



AZERBAIJAN

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



30 January 2026

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan



86

National Society branches



86

National Society local units



174

National Society staff



6,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



3,000

Climate and environment



3,000

Disasters and crises



27,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration and displacement



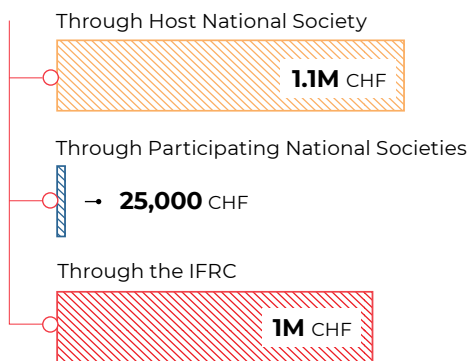
117,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 2.1M CHF



2027

Total 1.8M CHF

2028

Total 1.7M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Finnish Red Cross*

Italian Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAAZ003

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.*

Hazards



Droughts



Floods



Earthquakes



Wildfire



Conflict

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster and crisis risk management
 - Health and care
 - Protracted displacement

Capacity development

- Financial systems
- Resource mobilization
- Community engagement and accountability
 - Digital transformation
 - Branch development

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **81**

World Bank Population figure **10.2M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **6%**



The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan conducting psychosocial activities at School No. 45 for children from the village of Barda (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027	2028
	Host National Society	IFRC	IFRC	IFRC
Longer-term needs				
Climate and environment	50,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Disasters & crises	260,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Health & wellbeing	147,000		200,000	200,000
Migration & displacement	317,000		200,000	100,000
Values, power & inclusion	168,000		100,000	100,000
Enabling local actors	124,000		300,000	300,000
Total	1.1M	1M	1.8M	1.7M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Italian Red Cross	2026	25,000			25,000				-
Turkish Red Crescent	2026					-		-	-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan** was established in 1920 and serves an auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in its current form, in 1995. The National Society carries out its activities towards reducing the vulnerability of people in need through its network composed of National Society Headquarters, the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Committee, 86 local and field branches, which are united in eight regions, relying on solid links with governmental agencies, local and international organizations.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has around 300,000 members and 6,000 volunteers actively involved in its humanitarian work. The National Society has a robust legal base supported by the Law on Recognition of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, the Law on Protection of Emblem and relevant governmental decrees.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan prioritizes National Society development efforts since September 2020, guided by the National Society development plan developed in 2021. This plan was developed with the technical and financial support of the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2024, as Azerbaijan hosted the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan actively contributed to national climate resilience efforts. The National Society supported community-level awareness campaigns on climate risk, integrated disaster

preparedness messaging and engaged with civil society actors to promote locally driven adaptation solutions. Building on this momentum, in 2025 and beyond, the National Society scaled up the integration of climate-smart approaches into its programmes, especially in disaster-prone and environmentally vulnerable areas.

The Strategic Plan 2021-2025 of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan focused on achieving effective and qualitative development of the structure in accordance with its mission, including the reorganization of regional centres, existing and newly established local branches as well as disaster preparedness and response, health and care, youth and volunteers and fundraising and income generation. Continuing its efforts across all major humanitarian sectors and in preparation for the 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan, the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan is strengthening its internal systems, policies and coordination mechanisms to ensure alignment with strategies adopted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as national priorities. Particular focus is placed on expanding organized, community-driven programmes in Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur.

In 2024, the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan reached 52,000 people with its disaster risk reduction services and about 1,683 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located at the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe, Azerbaijan is bordered by the Caspian Sea to the east and the Caucasus Mountains to the north and west, bridging both Asia and Europe. The country declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and now has a population of approximately 10.2 million people. Azerbaijan is home to over 80 ethnic groups, with Azerbaijanis comprising the vast majority (91.6 per cent), followed by Lezgins (2.0 per cent), Russians (1.3 per cent), Armenians (1.3 per cent), Talysh (1.3 per cent), and others (2.4 per cent) The eastern region of the country, particularly Baku

and the Absheron Peninsula, has the highest population density, serving as the country's political, economic, and cultural center.

Apart from some small urban areas, the rest of the country has a fairly low density and evenly distributed population. 54.4 per cent of the population lives in urban areas, while 45.6 per cent reside in rural areas. During the last five years, the average birth rate in Azerbaijan showed an upward trend, reaching 11.7 births per 1,000 population in 2024, however, this indicator declined to 9.7 per 1,000 in early 2025. Life expectancy has shown an improvement, increasing from 71.4 years in 2019 to 73.44 years in 2024. The demographic profile of Azerbaijan indicates a growing older population. In 2025, approximately 9.2 per cent of the population was aged 65 and over, reflecting a steady increase in the percentage of older citizens.

Azerbaijan's economy remains heavily dependent on hydrocarbons, which provide approximately two-thirds of GDP and account for around 90 percent of export revenues, while contributing roughly 60 per cent of government budget. This structural reliance poses risks amid global energy transitions and volatile oil markets. To mitigate these vulnerabilities, the government has prioritized economic diversification, investing strategically in technology, agriculture, tourism, and logistics infrastructure. These measures support the development of sectors such as manufacturing, transportation, retail trade, ICT, and hospitality, which drove an estimated [6.2 per cent real growth in the non-hydrocarbon economy in 2024](#).

After the economy slowed down noticeably in 2023, Azerbaijan experienced a strong recovery in 2024, with overall economic growth reaching 4.1 per cent. However, this pace is expected to slow slightly to around 2.6 per cent in 2025, according to the World Bank. At the same time, the amount of income per person (GDP per capita) was projected to grow only slightly by [0.8 per cent in 2025](#). After regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has prioritized the development of its social protection framework. As of January 1, 2024, approximately 272,300 people from 64,000 low-income households

received Targeted State Social Assistance (TSSA), with an average monthly payment of [114.3 manats per person](#). By March 2025, the number of beneficiary families had increased to 75,000 households, covering some 331,000 people, with the average monthly assistance rising to [470 manats per household](#). Efforts to enhance social welfare have included refining the TSSA programme and expanding its reach, alongside improvements to the Centralized Electronic Information System (CEIS) for managing benefits and pensions more efficiently and transparently.

Significant progress in the social sector has been achieved in strengthening inclusive education. By the start of the 2024–2025 academic year, a total of [67 general education schools](#) were offering inclusive classes for children with disabilities, up from earlier pilots in just a handful of schools. In 2023–2024, approximately [500 children with disabilities](#) were enrolled in preschool education facilities, reflecting steady progress in access from prior years. [Access to early childhood education](#) has seen marked improvement: enrollment rates rose from 16 per cent in 2015 to around 35 per cent by 2023, with a goal of reaching [50 per cent by 2026](#). For conflict-affected areas, access to education is available, but safety concerns and poor environments are still issues.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Azerbaijan features a varied climate influenced by its geography, stretching from the Caspian Sea coast to the mountainous areas in the north and west. This results in significant differences in temperature and weather patterns across the country. The coastal lowlands along the Caspian Sea experience mild winters, with temperatures rarely falling below zero, and hot, humid summers, with temperatures often rising above 30 degrees Celsius. In contrast, inland areas face more pronounced seasonal changes, with colder winters and hotter summers. In the low-lying Kura-Aras Plain, summer temperatures can exceed 40 degrees Celsius, while winter temperatures frequently drop below freezing.

Climate change is significantly increasing risks across Azerbaijan, with more frequent and intense extreme weather events. Heat waves are occurring more often, posing serious threats to public health, especially among children, older people, and people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions. In fact, health studies show that maximum temperature

days have increased fivefold over the past two decades in Azerbaijan, contributing to rising rates of [sunstroke and heat-related illnesses](#) among schoolchildren and groups in vulnerable situations. Climate projections indicate that average summer temperatures in Azerbaijan (July to September) could increase by approximately 5.6 to 5.9 degrees Celsius by the 2090s under a high-emissions scenario (RCP8.5), a rate of warming significantly above the global average. Under this scenario, the number of very hot days (above 25 degrees Celsius) is expected to rise from around [95 days per year to as many as 151](#), posing increased risks to health, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Azerbaijan's diverse climate zones, including semi-arid, temperate, continental and cold/tundra regions, result in substantial variation in average annual temperature and precipitation across the country. Over recent decades, climate trends have shown a steady rise in average annual temperatures by 0.4 degrees Celsius per year since 1991 and a 9 per cent decline in rainfall over the past decade.

Extreme events, such as floods, droughts and heatwaves, have become more frequent. The country has also experienced a [50 per cent glacial loss](#) over the past 110 years and a [sea level rise of 2.5 metres](#).

Since gaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan's fast-paced economic development has led to serious environmental challenges, including intense air pollution and pollution of the Caspian Sea. The country regularly experiences flooding, particularly in the Greater Caucasus and Nakhchivan areas. Growing water scarcity, deteriorating air quality and soil degradation are expected to [heighten risks](#) across sectors such as agriculture, public health and water management.

The water sector in Azerbaijan is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, largely due to the uneven distribution of water across seasons and regions. Projections indicate that total water availability could decline by 10 to 15 per cent by 2040 if temperatures continue to rise and rainfall decreases. Transboundary rivers, which serve as a major source of freshwater, are already experiencing reduced flow levels as a result of lower winter and spring precipitation. Forecasts suggest further significant declines in river volumes by the year 2100. According to the United Nations, by the [late 2020s](#), only around half of Azerbaijan's population may have access to a centralized drinking water supply network. Water distribution system inefficiencies result in up to [50 per cent](#) of supplied water not reaching its final destination.

Azerbaijan's agriculture sector is particularly exposed to climate-related risks because of its dependence on subsistence farming, limited land resources, declining soil quality, and low productivity. With rural residents comprising 47 per cent of the population, many communities are heavily reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods. As a result, they are [increasingly vulnerable](#) to economic hardship, food insecurity, and negative impacts on their overall well-being due to the worsening effects of climate change.

In November 2024, Azerbaijan submitted its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the UNFCCC, presenting a framework for incorporating long-term climate adaptation into national development strategies. During COP29, which took place in Baku that same month, Azerbaijan reiterated its commitment to tackling climate change by scaling up wind and solar energy initiatives, advancing reforestation programs, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing its renewable energy capacity. The country also highlighted its continued support for the [Paris Agreement](#) goals and its collaboration with international partners to address the effects of climate change.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan seeks to establish and sustain a long-term strategic partnership with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in the coming years. This partnership aims to integrate the National Society into the decision-making processes of climate-related policy development and strategic planning, positioning it as a key partner in national disaster risk reduction activities and capacity-building initiatives. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan will focus on identifying funding opportunities to expand climate awareness activities to the community level. The National Society will further build the capacity of its staff and volunteers on behavioural change approaches for climate adaptation too, using community engagement approaches.

Planned activities in 2026

- Work with communities to prepare them for climate-related emergencies
- Raise awareness on protection and preservation of forests
- Design and implement environmental and climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic use reduction and clean-ups

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide financial and technical assistance to the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in prioritizing climate action. The IFRC will facilitate the National Society's role as a key partner in its implementation of the government's plan for climate change adaptation by providing technical assistance. This assistance will prioritize knowledge transfer and the application of best practices. The IFRC will support the National Society in establishing a foundation for scaling up people-centred early warning and early action systems for weather- and climate-related hazards. This support will align with efforts to strengthen national and local disaster risk management systems. It will also promote a holistic approach across the pillars of early warning systems, including disaster risk knowledge, hazard dissemination and communication and preparedness to respond to warnings.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page: [Azerbaijan](#)

Azerbaijan, the largest country in the South Caucasus, lies at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. It is bordered by the Caspian Sea to the east, with an 850 km-long coastline, and the Greater Caucasus Mountains to the north. The country is exposed to moderate to high risks of natural hazards, including earthquakes and floods. The Absheron and Aran regions are especially at risk due to their dense populations and economic concentration, while other parts of the country face lower exposure due to less urban development.

Azerbaijan often experiences the impacts of floods and earthquakes. Between 1990 and 2019, floods were particularly significant, affecting approximately 1.68 to 1.85 million people, which represents about 17 to 18 per cent of the country's population as of 2019. These floods, along with unpredictable weather conditions, have had a considerable [effect on agriculture](#), which is a key part of Azerbaijan's non-oil economy and plays an important role in crop production.

Azerbaijan faces a significant risk of earthquakes, with seismic activity threatening around 30 per cent of the territory and potentially impacting up to 3 million people. The last major earthquake, which occurred in 2000, caused more than 30 deaths and approximately \$15 million in damages. On average, the country experiences around five earthquakes each year with magnitudes of 5.5 or greater. Seismic events in the eastern regions typically occur at intermediate depths exceeding 35 kilometers, while in the western areas, [earthquakes are generally shallower](#) and more frequent, especially near the borders with Georgia and Armenia.

Droughts have also posed serious challenges in Azerbaijan, often contributing to forest fires. In

2014, such conditions led to fires that damaged approximately 59 hectares of forest. [Landslides](#) are another common hazard, affecting an estimated 25 to 30 per cent of the country's territory. They occur most frequently in mountainous areas such as the Greater and Lesser Caucasus, the Talysh Mountains, and the Absheron Peninsula. These events result in [considerable damage](#) to agricultural land, infrastructure, and residential areas.

The escalation of [conflict in Azerbaijan in 2020](#) led to the displacement of approximately 130,000 people, around 40,000 of whom were temporarily displaced. While the majority have since returned, there are still pressing needs in areas such as food security, hygiene, livelihoods, and awareness of mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) risks. In August 2022, renewed fighting resulted in three fatalities, followed by a major

escalation in September 2022 which caused 79 deaths and 284 injuries, including two civilians. In [September 2023](#), a fresh wave of tensions in Karabakh prompted large-scale displacement toward Armenia. Some regions remain heavily contaminated by mines; just prior to the escalation, two civilians and four police officers were killed by landmines. The [Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan \(ANAMA\)](#) estimates that clearing unexploded ordnance in former combat zones may take 5 to 6 years, while full demining of affected areas could require 10 to 13 years. The threat remains ongoing; in the first half of 2025 alone, 18 more people sustained injuries due to mine-related incidents. This brings the [cumulative number of victims since November 2020 to around 400](#), underscoring the continued danger posed by landmines and UXOs in affected regions.

As part of Azerbaijan's state-led Great Return programme, the government aims to resettle 140,000 internally displaced families by the end of 2026 across Karabakh and East Zangezur. By early July 2025, a total of 3,839 families, approximately 15,300 people, had returned to their native villages and towns. The overall population now residing in these regions exceeds 50,000, including displaced persons, reconstruction workers, students, and public sector employees. As of [mid-2025](#), rebuilding and resettlement activities have expanded across hundreds of settlements, with the first stage of the programme reported to be approximately 79 per cent completed. This large-scale effort is supported by a state budget allocation of [21.6 billion AZN \(CHF 9.83 billion\)](#) aimed at the comprehensive rehabilitation of these territories.

Azerbaijan is formulating a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy extending through 2030 to strengthen the country's resilience to natural hazards. Key priorities include establishing [early warning systems and multi-hazard information platforms](#). Emergency response is overseen by the Ministry of Emergency Situations, while the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources leads efforts related to climate-induced risks.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan aims to reinforce its role as a nationally mandated humanitarian actor by enhancing emergency preparedness and response in close coordination with government authorities. It seeks to strengthen its position within the National Disaster Management Framework by deepening collaboration with state institutions and improving the capacity of its branches and volunteers. It also aims to build stronger institutional systems in areas such as disaster management, communication and financial operations to ensure more reliable and timely support during crises.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan will focus on developing early action mechanisms and promoting community-based disaster risk management to reduce vulnerabilities at local level. It plans to improve its ability to respond rapidly through trained and equipped emergency mobile volunteer teams and expanded local engagement.

As part of its long-term vision, the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan seeks to broaden its sustained humanitarian presence in the Karabakh and East Zangezur economic regions through coordinated engagement with Movement partners and international stakeholders. It aims to strengthen community resilience by enhancing service provision in areas such as health, psychosocial wellbeing, first aid and mine risk education, while reopening and reinforcing local branches. By fostering inclusive recovery and building durable partnerships, it plans to contribute to long-term stability, safety and development across conflict-affected communities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct a simplified anticipatory action visibility study
- Conduct enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) in high-risk areas
- Work with communities to identify hazards and develop disaster risk reduction plans
- Expand cash and voucher assistance coverage beyond the current eight regions
- Train its staff and volunteers in shelter assistance and the provision of food security and livelihoods (FSL)
- Upgrade branch infrastructure and strengthen volunteer management practices
- Introduce and test early action planning tools alongside community disaster awareness sessions
- Roll out localized response initiatives designed around specific community risks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in strengthening its institutional readiness, resilience programming and operational capacity at national

and branch levels. Building on ongoing cooperation with national authorities and civil society actors, the IFRC will assist the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in advancing disaster risk governance and improving coordination mechanisms for early action and preparedness. Support will include structured engagement with national and local disaster management stakeholders, particularly in newly accessible areas, to reinforce risk-informed planning and inclusive decision-making.

The IFRC will prioritize institutional capacity strengthening through enhanced branch development, volunteer management systems, emergency coordination structures and the digitalisation of assessment and monitoring tools. Dedicated efforts will focus on consolidating the role of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, with particular emphasis on climate-smart programming, anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction.

The IFRC will maintain its support for integrating and scaling up cash and voucher assistance as a core modality for humanitarian response and recovery. This will involve establishing scalable systems, building partnerships with financial service providers and enhancing the capacities of staff and volunteers on cash and voucher preparedness. Alongside this, the IFRC will further assist the expansion of Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams across priority regions to strengthen rapid deployment capacity and ensure early, community-led response.

Recognizing the continued needs of communities exposed to explosive ordnance risks, the IFRC will support the National Society in carrying out mine risk awareness and safe behaviour initiatives, with a particular focus on the Karabakh region and surrounding districts. These interventions will be underpinned by Community Engagement and Accountability, psychosocial support and Protection, Gender and Inclusion approaches to ensure that programmes remain people-centred and inclusive. Community resilience efforts will also emphasise participatory risk assessments and localised preparedness planning in disaster-affected and climate-vulnerable communities.

The **Italian Red Cross** will provide the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan with technical support in strengthening local capacities and fostering community resilience in areas exposed to disaster risks.



The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society distributing food boxes to vulnerable and elderly people in need of care in Sumgayit during Ramadan (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)



Health and wellbeing

Azerbaijan's health system is shifting from its old, centralized model, with public facilities still leading care. The Ministry of Health sets policy, while the State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance (SAMHI), created in 2016, manages most funding and purchases services. Public health care facilities are largely operated by the Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions (TABIB), which is responsible for their administration and service provision. Despite reforms, the system still relies on centralized planning and input-based funding models.

Azerbaijan launched its Universal Health Care (UHC) policy in March 2021 to expand access to essential health services. By 2023, UHC coverage had reached approximately 47 per cent in rural areas and 58 per cent in urban areas, demonstrating measurable progress in healthcare accessibility. Tuberculosis (TB) remains a persistent public health challenge. The TB incidence rate declined to around 53 per 100,000 population in 2023, signaling improvement according to WHO Global Tuberculosis Report in 2023. Key performance metrics include a mortality rate among HIV-negative TB cases of 4.7 per 100,000, an HIV-positive TB incidence of 0.8 per 100,000, treatment

coverage at 82 per cent, and a treatment success rate of 86 per cent, surpassing the WHO target of 85 per cent.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a major public health concern in Azerbaijan. According to WHO estimates, they are responsible for around 87 per cent of all deaths in the country. Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause, making up about 42 per cent of total deaths. Cancer accounts for approximately 16 per cent. Chronic respiratory conditions make up around 7 per cent. Diabetes contributes to about 3 per cent of deaths and 9 per cent communicable maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions.

In 2025, the mental health and psychosocial situation in Azerbaijan reflects both post-conflict and climate-related stressors, with a particular impact on groups in vulnerable situations such as children, adolescents, and rural communities. A landmark study, involving 2,400 children and adolescents aged 5–16 from post-conflict areas, revealed high prevalence rates of anxiety (65 per cent), depression (40 per cent, rising to 50 per cent among ages 12–14), and PTSD (70 per cent), with girls reporting anxiety more

frequently than boys (70 per cent vs. 60 per cent). The research also demonstrated the effectiveness of targeted interventions such as art therapy, group activities, and parent training in reducing anxiety by 65 per cent and depression symptoms by 40 per cent. At the same time, rural populations, particularly

in the northern mountainous regions, are facing growing psychosocial pressures linked to [climate change](#), as recurrent floods and droughts threaten livelihoods and increase uncertainty. However, access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remains constrained by a shortage of trained professionals, [insufficient service availability](#) in rural areas, and persistent stigma around mental illness.

Climate change poses growing risks to public health in Azerbaijan. Warmer temperatures are creating more favorable environments for mosquitoes, particularly in highland regions, raising concerns about the potential re-emergence of vector-borne diseases like malaria, which had previously been eliminated. Rising temperatures also heighten the risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths, especially in urban areas like Baku. Older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and those lacking adequate energy access or cooling technologies such as air conditioning are especially vulnerable to these impacts.

Decreasing quality and availability of safe drinking water due to more frequent and intense floods could also contribute to increased prevalence of diseases such as cholera and gastrointestinal issues. According to [World Water Resources Institute](#) estimations, it is forecast to be one of the 13 countries in 2025 with the least water resources per person.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan seeks to strengthen community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) knowledge through targeted training and awareness-raising for children and adults. The National Society will focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), with the development of a robust MHPSS framework and action plan, focusing on policy development, capacity building, community engagement and service delivery. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan also aims to prioritize [first aid](#) capacity building, focusing on international collaboration, curriculum development and training. It will continue its health initiatives, addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases, [epidemic preparedness](#) and climate-related health risks. It will explore new projects such as [Healthy Ageing](#) and use cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support healthcare needs. Key actions will include blood donation campaigns, maternal and child health projects and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) service provision. The National Society will also focus on improving community health preparedness, especially for health emergencies and improve intersectoral coordination to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Advocate and collaborate with stakeholders by participating in Health and MHPSS working group meetings with the Ministry of Health, State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance, other state health structures and WHO
- Conduct community health activities, including awareness raising and training in communicable and non-communicable diseases, epidemic preparedness and response and health risks and hazards
- Conduct first aid training for communities
- Implement Child Care Pack project to improve maternal and child health
- Conduct simulation activities to raise community awareness in health in emergencies
- Preposition emergency hygiene kits
- Promote hygiene awareness in schools and public spaces
- Train its volunteers in psychological first aid

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support and assistance to the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan to implement its health-related objectives effectively. The IFRC will offer capacity building programmes, guidance, expertise and resource mobilization support, enabling the National Society to drive organizational change and strengthen its health initiatives. The IFRC will continue supporting the mental health and psychosocial support activities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan by involving it in the mental health and psychosocial support network for South Caucasus. The IFRC will also support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan by facilitating its participation in international professional networks. This collaboration will assist in developing the National Society's capacity through working groups, training curricula and technical support in alignment with international guidelines.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in developing and disseminating training materials and curricula for first aid and maternal and child health awareness, tailored to local language and context. It will also support the National Society in stocking hygiene kits for emergency situations. The Turkish Red Crescent will provide assistance by facilitating its participation in international professional networks. Additionally, as part of its planned health initiatives, the Turkish Red Crescent will support the National Society in organizing health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and first aid sessions at Karabakh University in Khankendi and support the provision of MHPSS services for returnees in the Karabakh region



During the first half of 2025, the [State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#) received a total of 259,316 applications across various service areas. These included 150,548 applications for the registration of foreigners and stateless persons at their place of stay, 35,629 applications for obtaining or extending residence permits, and 5,950 applications for work permits. In addition, 888 applications were related to citizenship issues, while 6,753 requests concerned the determination of affiliation to Azerbaijani citizenship. Furthermore, 5,540 petitions, complaints, and suggestions were received from citizens, foreigners, and stateless persons, alongside 10,872 other types of applications. As part of its efforts to combat irregular migration, the State Migration Service issued [9,714 decisions](#) concerning violations of the Migration Code and the Code of Administrative Offenses.

As of December 2024, Azerbaijan was hosting a substantial number of displaced populations, with figures released by [UNHCR](#) indicating a total of approximately 663,949 people. Of these, an overwhelming majority of more than 99 per cent were internally displaced persons (IDPs), who left their places of origin in the late 1990s during conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In addition to IDPs, Azerbaijan is home to around 8,100 refugees (including 4,000 people from Ukraine and 1,211 people from Afghanistan), 224 asylum seekers, and 513 stateless persons, underscoring the country's multifaceted humanitarian context. These figures reaffirm the importance of coordinated efforts between national authorities and international partners to strengthen protection mechanisms, promote legal identity, and facilitate access to services for all displaced and stateless persons residing in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan experienced significant [escalations of conflict](#) in the early 1990s and in 2020s, leading to waves of displacement. By the 1994 ceasefire, Azerbaijan hosted around 300,000 Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia and Central Asia. The 2020 conflict escalation initially displaced 80,000 people, many of whom temporarily settled in public buildings and were able to return home in the following months.

Since the 2020 conflict escalation, various measures and programmes have been introduced and implemented by the [Government of Azerbaijan](#) to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of displaced people. The relocation process has achieved notable progress in recent years. Azerbaijan initiated the return of displaced populations to areas opened for settlement in July 2022. As of April 2024, over 6,500 people had returned to various locations, including Fuzuli, Lachin and Zabukh. The government set targets to resettle [20,000 people in five cities and 15 villages](#) by the end of 2024 and [140,000 people by the end of 2026](#). By early July 2025, a total of 3,839 families, approximately 15,300 people, had returned to their native villages and towns.

The overall population now residing in these regions exceeds 50,000, including internally displaced persons, reconstruction workers, students and public sector employees. As of mid-2025, rebuilding and resettlement activities have expanded across hundreds of settlements, with the first stage of the programme reported to be approximately [79 per cent](#) completed.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan aims to provide comprehensive support to refugees registered by the State Migration Service of the Republic of, focusing on services such as Azerbaijani language courses, in-kind assistance, health services and advocating for inclusion in the state health insurance programme. The National Society will continue facilitating access to medication and other essential services while organising awareness-raising sessions to assist the most vulnerable people with refugee status in adapting to their new environment. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan will ensure that migrants benefit from tailored psychosocial support, are included in cash and voucher assistance programmes and have access to essential resources for a more inclusive and supportive integration process.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support transportation costs for approximately 30 migrants to attend language courses
- Provide transportation to migrants for outdoor events, such as outings and sightseeing
- Renovate classrooms and equip them with essential items, such as air conditioning and technical equipment
- Work with the government to support internally displaced persons

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide the National Society with support, appropriate training and clear direction to guide its engagement in the field of migration and displacement. This will be in line with the targets and commitments of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and other Movement frameworks. The IFRC will also support the National Society in partnering with the Global Migration Lab, hosted by the **Australian Red Cross**, to strengthen its capacity in migration management through training, workshops and technical assistance in developing a legal framework.



Values, power and inclusion

Over the past few decades, Azerbaijan has made notable progress in promoting gender equality, supported by constitutional guarantees of equal rights for men and women and reinforced through legal frameworks such as the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women and Men (2006) and the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence (2010). However, persistent gender inequalities continue to affect family dynamics and broader societal participation, with women often facing restricted access to economic resources and underrepresentation in decision-making processes, both in private and public life. As of early 2024, women held only 18.1 per cent of parliamentary seats and participated in the labor force at slightly lower rates than men.

While numerous civil society organizations promote gender equality and human rights, their capacity in gender-sensitive programming remains limited, leading some development programmes to fall short in effectively reaching vulnerable groups due to insufficient integration of gender perspectives. These ongoing gaps and long-standing social norms show that stronger institutions, better-targeted policies, and full gender integration are needed so that laws actually improve the lives of the most vulnerable people.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan aims to strengthen its capacity in Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), education and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) through strategic initiatives. In 2024, it implemented an education in emergencies strategy, focusing on disaster risk reduction, mine risk awareness, first aid and youth engagement.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan aims to sustain and expand its progress in Education in Emergencies and community resilience initiatives. It will scale up pilot projects and strengthen internal capacities, ensuring continuous collaboration with partners and donors. The National Society will continue its efforts to enhance social cohesion, provide child-friendly spaces and improve access to education for children in remote areas. In addition, it will conduct awareness campaigns on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria and organize inclusive events for children with disabilities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct sessions for the dissemination of Fundamental Principles
- Create a healthy environment for children in orphanages and those from limited-income families
- Conduct mine-risk awareness sessions
- Implement measures to promote road safety

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to all areas of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan by facilitating the sharing of best practices and connecting the National Society to global networks and platforms, including the Global Volunteering Alliance, Volunteering Development Platform (VODPLA) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Education Network (GEN). Additionally, the IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society's road safety activities through the Global Road Safety Partnership.



Children in Zangilan and Tartar regions received school bags and supplies from the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan as part of the 'Back to School' initiative (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Youth engagement strategy
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish partnerships with organizations active in southern Caucasus
- Allocate annual funding to ensure senior leadership participation in international coordination platforms
- Include international travel for representation in the annual budget to enhance strategic engagement
- Maintain in-country Movement coordination through regular working group meetings

- Align organizational work with priorities identified during the Movement Cooperation and Seville 2.0 sensitization process

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in engaging with the Movement and non-Movement partners. It will also support the National Society in implementing its resource mobilization strategy.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review its legal framework with a special focus on revising its Statutes in line with the recommendations and guidance of the Joint Statutes Commission (JSC)
- Improve organizational efficiency through quality service delivery
- Focus on financial sustainability by working towards acquiring long-term funding for its humanitarian services

through grants such as the IFRC ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF)

- Continue the integration of the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) process into regular activities of its branches
- Establish a mechanism of care for volunteers, including risk management, burnout prevention and debriefing sessions

- Strengthen the capacity of staff and volunteers through training, peer learning through exchanges and a centralized e-learning profile

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in revising and implementing its National Society development plan and revising its statutes. It will assist also the National Society in acquiring the IFRC Capacity Building Fund. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in strengthening

its capacity in cash and voucher assistance and first aid. Additionally, the IFRC will provide assistance to the National Society in implementing initiatives for the welfare of its volunteers.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will provide technical support to the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in strengthening the capacity of its staff and volunteers and peer learning. It will also facilitate the participation of the National Society in the International Expert Group (IEG) on first aid.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Leverage and expand its auxiliary role by strengthening partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders in disaster preparedness and response
- Advocate for establishing early warning systems and seek access to directly engage with communities on local hazard identification practices

- Build trust in communities and develop people's understanding of its role

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in strengthening its auxiliary role and voice.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen safeguarding measures while upholding the 'no harm' principle and mitigating risks of safeguarding violations
- Incorporate community engagement and accountability (CEA) into programme planning and budgets
- Strengthen financial management by adopting modern, digitalized approaches, software and infrastructure to ensure transparency and accountability
- Focus on efficient and timely financial reporting
- Strengthen its human resources system to align with strategic goals and foster a highly skilled and motivated workforce

- Improve its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) capabilities
- Invest in digital systems for resource mobilization, human resources and finance management to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in developing cross-cutting policies such as anti-fraud and corruption, cost recovery, staff code of conduct, gender and diversity and integrity among others. It will also support the National Society in digital transformation and the development of its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) capacity.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan through its South Caucasus cluster delegation based in Tbilisi, Georgia and has had a signed status agreement with Azerbaijan since 1995, which determines its legal status. The IFRC support to the National Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC and National Society have prioritized developing a legal framework, including policies, guidelines

and procedures, in different thematic areas. The IFRC also supported with recruitment of specialist staff to oversee supply chain management, fundraising, human resources, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, community engagement and accountability and information technologies. The IFRC will support the National Society with targeting the development of specific capacities. The IFRC will facilitate sustainability in programme management, while creating a strong fundraising capacity to boost finance capabilities.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has long-term partnerships with several participating National Societies, including the **Italian Red Cross** and **Turkish Red Crescent**. Currently only the **Turkish Red Crescent** in-country presence.

The **Italian Red Cross** partners with Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

on a disaster preparedness initiative implemented in Azerbaijan. Discussions have taken place about involving the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan as an active partner in disaster preparedness activities in collaboration with the government, particularly the Ministry of Emergencies of Azerbaijan.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** has been actively supporting the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan since the early aftermath of the conflict escalation in 2020. The Turkish Red Crescent supports the National Society in several areas, including providing food and non-food support, clothing, household items, wheelchairs for people with disabilities and educational and vocational materials for orphanages. Additionally, it contributes to the training and capacity strengthening of National Society staff and volunteers, helps establish and maintain safe entertainment and educational spaces for children and promotes volunteerism for blood donation.

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC in Azerbaijan continues the provision of humanitarian protection to the people affected by the conflict. The ICRC also has a continuing dialogue with relevant authorities to promote international humanitarian law and extend support in line with its mandate. Additionally, it contributes to the National Society development by supporting Emergency Volunteer teams in seven priority branches of the National Society, alongside the Mine Risk Awareness programme and first aid programme.

Coordination with other actors

Public authorities and government agencies in Azerbaijan remain the principal institutional partners of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, with close collaboration across core sectors such as disaster response and humanitarian services. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan maintains formal agreements and memoranda of understanding with ministries and state bodies including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, State Migration Service, National Mine Action Agency and the State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. These partnerships support disaster preparedness, healthcare, migration and social assistance and are grounded in the legal framework that defines the auxiliary role of the National Society during emergencies.

The European Union serves as a strategic partner of the IFRC in Azerbaijan, and through a multi-year partnership with the EU Delegation, the IFRC is strengthening the capacity of

the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan and local civil society organisations to ensure sustained humanitarian impact.

The National Society maintains long-standing cooperation with United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and IOM. These partnerships focus on disaster response, migration and health, including a tripartite cooperation agreement with WHO and IFRC. Collaboration with IOM is further supported under a 2012 agreement on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance, with ongoing discussions to broaden joint initiatives. In July 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan signed a tripartite agreement with the State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to coordinate support activities in the Karabakh region. Together, these partnerships enhance the ability of the National Society to deliver humanitarian services that are effective, accountable and centred on community needs.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Network Databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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