

# Mid-Year report



## Azerbaijan

Appeal No. MAAAZ002

31 August 2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2011-30/06/2011



Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers spent one day at orphanage house for children with different disabilities. AzRC/ information department

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** All programmes and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society are aligned with its own Strategic Plan and contribute towards the three outcomes of Strategy 2020 namely save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; enable healthy and safe living, and; promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

**Programme summary:** The International Federation continues to support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in its efforts to provide efficient and good quality services to the most vulnerable groups. Thus under the **Disaster management programme** the focus was mainly on providing support to people affected during various emergencies like flooding, earthquake, landslides and fires. In **Health and care programme** the National Society reached people through training sessions, healthy life style promotion and awareness, harm reduction, blood donors' recruitment campaigns, visits to people living with Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) and events like picnics, summer camps with participation of people living with HIV (PLHIV), drug users. Under **Organizational development** the focus was on financial management and resource mobilization, communication and public relations, organizing various events within communities, youth and volunteer development. **Fundamental principles and humanitarian values programme was an** integral part of activities in other programme areas like HIV and AIDS, harm reduction, youth and volunteers...

With support of the main National Society donor – the Norwegian Red Cross - the focus was on three areas: HIV and AIDS, branch development and youth and volunteer development. Thus a number of the activities in other programmes were either cancelled or implemented on a smaller scale due to the limited resources of the National Society. The International Federation continues to support the National Society in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

**Financial situation:** The total 2011 budget is CHF 409,638 out of CHF 143,349 was covered that is 35 per cent. Total expenditure has been CHF 105,762 that is 25 percent of the budget and 73 per cent of the funding.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

**No. of people we have reached:** During the first half of 2011 a total of 64,209 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes exceeding planned number of the 60,120 See *table N1*.

Table N1

Programme area	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable families, RC staff and volunteers	1,351
Health and Care	Vulnerable people, youth, children	39,815
Organizational Development	National Society key staff and volunteers, youth, children	21,505
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable people, RC staff and volunteers, youth	1,538
<b>Total</b>		<b>64,209</b>

**Our partners:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society had at least five partnerships within the Movement. Outside the Movement the National Society cooperated with numerous actors including government bodies at different levels, the United Nations (UN), and various national and international organizations and agencies.

## Context

A new settlement with more than 500 private houses is built in the village of Takhtakorpu of Azerbaijan's Agjabedi region for the internally displaced persons from the occupied Lachin region of Azerbaijan and the construction of nine five-storey buildings in Goranboy region will also be completed this year.

Serious efforts are being undertaken in Azerbaijan to prevent floods in territories where floods and mudslides are frequent. 600 meters of dikes were built during the year in areas prone to dangerous flooding on the banks of the Kur, Araz and mountain rivers. Also more than 7 million manat have been additionally allocated to cover damage to citizens, in addition to preparatory funds envisaged in a presidential order.

Azerbaijan has announced a large-scale battle with drug addiction. Although measures in this direction intensified in 2010, they should be further strengthened. To date, Azerbaijan has registered 25,489 drug addicts. The Ministry of Education conducted educational work among pupils and students living in border areas; attention to out-of-school centres expanding their network is going to be increased to combat the drug.

The HIV/AIDS Centre registered 2,909 cases of HIV infection between 1987 and 1 May 2011. Of these, 2,805 are Azerbaijani citizens and 104 foreigners. Most of the infected people are intravenous drug users. From 1987 to 1 May 2011, 387 people died of AIDS: 45 of them women. Most of the AIDS victims were aged between 19 and 50. Areas of highest illegal drug use also have the most cases of HIV infection.

There are 400,000 disabled persons in Azerbaijan: out of them 56,000 are children. Different measures are taken in the country in order to improve their living conditions and ensure their employment.<sup>1</sup> At present, 14 medical rehabilitation centres for disabled persons operate in Azerbaijan.

In relation to 24 March - World Tuberculosis Day, the international conference on cooperation between AR Ministry of Justice and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in TB control in the penitentiary sector was conducted (March 29-31 2011). More than 11 thousand inmates were treated following the advanced DOTS<sup>2</sup> strategy. DOTS plus treatment of inmates diagnosed with Multi Drug

<sup>1</sup> According to Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

<sup>2</sup> Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course

Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) started in 2011 for the first time in the country and with great success: a 72% success rate is one of the highest in the world. Taking into consideration the achievements, ICRC decided to pass the TB control activities on to the Ministry of Justice concluding that Azerbaijan does not need any further ICRC support in this field and mentioning how important it is to share the experience of Azerbaijan with other countries fighting Tuberculosis.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster management

**Expected outcome/result:** The number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters has been reduced.

**Programme purpose:** Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

**The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities of Azerbaijan has been reduced.**

#### **Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness**

**Component outcome:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has well-functioning Disaster Response Teams at all levels for more effective disaster response

#### **Achievements**

The staff and volunteers of the National Society that have been previously trained in disaster preparedness and response demonstrated good skills while assessing the situation in several regions where disasters struck and providing the affected population with necessary items. Azerbaijan Red Crescent carries out regular training sessions and simulation exercises in areas prone to disasters in order to secure high level of knowledge and preparedness of the existing disaster response teams.

As a result of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent efforts needs of 139 families (606 people) affected by various natural and man-made disasters like fires, flooding, landslides and earthquakes were assessed and people were provided with food and non-food items from the National Society stock or purchased with its own funds.

As a part of the regional cooperation team in Disaster Preparedness and Response and due to the request of Turkish Red Crescent the Azerbaijan Red Crescent representatives were nominated to the monitoring group of the team. The group was tasked to observe various phases of humanitarian activities towards Syrian population moving to Turkish territory fleeing from the military activities in Syria. Regular reports on monitoring food and non-food support<sup>3</sup> were submitted both to Turkish Red Crescent and Federation Europe Zone Office/Disaster Management Coordinator.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has used its website to collect funds for helping Japan after the earthquake earlier this year. It should be also mentioned that the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a donation of \$1 million via the Red Cross Society of Japan.

#### **Programme component 2: Community Preparedness towards disaster risk reduction**

**Component outcome:** Communities living in high risk areas have enhanced awareness on disaster preparedness and response

#### **Achievements**

Being supported bilaterally by Danish Red Cross, the National Society has implemented certain activities in disaster management, first aid and branch development areas. The activities started in December 2010 included developing training modules, carrying out training sessions, simulation exercises and awareness campaigns among targeted communities, purchasing first aid kits, printing and distributing information materials and were finalized in June 2011. Total number of covered people is 745.

### Constraints or Challenges

<sup>3</sup> Monitoring was done based on criteria established within Federation Emergency Response Catalog

Due to absence of funds the National Society was not able to fully implement activities planned within this programme area, thus several of them were carried out through integration with other projects like branch development and through bilateral support of Danish Red Cross or with National Society's own funds.

## Health and care

**Expected outcome/result:** The number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies has been reduced.

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

The National Society carried out various activities in the areas of HIV and AIDS, community based health and first aid as well as blood donation. Several new projects were started in 2010: Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) project with 20 patients in Baku financially supported by Eli Lilly and Company Foundation and in close cooperation with the National TB Control Programme run by the Ministry of Health (NTCP) <sup>4</sup> and Harm Reduction project in six regions of Azerbaijan with financial support of the Italian Red Cross. They were continued in 2011. The International Federation Country and Europe Zone offices, as well as the headquarters in Geneva provided technical and coordination support.

### 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.

**Component outcome 2:** The psychosocial condition of people living with HIV and AIDS has been improved due to the efforts of trained National Society staff and volunteers.

### Achievements

48 new peer educators have been trained in the history of the HIV virus, statistics, terminology, general information on the immune system, symptoms, who may be infected, ways of infection and its effects on the human body. Another 54 peer educators refreshed their knowledge at the experience-sharing meeting. Peer educators trained by Azerbaijan Red Crescent have organised awareness sessions, round-table discussions and campaigns to spread the knowledge among schoolchildren, youth, university students and in their respective communities and reached an estimated number of 19,767 people in different institutions and communities.

National Society printed 1,400 educational brochures with guidelines on protection as well as posters that were and will be distributed during different events like workshop sessions, round table discussions, marking of the World AIDS Day, visits to meetings and conferences abroad, to local/ international organizations, government structures as well as general public.

### 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.

### Achievements

Since beginning of the year four Azerbaijan Red Crescent trained nurses continued their regular visits to 12 people with Multi drug resistant (MDR) Tuberculosis living in four Baku city districts, identified as being at high risk of defaulting on treatment and encouraged them to continue and complete their regular treatment<sup>4</sup>. MDR TB patients followed by National Society nurses also had monthly health check up visits to TB Dispensaries. Since May the number of patients was increased to 18 and by the end of the reporting period, the project grew to cover 38 patients with eight nurses.

<sup>4</sup> Chosen MDR TB patients are people with very low incomes, caring for many children, living with multiple health problems and/or disabilities, alcohol and drug addicts and former inmates.

Two times per month a psychologist paid visits to MDR TB patients accompanying the trained nurses in order to provide psychological support. Project coordinator paid regular monitoring visits to the patients to keep an eye on the implementation progress, reveal challenges and give recommendations.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent nurses, as part of a joint survey team, were involved in a survey named KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) carried out among MDR TB patients. It was an initiative of USAID/Abt Associates and Public Health Reform Centre (PHRC) with the purpose to explore from different aspects the level of patients' adherence towards treatment.

### **Programme component 3: Community based health and first aid**

**Component outcome 1:** The National Society has set up a network of health promoters and first aid groups to spread knowledge on preventive health within the communities and how to prepare for different accidents, emergencies and disasters.

**Component outcome 2:** The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health awareness and first-aid activities.

**Component outcome 3:** Donor blood supply within the country has increased due to the increased number of Red Crescent volunteers as non-remunerated blood donors.

### **Achievements**

The National Society health promoters, first-aid instructors, National Society Club 25 volunteers and blood donor recruiters increased and improved knowledge on health related topics of more than 15,462 people via organized learning sessions and awareness/ blood donation/ skill sharing campaigns. As result of blood donor recruitment campaigns and promotion activities of volunteers, 383 journalists, teachers and students of universities and workers of central post office out of 1,210 reached became blood donors. Despite a big desire of all participants to give their blood, not all of them met the relevant health requirements<sup>5</sup>To support students to recover mentally and physically the National Society agreed with universities to increase the number of workshop sessions on healthy life styles, correct nutrition and recreation.

During one month Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteer-physicians and nurses, Youth Committee volunteers in Baku paid visits to 300 lonely older people and provided them with health and psychosocial support: blood pressure checkups, prescriptions for drugs, food parcels and hygienic kids, purchase of necessary medicines and products, cleaning of their houses... Chairwomen and Chairmen from 11 Azerbaijan Red Crescent local branches of Baku city used their long history of cooperation with local authorities and polyclinics to advocate for the needs of older people, facilitate the solving of essential issues (e.g. receiving pensions and assessing the level of disability and appropriate pension as well as frequency of doctors' visits) as these people are living alone with no one providing support or care of them.

14 June, World Blood Donor Day was marked in Azerbaijan with this year's topic being "*More blood More life*". The event was marked by organizing round tables and meetings of governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the issues of blood donation<sup>6</sup>. So far various efforts were made to increase the number of blood donors in Baku and the regions. The Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan included blood donors' recruitment in its plan of action and there is a telephone hotline established that serves this purpose. For the last seven years only via Azerbaijan Red Crescent recruitment programme for Non-remunerated blood donors some 4,000 people became blood donors. The commemoration of the World Blood Donors Day was also marked through a ceremony where 20 regular blood donors of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent were awarded with special testimonial diplomas for giving blood and recruiting blood donors for benefit of ill people. See more on [www.redcrescent.az](http://www.redcrescent.az), <http://www.facebook.com>, <http://twitter.com/#!/AzRedCrescent>.

<sup>5</sup> There are certain categories of choosing blood donors: people with low level of hemoglobin, low blood pressure, low weight, or who have suffered an illnesses like hepatitis cannot be blood donors.

<sup>6</sup> More than 1,300 patients in the country were officially registered as ill with hemophilia and among them 600 are living in the capital of the country. There is a high necessity to develop the existing system of registration of patients to have more exact data.

#### **Programme component 4: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic**

**Component outcome 1:** Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas is conducted.

**Component outcome 2:** Networking is developed, both internally and externally.

**Component outcome 3:** One country plan integrating component outcomes four to six is established and operational.

**Component outcome 4:** Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.

**Component outcome 5:** Training for first responders and community members are delivered.

**Component outcome 6:** The Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

#### **Achievements**

Due to the limited funds the Azerbaijan Red Crescent was able to organize only few initiatives under this programme component, which were merged with community based health and first aid activities concentrating on awareness of communities of pandemics.

#### **Programme component 5: Harm Reduction**

**Component outcome 1:** The situation on drug usage within the regions has been assessed and contacts with local authorities have been established.

**Component outcome 2:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to work with drug users has been strengthened.

**Component outcome 3:** The communities' awareness on harm of drugs has raised

#### **Achievements**

In continuation of the process started last year six staff members and volunteers from the targeted branches were trained on monitoring and evaluation. The tools used for training were *Questionnaire on Monitoring and Evaluation of the activities within project, IFRC framework for Evaluation, PMER tools and guidelines*. 20 local branch volunteers from three regions were trained on methods of dissemination of information and public awareness on the issues of drug use. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent applied a module developed earlier on working with drug users in three piloted communities among 65 community members. The National Society carried out a Public Relations event on Harm reduction with active participation of drug users and local branch volunteers for more than 2,900 people from five regions. 1,000 leaflets on drug use were produced and distributed among the community members during the events.

The National Society organized a picnic with participation of 48 drug users, their family members, as well as the Red Crescent staff and volunteers and representatives of local narcological dispensary and Public Union on Struggle with AIDS – Positive Life Network/Lankaran branch. The participants were involved in discussions on issues of stigma/discrimination towards marginalized groups. Still today, many people believe they would be denounced by the society if they profess and seek the assistance of specialists. People are afraid of referring to drug clinics because of the discrimination from the wider society and lack of social protection. Educational work among pupils and students living in border areas should be increased along with attention to out-of-school centres to combat drugs and influence gradual change of bad habits.

#### **Constraints or Challenges**

The National Society increasingly focuses on attracting people living with HIV to its activities and organising training sessions especially in rural areas. However the quantities of printed materials to be used in PR events are insufficient due to the financial constraints. It is also difficult to take photos of drug users as they are usually very reluctant fearing the consequences of having a higher profile, though they were very active in supporting awareness events. The piloted communities have very limited local media capacities: only three have an active newspaper and only one has a local TV channel. Thus Azerbaijan Red Crescent mainly uses its own information/ communication capacity (web page, newspaper, web links to facebook, youtube, twitter) and has invited main TV channels to two events.

Due to long distances between patients' places of residence and dispensaries as well as invalid addresses, nurses working with MDR TB patients were forced to spend more than it is budgeted for. The volume of food parcels given by Global Fund on AIDS TB (GFATM) to patients is reduced and coverage of transport expenses to monthly check up visits cancelled due to insufficient funding. The discussions with Global Fund on AIDS TB and Malaria and Ministry of Health representatives on possible future support are still in progress. The nurses still need individual protection tools like gowns, masks, gel, gloves as they are in close contact with patients and in addition to treatment control they provide injections, measure temperature and blood pressure. For the moment these expenses cannot be covered by existing budget.

## Organizational development

**Expected outcome/result:** Local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability has increased.

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

So far the total number of Red Crescent volunteers is 22,198 out of which 1,100 were recruited in the reporting period as a result of volunteer recruitment campaigns. National Society enlists 7,232 primary Red Crescent organizations and 294,515 members as off mid 2011. Azerbaijan Red Crescent has printed out 5,000 membership cards to be further distributed at local committees' level for registration and management of members. The National Society programme managers created several groups of trainers for different programmes supported by 70 experienced volunteers within 14 primary organizations placed in Baku city who will further help in organizing and facilitating training sessions and events. The National Society developed its Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in line with the International Federation Strategy 2020; it was shared with the Federation Country and Zone Offices as well as with the Federation HQ in Geneva and finally approved by the Presidium of the National Society.

The National Society representative participated in the workshop on fundraising development organized by USAID/Caucasus, TAG Int. Development, MDA UK and Georgian Red Cross. The importance of using social networks to expand fundraising opportunities was stressed. Representative of TAG Int. suggested organizing a one-day seminar for Azerbaijan Red Crescent local branches on practical use of social networks. MDA UK also suggested a seminar on fundraising opportunities development.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Secretary General has had meetings with eight biggest national banks and so far there is a preliminary agreement to support the idea on applying for voluntarily donations from ATM users.

<b>Programme component 1: Improving and strengthening Red Crescent youth and volunteer management and recruitment system</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has improved its youth and volunteer management, recruitment and motivation system.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Voluntary service programmes have been developed and implemented at regional and local levels.
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### Achievements

The National Society trained 202 new volunteers of three regional centres in providing social support to children with disabilities and orphans, leadership and management and Movement's history and Fundamental Principles. The 72 trained volunteers held workshop sessions in six regional schools among 3,240 children and continued to pay regular visits to five orphanage houses to carry out social activities with 730 children and at home in Sumgayit.

The National Society organised a volunteer recruitment campaign in four regions and as result 1,100 young people decided to become Red Crescent volunteers. Azerbaijan Red Crescent held seven meetings of youth volunteer boards at central and regional level with participation of 158 volunteers. The members of the boards had chance to share information on implemented activities, challenges and plans for the nearest future.

The National Society organized three day educational summer camp for 27 volunteers from regional centers in Lankaran, Ganja and Imishli. The programme included short workshop sessions on leadership, social support provision, First Aid skills, HIV and AIDS and humanitarian values as well as work in groups, brainstorming, writing small-scale projects, sport and intellectual games.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society celebrated 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day by organizing various activities like blood donation campaigns, visits to the houses of older lonely people, meeting at the Association of People ill with Hemophilia and Talassemia, march of National Society staff members and volunteers in the National Park. This year's celebration also referred to the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteer as well as the European Year of Volunteering. The International Federation launched a campaign for 2011 **Find The Volunteer Inside You** and this has become an overarching slogan for all the events (see [www.thevolunteerinside.org](http://www.thevolunteerinside.org)). The main purpose was to express gratitude to volunteers who provided their tremendous support in different situations and events and to mention their role in the life of the Movement and promote their efforts in front of partners, government structures, public organizations etc. All events were widely highlighted by the main TV-channels, news agencies, newspapers, via Azerbaijan Red Crescent web page [www.redcrescent.az](http://www.redcrescent.az), on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=324673369269>, on Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/user/QizilAypara> and twitter <http://twitter.com/#!/AzRedCrescent>.

Also the National Society organized several events devoted to 1 June, Children Protection Day. Azerbaijan Red Crescent staff and volunteers visited 695 ill children in the central Baku city hospital as well as a Psycho-neurology sanatorium in Ramani settlement (close to the capital): volunteers carried out performances of famous fairy-tales, musical dramas, facilitated games, fed children, cleaned and changed their clothes, presented hygienic kits and school supplies. The same event was organized in an orphanage house placed in Baku's Surakhani district for another 125 children. Along with the regular Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers, a number of young students studying abroad applied to the National Society to join these activities and actively supported the events. In Azerbaijan Red Crescent Sumgait city branch staff and volunteers organized an auction of hand made things prepared by 150 disabled children residents of Sumgait city school for children with psycho-neurology problems. The collected funds from the auction were given to the school.

National Society purchased and produced 150 sets of T-shirts and caps as well as books, teaching materials and school supplies to be donated to five orphanage houses covering 295 orphans out of whom 93 are children with various disabilities. All these activities were carried out as part of the development of voluntary services.

<b>Programme component 2: Developing National Society regional and branch network and service to quickly and better respond to needs</b>
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<p><b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society's strategic plan and policies have been implemented at branch level.</p>
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<p><b>Component outcome 2:</b> Red Crescent programmes and services are carried out in an effective and timely manner including effective assessments and distribution of items at branch level.</p>
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<p><b>Component outcome 3:</b> Target branches have strengthened their skills in public relations and fund-raising to deliver sustainable services.</p>
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<p><b>Component outcome 4:</b> Red Crescent targeted branches have improved their links with local authorities and communities through the participatory community development approach.</p>
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## Achievements

### Programme planning and management

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent approved the Humanitarian Relief policy at the Presidium of the National Society and is committed to ensure its implementation. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is going to facilitate development of relevant amendments to the Law of Azerbaijan Republic about the National Society related to membership fees and signing a Collective Chief Agreement with the government. The National Society is going to sign Memorandums of Understanding with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism to expand opportunities to promote its activities.

### Financial management and resource mobilization

Azerbaijan Red Crescent in close cooperation with the Federation Country Office is looking for new financial opportunities to support the work of the National Society. Based on agreements signed between IFRC and Coca-Cola company and the Asia Development Bank the National Society prepared the official application to Presidents of Coca-Cola company and Asian Development Bank in Azerbaijan to appoint meetings and discuss further cooperation.

The National Society received CHF 7,387 from TAG Int. Development for establishing First Aid room in Ismayilli Red Crescent branch and the one more in Zagatala Red Crescent branch. Also the National Society collected CHF 54,889 from membership fees, private donations and donation boxes. CHF 48,384 were spent on providing 5,600 large/ indigent families/ families who lost breadwinners, children with chronic diseases or different disabilities, orphans, lonely elderly people, refugees and Internally Displaced People with food parcels or presents, organizing celebrations, purchasing school supplies and teaching materials, production of 20 new donation boxes and covering the administrative costs of the National Society. At the moment 103 donation boxes are placed at different markets, banks, trade centres, beauty salons, restaurants and confectioneries in Baku city and Sumgayit.

### Branch development and community capacity building

The National Society organised several training sessions on public relations, carrying out surveys and organizing drama/ art/ folklore for 69 staff and volunteers and community members from four districts. 288 previously and newly trained Azerbaijan Red Crescent volunteers conducted a survey with 1,728 community members in eight new communities to further create community initiating groups and apply Participatory Community Development approach. The National Society organized a number of different awareness campaigns on health promotion, community-based disaster preparedness, First Aid, dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and helped organise events related to several key Movement and international days with active participation of local communities, Red Crescent local branch staff and volunteers, schoolchildren and students as well as the representatives of local authorities. Total number of participants was 3,250.

### Constraints or Challenges

Raising funds through donation boxes and establishing links with different humanitarian international and local donor organizations as well as corporate sector are key priorities in the development of the fundraising policy of Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. Insufficient funding didn't allow production or purchasing of sufficient quantity of promotion materials and reduced the number of summer camps with orphans, refugees and IDP children that could be supported. Local branches actively supported some of the activities with their own funds.

## Humanitarian values

**Expected outcome/result:** Intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion has been reduced and respect for diversity and human dignity has been promoted.

**Programme purpose:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion. Tolerant behaviour towards the diversity of views, culture, and beliefs widely promoted.

<b>Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Red Crescent is capable to effectively promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and has a leading role on the issue.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Targeted community groups are interested in humanitarian values and keen to change behaviour.
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<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Decision-makers are made aware of humanitarian problems in the society.
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## Achievements

The National Society continues dissemination of activities funded by ICRC at various schools and educational institutions level while humanitarian values initiatives were mainly implemented in collaboration with HIV and AIDS project and with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent own funds by organising round table discussions for 1,538 students from schools, colleges and universities as well as volunteers from four regional Red Crescent centres and 21 local branches on stigma/discrimination and about the facts of discrimination within their families.

<b>Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Marginalized groups have been integrated into the society and experience less discrimination and stigmatization.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Marginalized vulnerable groups are empowered with enhanced ability to resist and tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence.
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## Achievements

The Harm Reduction project coordinator organized a picnic for drug users and their family members in the framework of the Humanitarian Values project, which included interesting quizzes, interaction games, discussions on stigma/discrimination issues. Please see the Health and Care/ Harm Reduction component of this report for more details.

## Constraints or challenges

The absence of funds reduced the capacity to organize large scale events and produce necessary promotion materials to attract more people. However Red Crescent made efforts to compensate by integrating the activities into other projects and managed to implement some activities on a small scale.

## Working in partnership

The Head of the Federation Office and Head of ICRC Delegation met regularly during the reporting period sharing updates on the ongoing activities and support of Movement partners along with new initiatives, plans, information on new donors at local and international level etc.

With support of the Federation Country Representative in Georgia key staff/management of Azerbaijan Red Crescent was kept up to date on current Federation initiatives: S2020 (focus on strong NSs), Federation wide reporting system, Federation databank, bridging digital divide, rating excellence (accreditation), learning platform/strategy, General Assembly, Council of Delegates and 31 International Conference. The staff was advised to apply to [www.ifrc.org/learning](http://www.ifrc.org/learning) as well as to referred to [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) and [www.fednet.org](http://www.fednet.org).

The National Society Leadership and Management participated in several events organized by Federation Europe Zone Office in Budapest including the Leadership and Co-operation Meeting, consultation meeting on Strategy 2020, integration into the National Societies' Strategic Plans. Being members of the Advisory Board Commission on Humanitarian Values and Diplomacy issues and Election Committee in Geneva on behalf of Europe Zone, the National Society Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General regularly participate in the committee discussions.

One of the messages during the meeting was that one of the traditional partners in the Caucasus region Norwegian Red Cross will stop its financial support starting from September 2011. Contacts made with Danish and Italian Red Cross Societies as well as Eli Lilly and Company Foundation provided support towards continuation of the existing projects. Regular contacts were maintained with ministries of health, emergency, crisis and rescue and mine clearing at central level and authorities at local level as well as UN agencies in the country, WHO, OXFAM, USAID, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Public Health Reform Centre and Institute of Pulmonology/ National TB Programme.

Also relationships were maintained with networks and membership organizations working in the field of harm reduction, HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis including the European Red Cross Red

Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS and TB (ERNA) and the Global Alliance on HIV and TB.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes are closely linked to the Strategy 2020. The National Society regularly monitors and evaluates its programme activities to ensure the most efficient use of the limited resources available and to continuously assess programme progress towards the overall objectives. Internal monitoring included collection of data and analysis of programme activity information during field visits of the Secretary General and programme coordinators as well as Head of Federation Office in Baku.

Gender equity and diversity were taken into account and followed in 2011 by ensuring that all activities carried out by the National Society benefited the most vulnerable regardless of gender. Internally equal access and opportunities for participation and decision making for both genders are an imperative for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent. The split of men and women working in the management of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent is almost 50-50.

## Looking ahead

Reducing dependency on funding channelled through the International Federation and achieving financial self sustainability is one of the main priorities of the National Society. Thus new partnerships have been established with several National Societies such as Danish, Italian Red Crosses, cooperation continued with the Turkish and Iranian Red Crescent Societies. In the framework of partnership between DFID and International Federation and with close support of Federation Country and Europe Zone offices the National Society has developed a new project on Building safer communities through capacity building of Azerbaijan Red Crescent local branches planned for four years (2011-2014). Collections from fundraising activities and membership fees as well as contributions from the government's budget allowed National Society to partly cover some of the projects' activities and administrative costs. The Federation also supported the National Society in developing a Long Term Planning Framework for the 2012-2015 period.

### How we work

*All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

### Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

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