

2022

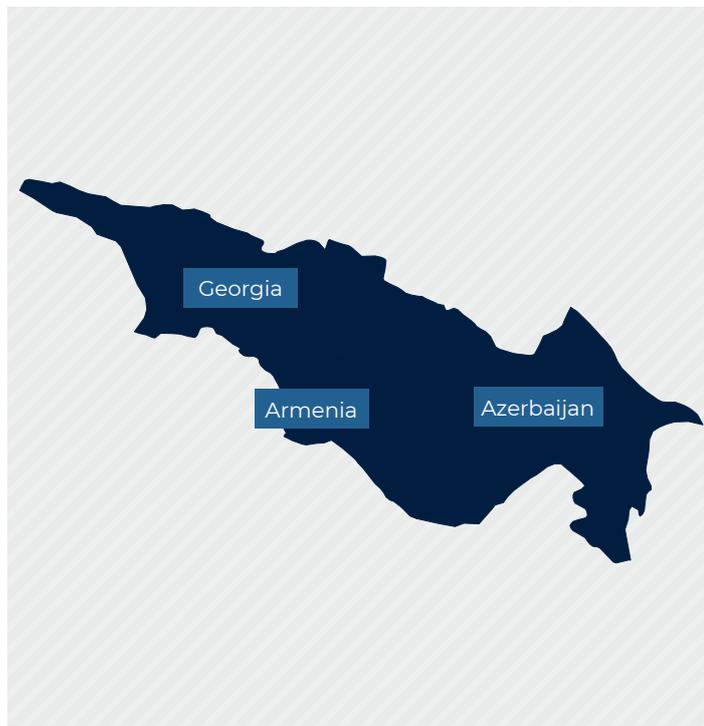


SOUTH CAUCASUS

IFRC CLUSTER PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs
9.4 million

As part of a total Federation-wide funding requirement in Swiss franc **11.6 million***



National Societies

3



National Society staff

671



National Society volunteers

24,000



People to be reached

868,130

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC's emergency operations, please visit [ifrc.org/appeals](https://www.ifrc.org/appeals).

* Total for IFRC and National Societies working internationally. Not including the country National Society's funding requirements.

+C IFRC

Appeal number
MAA70005

www.ifrc.org



Azerbaijan © Azerbaijan Red Crescent

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

23.7 million

Vulnerability to disasters

Migration	Conflict	Earthquakes	Drought	Floods	Landslides

The South Caucasus Cluster Delegation covers the National Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The countries of the South Caucasus Delegation have experienced lasting impacts from previous conflicts with Armenia and Azerbaijan impacted by the recent escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 2020, causing significant internal displacement. Armenia has taken in those seeking shelter from other countries because of the conflict in Syria (25,000) and the explosion in Lebanon (2,000).

All three countries have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, which has taken a toll on their respective health and social care systems. In Georgia, COVID-19 has increased the exclusion and affected the mental wellbeing of vulnerable groups, especially older people living alone, affecting social interactions, access to essential services and access to healthcare facilities.

The three countries are in a high-risk zone for natural disasters including floods, droughts, hail and landslides. Climate change is a key driver of risk, bringing with it ever-more intense weather and increased unpredictability. Heatwaves are becoming more frequent with adverse health consequences which are yet to be well understood.



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Armenia (founded in 1920)

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) is the largest voluntary organization in the country. By implementing disaster risk reduction projects in recent years, Armenia Red Cross has formed strong disaster management capabilities and is a key partner to the government in supporting disaster management and response activities.

From the onset of conflict escalation in 2020, the ARCS has provided assistance to up to 90,000 conflict-affected individuals in the areas of shelter, basic needs, MHPSS, First Aid, children's resilience, medical care, and cash assistance to the host families.

ARCS is the leading humanitarian partner of the public authorities for COVID-19 response.

Azerbaijan (founded in 1920)

Azerbaijan Red Cross (AzRCS) is the largest civil society organization in the country. It has well-established partnerships with Government emergency and environmental departments and other civil society players in health, social care, disaster risk reduction, migration, and climate change. The National Society has been steadily building up its programmatic base and responding to existing and emerging vulnerabilities domestically.

At the escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the AzRCS was already responding to impacts of the COVID-19, which has stretched human, technical and organizational capacities, identified key gaps and areas for development.

Georgia (founded in 1918)

Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) is the largest humanitarian organization in Georgia. It has an auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and is mandated to coordinate the civil society sector before, during and after disasters and emergencies.

GRCS has gone through an intensive organizational development and capacity building process over the past decade. Its Strategy 2021–2025, aims to enhance branch capacities through learning and knowledge sharing in service delivery, advocacy as well as through improving links of branch services and volunteer activities and efforts of local authorities and corporate partners to ensure a joint response to local needs.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Armenia								
Swiss Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
Monaco Red Cross			✓					
Danish Red Cross			✓					✓
Austrian Red Cross		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italian Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
ICRC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Azerbaijan								
Turkish Red Crescent			✓					
ICRC		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Georgia								
Swiss Red Cross			✓		✓	✓		
Austrian Red Cross		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Italian Red Cross			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Norwegian Red Cross		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
ICRC		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓



Armenia © Armenian Red Cross

GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

Local action – strong National Societies

Throughout 2022, the IFRC will implement its National Society Development Plan to strengthen its institutional capacities and operational capabilities in areas including emergency response, volunteer management, branch development, resource mobilization and financial sustainability, youth engagement, strengthening auxiliary role, communication, logistics, information management, community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

The IFRC will support the National Societies in mobilizing critical resources to scale up operations to reduce the impacts of climate change and environmental crises. The focus will be placed on systematically integrating and anticipating short- and longer-term impacts of climate and environmental crises in programming and encouraging and supporting engagement with climate change national and international stakeholders.

Global cash leadership

The IFRC will enhance the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) capacities of the National Societies and ensure mainstream CVA in operations. This includes systematic use of CVA by in Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and emergency appeals and other initiatives.

Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness

The IFRC will contribute technical and advisory support to contain, slow, or suppress transmission of COVID-19 through (1) risk communication and community engagement; (2) mental health and psychosocial support; and (3) contributing to national COVID-19 vaccination roll-out efforts through supporting vaccination centres, community engagement and demand generation focusing on community feedback and participation, and evidence-based advocacy.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

670,000

People to be reached

180,000



Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are all vulnerable to climate change with shared challenges including heatwaves, flooding and droughts.

These have an impact on crop production. Changes to growing seasons, extreme weather events and appearance of new invasive species threaten to expose a lack of adaptability and resilience in the population dependent on the agricultural sector.

Armenia suffers from deforestation. An estimated 35% of Armenian households use wood for heating. As the country's deforestation rates are likely to continue, it is expected to adversely affect the poorest households.

The Armenian Red Cross Society's Climate change adaptation centre was established to liaise and coordinate the activities with network members, conduct training and implement small-scale climate change mitigation initiatives.

Azerbaijan is one of the most flood-prone areas in the world. However, the UN estimates that only half of the country's population had access to potable water in 2020.

Georgia is rich in freshwater which is heavily concentrated in western regions and unevenly distributed. People in rural areas rely on wells and boreholes for their water, which increases their vulnerability to drought and the potential reductions in groundwater.



57th

Armenia's
vulnerability to
climate change
impacts in the 2020
ND-GAIN Index



30–55%

reduced flow to
rivers fed by glaciers
predicted in Georgia
by the end of the 21st
century

➔ SUPPORT

- Pilot an initiative led by the Armenian Red Cross' Climate Change Centre.
- Conduct assessments in Armenia and Azerbaijan of health-related consequences of climate change.
- Conduct community awareness raising activities on climate-related risks in Georgia.



Azerbaijan © Radostina Karageorgieva / IFRC

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.8 million

People to be reached
75,000



Armenia is exposed to a range of complex hazards. They have strong disaster management capabilities, with experienced disaster teams at headquarters and branch levels. They have strong experience in conducting Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCAs) in rural and urban communities. The National Society in Armenia is actively applying cash-based assistance (CVA) to its emergency response operations. The IFRC is supporting the ARCS to develop a new strategy in line with and contributing to Strategy 2030.

Azerbaijan is one of the areas where floods and inundations are observed most frequently in the world and is prone to strong earthquakes. The Azerbaijan National Society has focused on improving its logistics and warehousing capacities and expanding the number of Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams. It utilizes traditional modalities of disaster response assistance (food and non-food items, shelter items, first aid, etc), and successfully piloted the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) initiative. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to become fully cash prepared, mainstreaming CVA in all its programming.

With frequent storms, flooding and high levels of vulnerability in Georgia, it is essential to take a paradigm shift towards pre-disaster and forecast based planning and review existing institutional and legal structure for disaster risk reduction. The local presence of the GRCS Disaster Response Teams in the communities of Georgia is a significant contribution to community engagement and local operational disaster response capacity.

SUPPORT

- Develop community contingency plans in Armenia.
- Expand the use of anticipatory action in Armenia.
- Support cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable households in Azerbaijan.
- Train National Society and disaster management committees to scale up community-led disaster risk reduction activities in Georgia.



Georgia © Georgia Red Cross

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.7 million

People to be reached
530,000

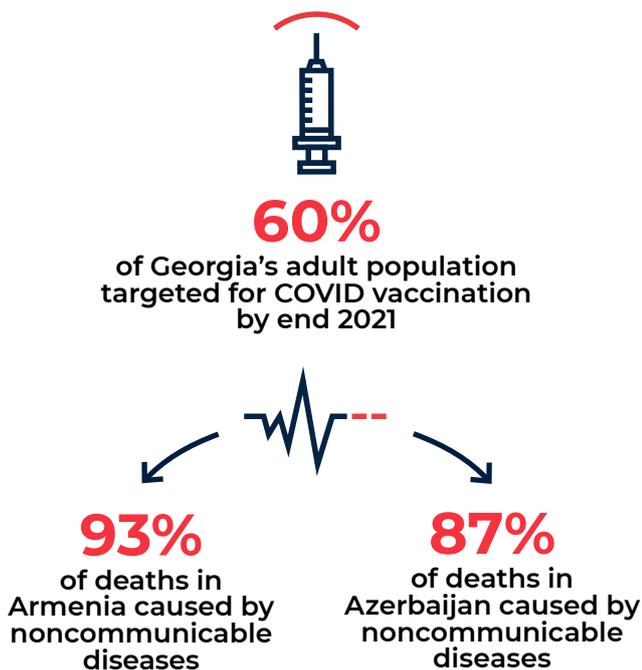


All three countries supported by the delegation have prioritized the pursuit of Universal Health Care, with Azerbaijan announcing a universal health care policy in April 2021, for example. At the same time their health systems have all been hard-hit, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All three face the challenges of an ageing population as well as high levels of noncommunicable diseases and the increased demands on healthcare services.

Armenian Red Cross Society prioritizes prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, first aid and healthy lifestyle, integrated home-based care, community health, health in emergencies, and mental health and psychosocial support. They are recognized as one of the key partners to the government in TB and HIV prevention.

The main priorities for Azerbaijan Red Crescent are disease prevention and health promotion; service delivery in health and WASH; health and WASH emergencies preparedness and response; epidemic/pandemic preparedness and response; and humanitarian diplomacy in health and WASH.

The Georgia Red Cross Society supports the Government to address COVID-19 through risk communication, provision of psycho-social, food and hygiene support. Preparedness for health in emergencies is one of the priorities of the national society. GRCS is actively involved in implementation of noncommunicable disease prevention projects, through increasing the awareness on diabetes, healthy diet, and healthy lifestyle. GRCS has the largest home care program (including community-based home care) in Georgia and provides training, fillings the gap in the country's educational system for formal and non-formal caregivers.



➔ SUPPORT

- Advocate for public health authorities to include National Societies' role in health emergencies.
- Facilitate assistance, protection, and care for vulnerable groups in Armenia.
- Implementation of the Armenian Red Cross' first aid strategy.
- Co-production of risk communication and behaviour change approaches in Azerbaijan.
- Reduce modifiable risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in Azerbaijan.



Azerbaijan © Azerbaijan Red Crescent

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
990,000

People to be reached
30,000



Both Armenia and Azerbaijan were involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between 1988 and 1992 and are still feeling repercussions today. At the time of the ceasefire in 1994, Azerbaijan hosted an estimated 250,000 Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia, and 50,000 Meskhetian Turks from Central Asia. The number of remaining refugees in Armenia is estimated at around 1,430. More than 200 families among them have applied to ARCS for assistance during the last 6 years.

There was an escalation of this same conflict in 2020, resulting in casualties and serious destruction of infrastructure. On 9 November 2020, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia signed an Agreement that halted active hostilities and led to changes in the effective control on the ground. More than 40,000 households in were affected, but most have returned home. Hundreds of families whose houses were destroyed were moved to other communities and placed in temporary housing.

Additionally, Armenia has received refugees from both Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. These are mainly people of Armenian origin.

Azerbaijan has one of the highest per capita concentrations of IDPs in the world. The Government of Azerbaijan aims to implement a special programme envisioning the safe return of the IDPs to the territories that came under Azerbaijani control after the 2020 NK Conflict Escalation. The process of relocation of IDPs will be implemented on a voluntary basis.



22,000
people from Syria
arrived since the
beginning of the
Syrian civil war



76
administrative
districts in Azerbaijan
have IDPs

➔ SUPPORT

- Ensure humanitarian and protection services through cash and voucher assistance in Armenia.
- Prevent internal displacement from disasters, conflict, and climate change in Armenia.
- Carry out multi-purpose cash intervention such as rental assistance in Azerbaijan.
- Provide livelihood and mental health and psychosocial support to IDPs in Azerbaijan.



Armenia © Jessica Timings / IFRC

VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

350,000

People to be reached

50,000



Advancements have been made in all the countries of the cluster in gender equality with laws and policies enacted to protect rights. However, in practice, important inequalities remain.

Violence against women remains a considerable challenge. In Georgia, for example a national survey found that one in seven women experienced physical, sexual, and/or emotional violence at the hands of an intimate partner.

Challenges also remain for the meaningful integration of people with disabilities. Armenia has made commitments to ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities and has introduced inclusive education.

All three National Societies will invest efforts towards mainstreaming PGI in needs assessment, program/project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to ensure that interventions are tailored to the diverse needs and problems of men and women and specific vulnerable groups within them, including the youth, people with disabilities, and displaced individuals.



45%

of youth unemployed
in Armenia



94th

Georgia's ranking out
of 144 countries in
the World Economic
Forum Global Gender
Gap Index

➔ SUPPORT

- Advocate for humanitarian education in Armenia.
- Pilot the integration of Project Humanity in national public education curriculum in Azerbaijan.
- Implement policy on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) in Georgia.
- Conduct training on minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.



Georgia © Zurab Tsertsvadze

ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia the IFRC will continue to support the National Society development plans and courses of action. This includes facilitating and coordinating planning processes involving all Movement partners, and to ensure the centrality of the local National Society's needs, where Movement partners work in a coordinated and coherent fashion.

Priorities include developing capacities in community engagement and accountability, institutional preparedness planning, information management and data protection, communications capacities, supporting advocacy actions, building sustainable volunteer management systems. This also includes development of programmatic capacities including in areas like livelihoods, cash and voucher assistance, active ageing, and mental health and psychosocial support.

The IFRC, jointly with network members, will employ a CEA and Informational Management expertise for South Caucasus to strengthen approaches to conducting assessments, seeking communities' feedback, analysing, and presenting data, strengthening the data management capacity of hot-lines and helplines.

SUPPORT

- Develop a recovery and assistance programme for people affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in Armenia.
- Increase cash programming capacities in Azerbaijan.
- Implement a data collection system in Azerbaijan.
- Implement an information management strategy for data protection and digitalization in Georgia.



Azerbaijan © Azerbaijan Red Crescent

ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

The IFRC is supporting the National Societies in the South Caucasus to develop effective and sustainable systems to ensure they are accountable to the people they serve and partners. This includes eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy, ensuring effective risk management, ensuring the availability of needed resources and creating protections for those we serve, such as the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

SUPPORT

- Finalize the resource mobilization strategy and set up regular giving and emergency fundraising digital capacities in Armenia.
- Strengthen financial management systems and digitalized approaches in Azerbaijan.
- Develop a PSEA Policy that includes community-based complaints mechanism in Georgia.



Armenia © Armenian Red Cross

ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

The IFRC will effectively support National Societies in their development to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network. This includes developing effective capacities in National Societies, ensuring financial sustainability and ensuring strong leadership and volunteer capacities.

SUPPORT

- Deliver leadership training in Armenia.
- Conduct an analysis of branch capacities in Azerbaijan.
- Roll out Georgia Red Cross' Strategy 2021–2025.
- Develop a Strategy on Community Engagement & Accountability in Georgia.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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