

# Revised Plan 2011



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Azerbaijan Executive summary



The Azerbaijan Red Crescent (the AzRC) has developed a number of characteristics that make it a better supporter of vulnerable people. These include a country-wide network of regional and local branches; experienced, enthusiastic and committed staff and volunteers; and stronger links with governmental agencies, local and international organisations. The role and function of the society's governance and management has been separated. The number of members of Azerbaijan Red Crescent increased from 265,056 in 2009 to 292,900 in 2010. Branches have been empowered to be better partners of their communities. More than 23 branches have well-trained staff and volunteers to provide humanitarian services to the

beneficiaries and improved the quality of financial and narrative reports.

Number of volunteers involved into support to vulnerable groups (orphans, internally displaced, handicapped and HIV positive children, children ill with rheumatism and older people living alone) with psychosocial, health and teaching services has been increased up to 4,000. Peer educators conducted sessions in period 2009-2010 for more than 40,000 schoolchildren, youth and university students, community members delivering information on the immune system, impact of HIV and AIDS on the human body, transmission and symptoms through trainings, meetings and awareness campaigns. The National Society is working on increasing number of volunteer-based projects, strongly advocating their role and encouraging other branches to work with youth and volunteers on systematic basis.

In 2007, the Azerbaijani government adopted the Law on Red Crescent that determines the status and mandate of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, includes pledges to increase governmental support to the National Society for carrying out its activities and for further development as well as defines the relationship with the government, non-governmental organizations, institutions and local authorities. A presidential decree was adopted in 2004 to provide assistance to local Azerbaijan Red Crescent branches and the government also contributes with funds for the headquarters staff salaries and administrative expenditures.

Recently occurred floods in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river allowed the previously trained staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to demonstrate their skills by assessing the situation and providing affected population with necessary items. The response was funded through DREF, one of the Federation disaster funding sources: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRAZ002do.pdf>

However, despite the progress, challenges remain. There is a necessity to expand the source of income from membership fees towards diversified financial resources especially at local branches level. The work should be intensified towards acquaintance of several Azerbaijan Red Crescent branches with community based approach and motivate them to seek new ways of building of local partnerships. Role of the volunteers and youth is still to be strongly advocated among the local branches, with more volunteer based projects to be implemented. For improving programs management system there is a

need to develop and regularly apply monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools. More efforts need to be made to achieve increased involvement of People Living with HIV into activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and more regular trainings on safe sex practice among young people are needed especially in rural areas where mentality is the main challenge to struggle with.

Recent flood operations have shown the need for training and maintaining highly skilled volunteers at regional, branch and community level with focus to disaster prone areas, train and mobilize local communities in preparation, implementation and evaluation process to better be able to cope with disasters. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent was actively involved in a preparation for regional proposal on DIPECHO in consultation with external partners visiting Azerbaijan. However despite all efforts, the position of the Government of Azerbaijan was that no cooperation is possible until conflict situation is solved in the region. Therefore, participation of the National Society in DIPECHO process is postponed.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent continues its efforts to reduce dependency on the International Federation's annual appeal and achieve financial self sustainability. The efforts are focused on developing fund-raising and marketing skills. Fundraising initiatives are increased in Baku, the capital of the country, while at branch level these initiatives are not developed enough. The National Society is forging new partnerships to contribute to its expertise development, as well as to ensure new sources of funding. So far the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has established cooperation with several National Societies like the Danish, German and Italian Red Crosses, Magen David Adom Israel and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The society will develop its strategic plan for 2011-2015, which will clearly describe the directions in the coming years referring to Strategy 2020. The National Society plans to involve all local branches and stakeholders in a process of consultation and preparation to the new strategy to ensure the full participation.

Despite the experienced economic growth, ongoing reforms and increased foreign investments the humanitarian needs still exist. Large communities, particularly elderly people living alone, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, disabled people, orphans, women and children are still an issue of concern. The population in rural areas is still living in difficult 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 one per cent of the workforce<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, child and maternal mortality remains high, the number of HIV and AIDS and TB affected people and drug addicts grows quickly and the health system in rural areas remains undeveloped.

Taking into account recent developments in the country, work implemented by other actors and directions highlighted in the Azerbaijan Red Crescent strategic plan for 2008-2010 the International Federation will provide support in the fields of disaster management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values. The support to the society will be provided in accordance with the International Federation's Strategy 2020, Commitments of VIII European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference and the Millennium Development Goals.

Within the disaster management programme steps will be taken to improve the organizational preparedness of staff and volunteers, replenish necessary items in the stocks to answer to the urgent needs of affected population as well as increase the awareness in local communities to reduce their vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters. The National Society's health programme targets People Living with HIV and TB with prevention and control of the treatment as well as activities aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination towards marginalized groups. Moreover it aims to increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and raise local communities' awareness on preventive health and first aid as well as implement the human influenza pandemic preparedness plan developed in 2009-2010 and carry out harm reduction initiative.

The organizational development programme focuses on improving the skills of the National Society 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, developing internal and external communication mechanisms, improving recruitment and management systems to increase the number of active

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<sup>1</sup> Source: UNDP living conditions in Azerbaijan; [http://www.un-az.org/doc/AzerbaijanRCAR\\_2006\\_e.pdf](http://www.un-az.org/doc/AzerbaijanRCAR_2006_e.pdf)

National Society volunteers, staff fund-raising skills to deliver sustainable services, strengthening the infrastructure of branches and improving links with communities through the participatory community development (PCD) approach. Finally, the humanitarian values programme contributes the promotion of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The International Federation will concentrate in the coming period on ensuring its support meets the needs of the National Society. Integration of the country presence into the Azerbaijan Red Crescent structure is reasonably developed, and *enabling action three* of the Strategy 2020 around working effectively as a Federation will give direction to using resources in more creative and innovative ways through alliances and partnerships.

The total 2010-2011 budget is CHF 0.9 Million, of which CHF 0.4 Million for the second year.

[Click here to go 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 northwest, Armenia in the west and Iran in the south. The exclave of Nakhichevan is bounded by Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, while having a short borderline with Turkey to the northwest.

The economy in Azerbaijan has withstood the impact of the global financial crisis relatively well, but has not been immune to it<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, overall GDP grew at 9.3 percent, but non-oil GDP growth slowed from 16 to 3 per cent, fiscal and export revenues fell by more than 30 per cent, and credit and liquidity conditions tightened substantially. Due to the authorities' appropriate policy response, the exchange rate remained stable, inflation dropped dramatically and financial stability was maintained. Profit and income tax rates were cut in 2009, effective 2010, and access to the simplified tax regime was increased by raising the VAT threshold. Effective January 1, 2010, the profit tax rate was reduced from 22 to 20 percent, and the maximum personal income tax rate was reduced from 35 to 30 percent for labour income, and from 35 to 20 per cent for the self-employed. The state pension is approximately USD 94 per capita per month. A total of 39,951 individuals have been listed as jobless in Azerbaijan as of July 1, 2010<sup>3</sup> and in the first six months the number of unemployed was reduced by 1,049.

In 2005 the Azerbaijani president issued a decree to prepare a ten year *State Programme on Poverty Reduction* (2006-2015) to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is in successful implementation. Official poverty rates continued to fall from 49 to 11 per cent. The government's main target on the UN Millennium Development Goals is to eradicate poverty to 10% by 2015. In this regard, the Government intends to preserve macroeconomic stability, maintain dynamic economic growth, and keep inflation and exchange rates at an acceptable level. See *table 1*

Development Indicators		AZERBAIJAN <sup>4</sup>	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	9,04	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	9,810
Surface area (square km)	86,600	GDP real growth (%)	9,3
Carbon dioxide em. per capita (metric tons) (2004)	3,8	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	6
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	99	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live birth)	54.6
Gender-related development index rate (GDI)	0,743	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	37.3
Human development index value (HDI)	0,792	Life expectancy at birth	73,5
Human development index rate (HDI)	99,6	People living with HIV aged 15-49	2,427
Population below PPP \$ 1 per day (%)	2	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000) (2007)	64,34

<sup>2</sup> International Monetary Fund outlook

<sup>3</sup> According to the State Statistical Committee

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.azstat.org/publications/azfigures/2009/en/004.shtml>; <http://www.internal-displacement.org>; International Monetary Fund <http://www.who.int/hiv/data/en/index.html>; <http://www.gfmag.com/gdp-data-country-reports/324-azerbaijan-gdp-country-report.html>; <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e48d1e6>;

Population below nat. poverty line (%)	11	HIV (% of persons aged 15–49, 2007)	0.1
<i>Refugees and IDPs</i>		Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit.	
Refugees by country of origin (2010, January)	16,939		
Number of internally displaced people	586,013		

Table 1: **Selected development indicators for Azerbaijan**

Due to created risk of pandemic in 2009 the Ministry of Health in close collaboration with WHO, the Public Health Reforms Centre, the State Agency on Agricultural Credits working on World Bank Avian Influenza and Human Preparedness Project as well as UN agencies has developed National Pandemic Preparedness Plan that further became the basis for the Country Pandemic Preparedness Plan towards communities. It is developed by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in consultation with International Federation's zone and country offices and the Geneva headquarters. The National Society also assisted the government in awareness-raising, provision of trainings and carrying out immunization campaigns.

Within reproductive and childhood health, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO analyzed the reproductive health status in the country. Based on the analysis, WHO assisted the national policy-makers and experts to develop a national strategy on reproductive health for 2008–2015.

The maternal death rate is reduced from 3.76 to 2.61% per 100,000 new born children and consists 26.3 per cent<sup>5</sup>. Infant and maternal mortality is especially prevalent in rural areas because of low living conditions, poor nutrition, infectious diseases, overdue requests for assistance and insufficient diagnostics. Both mortality rates are considered as significant compared to other countries.

The number of cancer patients is rising by 10 to 15 per cent per year in Azerbaijan and to date some 24,000 persons are suffering from various types of cancer. Yet the methods and quality of combating cancer have improved. Women are mainly suffering from breast cancer while men are more often suffering from lung cancer.

Since 1987 the Republic AIDS Control Centre registered 2,427 HIV infected persons out of which almost 83.7 per cent were men; 308 people already died. 64.4 per cent consists injecting drug use, 23.2 per cent-heterosexual contact, 0.7 per cent-homosexual contact, 0.9 per cent accounts for mother to child transmission, 0.05 per cent is transmission via blood transfusion and 10.8% is impossible to determine. There were also other detected infections in 2,138 Azerbaijan citizens who were HIV positive: hepatitis C – 1215 persons (65.0%), hepatitis B – 194 person (10.4%), tuberculosis – 324 persons (17.3%), syphilis – 137 persons (7.3%).

The WHO Country Office, Azerbaijan and WHO/Europe supported the sustainability, extension and improvement of access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care, the approval of the HIV and AIDS prevention plan for 2009–2013 by the Ministry of Health for strengthening capacity of the health system in human resources to respond to HIV and AIDS and related conditions. WHO's coordination of the HIV and AIDS programme at the country level led to the start of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in November 2006. Number of patients receiving ART is increasing. So far 310 HIV and AIDS patients have undergone treatment. UNAIDS drafted a global structure of tasks in 2009 to prevent the spread of AIDS<sup>6</sup> and planning to spend \$200,000 within two years to carry out these tasks in Azerbaijan.

The number of drug addicts and occasional users has risen in Azerbaijan from 5,000 in 1995 to 21,000 in 2008<sup>7</sup> – though this figure is widely believed to be as much as 10 times higher, as registration of drug users takes some time. The government has made important steps to fight the trend, but the problems still exist. For example the lack of adequate treatment centres for addicts, makes the situation even more serious. Target age groups are growing younger, too; teenagers comprise the main risk group, though there are patients who get hooked on heroin or cocaine when they are already 40 or older.

In 2007 the number of TB cases was 77 per 100,000 persons according to WHO. The mortality rate

<sup>5</sup> The Ministry of Health

<sup>6</sup> Four objectives have been selected for Azerbaijan for 2010-11 by UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva: support for patients in treatment, prevention of the spread of HIV between intravenous drug users, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV and combating discrimination against AIDS patients and HIV-infected individuals.

<sup>7</sup> According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

was 10 per 100,000. Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) is another challenge within TB. The highest rate was recorded in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where more than one-fifth of all new TB cases were reported as multidrug-resistant. MDR-TB among previously treated TB cases is 56 per cent. Thus, WHO provides technical assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan in an effort to radically reduce the burden of tuberculosis (TB) by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Stop TB Strategy. WHO support was also in obtaining permission for starting MDR treatment in civil sector and preparing a proposal to the Global Fund for round 9; the national Green Light Committee approved MDR treatment for 240 patients in 2009.

Azerbaijan has several hundred thousand refugees and IDPs throughout the country. The state authorities address the needs of displaced people through specific state programmes, IDPs benefit from food and cash subsidies, tax exemptions and house furnishing however IDPs continue being dependent on state allowances and state assistance. While the housing standard in rural areas has been improving, a majority of IDPs living urban areas live in sub-standard collective shelters. The Ministry of Education was in 2009 undertaking a study on the quality and level of education of internally displaced children, but parents cannot always afford transport, clothing and supplies for their children, which have limited their attendance. The government continues to favour the return of IDPs over other settlement options. An improved national response would entail efforts to involve IDPs in decisions that affect them, acknowledgement of their right to freely choose between returning and settling elsewhere, and measures to make IDPs more self-reliant at their current residence<sup>8</sup>.

Despite the fact that there is a Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on social protection of disabled persons and on integrated education for disabled children in general schools, they are still a virtually invisible group in Azerbaijan. There are around 275,000 people with various physical disabilities; out of them 49,000 are children<sup>9</sup>. There is still a stark shortage of relevant infrastructure for people with disabilities. Public buildings, underground passages and railway stations are therefore virtual no-go areas. Medical consultations and medicines for disabled children, social support to disabled children and their integration into society, proactive and informal education of disabled children; special programmes and social events are need to be addressed.

Azerbaijan is situated in a geographically 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 led to floods, especially in the regions surrounding Kur River, Azerbaijan's main river with significant damage to infrastructure and causing human injuries and casualties.

Country disasters		
AZERBAIJAN		
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people
Flood	September 2009	5000
Flood	April 2003	31,500
Earthquake (seismic activity)	November 2000	3,300
Earthquake (seismic activity)	June 1999	9,200
Earthquake (seismic activity)	July 1998	700,000
Flood	June 1997	75,000
Flood	October 1995	6,000
Flood	June 1995	2,800
Flood	April 1995	1,650,000

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

Azerbaijan also faces serious environmental challenges. Soil throughout the region was contaminated by insecticide and toxic defoliants used in cotton production during the Soviet era. Caspian petroleum and petrochemicals industries contribute to present air and water pollution problems. The National Society has a limited role to play with regard to environmental challenges, but in some rural areas Red Crescent volunteers organize small campaigns on the preservation of the environment.

**Table 2:** Disasters in Azerbaijan since 1995

<sup>8</sup> In 2009, three UN treaty body committees made recommendations to the government on IDPs: ensuring equal opportunities, simplifying the address registration procedure, continuing to improve access of women and girls to education, employment, health and housing and ensuring consultation during rehabilitation of collective centres. [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/media\\_11010.html](http://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/media_11010.html)

## 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, which correspond to and reflect Strategy 2020: strengthening the National Society 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 Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values; increasing the number of Red Crescent local branches with developed infrastructure to provide more effective and qualitative services, and respond to the local needs; improving volunteers management system and establishing the network of well trained volunteers ready to support to socially vulnerable population through all Azerbaijan Red Crescent structures and establishing a stable financial resource base through diversified financial sources.

Among the target 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 haemophilia, drug addicts, elderly people living alone, children and women at detention places. Another target group within capacity building is volunteers and staff at the headquarters as well as the seven regional centres and all branches.

Gender balance is taken into consideration in designing all programmes and projects and when selecting beneficiaries. The total balance between male and female is 41 per cent to 59 per cent.

Partners within the Movement are:

International Federation	Technical and financial support in designing and implementing programmes
ICRC	TB, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), training, <i>Safe Play Area</i> and <i>Detailed Data Collection</i> projects.
Norwegian Red Cross	Main donor for Azerbaijan Red Crescent programmes and projects.
Magen David Adom Israel	Training sessions for Red Crescent volunteers and staff on first aid; providing psychological support in posttraumatic period.
Danish Red Cross	Bilateral cooperation in disaster preparedness and response sphere
German Red Cross	Safe Play Area project. Following negotiations it is planned to suggest DP/DR projects.
Eli Lilly/USAID	Support in implementation MDR TB project and Human Pandemic Preparedness Plan
Italian Red Cross	Harm Reduction project
Turkish Red Crescent	Bilateral programmes in health and care and disaster management are planned in the frame of the regional cooperation programme.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent also coordinates and cooperates with a range of external actors be it the authorities, organizations and agencies, and private actors:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO and other UN agencies</li> <li>• Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</li> <li>• International Campaign to Ban Landmines</li> <li>• International Relief Development (IRD)</li> <li>• AIDS Republic Centre</li> <li>• Blood bank</li> <li>• Haemophilia Association</li> <li>• Institute of Pulmonology (TB)/ National TB Programme</li> <li>• SOS Kindergarten</li> <li>• Japan and American Embassies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fovgal Association and Veterinary Services.</li> <li>• MoU with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resource</li> <li>• The Ministry of Education,</li> <li>• The Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise (NHE)*</li> <li>• The Norwegian Embassy to Azerbaijan*</li> <li>• World Vision*</li> <li>• Women Committee*</li> <li>• OXFAM</li> <li>• Statoil*</li> </ul>
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\*Supporting youth and volunteer activities and the establishment of primary organizations in educational institutions.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent will increase its cooperation with local authorities at regional and branch level to support communities during events and with premises where possible.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is also member of the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB (ERNA) and since 2009 is making efforts to join the Global Alliance on HIV.

# Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

## Disaster Management

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

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

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

The disaster management programme budget for 2011 is CHF 75,685.

**Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness**

**Component outcome 1:** The National Society has well-functioning Disaster Response Teams at all levels and prepositioned emergency **stocks in strategic and secure areas** for more effective disaster response

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

**Component outcome 1:** Communities living in high risk areas have enhanced awareness on disaster

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Target groups under component one are staff and volunteers of seven regional, four district Mobile Volunteer Teams and two National Disaster Response Teams. The teams will receive refreshment trainings in order to increase team members' competency to assist in time of disasters. The total number of staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 236.

Main target groups under component two are women, elderly people, and children living in high risk urban and rural areas. People will be targeted through trainings, workshops, community-based disaster activities, awareness campaigns and relief. Relief efforts include carrying out needs assessments and providing 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. The total number of targeted communities planned to be covered is 7,683.

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

### c) Potential risks and challenges

- Unstable social and political situation in the country
- 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
- 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

Motivation of volunteers more effectively through organizing trainings with simulation exercises, and strengthening relationships with partners are considered vital.

## 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 for is CHF 155,887.

**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.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The psychosocial condition of people living with HIV and AIDS has been improved due to the efforts of trained Azerbaijan Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

<b>Programme component 2: Tuberculosis</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> TB patients are identified for directly observed treatment (DOT), registered and supported to complete DOTS treatment under the supervision of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent nurses.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Awareness has been increased and stigma associated to TB and HIV and AIDS reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

<b>Programme component 3: Community based health and first aid</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Azerbaijan Red Crescent 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.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The number of communities able to cope with health challenges has been increased through health awareness and first-aid activities.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Donor blood supply within the country has increased due the Azerbaijan Red Crescent increased number of volunteer non-remunerated blood donors.

<b>Programme component 4: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Baseline analysis and quick mapping in the selected test areas is conducted.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Networking is developed, both internally and externally.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> One country plan integrating component outcomes four to six is established and operational.
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> Mapping is designed; tools and messages are adapted and tested.
<b>Component outcome 5:</b> Training for first responders and community members are delivered.
<b>Component outcome 6:</b> The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has increased awareness of targeted communities and their preparedness towards avian and human influenza pandemic.

<b>Programme component 5: Harm Reduction</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The situation on drug usage within the regions has been estimated and contacts with local authorities have been created.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity to work with drug users has been established.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> The communities' awareness on harm of drugs has been raised.

## b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The primary target groups under the component one are vulnerable people from urban and rural areas with social needs such as people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), schoolchildren, students, street children, children and women in penitentiary centres, orphans, sex workers, persons newly released from prison, internally displaced people (IDP), refugees, people with physical or mental disabilities, youth, elderly people living alone. The secondary target group includes staff and volunteers working with risk-groups and PLHIV, PLHIV themselves motivated to become peer educators and participate in prevention work directed towards their own age groups. The geographical locations targeted by the project include Baku and the seven regions of Azerbaijan. It is planned to organize various training sessions, round tables, visits to PLHIV and providing social support to them and their family members, events with active participation of marginalized groups. Total number of beneficiaries is 6,500 and 210 Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Under component two the primary target group are TB patients, more specifically those who have MDR and XDR forms as well as infected with AIDS and drug addicted as additional risk, which complicates their health condition. In coordination with government health authorities, namely the National TB Programme (NTP) trained 12 Red Crescent nurses in Baku and rural areas are going to regularly (six times per week) control DOTS+ treatment of 60 MDR-TB patients as well as assist in their identifying and registering. Psychologist will train nurses on norms of behaviour with this specific target group,

coupe in difficult cases, for example in case of refuse from treatment and personally pay regularly visits to meet with patients and their family members, support to overcome psychological difficulties,

Under component three activities are essential for building more self-sustainable communities and increasing their capacity to cope with health-related problems. The existing capacity of the society within health and care is expected to be increased: another network of well-trained 59 health promoters and 39 nurses in addition to 84 health promoters and 10 nurses in Baku and in the regions, 24 first-aid instructors at branch level and another 5 community-based first-aid teams. They will contribute to increasing community members' knowledge on preventive measures towards various diseases; strengthen their own capacity to respond rapidly to daily emergencies following natural or man-made disasters.

Under component four another 80 blood donor recruitment volunteers will be trained in addition to existing 84 to increase public awareness on the safety, benefits and importance of blood donation. Club-25, which aims at getting people to donate blood 25 times before the age of 25, already exists in Baku and planned to be expanded to four other regions in order to increase the number of volunteer non-remunerated blood donors. 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 2009 the society initiated a one year H2P pandemic preparedness project with financial support of USAID which continued till 2010. The other part of the project is spreading information on avian influenza, which will continue till 2011. The project also includes developing a preparedness plan, adapting promotion materials, carrying out training sessions, organizing meetings with government agencies and NGOs and awareness campaigns. Total number of people to be reached is 75,604.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been planning to start up harm reduction project with support of Italian Red Cross. The aim of the project is to promote the healthy life and dignity of those impacted by drug use; it also aims at reducing harm caused by drug-abusing. In period 2010-2011 within the regions like Ismayilli, Imishli, Agdam, Fizuli, Barda, Lenkoran at least one group of drug users will be selected to implement activities. Six branch' staff will be trained in monitoring skills through the regional workshop; 25,000 persons will be reached by the awareness campaign in preventive health and harm reduction measured through the questionnaire gathering the information on the quality of knowledge and number of received messages and their understanding; 50,000 brochures and booklets will be distributed among drug users and local community. There is also needle exchange activity with further encourage of usage one-time needles to be protected from being infected from HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and other blood diseases.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

- Unstable socio-economic situation leading to increased health vulnerability.
- Problems encountered in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental structures.
- Lack of interest of target groups to participate in Red Crescent events.
- High turn-over of Red Crescent trained staff and volunteers jeopardising the continuity of the National Society efforts.
- Lack of commitment among Red Crescent staff and volunteers to work with people living with HIV and AIDS, MDR TB patients and drug addicts.
- Emergency situations.

To succeed with its health activities the National Society stresses the importance of organizing more successful campaigns, and motivating 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.

## **Organisational Development/Capacity Building**

### **a) The purpose and components of the programme**

**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 for 2011 is CHF 124,587.

**Programme component 1: 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 2: Developing National Society regional and branch network and service to quickly and better respond to needs**

**Component outcome 1:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent strategic plan and policies have been implemented at branch level.

**Component outcome 2:** The Azerbaijan 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:** The Azerbaijan Red Crescent targeted branches have improved their links with local authorities and communities through the participatory community development approach.

Under component number one primary target groups are youngsters, orphans aged 3 to 25, street children, mentally and physically disabled children, HIV and AIDS positive youth, as well as children in correctional institutions. Secondary target groups are members of the National Society youth boards, volunteers and staff at the headquarters and local level. The geographical location is Baku and seven regional centres. The total number of people to be covered is 8,186, including 5,400 volunteers.

Under the component number two the primary target group is staff and volunteers at branch and regional level who will develop necessary planning, policy documents, fund-raising activities, and cooperate with local authorities, carry out 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 people.. The society will provide them with necessary training; follow up the implementation of the strategic plan 2008-2010 and new developed for period 2011 -2015, statute and policies. The secondary target group are vulnerable groups in communities. The total number of people to be covered is 7,318, including 102 staff and 356 volunteers. The number of targeted branches is 41.

The National Society considers gender balance in all projects and activities, particularly in regard to the participation of women in decision-making processes, project implementation, planning, international conferences and workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities. The total balance between men and women is 49 per cent to 51 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.
- Red Crescent leadership at the central and branch level is committed to stronger engagement with the local communities and resource mobilisation initiatives.
- Communities are not willing to change the status from an aid recipient to an active partner of the National Society.
- Local authorities and organizations express lack of interest to cooperate with the branches.

The outcome of the programme depends on successful campaigns, increased knowledge and skills, more effective motivation of volunteers through trainings, social activities, camps, meetings, and sharing of knowledge and experience, and strengthening relationships with partners.

## Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.</b>
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Tolerant behavior towards the diversity of views, culture, and beliefs widely promoted.
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The principles and values programme budget for 2011 is CHF 20,813.

<b>Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Azerbaijan 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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<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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### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Under component 2 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent will make efforts to advocate for the respect of human dignity and promote a culture of non-stigmatization and tolerance towards marginalized communities as well as train better skilled and competent staff at all levels of the National Society. The society will concentrate on continuing training and seminars on humanitarian values. The total number of Red Crescent staff and volunteers planned to be covered is 58. Staff and volunteers will then organize awareness-raising and media education campaigns, memorial days to remember those who died from HIV and AIDS, round-table discussions, summer camps, picnics and drawing competitions, produce promotion materials against stigma and discrimination and speeches on different TV channels.

Target groups 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 behavior 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 people to be covered is 1,516.

The target groups are within the following age groups: 14 to 24 years; 25 years and above. Gender balance has been taken into account and the balance between men and women will be 49 per cent to 51 per cent.

### 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.

The outcome of the programme depends on more successful campaigns, more effective motivation of volunteers through organizing trainings, social activities, and 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 expectations and challenges among people.

# Role of the secretariat

## a) Technical programme support

The country office of the International Federation in Azerbaijan is represented by locally recruited staff that provides assistance in planning, programming, reporting, logistics and finance management and monitoring issues. The office coordinates international assistance and helps secure required technical support, facilitating the process of expanded partnerships within and outside of the Movement. The Europe Zone office will be strategic advisors for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent as they have primary responsibility in programmes and project implementation.

Integrating the International Federation's presence into the Azerbaijan Red Crescent structure, and being more focussed in supporting them in their needs with the current resource limitations is a challenge. In Azerbaijan integration is further developed than in the majority of societies in Europe that embarked upon the policy later. Nevertheless, the wording of *enabling action three* of the recently developed Strategy 2020 around working effectively as a Federation, and also on humanitarian diplomacy, is giving direction in addressing some of the challenges by using the resources available in more creative and innovative ways through alliances and partnerships. A consultative, analytical process is planned for early 2010, together with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent stakeholders, on how the International Federation secretariat can structure its field set up to optimise service delivery based upon country planning.

## b) Partnership development and coordination

In terms of partnerships and coordination the capacities and resources within the Movement as well as other partners are utilized based on respect and value towards the assistance provided. Collaboration is built on fruitfulness, openness and transparency. Furthermore this work complies with the New Operating Model, which increases the flexibility of the Federation working approach, harnessing new opportunities to maximize cooperation, transparency and accountability. The support in programming will be provided based on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent strategic plan for 2008-2010 and newly developed strategic plan for 2011-2015 and the priorities outlined in these plans.

The collaboration between the International Federation's country office and ICRC will be enhanced especially focusing on the society's capacity development and according to the 30th International Conference in the following identified four areas: 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. Another opportunity to mobilize capacities and resources to provide harmonized and effective support to the National Society for implementing the HIV and AIDS project is the Global Alliance on HIV. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent is interested to be part of this structure.

The Federation country office regularly collaborates with the ICRC Delegation, especially in coordinating their approach to the development of society and planning process, working out new projects.

## 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 and the country office, and using the International Federation's experience in strengthening its auxiliary role, the 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 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 recognizes that the empowerment of women and the integration of gender perspectives will increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the organization. Thus the

society considers gender balance issue in all their projects and activities; particularly the participation of women in decision-making processes, project implementation, planning, international conferences and workshops and equal mobilization of volunteers and educational opportunities. The Azerbaijan 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 Azerbaijan Red Crescent is almost equal.

According to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent strategic plan 2008 -2010, developing gender policy with highlighted methods of addressing gender issues, clear 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, the National Society uses a *quality assessment template* that was developed by the International Federation's regional representation for Southern Caucasus in 2007. It is a simple tool used by the programme managers comprising of three main parts: 1) basic project information; 2) key questions to be answered at the beginning of projects, in the design and preparation phase; and 3) an impact assessment including 12 generic questions to be answered at the end of the projects to assess what has been achieved.

SPHERE standards are used as the basis for emergency operations run by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent as standard practice. VCA is conducted to identify and find solutions together with the communities, and based on recent results, risk reduction micro-projects will be implemented with the direct involvement of stakeholders at regional level and the target population.

Accountability to the stakeholders, donors, the general population and target groups will be ensured through various reports such as programme updates, annual reports and pledge-based reports, launched on the International Federation's website or submitted to the donors. The society's annual report is shared with international and local organizations, newsletters, articles, and forums organized by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.

The following tools and mechanisms are being applied to better assess programme performance and improve future interventions as to maximize effectiveness and impact:

- **Date Collection.** The society will use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods for monitoring and evaluation purposes including interviews with the people reached and participants in events, questionnaires, surveys and case studies.
- **Field Visits and Meetings.** Field monitoring visits are conducted once or twice a month to check programme progress and assess achievements and challenges. Additionally, there will be organized meetings once or twice with 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, demonstrate impact and lessons learnt, provide feedback to donors and partners on funds received and ensure accountability and transparency to donors and beneficiaries.

How we work	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by <b>Strategy 2020</b> which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>
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