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Azerbaijan Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAZ002

30 April 2013

**This report covers the
period**

**From 01 January 2012
to 31 December 2012.**

Azerbaijan Red Crescent Health Department organized meeting at one of the central secondary schools in Baku city to present "Club 25" and attract new members. Photo: AzRC



Overview

All programmes and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) are aligned with and contribute to the IFRC Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people. The International Federation continues to support the AzRC in its efforts to provide efficient and good quality services to the most vulnerable groups as well as in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve the planned results. Thus the AzRC initiatives were realized along with the support given by Movement partners (International Federation, ICRC, sister National Societies) and also from their own resources.

During the reporting period four projects were supported by donors via the International Federation, and several projects were implemented bilaterally with technical support of the International Federation's Country Office in Baku. Under the **Disaster Management Programme**, the focus was mainly on providing support to people affected during various emergencies like flooding, earthquake, landslides and fires. In the **Health and Care Programme** the Azeri National Society reached people through training sessions, promotion of healthy life style and awareness raising, harm reduction, blood donors' recruitment campaigns, and visits to people living with Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB). Under **Organizational Development**, the focus was on financial management and resource mobilization, organizing various events within communities, youth and volunteer development. The **Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values Programme** was an integral part of the activities in other programme areas like harm reduction, youth and volunteers.

Working in partnership

| Operational Partners | Agreement |
|--|---|
| Ministry of Emergency | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007 |
| Ministry of Health | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 |
| Research Institute on Haemophilia and Talassemia | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2003 (prolonged in 2007) |
| IFRC and Azerbaijan Red Crescent | Coordination and Cooperation Agreement signed in 2012 |
| IFRC and ICRC | Cooperation Agreement signed in December 2011 |
| IFRC/ Eli Lilly and Company Foundation | Cooperation was established since 2011 and continues |
| IFRC/Italian Red Cross – HR | Cooperation established from last year 2010 and will be continued until the end of 2012 |
| IFRC/DFID/UKAID/British Red Cross | Cooperation established in 2011 and continues |
| Turkish Red Crescent Society-bilaterally | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012 |
| Austrian Red Cross- bilaterally | Cooperation established at end of 2011 and Cooperation Agreement signed in 2012 |
| TAG International | Cooperation started from last year 2010 and still continues |
| Magen David Adom in Israel FA - (bilaterally) | Cooperation established since 2007 and continues |
| GFATM/CCM group | There is a long-term cooperation. NS is the member of CCM on TB issues |
| ANAMA | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2010 |
| IOM | Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012 |
| WHO | Cooperation established and continues |
| UNDP | Cooperation established and continues |
| USAID | Cooperation established and continues |
| OXFAM | Cooperation established and continues |

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: TO RAISE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Outcome: The AzRC promotes the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values with active involvement of targeted community groups ready to support National Society initiatives and change behaviour for their own sake.

| Measurement | | | |
|---|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | Baseline | Annual Target | Year to Date Actual |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent staff, volunteers and members are reached with dissemination activities | 0 | 232 | 538 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women, men, children, elderly people, and especially such groups as orphans, sex workers, people living with HIV, people with disabilities, TB patients, IDPs and | 0 | 758 | 2,000 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| refugees, street children from urban and rural areas reached with various events (training sessions, campaigns) | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Comments on progress towards outcomes

These activities were implemented based on the support of other partners to the project on dissemination of Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law, partly as a result of close integration between other programme areas like harm reduction, youth and volunteers, and due to the AzRC own funds and volunteers initiative. During the reporting period more people were reached with various events in terms of the AzRC staff and volunteers and also among general public. In the first case, along with the planned number the AzRC covered additionally registered 306 volunteers at 21 regional and branch level. The increase in number of population was due to the opportunity to organize more awareness raising campaigns and training sessions on fundamental principles and humanitarian values. The International Federation has been providing informational support to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, providing data on the movement history, recent updates in the system, adopted documents, sharing experience from the work of other National Societies.

Business Line 2: TO GROW RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Outcome: Capacity of the AzRC local branches staff and volunteers as well as community members has been developed and knowledge has been increased towards better preparedness to disasters and emergencies and reducing vulnerability.

| Measurement | | | |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | Baseline | Annual Target | Year to Date Actual |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent staff and volunteers of seven regional centres, Mobile Volunteer Teams and National Disaster Response Teams as well as community members reached with knowledge and skills development | 0 | 262 | 267 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women, men, children, elderly people, IDPs, living in the communities, hostels or compact places in high risk urban and rural area reached with various awareness campaigns and humanitarian support | 0 | 3,060 | 5,723 ¹ |

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As a result of an earthquake in the south-western part of the country in Zaqatala and Gakh, a number of houses and public buildings were either destroyed or damaged, and the inhabitants' property was buried under the debris. Thus the AzRC, with close support and consultation of the IFRC Europe Zone Office and the Baku Country Office, based on a needs assessment, applied for a DREF assistance and with the allocations provided food and non-food items to the most vulnerable 3,500 persons (700 families) in Zaqatala and Gakh regions. According to the plan the whole operation finalized in September 2012 with Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (BSS) held among 140 families (700 people). The IFRC team consisted from DM Officer for IFRC Balkan Office, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of PMER group, accompanied by IFRC HoO in Baku and NS DM team carried out session among staff and volunteers on the BSS process as well as observed the survey process. The final report was presented to EZO/PMER. The survey revealed that the beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the support provided to them by the National Society as well as with how this relief was distributed. Their needs were identified both by the government and by the NS, thus the received support was in compliance with their needs. During the whole distribution process the AzRC volunteers and staff were clearly visible and their behaviour was considered either very good or good. The

¹ As it is seen from the figures, the number of people reached with awareness campaigns and provided support even exceeds the planned one. This is due to the public interest by the communities to participate at AzRC events and the support given by the International Federation. The DREF allocation created the possibility to cover the affected population and replenish stocks in case of a request.

survey supported to collect feedback from the beneficiaries on the operation and demonstrated further interest and care from the NS after finalizing the operation. Communication with the beneficiaries on how they found themselves in to date of the interview has provided data, which was important for the National Society and IFRC in terms of planning of possible follow-up interventions. The AzRC closely followed the situation of the affected people accommodated in tents to prepare for winter weather conditions and be able to render assistance in case of request. Information on needs was collected and shared with local authorities, which decided to manage the process with small scale support of the AzRC local committees. Also gradually government provided families with new houses thus by the end of 2012 most of them were able to move out from tents.

Items purchased within DREF support for replenishment of the central warehouse and purchased within the AzRC own funds were distributed to support 343 families (1,715 people) affected by several emergencies like landslides, earthquakes, fires, floods occurred in the regions.

Since 2011, with financial support from DFID/UKAID facilitated by IFRC, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has been implementing the project "Building Safer Communities" through capacity building of local branches to strengthen the overall structures, develop the necessary skills and increase awareness to further reduce the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters, emergency situations or day-to-day challenges. As a result of the project, the targeted AzRC local branches and those 30 communities (865 people in total) from each of the three targeted regions (Mingachevir, Ganja and Ismayilli) they have been working with are gradually increasing their abilities to prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters, emergency situations or day-to-day challenges usually affecting the most vulnerable population. This was achieved through organization of ten training sessions on disaster preparedness, simulation exercises, First AID (FA) skills, organizing three PR events and production of informational booklets on FA and floods safety rules. While demonstrating the well functioning Participatory Community Development approach used by the National Society, communities actively participated at the events (tree planting, knowledge sharing with community members, digging water channel) by helping in the organization and implementation process.

The mid-term evaluation report on the mentioned project and new project for next two-year period 2013-2014 was prepared to present DFID/UKAID to continue implementation of the started initiative.

On 18-19 June, upon the initiative from the International Federation, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent participated at the EZO Consultation Meeting on the Revision of Principles and Rules of Disaster Management, which was held in Ankara. The meeting's participants provided their suggestions on strengthening national preparedness activities, National Relief Plan development (as part of the National Emergency Plan), and clear roles distribution between the RC / RC National Societies and the Governments during emergencies as well as information flow improvement between local National Societies, the International Federation and partner/sister National Societies during emergency situations.

National Society attended a meeting organized by the Austrian Red Cross in Tbilisi on Climate Forum East, which featured some brainstorming on Building Resilient Communities with the participation of the Southern Caucasus RC/RC Societies and the Belarus RC. A project on Climate Change and Building Resilient Communities in emergency situations will start in 2013 with support from the Austrian Red Cross and the Austrian Development Agency. were already developed with support of colleagues from the Austrian Red Cross, shared with donor and planned to in 2013. The financial support will be provided by the Austrian Red Cross and Austrian Development Agency (ADC).

Business Line 3: TO STRENGTHEN THE SPECIFIC RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

Outcome: The AzRC has increased the awareness of the population through health promotion activities and health services, developed youth and volunteers management system at regional centres and branch level, improved efficiency and quality of a voluntary service to socially vulnerable people better responding to local needs as well as established a strong financial-technical base through the revealed diversified financial sources.

| Measurement | | | |
|---|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | Baseline | Annual Target | Year to Date Actual |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent staff and volunteers received knowledge and improved their skills in healthy life style promotion, | 0 | 1,886 | 1,794 |

| | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| HIV/AIDS, TB, harm reduction, blood donor recruitment, providing support to different vulnerable categories and social activities through various training sessions, round tables and knowledge competitions | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AzRC has extended the number of voluntary blood donor recruitment activities beyond the capital city of Baku | 0 | 10 | 35 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of AzRC branches covered by various social activities and supported by local municipalities has been increased | 0 | 12 | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of volunteers attracted by the AzRC for participation in different initiatives has been increased | 0 | 176 | 306 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of various activities/projects towards volunteers has been increased | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), schoolchildren, students, street children, children and women in penitentiary centres, orphans, sex workers, and persons newly released from prison, internally displaced people (IDP), refugees, people with physical or mental disabilities, youth, and elderly people living alone in urban and rural areas have been reached with various awareness campaigns, visited by the AzRC volunteers and received humanitarian support | 0 | 97,551 | 70,532 |

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period the HIV/AIDS², MDR TB³, Community Based Health and blood donor recruitment activities were carried out on a limited scale from the National Society's own resources and by the initiative of local branches due to the absence of donor support. In October 2012 via IFRC Geneva Office/Health department and with support of Swiss Foundation CHF 5,000 was allocated to implement "Club 25" project.

The activities, which included training sessions on Blood donation, establishment Club-25, blood donors' recruitment campaigns were realized in Baku city, Sumgayit and Sabirabad. 336 people in total participated at the events and as result 81 became blood donors. In order to note willingness and involvement of those who decided to give blood and encourage them the organizers decided to give participants small presents (frames for photos). The project will continue until January 2013.

Analysing the indicators box we can observe certain increase in one numbers and decrease in other. There is no significant difference between number of staff and volunteers planned and covered by training sessions and meetings, but total fulfilment might be in case of funding of all planned projects. The AzRC couldn't cover enough number of population with promotion materials and awareness campaigns, thus fulfilled numbers are because of financial support from IFRC projects, NS own efforts and partly from bilaterally financed projects. At the same time we observe increase in number of volunteers involved into the AzRC initiatives that is due to their own desire to be either part of the AzRC initiatives (psychosocial activities, work with children, visit elderly lone people, participate at the youth and volunteers boards) and especially in rural areas where there are not so many youth related events and NS activities attract their attention and allow to apply their skills and energy.

Number of voluntary blood donor recruitment activities increased as the AzRC could organize training sessions and recruitment campaigns not only in Baku, but in the regions. The mentioned and active recruitment initiatives reflected in increase of the number of people who voluntarily gave their blood from 1,500 to 5,000.

Branches were provided with vehicles, internet lines, computers, fax machines, along with collecting membership fees, branches initiated campaigns towards socially vulnerable families like collecting second-hand clothes, providing with food parcels, activating visiting nurses programme in the fields to support

² According to UNAIDS report for March 2012 the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Azerbaijan is 3,267: out this number 113 (3.5%) are foreigners and the rest the citizens of the country. HIV infection prevalence on 100 000 population makes 35.86 per cent and affection 0,036%.

³ For 2011 the total number of MDR-TB patients in Azerbaijan was estimated to be 6,269³. Out of this number 1,235 MDR TB patients are newly registered in 2011. Also 671 consists XDR TB cases.

government medical structures in covering elderly lone categories. There is no specific number on how many activities/projects towards volunteers has been increased, but as the NS mentioned due to financial support of the Austrian Red Cross and Shoken Fund along with planned and carried out activities/projects they realized two new projects; one on “Social Inclusion of Children with Various Disabilities at the AzRC Sumgayit city branch” and “Activities towards Creating an Opportunity for Continuing Education of 90 Children from Vulnerable Families” living in rural areas of Ismayilli region.

The MDR TB project has been promoted by the International Federation for a continuation of support from its previous donor, the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation to 20 MDR TB patients visited by four AzRC nurses, and while the issue was under discussion, the AzRC decided to cover a minimum level of activities (nurses visited their patients once in a week instead of six times per week) from the NS’s own funds in order to keep trained nurses involved in the project implementation. Starting from November 2012 the project was prolonged for another two-year period with the same number of patients and nurses.

With the support of the Italian Red Cross, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has continued the implementation of its Harm Reduction⁴ project to promote the healthy life and dignity of people impacted by drug, and reduce the harm caused by drug abuse. In the project’s framework 196 staff members and volunteers were acquainted with the process, trained on monitoring and evaluation⁵, methods of dissemination of information and public awareness on the issues of drug use. The National Society applied a module developed earlier on working with drug users in twelve piloted communities among 175 community members. During the reporting period the National Society carried out nine Public Relations events on Harm Reduction with the active participation of 227 drug users, local branch staff and volunteers and 4,500 brochures and 1,000 leaflets on drug use were produced and distributed among more than 9,200 community members during the events.

Also National Society organized picnics with participation of 141 drug users, their family members, as well as the Red Crescent staff and volunteers and representatives of local narcological dispensary and Public Union on Struggle with AIDS – Positive Life Network in Lankaran, Ismayilli and Zagatala branches. The participants were involved into discussions on issues of stigma/ discrimination towards marginalized groups. Still today, many people believe they would be denounced by the society if they ask for support of specialists and afraid of applying to drug clinics because of the discrimination from the wider society and lack of social protection.

Since 2011, with financial support from DFID/UKAID facilitated by IFRC to support the “Building Safer Communities through Capacity Building of Local Branches” project, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent has also been implementing youth related activities aimed at attracting the young generation into emergency preparedness activities. This includes clarification of the role of leaders in emergency situations, their provision with knowledge on situation assessment and needs and attraction of volunteers to support families affected by various technological and natural disasters. As a result, during the reporting period, around 607 young volunteers were trained in three regions of Azerbaijan on these issues. Volunteers, trained in DP/DR topics with financial support of the AzRC local committees, organized training sessions on the activities to be taken during earthquakes and floods to protect themselves and family members at the regional schools and communities. Youth and volunteers trained in leadership and DP/DR were able to apply their knowledge during small scale disasters in their regions as part of the assessment teams.

The youth related activities were also implemented in the framework of projects bilaterally supported by the Austrian Red Cross and the Empress Shoken Fund:

- The first one, “Social Inclusion of Children with Various Disabilities at the AzRC Sumgayit city branch” was started in March 2012 and finalized in August 2012. Since then the AzRC has trained 15 volunteers to work with 30 children with various disabilities, provide them with psychosocial support, help them with education, to work on a computer, play different games, do some physical exercises, draw or knit, organize performances, exhibitions or take them for a walk. The AzRC has purchased the necessary teaching materials, supplies and equipment for organizing various events, wheelchairs, and computers to create an opportunity for children to establish an internal network and communicate via different social network pages, share their own stories, photos. Also, the AzRC has issued a series of public and promotion materials planned to be used during various events.

⁴ According to the official statistics, about 26,717 people are drug addicted in Azerbaijan and considering that a part of drug addicts avoid from the registration the real figure is above it. More than 60 percent of drug users are youth. And base on information collected from narcological dispensary the total number of drug users in the targeted regions is 4,311.

Various state organizations have taken serious steps for fight against drug addiction in the country. Half-tone drug substances were seized in Azerbaijan in 2011. About 350 tons of wild plants with drug property were annihilated. Considering the carried out regional projects in Azerbaijan in recent years and increasing number of tourists and volume of cargos one needs to be engaged in this problem seriously.

⁵ Tools used were Questionnaire on Monitoring and Evaluation of the activities within project, IFRC framework for Evaluation, PMER tools and guidelines.

- The other project, "AzRC Activities towards Creating an Opportunity for Continuing Education of 90 Children from Vulnerable Families Living in Rural Areas of Ismayilli Region" was aimed to support socially vulnerable families from rural areas of Ismayilli Region for them to be able to continue their children's education. The project aimed at influencing the attitude and approach of the parents to send their children to school, and the local authorities and decision makers to work with them on this problem in close cooperation. In the framework of this project the AzRC has rented two buses at Ismayilli in order to transport the children to schools placed in neighbouring villages and back to their homes. Also, the National Society has provided children with winter and summer clothing, necessary teaching materials and school supplies. Volunteers have organized several workshop sessions on RC/RC Movement history and Fundamental Principles/Values as well as AzRC activities and competitions on providing First Aid.

Business Line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work/Humanitarian Diplomacy

Outcome 1: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society provides local communities and targeted groups with necessary support and training to have relevant skills to cope with health and emergency situations as well as day-to-day problems

Outcome 2: The National Society regularly raises detected problems/issues of concerns of beneficiaries with decision-makers.

Outcome 3: The AzRC works on increasing local resource mobilisation, establishing partnership with new donors and diversification of the funding base.

| Measurement | | | |
|---|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | Baseline | Annual Target | Year to Date Actual |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent scales up local resource mobilisation by establishing new partnerships as well as intensifying dialogue with local authorities to increase support towards local vulnerable groups. | N/A | Yes | Yes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent makes efforts to possibly amend the Law on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society regarding possibilities of new financial income. | N/A | Yes | Yes, in progress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Crescent signs Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism, State Refugee Committee, State Commission on Migration to expand opportunities to promote its activities. | No | Yes | Yes, in progress |

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The International Federation has been supporting the National Society in its efforts to expand its opportunities to receive relevant knowledge, establish new partnerships, diversify funds and submit relevant projects/programmes to the interested parties:

- The Azerbaijan Red Crescent was supported in the development of new projects in order to deliver the activities envisaged in its LTPF for the period of 2012-2015.
- The IFRC and the National Society staff representatives attended the Coca Cola regional communication workshop for the countries of Africa and Asia, held in Istanbul. As a result, closer cooperation with the local Coca Cola representation has been included in the NS's nearest partnership plans.
- Intensive discussions between IFRC and Elli Lilly Company on MDR TB programme have resulted with continuation of project implementation for another two-year period with the same scale of support to patients as it was last year.
- Negotiations regarding the harm reduction project have resulted in a positive decision by the Italian Red Cross, thus ensuring that the project will be continued till the end of the year.

The AzRC representatives participated at the International Conference on "Skill sharing fundraising" with participation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took place on 5-7 September 2012 in London United Kingdom having an opportunity to familiarize with new fundraising methods used in other National RC/RC Societies as well as share with their own fundraising initiatives.

Also, in the first half of the year, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent organized several events dedicated to the day local and international holidays⁶ in order to further promote RCRC Movement principles, attract public and young generation attention to raised problems by explaining the purpose of each event, establish mutual understanding and close relationships between various community representations within the country and once more to engage into Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement initiatives.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent, in close cooperation with TAG International Development Humanitarian Organization (UK) and Magen David Adom (Israel), has carried out new bilateral three-month project called "Bus for Us" to organize various types of training courses for teenagers (on health promotion and education, First Aid, Movement history and values and handicrafts) in six villages of Gazakh district situated in the frontline zone. The other initiative carried out in this region and later on in Ismayilli region was the distribution of 3,000 school bags gifted by Canadian VEAHAVTA Humanitarian and Relief Committee among children from low income families living in the mentioned regions.

AzRC launched donation campaign called "Let's Be Helpful" towards earthquake in Iran. Donations were transferred to the AzRC official AZN and USD bank accounts and then to Baku branch of National Bank of Iran. Names and surnames, amount of donations were noted and regularly updated (www.redcrescent.az). As result USD 29,108 was collected.

The AzRC leadership continues efforts to reach progress on possible amendments to the Law in regard with new financial income. Negotiations are on-going in this matter as well as having Memoranda of Understanding with above mentioned ministries and state agencies with described roles and responsibilities. At the same time, it should be underlined that the AzRC has established good relationships with governmental structures and base on the AzRC Law and decrees of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic each government structure provides possible support and create conditions on central and regional level for the AzRC regional centres and local committees to implement their activities and humanitarian mission.

In the reporting period the income of the AzRC from different sources like support from IFRC, ICRC, bilateral projects, from the Government, membership fees and donation boxes, launched campaign made up a total of EUR 1,799,710 (CHF 2,193,950). Comparing with 2011 there is some increase in amount (in 2011 the total amount was EUR 1,752,508 or CHF 2,155,810). The support from government almost the same amount each year. The same might be mentioned for membership collection. The difference makes the rest of support. The income from government and collected membership fees goes to cover salary and administration costs at the HQs and regional centres and local committees' level.

In 2012 humanitarian relief in the amount of EUR 588,582 (CHF 717,517) was spent for humanitarian actions towards vulnerable groups of population. More specifically, money collected from launched campaign was spent directly to support victims of earthquake in Iran. The other part of membership fees and funds collected from donation boxes were used to provide relief assistance to elderly alone standing people, families who lost bread winners, orphans, indigent families or families with low income, MDR TB patients families and families of people living with HIV, disabled children or children placed at the boarding schools.

Business line 5: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability /Coordination and Cooperation

Outcome 1: The AzRC cooperates with Movement partners and a wide range of central and local governmental, non-governmental, national as well as international organizations and applies policies adopted by the International Federation.

Outcome2: The AzRC maintains links with networks or membership organizations working in the field of harm reduction, HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis including the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS and TB (ERNA), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Alliance on HIV and TB.

⁶ The Day of establishment of the AzRC (10th of March), World TB Day (24th of March), World Health Day (14th of April), Red Cross / Red Crescent Day (8th of May), International Children's Day (1-t of June), World Blood Donor Day (14th of June), World FA Day (8th of September), World AIDS Day (1-t of December) and International Volunteers Day (5th of December)

| Measurement | | | |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | Baseline | Annual Target | Year to Date Actual |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement Cooperation Agreement signed between the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Society supports a common understanding and the alignment of working modalities. | No | Yes | Yes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AzRC participates in the IFRC Governing Board meetings, is part of established alliances and partnerships that maintain unity and strengthens its position in the already existing networks. | No | Yes | Yes, in progress |

| Comments on progress towards outcomes |
|---|
| <p>The AzRC Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Implementation Support Group on the monitoring of the Vienna Commitments, IFRC Policy Framework Review meeting and Advisory Body meeting on humanitarian principles and diplomacy and contributed to the development of the Plan of Action. Also NS SG participated at the Consultative meeting organized at the IFRC EZO in Budapest during which ways and mechanisms of cooperation between National Societies and State, legal base for such cooperation and good examples and best practices of partnership of NS with state authorities of different countries was introduced. AzRC SG presented the NS experience from cooperation with government (on central and local level) with a special focus on "Red Crescent" Law.</p> <p>A meeting of the AzRC management with the Regional Advisor for Central Asia and the Caucasus USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) was organized in close cooperation with the International Federation's Regional Representation in Kazakhstan and the IFRC Country Office in Baku.</p> <p>The President of Kazakhstan RC visited the AzRC to discuss the NS experience on Red Crescent Law and relationships with government structures. Senior staff and volunteers of Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent also visited NS to share experiences and best practices related to voluntary service in time of emergencies and first aid to affected people. The Head of the AzRC Communication/Dissemination sector participated at the Capacity Building Course held in Montenegro in November 2012 to gain an experience and knowledge on relevantly using communication tools during emergency situations.</p> <p>In the first half of 2012 the AzRC signed a Cooperation Agreement with the International Organization for Migration, in which both organizations agreed to actively cooperate and coordinate their activities for the best benefit of the targeted groups. The areas of cooperation selected are: disaster risk reduction, emergency and post-emergency assistance, labour migration, counter-trafficking activities, technical assistance, poverty reduction, research studies on matters of mutual interest and concern. The cooperation has successful continuation. The cooperation has a successful continuation. Thus NS was supported to develop project on integration women in the rural areas into the society and submit it to UNDOC with probability to have further financial support.</p> <p>The AzRC Under Secretary General participated at the 16th Conference of the ERNA held on 15-18 September 2012 in Tbilisi, Georgia under the motto "Volunteering: HIV and Tuberculosis". Representatives of National RC/RC Societies had an opportunity to discuss the ways of prevention HIV and Tuberculosis and role of young people and volunteers in carried out initiatives.</p> <p>The AzRC leadership and management participated at the Russian Speaking leadership meeting organized by IFRC EZO Office and Representation in Ukraine/Belarus in Minsk. NSs had an opportunity to discuss mutual challenges and share experiences with each other. The President of the AzRC was the chairman of one of the sessions, namely devoted to Humanitarian Diplomacy issue.</p> <p>Upon negotiations with and advice from the International Federation's Europe Zone Office in Budapest, the AzRC has smoothly moved to cash transfer system. Cooperation Agreements were signed between the International Federation's Europe Zone Office and the AzRC on two projects, namely Branch Development and Harm Reduction. As a next step and based on the survey filled by the NS with IFRC request to mention existing challenges and constraints in communication systems network between the AzRC HQ and regional centres and local branches, AzRC was included into the list of NSs that might apply for the "Bridging the Digital Divide" initiative support.</p> |

Stakeholder participation and feedback

During the reporting period the Azerbaijan Red Crescent continued its regular meetings with its partners to discuss activities that are being implemented as well as new initiatives and areas of possible cooperation. The community members were active participants of the AzRC events.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

| Key Risks or Positive Factors | Priority High Medium Low | Recommended Action |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Socio-economic and political instability within the country as well as increased vulnerability and worsened welfare of the population due to renewal of conflict situation within and outside of the country, front-line zones (inflow of migrants, IDPs, refugees) | M | The AzRC should follow the existing situation, strengthen its material technical base, replenish stocks as well as work in close cooperation with its partners within and outside of the Movement at national and regional level |
| The government might reduce its support to the National Society initiatives | L | The AzRC should continue efforts and negotiations towards presenting its initiatives and further perspectives as well as necessity/actuality of taken actions towards reducing problems within the country |
| Problems in cooperating with governmental and non-governmental structures on local/branch level | L | The relationships with governmental and non-governmental structures need to be strengthened |
| Insufficient implementation of activities due to significant decrease or absence of donor support | M | The AzRC should increase its efforts towards revealing local sources of funding along with maintaining relationships with outside partners |
| Large-scale natural and technological disasters occurring in the country are the serious challenge to be able to provide necessary support to affected families | M | The AzRC should expand population awareness activities to increase their knowledge and skills to better prepare and cope with disasters |
| Insufficient interest and/or commitment of local communities and volunteers towards AzRC initiatives and their work with marginalized groups | M | It is important to build up enhanced relationships with volunteers and local vulnerable communities |
| The risk of volunteer and staff fatigue, as well as high turnover due to limited resources to follow-up and stimulate those who get involved in the work of the NS jeopardised the continuity of its efforts | M | It is important to encourage local branches to be better engaged with the local communities and actively involved in resource mobilisation initiatives by establishing and strengthening partnership with local authorities, corporate sectors and stakeholders |
| Communities are relatively reluctant to change the status from an aid recipient to an active partner of the NS and participate at its initiatives | L | It is important to explain that the provided support is tentative and sooner or later they need to take separate actions towards their welfare. Also the NS should better and more clearly advertise its initiatives and their importance towards the communities |

Positive factors:

- Strong working relationships with the government authorities and non-governmental institutions.
- Along with existing support through the International Federation, the National Society increases its bilateral cooperation with donors within and outside the Movement, which allows for a continuing implementation of the planned activities.
- The AzRC follows its recently developed Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2015, which is mainly focused on the improvement of the financial-technical base and fundraising initiatives.
- The AzRC has a strong legal base (the Red Crescent Law, and Statutes, which meet minimum requirements, and a number of decrees have been taken by the Government of Azerbaijan towards creation of relevant conditions for implementation activities at local level).
- The AzRC has qualified and well trained staff and volunteers as well as local representations.
- There is a commitment from targeted groups and beneficiaries to participate at the organized events making their own inputs and providing support and openly discuss the problems, share opinions.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The analysis of the achievements during the reporting period demonstrates that the Azerbaijan Red Crescent was able to ensure sustainability of the activities and projects, which were either supported via the International Federation and bilaterally, or funded from the resources of the National Society. At the same time, development programmes require special attention from a resource mobilization point of view in order to obtain funding and to meet the funding targets. The lack of implemented activities in most of the development programmes can be explained by low appeal coverage, and therefore it is important to put special effort and to increase programme deliveries as per agreed plans and budgets. During meetings with government structures, they highly appreciated the NS initiatives towards vulnerable groups. At the same time it was mentioned that intervals in financial support for some specific projects, like MDR TB project, became the reason for patients' complaints as they fear that in a month or two they might not be visited by nurses and their care will be reduced. The allocated transport expenses within the same project is not enough for the nurses, thus they spent more than it is budgeted for reaching patients' residence. Due to the limited local media capacities at regions level the Azerbaijan Red Crescent mainly uses its own information/communication capacity (web page, newspaper, web links to facebook, youtube, twitter) to highlight events carried out.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF Process/LTPF/2012/SP569AZLTPF_12arf.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2012/SP569AZLTPF_12arf.pdf)

How we work

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

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

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

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

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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