



MAA70005 Appeal number

150,000 Swiss francs funding requirement

142,000 People to be reached

22,000 Volunteers country-wide

AZERBAIJAN

IFRC Country Office

2020

BACKGROUND

Country Profile

Azerbaijan has travelled a complicated path in the 30 years of its independence and remains a strategically sensitive area in the South Caucasus region. The long-term cost of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on Azerbaijan is high. Azerbaijan's significant economic growth has been attributable to large and growing oil and gas exports, but some non-export sectors also increased greatly, including construction, banking, and real estate. Over the past 10 years, Azerbaijan has gained undeniable achievements in drastically reducing poverty and improving health status of its population, and its international aid portfolio is growing.

30 per cent of the country's territory is prone to devastating earthquakes, potentially affecting 3 million people. Floods, landslides and heatwaves occur frequently and have significant negative impact on people's lives and livelihoods. The country has been experiencing climate change effects over the last several years, which had a negative impact on the agricultural sector, an important part of Azerbaijan's non-oil economy.

Communities affected by emergencies become especially vulnerable to health risks such as vector-borne and waterborne diseases, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal disease, breakdown in hygiene practices, interrupted health services, inadequate safe water and sanitation options, and malnutrition. Road safety requires urgent attention, with 5,000 people killed and 2,000 injured in traffic accidents between 2013 and 2017.

Consultation with the National Society since 2016 clearly identified the need for the IFRC to return to the region on a new paradigm: to help build a new momentum in the National Society's operating capacity. This plan reflects the support IFRC will provide to the National Society in agreed upon areas. The focus for 2020 will be to strengthen the National Society in key areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, Forecast-based Financing, resource mobilization, and on delivering road safety and health in emergencies programmes.

National Society Profile

Azerbaijan Red Crescent was established in 1920, and it provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people through its network composed of Headquarters, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Committee, eight regional centres, 92 local and field branches and primary organizations. The National Society has about 300,000 members and over 22,000 registered volunteers of which nearly 6,000 are active. Azerbaijan Red Crescent has a strong legal base supported by law and relevant decrees, and established links with governmental agencies, local and international organizations. The National Society has undergone a significant transformation from the early 1990s, and with the support of the IFRC, its partner National Societies and the ICRC, has been steadily building up its programmatic base and responding to existing and emerging vulnerabilities domestically. Azerbaijan Red Crescent continues to adapt to new realities, including competition in the social and humanitarian sectors brought by market economy that requires further sharpening and scaling up of its activities.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent's Strategic Development Plan for 2016–2020 has six main areas of focus: organizational development, youth and volunteer development, disaster management, health and care, fundraising and income generation.

The government of Azerbaijan, IFRC and Azerbaijan Red Crescent signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018, which aims to encourage the expansion of practical cooperation between parties. In 2020, IFRC will seek to build on the existing tripartite agreement with the Azerbaijan International Aid Agency (AIDA) to realize international cooperation with the National Society.

Role of the Country Cluster Office

The IFRC Country Cluster Office which supports Azerbaijan Red Crescent is based in Tbilisi, Georgia and covers the three countries of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Country Cluster Office for South Caucasus was established in October 2017, and IFRC operates in Azerbaijan on the basis of the Status Agreement with the government.

The Country Cluster Office in close cooperation with host National Societies and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners works towards positioning National Societies as reliable and sustainable actors in health, disaster management and social care, in alignment with key agendas at global, regional and country levels. This includes continued reinforcement of the position of the National Societies as implementing partners of choice in their role as auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field and support to National Societies to advocate effectively on key humanitarian issues, including recognition of the role of volunteers in building resilience. The Country Cluster Office will establish regular exchange and thematic briefings with key networks and stakeholders in the region to build representation, humanitarian diplomacy and relationship management. IFRC closely with all Movement components will contribute to the shelter cluster element of UN Country Team contingency plans for natural disasters and will build National Societies' capacities to lead shelter cluster coordination together with IFRC. The Country Cluster Office will work closely with host National Societies and Movement partners to identify opportunities for programmatic scale up and to develop regional large-scale proposals. The objective of the Country Cluster Office is to provide a platform for coordination of Movement partners and activities, including fostering relations between National Society sector experts and IFRC thematic leads, as well as strongly promoting financial sustainability of National Societies, and supporting the development and enhancement of Movement Contingency Plans.

It is expected that the structure of the South Caucasus Country Cluster Office will grow to reflect the 2020 plans. Personnel support and funding will be required to properly operationalize the vision and work presented in this plan through the recruitment of Cluster Fundraising Development Officer, Health in Emergencies Officer, First Aid Programme Development Delegate, and Disaster Management Delegate.



Movement Footprint

IFRC and ICRC are present in Azerbaijan. Partner National Societies are not present in country, however Azerbaijan Red Crescent has good relations either directly or multilaterally with National Societies such as Austrian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Iranian Red Crescent.

All Movement partners in South Caucasus have agreed to work together in the spirit and mindset of the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) agreement, with the Council of Delegates Resolution (CD/17/R1, Antalya 2017) as a core guiding document. In 2020 and beyond, this commitment will be transferred into developing Movement Country Plans based on the strategic priorities of the South Caucasus National Societies.

ICRC has strong presence in Azerbaijan due to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, with a delegation in Baku and a sub-delegation in Barda. Jointly with ICRC, Azerbaijan Red Crescent implements a number of important programmes, including establishing Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams and equipping them with knowledge and skills in first aid, mental health and psychosocial support in crises as well as practical application of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles, information and communication, needs assessment and awareness of weapon contamination. With support of ICRC, trained first aid teams carry out community-based activities in remote villages.



AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Azerbaijan experiences unstable weather conditions and natural disasters. The country is considered to be one of the most flood-prone areas in the world and extreme events, mainly floods, landslides and mudslides, cost Azerbaijan’s economy an estimated USD 70–80 million annually. 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.

In 2020, IFRC will support the National Society to understand the impact of heatwaves on hidden communities and develop an action plan and will conduct community-based awareness campaigns or will hold events in line with the global campaign #FacesOfClimateChange. Forecast-based Financing is a programme which enables access to humanitarian funding for early action based on in-depth forecast information and risk analysis. In 2020, IFRC will launch a Forecast-based Financing feasibility study to support the National Society in promoting early action anticipatory financing and improving early warning systems at community level, including their capacity to act on the risks identified.



**NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION CAMPAIGNS**

1,500

OUTCOME

**COMMUNITIES IN AT-RISK AREAS ARE BETTER PREPARED TO
RESPOND TO DISASTERS AND HAVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS
IN PLACE THAT ARE LINKED WITH METEOROLOGICAL SYSTEMS
IN COUNTRY**

AREA OF FOCUS

SHELTER

In the event of major earthquake, the IFRC and Azerbaijan Red Crescent would assume a lead role in Shelter Cluster Coordination among the third sector actors and in close coordination with relevant Ministries. In order to prepare for effective coordination, IFRC will support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to develop an inter-agency shelter coordination plan of action. IFRC will provide trainings, technical standards, and assessment tools and methodologies to strengthen preparedness and response capacities in shelter programming. IFRC and the Shelter Cluster will hold two global master level eight-week training courses including one week residential in Shelter Coordination and Shelter Technical course for coordinator levels and for technical shelter experts. Funding support will be solicited to help representatives of Azerbaijan Red Crescent and relevant counterparts in the government to participate in both courses. IFRC will also conduct three-day Shelter Coordination Training for state and non-state organizations and will facilitate the development of shelter-focused scenarios for contingency planning during a major earthquake.



COMPREHENSIVE AND ADEQUATE SHELTER ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED COMMUNITIES BY KEY IN-COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EARTHQUAKE

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY WITH IFRC IS WELL PREPARED TO LEAD THE SHELTER CLUSTER COORDINATION IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

AREA OF FOCUS

HEALTH

Non-communicable diseases are estimated to account for 87 per cent of total deaths in Azerbaijan. In 2016, 63,000 people died from non-communicable diseases: 52 per cent from cardio-vascular diseases, 16 per cent from cancer, 3 per cent from chronic respiratory diseases and 2 per cent from diabetes. Non-communicable diseases are a leading threat to health and development, yet they are preventable. By eliminating shared risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol, almost 80 per cent of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes and over a third of all cancers could be prevented. In addition, improved disease management can reduce morbidity, disability and death and can contribute to better health outcomes. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement wants to revolutionize prevention, early detection and timely treatment of non-communicable diseases through cross-sector cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology targeting local communities. IFRC developed a cutting-edge approach to tackling non-communicable diseases and an accompanying toolkit that allows participants of the project to develop their own trajectory of health over their lifetime and see how it changes if one element in habits is removed or replaced. The IFRC will support the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to further adapt and apply the approach and to seek supporters for a country-wide action.

Road safety is of serious concern in Azerbaijan with over 11,000 road accidents reported between 2013 and 2018. Building on its extensive experience in this field, Azerbaijan Red Crescent will raise awareness on road safety by providing educational sessions, promotional campaigns for children and the general public, building networks of trained first aiders and advocating for improvement of road safety legislation, regulation and practice. The initiative will focus on the preventative side of road safety and on effective management of road accidents to save people's lives and protect from further injuries. IFRC will support the National Society to scale up its response to the road safety and to seek supporters for these life-saving actions.

Disasters, crises and other emergencies result in significant impacts on people's health, including loss of lives, injuries, diseases, disability and psychosocial issues. At present, the health element in disaster preparedness and disaster management planning represents a glaring gap, leaving communities vulnerable. In 2020, IFRC will implement a project with Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the other two South Caucasus National Societies to strengthen the resilience of local communities to health in emergencies. Through the project essential medical stocks, sanitary and hygiene items will be pre-positioned to enable an immediate health response during disasters. Local health authorities will be supported to implement International Health Regulations and other relevant public health laws and regulations in emergencies. Intersectoral coordination mechanisms will be enhanced between the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations.



Key activities:

- Conduct trainings for Azerbaijan Red Crescent staff and volunteers to strengthen health response in emergencies
- Conduct cascade community-based capacity building actions, interventions, and awareness sessions
- Improve Azerbaijan Red Crescent capacity in disease surveillance at a community level
- Establish health in emergencies stocks
- Develop new and adapt existing plans, protocols and procedures for preparedness and response to health emergencies
- Organize road safety public promotion and awareness raising initiatives to promote safe behaviours of road users (e.g. wearing helmets and speed control, applying safety means) with involvement of young volunteers and local communities
- Organize first aid courses for key road users such as novice and commercial drivers as well as the general public
- Organize blood donation campaigns to recruit new donors towards victims of road crashes
- Jointly with partners, advocate for strengthened road safety policies and strategies

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH HEALTH PROGRAMMES

140,000**OUTCOME****VULNERABLE PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND DIGNITY ARE IMPROVED THROUGH ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES****OUTCOME****COMMUNITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY THE AZERBAIJAN RED CRESCENT TO EFFECTIVELY DETECT AND RESPOND TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND TO HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS DURING EMERGENCIES**

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES & INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER

The Well-Prepared National Society self-assessment (WPNS) conducted in 2018 enabled Azerbaijan Red Crescent to analyse overall disaster management capacities and identify areas for improvement. Azerbaijan Red Crescent's Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams provided with necessary knowledge and skills are the main component of the National Society's emergency response mechanism. Based on the outcomes of the WPNS, IFRC will provide specialist experts to deliver trainings and materials on key areas such as rapid assessments, first aid, health care, logistics, communications, safety, and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement structures and Codes of Conduct. Table top and field simulation exercises will be conducted as part of a contingency planning process, the National Society will be supported to develop disaster management policies, and conduct a logistics needs assessment and plan of action.

Azerbaijan has a huge potential for fundraising. The National Society has an established infrastructure and the leadership commitment to develop domestic income generation. The market shows great untapped potential and there is limited (but increasing) competition from other agencies. IFRC will support Azerbaijan Red Crescent to build a resource mobilization system that ensures predictable, regular income with a focus on growth and unearmarked resources. IFRC will recruit a Cluster Fundraising Development Officer who will provide consistent advice, expertise and accompaniment to South Caucasus National Societies in close cooperation with the IFRC Regional Office for Europe.

With a mandate, knowledge and many opportunities, Azerbaijan Red Crescent is well positioned to successfully develop a commercial first aid programme. As this is a business model, it requires specific knowledge and consistent guidance and the IFRC in close cooperation with ICRC will seek a specialist delegate as staff on loan to support the National Society to develop a commercial first aid programme.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY'S DISASTER RESPONSE CAPACITY IS FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH DEVELOPING A MOVEMENT CONTINGENCY PLAN AND LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAS THE SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS VISIBLE, TRUSTED AND AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE ON KEY HUMANITARIAN ISSUES



Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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