awareness of the general public and private authorities and influence behavior in the community.**

**Achievements:**

In January 2002 an informal annual meeting with mass media brought together the counterparts of the National Society, representing various newspapers, news agencies and TV channels to acknowledge cooperation of those journalists who contributed to improving the image of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the country during year 2001. More than 54 articles, 11 electronic press-releases and 28 TV/radio spots covering the Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the country were produced in the Azeri, English and Russian languages. Articles linked to the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of AzRC were published in several national newspapers while the interviews of the NS leadership were broadcasted through the local and Turkish TV channels. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 during which they were awarded with Honour Diplomas for their contribution to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent activities.

The global campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization and discrimination was conducted. More than 170 young volunteers participated in an Art competition announced in a number of schools in the Baku area. On 6 May, exhibition of the drawings on "Take a look! Stigma kills!..." and "Power of Humanity" topics was organized at the headquarters of the AzRC, and the best 13 young artists were awarded with Honour Diplomas and presents. All events were broadly covered by local TV and radio channels, central newspapers and two Turkish TV channels.

**Objective 3: To increase the dissemination and information capacity of the National Society.**

**Achievement:**

During this year dissemination/information officers assured that all volunteers were regularly provided with seminars and training in Baku as well as in their regions. All reports, plans, projects were discussed and new publications, dissemination materials distributed. It is planned to create information/dissemination volunteers network in the regions in early 2003. Starting from September, weekly training sessions were held by the Federation's information department to develop information/dissemination skills among information/dissemination department staff members and volunteers of the NS. As the training sessions helped improve the department's work and capacity building initiative, they will continue in 2003. A total of 5,000 posters and calendars "Power of Humanity" and "We choose peace" was printed and distributed with the financial support of ICRC.

**Objective 5: To improve the information department's skills of the AzRCS in marketing, focusing also on specific groups. - Lack of funding prevented implementation of this objective.**

**Health and Care w**

**Objective 1: To develop three health promotion campaigns to be implemented through regional centers and branches of the AzRC.**

**Achievements:**

Weekly health education tutorials were conducted by the volunteers of the Surakhani Red Cross regional centre at the STD Treatment Clinic in the Ramani district of Baku area, and covered a total of 707 persons. The main topics that targeted the clinic's patients (mainly young street girls) were STD/HIV/AIDS and family planning. Health promotion activities were conducted in the Darnagul IDPs settlement (Baku area) mainly focusing on reproductive health and family. During September, 12 health promoters were trained on the above-mentioned issues by invited experts from Pathfinder International.

**Objective 2: To develop a community-based approach within the existing first aid programme and link it more closely with disaster preparedness and health promotion activities.**

**Achievements:**

Through the first aid project, a central component of the nationwide disaster preparedness programme of the AzRC, a total of 567 first aid training sessions were provided to 4,235 persons, including IDPs, volunteers, MVT members, and youth. Some 16 trainees were awarded with the "First Aid Instructor" certificates. The first aid project highlighted the needs to intensify the efforts of the NS in fundraising and self-sustainability of the programme. The DP and FA departments of the NS are elaborating mechanisms for arranging paid courses for local and foreign companies.

**Objective 3: To develop and implement a pilot HIV youth peer education programme for young adolescents in Baku area.**

**Achievements:**

Financial support from the Swedish RC made it possible to continue and expand the HIV/AIDS peer education project, which started in August 2001 as a five-month pilot initiative in the Baku metropolitan area. A three-day and five-day training courses on HIV/AIDS issues were delivered by "IHLAS" (local NGO) to 12 young volunteers from the six RC regional centers, two from each region. This brought a total number of the AzRC's certified peer educators/volunteers throughout the country to 50.

'Teenager to Teenager about HIV/AIDS' training was delivered by the AzRC volunteers/peer-educators in orphanages, schools and universities in Baku, Mingechevir, Nakhchivan and Lenkaran regions, covering a total of 409 young men/women. Also, the peer educators were

involved in training sessions targeting the staff and volunteers of the NS, including the members of the MVTs. Health and Youth/Volunteers Coordinators of AzRC participated in a five-day training on Community Mobilization Against AIDS facilitated by UNAIDS Baku office.

**Objective 4: To continue health promotion activities in the Southern Camps and resettlement or repatriation areas.**

**Achievements:**

The Federation continued to focus on strengthening the capacity of the AzRC health department through implementation of the Public Health and Care Programme. Special emphasis was laid on targeting the areas of public health which are not addressed by the government, such as health promotion and health education in the community. Within the component of the programme of the southern camps, the Sabirabad regional centre's health promoters and first aid instructors continued to focus on increasing the IDP communities' awareness on health issues through regularly conducted health promotion tutorials in all seven camps.

**Organizational Development w**

**Objective 1: To increase the capacity for programme development and implementation especially at regional and branch level.**

**Achievements:**

A six-month English language course was launched in September targeting some 16 senior management staff members of the AzRC headquarters. A two-day training session on reporting issues facilitated by the Federation reporting department targeted the NS senior management staff and contributed to improving the reporting skills of the NS.

**Objective 2: To improve the financial management system of the National Society.**

**Achievements:**

The Federation continued to support the' capacity building process of the NS under the organizational development programme. A focus being placed on improving the financial management system, increasing competence and skills of the regional centres and headquarters staff members of the AzRC in programme and resource management as well as improving fundraising skills. Through implementation of the financial management project further efforts were made to improve timeliness, quality and transparency of financial management within the AzRC. Within the framework of the bilateral cooperation agreement with the Norwegian Red Cross, the Secretary General of the AzRC started his 10-month on-the-job training mission in the Norwegian Red Cross as of October 2002. This is designed to contribute to the AzRC overall capacity development process.

**Objective 3: To increase the number of volunteers actively taking part in service programmes, as well as to improve the management of volunteers.**

**Achievements:**

In order to direct and develop youth and volunteers activities, the preparation work on establishing the youth and volunteers board started at the end of 2002. Under the youth exchange programme, five NS volunteers participated in the youth and volunteers conference and at the national summer camp held in Norway. Volunteers assisted in organizing a two-week summer camp in Baku for a total of 60 youth volunteers from Nakhchivan, Sumgat and Lenkoran. A training session on leadership and project planning and writing was held. Coordinators of the Red Crescent youth from the seven regional centres participated as facilitators from Baku. Three-month English courses were organized for the volunteers in all seven regional centres targeting some 12-18 volunteers in each regional centre. The volunteers were engaged in various activities such as delivering food parcels for lone

elderly in Baku suburbs, creating a working group for Orphanage activities, participation in the 'Youth Against Terrorism' campaign linked to the anniversary of the 11 September attacks. A large-scale training meeting for 100 volunteers related to HIV/AIDS awareness campaign was held on 24. November. A total of 340 volunteers marched on World AIDS Day on 1 December. Gifts and sweets were distributed to 326 disabled children on "The Disabled Day" on 3 December in Shuvalan, Shagan settlement.

A USD 3,000 grant from the Empress Shoken Fund's was granted to the AzRC Surakhani local branch for launching the youth/girls centre. In this project girls from 14 to 18 years of age were provided with different skills like sewing, jeweller's art, carpet weaving, house management as well as seminars/training on RC/RC Movement and its fundamental principles, women rights and etc.

**Objective 4: To improve the ability to raise funds from diversified sources for programmes of the National Society.**

**Achievements:**

Income generating component focused on various fundraising activities aimed at reducing dependence of the external financial assistance of the National Society. Among the achievements of the NS in its fund-raising efforts over the past months, a USD 2,000 grant by the UNDP was presented to the AzRC local branch in Gabala for implementation of a road reconstruction project. During the reported period, small funds were allocated by IREX (USAID funded NGO) in response to the project proposals on creating the AzRC web page.

**Objective 5: To assist the National Society in consolidating their legal base.**

**Achievements:**

A process of reviewing the current statutes of the AzRC and the draft RC Law was carried out by the AzRC working group. The final version of the statutes was presented to the Joint Commission of ICRC/Federation whereupon it is expected to be adopted in the AzRC Conference in March 2003. The Law of AzRC was presented to the Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic for approval.

A two-day workshop in May brought together the delegation's and the senior management staff members of the National Society and regional centres coordinators to discuss the AzRC strategy work plan (SWP) and to design the outlines of the future cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). Updating of the AzRC SWP for 2003-2005 is being finalized: it is planned to adopt it during the AzRC Conference in March 2003. CAS update will continue after approval of the SWP.

**Objective 6: To create awareness of good governance within the leadership of the National Society.**

**Achievements:**

The training seminar was held in February 2002 among key staff regarding division of roles between governance and management within the National Society. During this seminar it was defined that responsibilities of managing of AzRC headquarters lie on with the Executive Director and that this is to be included in the statutes.

**Coordination and Management w**

The Federation's delegation continuously participated in interagency meetings and other relevant events in order to facilitate and coordinate with other organizations working within Azerbaijan. Meetings with government officials have taken place where the Federation's work change strategy and support to the National Society was promoted and emphasised.

A legal advisor from the Federation's legal department in Geneva visited Baku in September in order to support improvements of the National Society's statutes as well as give advice on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent law that now was presented.

### **Regional Cooperation w**

The activities of the programme focused on the transfer of existing capacity of one National Society to the other among the Armenian Red Cross Society, Azerbaijan Red Crescent, and Georgian Red Cross in the five selected programme areas (health, disaster preparedness, information, community branch development, youth) through meetings and workshops. Each National Society/Federation's delegation took responsibilities and coordination in the area where it had strengths. The programme promoted direct contacts, experience sharing, and practical training by the staff of the NSs. The National Societies were able to understand better their own capacities through comparing themselves with other NSs. Youth component was added to give more focus on organizational development in March. Some 70 participants attended six regional meetings in health, disaster preparedness, community development, information, and youth in Yerevan and Baku with the participation of National Societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

**Constraints:** Still unresolved conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan stood in the way of the programme continuation. Georgian Red Cross did not participate at the meetings due to the internal developments at the NS. The programme implementation was suspended as of April 2002 due to the political tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The revision of the programme with a focus on supporting leadership trainings for the three National Societies is underway.

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*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>*

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

**Appeal No & title: 01.48/2002 The Caucasus**

**Period: year 2002**

**Project(s): PAM0013, 014, 015, 163, 503, 504, 510, 537, 538, 580, 581, 582,**

**PAZ001, 008, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 021, 160, 301, 401, 501, 507, 540, 557, 566, 569, 572, 573, 580, 800**

**P69001, 69531**

**Currency: CHF**

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	5,911,993				
less					
Cash brought forward	1,462,918				
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>4,449,075</b>				
<i>Contributions from Donors</i>					
American Government PRM (DGUSPRM)	225,430				225,430
American Red Cross (DNUS)	-10,433				-10,433
AZERBAIJAN ECHO /TPS/215/1999/0104 (DEAZ01)	7,428				7,428
AZERBAIJAN ECHO /TPS/215/2000/09024 (DE9024)	15,174				15,174
British Govt.via British Red Cross (DGNGB)	19,879				19,879
British Red Cross (DNGB)	23,394				23,394
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	38,727				38,727
Donor - Capacity Building Fund (DCBF)	92,900				92,900
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	2,390				2,390
ECHO - AZ SOUTHERN CAMPS/Fin RC/1018 (DE101)	14,924				14,924
ECHO - TPS-215-1999-01004 (DEAZ04)	7,092				7,092
Finnish Govt.via Finnish Red Cross (DGNFI)	66,289				66,289
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	18,949				18,949
German Govt.via German Red Cross (DGNDE)	71,682				71,682
German Red Cross (DNDE)	15,326				15,326
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	178,559				178,559
Kuwait Red Crescent (DNKW)	2,016				2,016
Netherlands Govt.via Netherlands RC (DGNNL)	164,824				164,824
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO2)	426,778				426,778
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO)	381,244				381,244
Norwegian Red Cross # 2 (DNNO02)	47,420				47,420
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	40,702				40,702
Statoil (DPS021)	73,700				73,700
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross # (DGNSE2)	36,491				36,491
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	123,519				123,519
Swedish Red Cross- #01 (DNSE01)	2,368				2,368
Swedish Red Cross Grant No.3-HR (DNSE3)	20,689				20,689
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE02)	177,000				177,000
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	71,900				71,900
Swiss Govt.via Swiss Red Cross (DGNCH)	20,000				20,000
United States - Private Donor (DPUS08)	165,410				165,410
USA GVT- Grant 4 (DGUS04)	1,018				1,018
USA PRM - PM Grant 2000 (DGUS00)	2,846				2,846
FINLAND				42,710	42,710
ICELAND				26,612	26,612
JAPAN				109,897	109,897
NORWAY				30,554	30,554
SWEDEN				59,959	59,959
AUSTRIAN - RC			136,338		136,338
EU-EXAP			301,704		301,704
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,545,636</b>		<b>438,042</b>	<b>269,732</b>	<b>3,253,409</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

OPENING	1,462,918
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	2,545,636
CASH EXPENDITURE	-2,505,627
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CASH BALANCE	1,502,927

**Appeal No & title: 01.48/2002 The Caucasus****Period: year 2002****Project(s): PAM0013, 014, 015, 163, 503, 504, 510, 537, 538, 580, 581, 582,****PAZ001, 008, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 021, 160, 301, 401, 501, 507, 540, 557, 566, 569, 572, 573, 580, 800****P69001, 69531****Currency: CHF****III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<b>SUPPLIES</b>						
Shelter & Construction	815,510	243,689	301,704		545,393	270,117
Clothing & Textiles	59,560	5,338			5,338	54,222
Food & Seeds	226,675	39,504			39,504	187,171
Water & sanitation	2,400	362			362	2,038
Medical & First Aid	143,190	4,471			4,471	138,719
Teaching materials	41,353	4,327			4,327	37,026
Utensils & Tools	56,050	42,595			42,595	13,455
Other relief supplies	439,939	46,681	136,338		183,019	256,920
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,784,677</b>	<b>386,966</b>	<b>438,042</b>		<b>825,008</b>	<b>959,669</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		42,274			42,274	-42,274
Computers & Telecom equip.	30,725	17,268			17,268	13,457
Medical equipment		654			654	-654
Other capital expenditures	37,070	65,031			65,031	-27,961
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>67,795</b>	<b>125,227</b>			<b>125,227</b>	<b>-57,432</b>
<b>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</b>						
	332,654	196,083			196,083	136,571
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>332,654</b>	<b>196,083</b>			<b>196,083</b>	<b>136,571</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>						
Personnel (delegates)	774,720	330,106		269,732	599,838	174,882
Personnel (national staff)	1,203,147	690,174			690,174	512,973
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,977,867</b>	<b>1,020,280</b>		<b>269,732</b>	<b>1,290,012</b>	<b>687,855</b>
<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	39,960	10,376			10,376	29,584
Travel & related expenses	61,691	41,928			41,928	19,763
Information expenses	284,784	106,483			106,483	178,301
Admin./general expenses	422,536	284,533			284,533	138,003
External workshops & Seminars	289,710	43,998			43,998	245,712
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,098,681</b>	<b>487,318</b>			<b>487,318</b>	<b>611,363</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>						
Programme management	398,646	169,152			169,152	229,494
Technical services	119,334	50,645			50,645	68,689
Professional services	132,340	56,181			56,181	76,159
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>650,319</b>	<b>275,978</b>			<b>275,978</b>	<b>374,342</b>
Operational provisions		13,775			13,775	-13,775
Transfers to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>5,911,993</b>	<b>2,505,627</b>	<b>438,042</b>	<b>269,732</b>	<b>3,213,401</b>	<b>2,698,592</b>