

THE CAUCASUS: ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

29 August, 2000

*Programme no. 01.31/2000
situation report no. 2
period covered: April - June 2000*

With a limited but improved level of support received since the last situation report issued in May, the Federation and respective National Societies have continued to implement the programme according to the planned objectives in the areas of Disaster Response and Preparedness, and Health. In order for the programme to continue reaching the intended beneficiaries, however, further funding is urgently required.

The context

The 2000 programmes focus on the need to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable, and at the same time reflect the need to further encourage self-sufficiency among vulnerable groups and the National Societies, as the Federation's emphasis shifts towards the development of working structures and systems as well as ensuring quality of service through better targeting and monitoring.

Latest events

Armenia

While a new government presented its programme to the National Assembly and passed a vote of confidence, extremely weak political structures exist. The Government has increasingly struggled to meet salary and pension obligations.

Economists say the country cannot fulfil its dream of becoming a high-tech centre without ending the 12-year-old war with neighbour Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Most of Armenia's key trade routes remain closed by the war, isolating it and hampering its efforts to integrate with its neighbours.

Azerbaijan

There have been demonstrations in various areas in response to the deteriorating conditions in the country. More than 200 residents from 18 villages of Sabirabad gathered due to the shortage of electricity, water and gas. An attempt by the opposition party to hold a rally in downtown Baku on 29 April ended in a severe clash between the demonstrators and police. Approximately 50 people were arrested while many were injured.

President Aliyev appealed to the international community not to curtail the level of assistance to Azerbaijan as the situation of IDPs is still desperate. The Italian oil company, ENI, allocated 2.2 million USD to the Azerbaijan government to be used towards the solution of refugees' and IDPs' problems by UNHCR. The World Bank also recently made available a 10 million USD loan to improve the living conditions of IDPs in Azerbaijan.

Georgia

On April 9, President Shevardnadze was re-elected for another 5 years. Citing a lack of available revenue, the Parliament cut the 2000 budget by 45%. Health care faced a 60% budget cut.

The mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone was extended for six months starting from 1 July 2000. At the CIS Summit held on 21 June in Moscow, Russia again brought up the issue of introducing a visa regime between Russia and Georgia. If the visa regime between the two countries is introduced, Georgia warned it might leave the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Two UN military observers, one member of the international NGO, HALO Trust, and two interpreters of Abkhaz nationality were kidnapped in the Kodori Valley. After two days of negotiation, the group was released. The Kodori Valley is the only region in Abkhazia which is controlled by Georgian authorities.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Armenia •

Disaster Response

Thanks to an injection of funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross, the *Social Service Centres (SSC's)* project will be able to continue to the end of August. This unique approach to provide varied assistance to beneficiaries based on need rather than category alone, created an integrated network of small, 2- to 3-staff units, or 'centres,' positioned in Armenia Red Cross Society (ARCS) offices throughout Armenia. The result has been maximum assistance at minimum cost. During May alone, the 23 SSCs had 5,518 visitors. 3,221 beneficiaries received direct aid in the form of second-hand clothes, medical consultations, medicines and 183 home visits. The others were provided with support in the form of information or advocacy from the SSC staff who, in this quarter alone, attended workshops on 'Legislative Deeds of Armenian Refugee Affairs,' 'Laws of Armenian Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare,' and 'Conflict Situations and Solutions' among others.

The strength of SSC is the extent to which its activities are co-ordinated with and supported by ARCS regional and community branch staffs, and the programmatic infrastructures provided by other ARCS projects: such as, Youth, First Aid, Dissemination, Disaster Preparedness and its broad volunteer base. SSC is ideally suited to support the other projects of ARCS, because it provides an in-place,

nation-wide material and service delivery system that reaches all parts of the country. This was appreciated by Catholic Relief Service (CRS), who, together with ARCS as its potential implementing agent, has submitted an application for funding from USAID within the sphere of social transition/protection and primary health services delivery to the most vulnerable. ARCS's SSCs in Yerevan, Shirak, Lori and Gegharkunik marzes were included in the application.

Within the framework of the *Population Movement (PM)* project's activities, the *Public Awareness Campaign* will translate its information bulletin on PM activities into Russian and Armenian for distribution to refugees. Thirty women are involved English courses offered by the *Skills Training for Refugee Women*. Armenian language and computer courses will start next quarter. The procurement of hygiene items for the *Medical Services for Non-CIS Asylum Seekers* component commenced. The ARCS medical services will be referrals only. Health education materials were also translated and prepared for distribution. The *Psycho-Social Services for Elderly Refugees* component ended in May, while funding was sought and received for 1 September 2000. Apart from continuation in two of the largest refugee collective centres in Yerevan, the component will expand into two regions, namely Kotayk and Aragatsotn, thus serving some 150 elderly in Yerevan and some 180 in the regions twice on a weekly basis. Preparations are underway for the *Summer Camp for Local and Refugee Children* which will send 50 most vulnerable refugee and 50 most vulnerable non-refugee children to spend 12 days together to learn the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement principles and values, while improving their psycho-social and nutritional conditions.

Disaster Preparedness

Disaster Preparedness seminars on 'Population Protection in Emergency Situations' and 'Together Against Disaster' were held in the regions. Participants included Red Cross staff and local authorities. The Disaster Preparedness and Response Department had also prepared various educational materials based on materials from the Federation Delegation in Central Asia. An agreement was reached with the Emergency Health Department according to which the specialists of the Ministry will review and make suggestions about the teaching materials of ARCS; specifically the organisation of First Aid during emergencies. Also a preliminary agreement was reached on the plan for tracing missing individuals or families in times of disaster.

Various organisations have approached the ARCS in light of their interest in implementing a disaster preparedness programme. Representatives from CARE, the World Health Organisation, the American Embassy, and the Virginia State Disaster Management Centre visited the ARCS to discuss possible areas of co-operation. The American Red Cross has also recently expressed interest in starting a 3-year DP school education programme that would complement the ARCS' activities.

Continuing education seminars for *First Aid* instructors were conducted in Stepanavan, Vanadzor, Ashtarak, Talin and Masis, enrolling 49 participants. Basic FA training courses for ARCS volunteers continued in the Gumri, Armavir, Vayots Dzor and Gegharkounik Regional Branches. In April, and again in May and June, the ARCS organised an open competition for Red Cross First Aid Volunteers in Vanadzor, Syunik, and Yerevan. Each Marz DP&R co-ordinator, response team, first aiders, Marz EMA response forces, fire brigade, police, as well as the Lori rescue team representatives were present.

A children's book on FA, 'Adventure Seekers,' will be used as an aid in promoting safe behaviour to school children. The FA will also prepare 30 10-minute videos on FA topics as teaching aids. The state-owned TV station has agreed to broadcast these 10-minute spots as soon as they are completed. These two projects have been funded by the American Red Cross.

Health

Currently, the Federation has no funded health projects. The Health Departments of the Federation and ARCS are working on a proposal for a new project *Improving Basic Clinical Services and Levels of Self-Help*. The goal of the project, to reduce the vulnerability of the population to the most common

causes of ill health by the provision of appropriate projects implemented through the ARCS network, will incorporate modified versions of projects that did not yet receive initial or continuing funding, such as the *Anti-Malaria Campaign* and the *Anti-Pediculosis Awareness Campaign*. This new project will include prevention and evidence-based management training for mid-level medical personnel on common causes of ill health. It will also engage in health education/promotion on communicable diseases and health lifestyles for the general public.

A new bilateral project, *Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis*, to be funded by the Hellenic Red Cross, will be implemented by the ARCS in close co-operation with the Armenian Ministry of Health within the framework of its assistance and public awareness campaign. Medicines for DOTS therapy of 800 new cases of Tuberculosis (200 prisoners and 600 civil people) will be provided. The implementation will be countrywide, through the network of existing TB institutions over six months.

Humanitarian Values

This quarter, Geneva and the Armenian Delegation have continued to support an important cross-border humanitarian initiative between Armenia and Turkey. This opportunity arose from the need for spinal cord rehabilitation treatment among the victims of Turkey's recent earthquake, and the current under-utilised rehabilitation capacity of ARCS' *International Post-Trauma Rehabilitation Centre*. A wide range of discussions have laid a foundation for this initiative, and operation plans and programming are in progress.

The 2-year regional *Information* project, funded by the British Red Cross, which aimed to develop the capacity of information services of the three National Societies through training and technical support, came to an end this quarter. The ARCS Information Department was actively involved in the educational aspect of the Disaster Preparedness project. Currently the second round of educational materials: leaflets on hailstorms, fires and ecology together with an ecology poster are being distributed countrywide. The Armenia Delegation together with ARCS initiated a public image survey on the Disaster Preparedness Information Campaign (TV/Radio programs, Newspaper articles, leaflets, posters) conducted in 1999/2000. The survey will provide a baseline on the effect of public education materials and methods, as well as will recommend the most efficient or preferred source for the future. A request for continuation of funding has been submitted to the Norwegian Red Cross for consideration.

Capacity Building

As reflected in its new Strategic Plan 2000, one of the most important and challenging objectives facing the ARCS is its decision to take the successful regional office development process of 1997/1998 down to the community branch level. With a limited budget, this effort is being executed through an integration of efforts and funds from the Netherlands Red Cross' two-year, bilateral, regional *Institutional Development* project. This quarter, the ARCS held three 4-day regional and community branch development seminars. The ARCS headquarters also underwent a financial systems audit as the first step of a major restructuring to be compliant with European standards by 2002. Training workshops for top management and governance, both at headquarters and regional/community levels continued.

Azerbaijan •

Disaster Response

With continued support from EXXON-Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC, the *Southern Camps Water Sanitation* project continues supplying treated water to the seven IDP camps in Sabirabad. With the onset of summer, the need for irrigation becomes a priority for the agricultural sector in both the local communities and in the camps. This has an impact on the provision of potable water to the camp populations. The Federation has been continuing educational efforts to draw the IDP communities' attention to the use/abuse of treated water within the camps through its Community Development programming.

A distribution of foodstuffs under the *Southern Camps Food Relief to IDPs* project, was made possible by a new grant from ECHO. A vulnerability survey is currently underway to more adequately target the needs of the Southern Camps' population. 6,000 recipients of Federation food relief are partaking in the survey.

A proposal, worked out with the Kitchen Garden Committees for the phase-out of the *Southern Camps Agriculture* project by the end of 2001, has been sent to the current donor, the British Red Cross. The 2001 project will prepare for the hand over of responsibility of acquiring land and materials to the Kitchen Garden Committees of each camp. Meanwhile, May marked the last of the Federation's direct support of new kitchen gardens and the minimal assistance given to the IDP commercial wheat growers; new vegetable seeds and fertiliser, rubber boots and gloves, from the already existing stock were distributed. There are currently 1,184 kitchen garden holders who, together with family members, are cultivating approximately 1,011 ha. of land in and around the camps.

The *Credit Loan and Income Generation* components for both the Agriculture and Community Development Projects have halted extending any more loans. Funding has stopped, and because the loans are interest-free, the component is not self-sustaining. Out of 266 loan takers, 33 have been fully repaid, leaving 233 to be monitored. The last loan repayment is scheduled to be made at the end of 2001. As TACIS declined to set up a loan co-operative in the area, loan recipients who successfully repaid their loans and want to get another or larger loan, will be referred to other NGOs who are running similar programmes.

The *Southern Camps Community Development* project has undergone some structural changes to better meet the needs in the southern camps. The *Children's Support* component has absorbed the previous three areas of focus for IDP children in the camps: Psycho-Social, Children's Activities and Educational Support. It has also been redesigned to crosscut other programmes running in the camps. For example, children are involved in activities, such as drama, folklore, and fine arts, to help them learn healthy lifestyles such as hygiene, dental care, and anti-malaria measures. The aim of the component is the same, to keep the children physically and socially healthy and to increase awareness of children's issues. Volunteers (72 so far) from the camps assist the National Society in implementing this component. They, in turn, have been receiving training in Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement principles and in childcare and primary education from a locally contracted NGO. In June, an intercamp football tournament was held. The winning teams received uniforms donated by the Irish Police Force.

The *Women's Committees* evolved from last year's Tandoori Oven Shelter component, an *ad hoc* gathering of women to into the formation of organised committees to mobilise the community through women. It is anticipated that the women's committees will play an instrumental role in the developing the strategies of the Community Development Department and the Health Department, which is to see the involvement of the IDP population in the promotion of health, hygiene and sanitation. Already, the newly elected committees have made assessments of their camps and identified their concerns - such as garbage disposal and latrine emptying - to the local authorities. Also, the first of five workshops was held to train the women's committees in mobilisation, effectiveness and self-reliance.

The *Special Assistance to the Most Vulnerable IDPs* component continues to assist 87 lonely elderly identified in the camps. To date, 21 houses have been constructed and 19 repaired. There are plans to repair more houses and supply 41 persons registered in this component with furniture and crockery.

Construction work is proceeding according to plan in the Federation's innovative pilot project, the *Fizuli Repatriation Project (Shukurbeyli Pilot Project)*, wherein 160 families originally from the village of Shukurbeyli have been working with the Federation and AzRC in designing their return. By the end of this quarter, 60 homes and latrines were built or rehabilitated with the co-operation and input of the homeowners. The Swiss Red Cross, TACIS and ARRA have been instrumental in providing financial and material support. ARRA and TACIS have also been supporting the construction of a medical clinic and village well.

Under the Project's *Community Development* component, funded by ECHO, the Community Group invited the local authorities' involvement in the community meetings between the people of Shukurbeyli still living in the Southern Camps and those now living in Shukurbeyli Village. Topics of concern - such as the irrigation water situation, the construction of the village clinic and the permanent school, which is due to open in September - are regularly discussed. In the meantime, football season has started in front of the M-PAC in Shukurbeyli. Matches have been taking place between teams of school children, who were provided with balls and football uniforms. Monitoring results from the *Income Generation* component have paved the way for creative new business proposals such as a mass transit vehicle connecting Shukurbeyli with the camps in Sabirabad, a fuelling station, and small retail shops. It is anticipated that they will be as successful as the flour mill that got started with one of the first IG loans. To date, 47 loan applications have been approved.

Currently, there are five components running under the *Population Movement* project. The *Emergency Fund for Most Vulnerable Refugees and Stranded Migrants* recently re-evaluated its priorities and is working on developing co-operation with other relevant agencies. The *Modern Secretary Courses for Young IDP Women*, which started last quarter, is running smoothly with regular attendance by 30 students of English, Computers, Business Ethics and Correspondence. The AzRC PM Co-ordinator ended the component *Grass-root Seminars* this quarter with seminars in Ganja and Naxjivan. Funding was just received for two components, *Psycho-social Rehabilitation in IDP Centres in Baku* and the *Summer Camp for IDP and Local Children*, which plans to send 40 IDP children to summer camp with 40 non-IDP children to share experiences and to learn about the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and Principles. Both components will start next quarter.

Disaster Preparedness

At this time, the *Disaster Preparedness* project has not begun.

Health

The common need for a changed approach to the *Visiting Nurses / Food Assistance to the Socially Vulnerable* project across the CIS was discussed with Regional Health Co-ordinators. The concept of Visiting Nurses taking on a more health education and social welfare role, incorporating the idea of social welfare centres, has been developed in a proposal for ECHO, who had previously been the donor of the project that came to an end this quarter. The Social Welfare Centres (SWCs) would have under one roof numerous National Society programmes, which would facilitate their integration. There would no longer be any medical services provided. Rather the National Society and community would advocate for free medical treatment on behalf of the lonely elderly. There will still be need to have nurses pay home visits to the bedridden of the 6,960 lonely elderly currently on the NS roster. But this number will be far smaller, thus lowering the cost of staff.

The *First Aid* project continued to train instructors throughout Azerbaijan. There are First Aid instructors based in each of the seven regional centres of the National Society. 23 first aid training sessions were conducted this quarter. 246 people (IDPs, nurses, volunteers, university students and teachers, youth, and general public) were trained.

At the beginning of June, the *Basic Health Care and Health Education for IDPs in the Southern Camps* project was handed over to the Azerbaijan Ministry of Health. To facilitate the transition, the Federation will donate six-months worth of medicines in three instalments to District Authorities on the condition that they provide free medical service to IDPs who come to their polyclinics for treatment. The health staff involved in the *Health Education* component of the project were transferred to the responsibility of the AzRC to implement a new project on public health promotion, the proposal for which has been sent to the current donor, the Netherlands Red Cross. The main feature of this project, now called *Health Promotion in the Southern Camps*, will be to support creative and participatory community-based health promotion and education within the camps. Community development will be integral to the project, and the components of *Basic Health Care* from the previous project will be the

basis for all activities. Thus, campaigns relating to water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health, family planning, immunisation and the prevention and treatment of local health problems, will be addressed. Various community groups (such as the women's committees, children's activity groups, Red Crescent youth and volunteers) will be mobilised to take more active roles in community health promotion. The Sabirabad Red Crescent is being supported to take over responsibility for public health activities in the camps.

Humanitarian Values

With the end of the 2-year regional *Information* project, funded by the British Red Cross, the Federation and AzRC Information departments will continue to focus on building awareness of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the Fundamental Principles, tracing and dissemination. The AzRC Information Department drafted a Work Programme for the year 2001 and celebrated World Children's Day with a fundraising event. All the proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to orphanages in Baku.

Capacity Building

The need to review the current governing and management structure of the National Society within the *Institutional Development* project has been taken on by the President of the AzRC; this will also include analysing the current structure of National Society income and expenditure with the aim of drafting a resource development plan. In the regions, the Sabirabad Branch of the AzRC (AzRCSRC) continues to show development. A Programme Co-ordinator and a Finance Administrator have been appointed recently. This will create a better structure and enable proper working procedures to be adapted. Meanwhile, the AzRCSRC field staff are increasingly more involved in the Federation projects. The AzRCSRC continues its 'Meals on Wheels' project in Sabirabad on its own initiative, and makes weekly visits to the market for collections of donations and foodstuffs. The AzRCSRC recently received a van donated by EXXON to facilitate delivery.

Georgia •

Disaster Response

With the input of the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, 42 IDP centres have been identified for the *Emergency Rehabilitation of Collective Centres Accommodating IDPs* project based on the following criteria: centres that require urgent repair to reduce a serious threat to the health of residents including, but not limited to, repair to roofs, sewerage, glazing and electricity. Within the framework of the project, supported by USAID, two general contractors have been performing the rehabilitation work of the first six centres.

This quarter, the *Mobile Technical Teams* finished their first year of operations, making an estimated 2,400 to 2,800 interventions (in the form of minor construction and repairs) on behalf of IDPs in small collective centres and private accommodations, lonely elderly, and other vulnerable groups. The teams mainly repaired and installed electrical systems, roofs and windows, as well as chopped and stacked firewood. The project is expected to start up again next quarter thanks to a contribution from the US State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration.

Of the ten new centres in this year's *Community Development for IDPs in Collective Accommodation* project, six *community rooms* have been completely rehabilitated. All construction is being carried out by volunteers living in the collective centres. The reconstructed community rooms were supplied with furniture, games for children and periodicals. 7,000 families in the collective centres that are involved in the *Kitchen Garden* component (some centres have no access to land), received seeds and fertiliser. 484 beneficiaries are attending different courses in the *Skills Development* component (computers, English, hairdressing, tailor, English preparatory). 4 *Income Generation* loans have been approved thus far. They include a poultry farm, barber shop, sunflower oil production facility, and a peanut plantation.

The *Home Care for the Most Vulnerable* project, which had been funded by ECHO, ended on 30 June 2000 with the distribution of 26,000 food parcels to lonely elderly and handicapped individuals. A transitional project proposal has been sent to ECHO. This proposal, based on the *Social Service Centres* project in Armenia aims to (1) eliminate the abrupt disruption of medicine/food distributions to former visiting nurse beneficiaries; (2) incorporate the human resources and delivery infrastructure which are already in place to support a SSC system; (3) replace the less efficient home-based visiting nurse service delivery with a more efficient Red Cross office-based service delivery; (4) deliver more services of higher quality to more vulnerable people; and (5) exercise the advantage the GRCS has with its network of offices throughout Georgia to execute this transition in a safe, timely and professional manner. Finding funding for this project has become crucial.

A brochure on the Migration Department's activities within the *Population Movement* project's *Public Awareness Campaign* was printed in English and Georgian and was distributed among non-governmental and governmental organisations. The first two *Grass-root Seminars* were conducted in Tbilisi and Kobuleti. The purpose of the seminars was to train the GRCS network in issues pertinent to displacement as well as to forge concrete co-operation mechanisms with the local authorities. Representatives of the national and local government, the regional and district GRCS branches, international agencies, international and local non-governmental organisations and implementing partners of the Federation and GRCS attended. Training workshops for 20 IDP volunteers selected from 6 collective centres were conducted in accordance with the *Psycho-social Rehabilitation of IDP Women and Children in Tbilisi* component. The participants of the training received basic knowledge of child development, age-related symptoms and child psychology.

The *Socio-economic Survey of the IDP Community in Georgia* continues to run accordingly. The comprehensive questionnaire, which aims to compare the socio-economic states of IDPs to non-IDPs and IDPs in collective centres to those in private accommodation, was prepared in collaboration with the Georgian State Department of Statistics and the GRCS. A total of 80 GRCS members from nine branches in Georgia performed the Survey's data collection over a period of one month. The logic control of the collected data has started and will continue until all the Survey's data has been gathered by the first week of July 2000.

The *Food Parcels for Lonely Elderly Pensioners* project, funded by ECHO, ended this quarter. 25,000 lonely elderly pensioners throughout Georgia had received 20-kg. parcels of food and hygienic items three times over the course of a year. A modified and downsized version of this project, including adapting a better method of targeting, has been incorporated into the Federation's Social Service Centres project proposal that has yet to find funding.

Chechen refugees and the local population of approximately 12,500 in the Pankisi Valley are supplied with medicines and medical supplies on an as needed basis within the scope of the *Assistance to Chechen Refugees* project. More information is being gathered about the clinics' activities and the implications for the Federation/GRCS services. Health Education/promotion leaflets have been printed and will be distributed over the next few months. The first tutorial for the local staff will be held on 7 July - the subject is TB. Social workers/volunteers and visiting nurses from the Population Movement's *Psycho-social Rehabilitation to Chechen Refugees* component are providing psychological rehabilitation activities for Chechen school children and their parents.

The last distribution of *Hygiene Parcels for the Most Vulnerable Displaced*, provided by the Spanish Red Cross, was made this quarter. 20,646 hygiene parcels were distributed to the most vulnerable IDPs and their families in Georgia and the Chechen refugees and local families hosting them in the Pankisi Valley.

Seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and sprayers were distributed to 3,099 approved beneficiaries of the *Agricultural Assistance in Adigeni* project. A 'Technical Handbook for Growers' was also part of the distribution packs. The handbook was made available through co-operation with CARE.

Disaster Preparedness

Much of the quarter was spent defining the specific contributing *Disaster Preparedness* roles to be played by each GRCS department, and the DP capacities and needs within each region. This work allowed several planned DP initiatives to proceed, including: the selection and upgrade of the first DP regional offices; the hiring of regional DP co-ordinators; the development of 11 DP-related short-course programmes; the design of the initial DP public education/information initiatives; the co-ordination with GRCS and Delegation counterparts in First Aid, Community Development, Dissemination, Information, Institutional Development, Population Movement, Health and Youth for contributions to the DP regional introduction seminar; and the continued interaction with Government authorities and counterpart agencies to find areas for their DP participation and/or support.

Health

The *Primary Health Care for IDPs Accommodated in Collective Centres in Samegrelo* project, which provides primary health care to six polyclinics that serve IDPs and was funded by the Netherlands Government through the Netherlands Red Cross, ended last quarter. The supply of medicines will last through August. Distribution and monitoring are continuing. A new proposal is being drafted to continue the operation until 30 November 2000.

The *Medicines for Psychiatric and Neurological Patients* project ended this quarter. Distribution of medicines will continue till the end of July. An appeal was sent to Geneva in the hope that the Netherlands Red Cross, or another donor, will provide funds for continuation of the project.

After some delays, the *First Aid* project got underway this quarter. Discussions are ongoing regarding the development of certification, retraining and revalidation together with a written marketing strategy and the development of a volunteer base for the GRCS.

The *Public Health Information* project, which started and ended this quarter, developed information for the population on specific health problems and risky behaviour: STDs (including HIV/AIDS), smoking, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse. The GRCS will use an Federation publication 'Action with Youth' as the basis for information about STDs/HIV/AIDS. The manual has been translated. Volunteer instructors are being sought.

Humanitarian Values

With the end of the 2-year regional *Information* project, funded by the British Red Cross, the Federation and GRCS Information Departments are preparing a proposal seeking funding to continue the work with the GRCS branch organisations in information and emergency reporting, and to improve networking within the GRCS.

Capacity Building

Over the quarter, the *Institutional Development* project has been implementing numerous long-planned ID initiatives under its National Society Strategic Plan including: setting up an Administrative Office; designing initial Standard Operating Procedures (SOP); and building English language capacities. Attempts were made to design short course management training programmes for the next 6-9 months together with the Georgian Technical University Business School.

As part of the continued training in the *Financial Management Support* project, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross, the GRCS Financial Department has input approximately 90% of the GRCS accounts from January 2000 forward into its new accounting system.

Outstanding needs

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

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

At the same time, reorientation of the International Federation's assistance programmes towards supporting longer-term solutions in rehabilitation of social and physical infrastructures attracts less interest and attention from the Federation's traditional donors in this region. This tendency might have further negative influence on the well-being of the most vulnerable in 2000.

This specifically relates to the needs of the lonely elderly. No funding will be available as of July 2000 to support this primary group of the Federation's beneficiaries through the established structure of Visiting Nurses and recently created infrastructure of Red Cross and Red Crescent Social Service Centres that has already become fully operational since the middle of 1999.

Other important projects have also received less than required support.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation continued to maintain an effective working relationship with its partners both at the headquarters level and in the field. Special attention has been given to exchanging strategic information with the donor and counterpart agency community. Representatives of the three governments, donors and counterparts participated with the Population Movement Co-ordinators and Delegates in an 'All CIS and Baltic Population Movement Conference' in Gudauri, Georgia on May 23-25. The Federation Delegation in Georgia participated in a regional conference on IDP issues, hosted by the Brookings Institute, Norwegian Refugee Council and the OSCE on 8-18 May. Also partaking in the conference was the UN Secretary General's Representative on IDPs, Dr. Francis Deng. At the conference the Federation's contribution to the UN-led New Approach to IDP Assistance - the Socio-Economic Survey of the IDP Community in Georgia - was commended.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

For details please refer to the Federation's Desk Officer, E. Parfenov at phone +41 22 730 4325 or email: parfenov@ifrc.org

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The Caucasus						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.31/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			30/08/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				15,783,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 37.1%
Balance carried forward from 1999				712,422		
AMERICAN - GOVT		120,000	USD	1,888,800	15.02.2000	
AMERICAN - PRIVTE		90,000	USD	149,850	10.04.00	EXXON
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		25,391	GBP	65,763	17.01.00	
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		24,000	GBP	62,160	18.01.2000	SURVEY OF INTERN. DISPL. PERS.
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		127,451	GBP	330,098	07/02/00	
BRITISH - RC				10,000	11.05.00	COSTS OF HEALTH DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	25,700	07.06.00	COSTS OF HOD
ECHO		450,000	EUR	707,220	03.08.00	DEGE06
ECHO/FINNISH RC		500,000	EUR	800,000	04.02.2000	MOU NOT YET SIGNED
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		73,161	EUR	113,853	31.05.00	DP
NORWAY - RC		30,000	USD	47,220	17.02.00	REIMB. MISSION COSTS, CDP COORDINATOR
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		250,000	SEK	46,926	31.03.00	AZERBAIDJAN - MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,550,000	SEK	291,865	30.05.00	AZERBAIDJAN - MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		700,000	SEK	131,810	30.05.00	AZERBAIJAN - CAPACITY BUILDING
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		500,000	SEK	94,150	30.05.00	FIZULI REPATRIATION
SWISS - GOVT/RC				100,000	06.07.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5,577,837	CHF	35.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 6 MONTHS
BRITISH - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
JAPANESE - RC				10,000		DELEGATE 2 MONTHS
NETHERLANDS - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
NEW ZEALAND - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
NORWAY - RC				15,000		DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
SWEDEN - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 5 MONTHS
SWEDISH - RC		600'000	SEK	112,980	31.03.00	
SWITZERLAND - RC				30,000		DELEGATE 5 MONTHS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				272,980	CHF	1.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PAM162, PAM510,PAM533, PAZ009, PAZ014,PAZ501,PAZ507,PAZ545,PAZ563,PGE006,PGE501,PGE533,PGE556,PAZ565						