

Plan 2009-2010



Azerbaijan

Executive summary



The International Federation's office has been present in Azerbaijan since 1993 and the impact of the 15 years of engagement has been improved living conditions of thousands of people and enhanced capacities of the National Society to deliver quality services.

Since 1993 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent with the support of the International Federation has developed a number of characteristics that make it a better supporter of vulnerable people, including country-wide network of regional and local branches; experienced, enthusiastic and committed staff and volunteers; sufficient infrastructure, and stronger links

with the government agencies, local and international organizations. The role and function of National Society governance and management was separated. Branches have been empowered to be better partners of their communities. More and more youth and volunteers take active role in Red Crescent services. Furthermore, on 8 May 2007, after four years of intense work by the National Society, the president of Azerbaijan signed the Law on Red Crescent to be adopted at the parliament.

Despite the achievements above, a number of challenges are still there. The National Society continues to depend on the International Federation's annual appeals to be able to implement its programmes and projects. The Red Crescent has, however, pursued intensive efforts to achieve its financial self-sustainability. Fund-raising and marketing skills have been enhanced and new partnerships forged to develop additional expertise as well as new funding sources. The National Society has made remarkable progress in extending its partnership with the government resulting in the adoption of the Red Crescent Law, which will increase governmental support for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. Thus the National Society has managed to cover staff salaries and administrative costs with the support of the government since January 2007. Additional partnerships have been established with other National Societies such as the Polish Red Cross, the Israeli Magen David Adom and the Turkish Red Crescent. These partnerships have contributed in diversifying the sources of funding. From 2007 to 2008 the National Society developed its strategic plan for 2008-2010, which clearly indicates the direction of the organization the coming years.

Currently Azerbaijan is experiencing economic growth, ongoing reforms, foreign investment and assistance by international organizations. The share of the population living in poverty has decreased from 49 per cent to 16 per cent since 2003. Nevertheless, humanitarian needs still prevail. Children, orphans and women, elderly people living alone, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and disabled people are the most vulnerable groups in need of assistance. People living in rural areas still experience difficult living conditions as the largest scale of economic growth is concentrated in the oil sector which is a capital-intensive industry that provides employment for less than 1 per cent of the workforce¹. According to the UNDP 8.5 per cent of the economically active population is unemployed.

¹ Source: UNDP living conditions in Azerbaijan; http://www.un-az.org/doc/AzerbaijanRCAR_2006_e.pdf

Child mortality remains high and the number of people living with HIV and people affected by Tuberculosis grows quickly. The health system in rural areas remains undeveloped.

The International Federation's secretariat has developed its plan for 2009-2010 to provide the National Society with tailor-made support for the implementation of its multi-fold humanitarian programmes.

Support will be provided in accordance with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals, the Federation Strategy 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Commitments and outcome of the VII European Red Cross Red Crescent Conference in Istanbul and the decisions of the 16th session of the 2007 Federation General Assembly whilst taking into consideration the New Operating Model (NOM) of the Federation. Subsequently the focus of the support will be on four programme areas: disaster management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values.

Closely linked to Global Agenda goal one, the disaster management programme is designed to enhance the National Society's disaster preparedness and response capacity and mechanisms. Furthermore steps will be taken to develop tools to increase awareness in local communities and reduce their vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters.

The National Society's health programme, linked to Global Agenda goal two, is especially targeting people living with HIV, and people with TB with prevention and control of the treatment. Moreover it aims to increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and raise local communities' awareness on preventive health and first aid.

Linked to Global Agenda goal three and the ten areas of improvement of the Framework for Action, the organizational development programme focuses on improving the skills of Red Crescent staff to scale up and diversify its funding sources and to strengthen the capacity of staff. The programme aims at putting in place a transparent financial system; improving recruitment and management systems to increase the number of active Red Crescent volunteers; strengthening the skills of branches in public relations and fund-raising to be able to deliver sustainable services; improving links with communities through the participatory community development (PCD) approach; improving project planning and management skills of staff; and developing internal and external communication mechanisms.

Finally, the humanitarian values programme will contribute to the achievement of Global Agenda goal four with the programme components focused on the promotion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 1,147,459 (USD 1,048,866 or EUR 730,866).

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

Country context

Azerbaijan is located on the south-eastern slopes of the Caucasus and on the western coast of the Caspian Sea. Neighbouring countries are the Russian Federation in the north and Georgia in the north-west, Armenia and Turkey in the west, and Iran in the south.

The Azerbaijani economy is in transition and the country has only recently begun making progress on economic reform as old economic ties and structures are slowly being replaced. Thus the state continues to play a dominant role in economical affairs. During the late 1990s, and in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Azerbaijan pursued a successful economic stabilization programme with annual growth exceeding 10 per cent since 2000. In 2007 Azerbaijan's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 24.7 per cent, with growth in 2008 estimated at 16.1 per cent.

Population, geography and environment		Economy and labour	
Total population (millions)	8.5	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	5,016
Surface area (square km)	86,600	GDP real growth (%)	24.7 (2007)
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	3.8	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	8.5
Social indicators		Health indicators	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	98.8	Infant mortality rate (per 100,000)	74
Gender-related development index value (GDI)	0,743	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	19
Human development index value (HDI)	0,746	Life expectancy at birth	67.1
Human development index rate (HDI)	99.6	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	0.1
Population below PPP \$ 1 per day (%)	3,7	People living with HIV aged 15-49	1,510
Population below national poverty line (%) ²	16	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	85
Refugees and IDPs			
Number of refugees	126,068 ³		
Number of internally displaced people	686,586 ⁴		

Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit

Table 1: Selected development indicators for Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's oil production has registered an increase every year since 1997 and the country's high economic growth in recent years is attributable to its vast oil reserves and large and growing oil exports. Proven oil reserves in the Caspian Basin, which Azerbaijan shares with Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, are comparable in size to the North Sea, although exploration is still in the early stages. In 2007 the oil sector accounted for 52.8 per cent of the GDP. The country also has a significant agronomic potential due to its varied climate.

The 2008 state budget increased government spending by about 80 per cent compared to the 2007 budget, with significant increases in military spending, social allowances, wage increases, and capital spending. The increase in expenditures was partly financed by the country's large and growing oil revenues.

The national currency, *the new Azerbaijani manat* (AZN), which was introduced in 2006 and which is fixed towards the US dollar, has been fairly stable in recent years and has been allowed to appreciate against the dollar by 6.1 per cent in 2005, 5.4 per cent in 2006, and 3.4 per cent in 2007. However, official figures show that inflation nearly reached 17 per cent in 2007 and was well above 9 per cent in the first quarter of 2008. Further inflation is considered a major risk to economic stability and may be likely to increase in the near future due to the level of fiscal spending, high oil prices, as well as the binding of the national currency to the US dollar. IMF has warned that significantly more appreciation, roughly 10 per cent, is required to prevent inflation from increasing.

In 2005 the Azerbaijani president issued a decree to prepare a ten year *State Programme on Poverty Reduction* (2006-2015) to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The programme aims at maintaining macroeconomic stability, promoting the development of non-petroleum economic sectors, increasing the perspective for income-generation in the regions and rural areas, improving the quality of and ensuring equal access to basic health and education services at affordable costs, improving public infrastructure, raising the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, initiating institutional reforms and good governance, developing a social protection system founded on an affordable and fiscally sustainable public pension system, promoting and protecting gender equality and

² State Statistical Committee

³ UNHCR, Report June 2007

⁴ <http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR30/76.pdf>

the respect of principles of environmental sustainability. According to the State Statistical Committee the state pension is slightly above 62 new manat (approximately 67 US dollars) per capita per month.⁵ Measures taken to fight poverty have showed significant positive results the last years. From 2003 to 2007 the share of the population living in poverty has decreased from 49 per cent to 16 per cent.

The health reform project implemented by the government of Azerbaijan aims to test ways to strengthen and reform district primary healthcare services, develop a management information system, new pharmaceutical policies and procedures, improvement of and access to primary care services, strengthening of managerial and clinical capabilities of health personnel.⁶

However, gaps exist in the health sector that needs to be addressed. The promotion of sound health is not being sufficiently addressed, primary health care services are not well developed and health facilities are often in very a poor condition and staffed with poorly trained personnel. Child malnutrition is a serious problem particularly in rural areas. The rate of infant and maternal mortality is still high caused by poor nutrition, infectious diseases, and overdue requests for assistance. According to government reports, Azerbaijan's maternal mortality rate is 19 per 100,000 births. Although the rate appears relatively low, the level of underreporting throughout the country is considered as significant compared to other countries. Infant and maternal mortality is especially prevalent in rural areas and where living conditions are low. Breast and lung cancer also affect a significant number of people. In 2006 the total number of people living with a type of cancer was 6,758 of whom 3,340 were men and 3,418 women. Approximately 4,740 people died of cancer-related diseases in 2006.

The number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) aged 15 to 49 is 1,510 according to the 2008 statistics of the National AIDS Republic Centre; out of whom 84.6 per cent are male and 15.4 per cent are female. Near to 60 per cent of the total number of PLHIV are injecting drug users. The remaining was infected either through sexual contact, tattoos, from mother to child or via blood donation. The infecting source is not identified in 17 per cent of the cases. 32.9 per cent of people living with HIV are living in Baku, 65.4 per cent in the regions and 1.7 per cent not identified. Almost 33 per cent of the PLHIV reside in Baku, 65 per cent in the regions and for less than 2 per cent no information exists on place of residence. However, the national AIDS centre considers the registered number of PLHIV as too low as it reflects only those who are registered in centres in Baku and the regions. Because of a dramatic increase in the number of HIV incidents in recent years, the Azerbaijani government has responded by adopting several programmes and enacting new legislation in the period from 1996 to 2007. One central and 12 regional HIV and AIDS centres currently offer the population blood tests and medical consultations free of charge.⁷ The centres are gradually registering PLHIV, but there is still a necessity to encourage them to apply for checking and receiving treatment, and the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan is supporting people in this direction. The Red Crescent role in HIV and AIDS is also in health promotion activities, knowledge-sharing by peer education and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV.

There is a significant number of injecting drug users in Azerbaijan. According to the latest data from the Ministry of Health published in January 2007, the official number of registered injecting drug users was 18,000 of whom 70 per cent were aged 20 to 35. According to the State Statistics Committee 2,027 new injecting drug users aged 18 to 34 were registered in 2006. Out of these 44 were women.

According to the latest data of the Ministry of Health for January, 2007, the officially registered drug users make up 18,000 people. The majority of the registered (70 per cent) are people aged from 20 to 35. According to the data of the State Statistics Committee, only in 2006, 2,027 drug users were registered between the age of 18-34. In total 44 people out of them were women.

Tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted infections are serious public health problems. The number of TB cases is 68 per 100,000 population according to WHO as for 2006, TB prevalence is 87 per 100,000 and mortality rate is 10 per 100,000. Another serious health challenge is the multi-drug resistant form of TB (MDR-TB).

⁵ State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development – SPPRSD (2006-2015)

⁶ Republic Centre on HIV/AIDS

⁷ Republic Centre on HIV/AIDS

Azerbaijan has close to one million refugees and IDPs throughout the country. The state authorities address the needs of displaced people through specific state programmes as well as through general strategies and programmes aiming at poverty reduction, income-generation and the improvement of housing for the most vulnerable part of the population. A number of IDP-related legal acts and regulations adopted by parliament, through presidential decrees or governmental resolutions exist. The 2004 “State Programme on the Improvement of Living Standards and Generation of Employment for Refugees and IDPs” established a broader framework for the improvement of living conditions of refugees and IDPs. Among others the programme aims to relocate IDPs residing in tent camps and other sub-standard shelters to rural areas. By early 2008, the state programme has provided 15,713 households or more than 90,000 IDPs with housing in 47 new settlements.⁸

However, IDPs are still dependent on state allowances and state assistance, and although IDPs enjoy a variety of privileges such as food and cash subsidies, tax exemptions and house furnishing, they enjoy only limited property rights. While the housing standard in rural areas has been improving, a majority of IDPs living urban areas live in sub-standard collective shelters. IDPs are also confronted with normative acts and regulations being interpreted differently by local authorities, resulting in non-conformity in the implementation of relevant policies. Thus additional measures to ensure the sustainability of governmental efforts and to provide a better basis for temporary settlement or permanent reintegration of IDPs are required.⁹ The Red Crescent has been working with IDPs for the last 15 years as they are in need of psychosocial rehabilitation and community-based activities in order to achieve their self-sustainability.

Country disasters		AZERBAIJAN	
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people	
Flood	June 1995	1,650,000	
Earthquake (seismic activity)	July 1998	700,010	
Flood	June 1997	75,000	
Flood	April 2003	31,500	
Earthquake (seismic activity)	June 1999	9,170	
Flood	October 1995	6,000	
Earthquake (seismic activity)	November 2000	3,294	
Flood	June 1995	2,800	

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

Azerbaijan is situated in a geographical zone prone to earthquakes. The slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountains, Gandja and densely populated areas such as the Apsheron Peninsula and the North Caspian region are likely to be seriously affected in the case of earthquakes. Furthermore, heavy showers in the country have frequently been leading to floods with significant damages on infrastructure and causing human injuries and casualties. Hail fall also occurs during warm periods causing damage to agriculture. Azerbaijan faces serious environmental challenges. Soil throughout the region was contaminated by insecticide and toxic defoliant used in cotton production during the Soviet era.

Table 2: Natural disasters in Azerbaijan since 1990 including dates and number of people affected

Caspian petroleum and petrochemicals industries also have contributed to present air and water pollution problems. The National Society has a limited role to play with regards to environmental challenges, but in some rural areas Red Crescent volunteers organize small campaigns on the preservation of the environment.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

Based on its strategic plan for 2008-2010 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has identified the following priority areas: strengthening the National Society’s disaster preparedness and response capacity and updating its disaster management system; increasing the awareness of the population on health issues through health promotion activities and services, making efforts to change behaviour of people to

⁸ [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2008.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MUMA-7E998V-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2008.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MUMA-7E998V-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)
⁹ Ibid.

increase tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for human being by the promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values; developing Red Crescent infrastructure by increasing the number of new Red Crescent local branches and members to provide more effective and qualitative services, and respond to the local needs; developing youth and volunteers management system to improve involvement, registration and management of youth and volunteers; improving provided voluntary services to socially vulnerable people and people in need through all National Society structures; establishing stable financial resource base of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society through providing diversified financial sources.

Among the vulnerable groups covered by the National Society are communities highly vulnerable to social needs, vulnerable people with little access to resources as well as basic healthcare, internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, orphans, street children, people with physical or mental disabilities, youngsters, PLHIV, TB patients, people ill with hemophilia, elderly people living alone, children and women at detention places. Another target group within the National Society capacity building is volunteers and staff at the headquarters as well as in all the seven regional centres of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and all the branches.

Gender balance is taken into consideration in designing all programmes/ projects and when selecting beneficiaries, the total balance between male and female is 51 per cent to 49 per cent.

The main partners of the National Society within the Movement that provides technical and financial support are the International Federation, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the Norwegian Red Cross. The National Society has been working with ICRC since 1997 and receives support in the areas of TB, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), tracing, *Safe Play Area* and *Detailed Data Collection* projects. Both the International Federation and ICRC provide advisory and technical support in designing and implementing programmes/ projects as well as other capacity related documents. The Norwegian Red Cross is the main donor for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes/ projects. Among the recently established bilateral collaborations with Partner National Societies can be highlighted the one with the Israel Magen Adom David which resulted in training sessions for Red Crescent volunteers and staff on first aid. The cooperation between the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the Polish Red Cross started in 2006 in the area of branch development and it is presumed to continue on community-based first aid. Furthermore a general Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Turkish Red Crescent in 2005. Bilateral programmes in health and care and disaster management are planned in the frame of the regional cooperation programme.

There are several traditional partners in health and emergency spheres such as World Health Organization (WHO), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, United Nations (UN) agencies, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Relief Development (IRD), AIDS Republic Centre, Blood Bank, Haemophilia Association, Social Union on Struggling with AIDS, Institute of Pulmonology (National TB Programme), Fovgal Association and Veterinary Services. The National Society has memoranda of understanding with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

Other cooperating partners are the Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise (NHE), the Norwegian Embassy to Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Education, World Vision, Women Committee, and Statoil. These partners support the Red Crescent in activities related to youth and volunteers and in establishing primary organizations in educational institutions. The partnership in the latter area is planned to continue during the next two years.

The National Society will increase cooperation with local authorities at regional and branch level to support communities during events and with premises where possible.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
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The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities of Azerbaijan has been reduced.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 142,687 (USD 130,427 or EUR 90,884).

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning

Component outcome 1: Improved disaster response systems and mechanism for effective and timely response.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has well-functioning disaster response teams and material capacity at all levels for more effective disaster response.

Programme component 3: Community Preparedness towards disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: The communities living in high-risk areas have enhanced their awareness on disasters.

Programme component 4: Disaster Response

Component outcome 1: The Red Crescent has standardized disaster response tools and mechanisms for timely response.

Component outcome 2: The Red Crescent has improved its assistance to meet the needs of people affected by disasters.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries (Component 1)

Beneficiaries within this component is directly national society, which will develop necessary planning, policy documents and its staff, volunteers of seven regional Mobile Volunteer Teams, National Disaster Response Teams that will receive trainings to have knowledge to assist in time of disasters. The total number of staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 316 persons and it is planned to carry out 48 training sessions.

The main beneficiary within component 1 is the National Society that will develop necessary planning and policy documents. Furthermore the National Society will train its staff and volunteers in seven regional mobile volunteer teams and in its national disaster response teams (NDRTs). The total number of training sessions planned is 48 and the number of staff and volunteers that will receive training is 316.

Profile of target beneficiaries (Components 2,3,4)

Beneficiaries of the disaster management programme under components 2, 3 and 4 are women, elderly people, and children living in urban and rural areas. The programme will cover 11 per cent of the total population of the country, or 33,000 people, living in high risk areas. The beneficiaries will be targeted through trainings, workshops, community-based disaster activities, awareness campaigns and relief to disaster affected community members. Relief efforts include carrying out needs assessments and the provision of relief items such as non-food items and kitchen sets. Furthermore trainings on how to cope with disasters will be conducted as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Emergency.

Although several parts of Azerbaijan with significant populations are likely to be affected in case of earthquakes, neither the Red Crescent and nor the government has developed disaster specific response or contingency plans. However, such plans are currently being developed. The disaster response strategy of the National Society will encompass disaster-related issues such as risk reduction, community-based disaster activities and public awareness campaigns, emergency needs assessment, distribution of non-food items, psychological support, tracing and first aid. The strategy is reflected in the Red Crescent Law. A clearly defined role and mandate for the Red Crescent within the national disaster management framework is considered as vital. This issue will be finally determined after the Red Crescent has developed its own disaster response and contingency plan.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent ensures equal opportunities for men and women in its activities, planning process and implementation.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The main risks and challenges are:

- Unstable social and political situation in the country
- Large-scale disasters occurring in the country might be a serious challenge at a stage when the National Society is developing its disaster preparedness and disaster response system
- Weak cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency that has to be strengthened
- Insufficient number of the staff and volunteers of the disaster preparedness and disaster response department

In regard to that it is relevant to motivate volunteers more effectively through organizing trainings with simulation exercises, and strengthening relationships with partners.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

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

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

The health and care programme budget is CHF 392,305 (USD 358,597 or EUR 249,876).

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

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

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

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

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

Component outcome 3: Number of timely registered people with TB in the dispensaries in Baku has increased to 90 per cent.

Programme component 3: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

Component outcome 1: The supply of safe blood has increased through voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.

Programme component 4: Community based health and first aid

Component outcome 1: The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health and first-aid activities.

Within this component the National Society will improve its volunteers' first-aid skills and set up first-aid groups that are prepared for accidents, emergencies and disasters.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Health and care programme beneficiaries include children, women, men and elderly people thus covering all age groups. Especially targeted groups are drivers, teachers, schoolchildren, students, sex workers, street children, people living with HIV and TB patients. The National Society will carry out various events like trainings and campaigns and provide social assistance. The activities will be carried out in rural as well as urban areas and the total number of beneficiaries is expected to be 184,690.

The existing capacity of the National Society within health and care is expected to expand as a result of the Red Crescent's efforts. There are 926 HIV and AIDS peer educators and 34 nurses in Baku and in the regions supervising DOTS treatment, and 170 volunteers involved in blood donor recruitment. Club-25 which aims at getting people to donate blood 25 times before the age of 25 already exists in Baku and is planned to be expanded to four other regions. Some 84 health promoters and 55 nurses, as well as a network of 35 first-aid instructors and 5 community-based first-aid teams, and 5 first-aid medical training centres exist. With relevant financial support this network will be able to reach the planned activities.

The National Society organizes picnics for people living with HIV and memorial days to remember those who died from AIDS. Furthermore campaigns against stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV will be carried out. The Red Crescent promotes safe behaviour and aims to strengthen HIV and AIDS peer education activities focusing on youth. In total 9,680 people will be covered with support from different donors by the HIV and AIDS programme.

The treatment of 254 TB patients is under the supervision of Red Crescent nurses. They are supervising DOTS treatment of released prisoners with TB in accordance with government health authorities, namely the national TB programme. The National Society has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health which specifies its role in the field of TB. Red Crescent nurses also assist in their identifying and registration. It is important to stimulate treatment adherence of beneficiaries, especially in the case of MDR-TB patients.

In targeting children ill with thalasemia and haemophilia the National Society regularly organizes blood donor recruitment campaigns in close cooperation with the Thalasemia and Haemophilia Association, and the Blood Bank. In total 170 Red Crescent volunteers work to increase public awareness on the safety, the benefits and the importance of donating blood. In 2008 the National Society initiated "Club 25" in Baku, and it is planned to be expanded to four regions to increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors. The total number of people expected to be targeted with blood donor recruitment activities in 2009 and 2010 is some 110,000.

Community-based integrated health and first-aid activities are essential for building more self-sustainable communities and increasing the capacity to cope with health-related problems. A volunteer network of 84 well-trained health promoters and 55 nurses in Baku and the regions will contribute to increasing community members' knowledge on preventive measures towards various diseases. A network of 35 first-aid instructors and 5 community-based teams will strengthen their own capacity to respond rapidly to daily emergencies or to those following natural or man-made disasters. The total number of people expected to be reached through health training sessions, campaigns, round tables and meetings is 60,600.

c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable socio-economic situation in the country
- Problems encountered in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental structures
- Lack of interest of marginalized groups

In regard to that it is relevant to organize more successful campaigns, and motivate volunteers more effectively through organizing various trainings, and strengthening relationships with partners.

It is considered especially important to involve targeted marginalized groups in the processes and to create conditions that motivate the targeted groups to provide inputs and influence the carrying out of activities.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

The National Society is working on the improvement different systems. One of the most important areas is youth and volunteer development, as they are the backbone of the organization. Communication development, which started this year is a supportive mechanism to attract the attention of the public, authorities and organizations, it is an amplifying mechanism in resource mobilization activities. Human resources system development helps the National Society have well-prepared staff, with clear understanding of their duties at all levels of the National Society.

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

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

The organizational development/ capacity building programme budget is CHF 454,116 (USD 415,097 or EUR 289,246).

Programme component 1: Ensuring a well-functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies

Component outcome 1: Effective, transparent human resources management system adhered to at all National Society levels.

Component outcome 2: Appropriate and effective financial procedures and guidelines, reporting and accounting systems as well as well-functioning internal and external communication mechanisms.

Component outcome 3: Annual audit conducted by an external auditor and recommendations acted on by the National Society's bodies.

Programme component 2: Improving and strengthening Red Crescent youth and volunteer management and recruitment system

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

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

Programme component 3: Ensuring financial sustainability via developed fund-raising policy and strategy

Component outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved the skills of its staff to scale up and diversify its funding sources as well as strengthened its financial system.

Component outcome 2: Support mobilized through partnerships with different corporations has increased.

Component outcome 3: Relationships with governmental structures have been developed and bilateral relations with other National Societies through the International Federation established.

Programme component 4: Developing National Society regional/branch network and service to quickly and better respond to needs

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

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

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

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

Programme component 5: Increasing capacity for programme development and management

Component outcome 1: Project planning and management skills of the Red Crescent staff have been improved at headquarters, regional and branch levels.

Component outcome 2: The National Society has strengthened its existing partnerships and systematically created new ones with government, other National Societies, and local as well as international organizations.

Component outcome 3: The National Society has increased its domestic and reduced its international funding sources.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Under this part and components 3, 4 and 5, the beneficiaries are directly National Society staff and volunteers, who will develop necessary planning, policy documents, fund-raising activities, will cooperate with local authorities and carry out social assistance. The National Society will provide them with necessary training, follow up the implementation of the strategic plan, statute and policies. The aim is to have staff and volunteers with relevant knowledge and skills to assist the vulnerable groups of the population, strengthen the capacity of the organization at all levels and decrease dependency on donors through successful local fund-raising activities. The total number of staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 7,884 (7,800 volunteers and 84 staff). The Red Crescent ensures equal opportunities to men and women to apply for open positions. The percentage of men and women working in the management of the National Society is almost 50-50 per cent.

In 2007 the Azerbaijani government adopted the Law on Red Crescent that determines the status and mandate of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The law also includes pledges to increase governmental support to the National Society for carrying out its activities and for its further development. Furthermore the law defines the National Society's relationship not only with the government, but also with other non-governmental organizations and institutions as well as local authorities. A presidential decree was adopted in 2004 to provide assistance to local Red Crescent branches and the government also contributes with funds for headquarters staff salaries and administrative expenditures.

Among the target groups of the organizational development programme and within components 2-5 are a wide range of vulnerable groups including indigent families, people with disabilities, people with limited access to resources as well as basic healthcare, orphans aged 3-25, street children, children with mental and physical disabilities and youth, children living with HIV, TB patients, people ill with haemophilia, elderly people living alone, and children and women at detention places. These groups are covered by youth and volunteer development projects. Geographical location of beneficiaries is mainly far rural areas of country side. The National Society organizes different kind of events and provides social and humanitarian assistance, encourages communities to be well-prepared and self-sustainable to cope with the occurred problems as well as making efforts to focus the attention of local authorities to the problems of beneficiaries.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent considers the gender balance issue in all projects and activities; particularly in regards to the participation of women in the decision-making process, project implementation, planning, international conferences/ workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities. The total balance between men and women is 51 per cent to 49 per cent.

c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable socio-economic situation in the country
- Lack of support from local governmental structures
- Lack of support to the activities of volunteers from at local branches level
- High turnover of volunteers and staff

In regard to that it is relevant to organize more successful campaigns, increase knowledge and skills, motivate volunteers more effectively through organizing trainings, social activities, camps, meetings to share knowledge and experience, and strengthening relationships with partners.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

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

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

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 158,350 (USD 144,744 or EUR 100,860).

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Component outcome 1: The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.

Component outcome 2: Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.

Component outcome 3: Decision-makers are made aware of humanitarian problems in the society.

Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes

Component outcome 1: Marginalized groups have been integrated into the society and experience less discrimination and stigmatization.

Component outcome 2: Marginalized vulnerable groups are empowered with enhanced ability to resist and tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence.

Component outcome 3: The psychosocial conditions of people living with HIV have been improved as a result of the National Society's awareness activities.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Under the component 1, taking into account the fact that along with importance to make efforts to advocate for the respect of human dignity and promote a culture of non-stigmatization and tolerance towards marginalized communities, it is important to have better skilled and competent staff at all levels of the National Society. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent will concentrate on continuing training and seminars on humanitarian values. The total number of Red Crescent staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 284. Staff and volunteers will then organize awareness-raising campaigns, produce promotion materials, organize events in universities, schools, and speeches on different TV channels.

Beneficiaries under both components include women, men, children, elderly people, and especially such groups as, drivers, teachers, schoolchildren, students, orphans, sex workers, people living with HIV, people with disabilities, IDPs and refugees, street children, and media workers from urban and rural areas. The primary objective of the programme is to change people's attitudes and behaviour towards marginalized communities like PLHIV, elderly people, orphans, people with disabilities, TB patients, to promote tolerance, coexistence and respect for human dignity as well as integrate them more into the society. The total number of beneficiaries is expected to be 11,170. The target beneficiaries are within the following age groups (14-24 years; 25 years and above). Gender balance has been taken into account in regard with realities, traditional specifications relevant to focused areas, and balance between men and women will be 53 per cent to 47 per cent.

The beneficiaries will receive training, participate in seminars, round-table discussions, picnics and drawing competitions using humanitarian values related topics, campaigns against stigma and discrimination; marginalized groups will have an opportunity to participate in organizational process of the mentioned events. The events like media and education campaigns to respond to HIV-related stigma and discrimination, memorial days to remember those who died from HIV and AIDS will attract the attention of the general public.

c) Potential risks and challenges

- The general public is not interested in conducted campaigns
- Lack of interest of volunteers towards implemented programmes

- Lack of interest of target groups towards conducted campaigns

In regard to that it is relevant to organize more successful campaigns, motivate volunteers more effectively through organizing trainings, social activities, camps, meetings to share knowledge and experience, strengthening relationships with marginalized groups and frequently involve them to be part of the organizational process. Also surveys will be carried out to explore what are the real expectations and challenges of people.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The country office of the International Federation in Azerbaijan is represented by locally recruited staff providing assistance in planning, programming, reporting, logistics and finance management, monitoring issues, coordinating the international assistance and securing the required technical support through the regional representation in Budapest, facilitating the process of expanded partnerships within and outside of the Movement.

The regional representation for central Europe and southern Caucasus and the Europe Zone office in Budapest will be strategic advisors for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and its partners, will provide guidance in methodologies/ approaches and expertise as well as provide coordination in programme implementation, international assistance and securing the required technical support through the country office, facilitate the process of expanded partnerships within and outside of the Movement.

The primary responsibility in programmes and projects implementation will belong to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

b) Partnership development and coordination

In this regard capacities and resources within the components of the Movement as well as other partners are used based on the respect and value towards the provided assistance. Collaboration is built on fruitful, open and transparent manner. This also complies with the New Operating Model, which increases the flexibility of the Federation's working approach, harnessing new opportunities to maximize cooperation, transparency and accountability. The support in programming will be provided based on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's strategic plan for 2008-2010 and the priorities outlined in this plan.

The collaboration between the Federation's country office and the ICRC delegation will be enhanced with the main focus to the National Society's capacity development and according to the 30th International Conference in the following identified four areas such as the humanitarian consequences of climate change, humanitarian concerns generated by international migration, violence, in particular in urban settings, and emergent and recurrent diseases and other public health challenges.

The Seville Agreement and Supplementary Measures provide the framework and responsibilities within which Movement components conduct international activities and Azerbaijan Red Crescent will follow the process.

Another opportunity to mobilize capacities and resources to provide harmonized, effective support to the National Society for implementing the HIV and AIDS project is the Global Alliance on HIV and Azerbaijan Red Crescent is interested to be part of this structure.

c) Representation and Advocacy

Based on its current needs the Azerbaijan Red Crescent needs support in strengthening its capacity and advocacy work. With assistance of the Europe Zone office, the regional and country representations and using the International Federation's experience in strengthening auxiliary role, the National Society will build up and maintain its advocacy relationships with the public authorities as well as international organizations and humanitarian actors. This role is obviously shown during International Conferences where National Societies and governments sit side by side as equal partners.

The Europe Zone office and the regional representation will arrange International Federation representation in inter-agency discussions as they take place in the region and in field situations, including the coordination for emergency assistance.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent recognizing that the empowerment of women and the integration of gender perspectives will increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the organization, considers the gender balance issue in all their projects and activities; particularly the participation of women in the decision-making process, project implementation, planning, international conferences/workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities (HIV and AIDS, TB, HR activities). The Red Crescent ensures equal opportunities to men and women to apply for open positions. The percentage of men and women working in the management of the National Society is almost 50-50 per cent.

According to the National Society's strategic plan 2008-2010, developing gender policy with highlighted methods of addressing gender issues, cleared up roles, responsibilities, needs, interests and capacities of both men and women is one of the main issues and the work on it is planned to be started this year.

Quality, accountability and learning

To improve the quality of the programmes and ensure their effectiveness and efficiency, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent will use "Quality Assessment Template", developed and introduced by the Federation's regional representation for southern Caucasus National Societies. It is a simple tool to be used by the National Society project managers with the aim of increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the programmes for the future. The document comprises of three main parts: 1) basic project information, 2) key questions to be answered at the beginning of the projects, in the form of a checklist, focusing mainly on the "design and preparation" phase, demanding "yes/no" answers, and 3) an impact assessment part including 12 generic questions to be answered at the end of the projects to assess the effects of what has been achieved during the project lifetime.

Additionally, to ensure better quality services, the disaster management programme will be based on SPHERE minimum standards. In this regard, the National Society plans to provide training sessions on SPHERE standards targeting the Red Crescent staff and volunteers involved in disaster management activities.

Accountability of the National Society to the stakeholders, donors, general population and beneficiaries will be ensured through various reports (programme updates, annual reports, pledge-based reports) launched on the Federation's website and submitted to the donors, annual report of the National Society shared with international and local organisations, newsletters, articles, and forums organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

The following tools and mechanisms to better assess their performances, to improve the future projects and to maximize effectiveness and impact accordingly will be used:

- **Date Collection-**The National Society will use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods for monitoring and evaluation purposes: interviews with the beneficiaries and event participants (formal, informal, face-to-face, by telephone), questionnaires, surveys and case studies.
- **Field Visits and Meetings-** Once/twice a month conduct field monitoring visits to check the programme process, assess the achievements and challenges. Additionally, there will be organized once/twice a month meetings with the community representatives, vulnerable groups, partners and donors.
- **Reporting-** As an integral part of monitoring and evaluation monthly, quarterly, half-year and annual reports will be developed to monitor and track progress, to demonstrate impact and lessons learnt, to provide feedback to donors and partners on funds received and to be accountable and transparent to donors and beneficiaries.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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