



AZERBAIJAN

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 2M**

9 May 2025

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan



86

National Society
branches



85

National Society
local units



175

National Society
staff



6,000

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



3,000

Climate and
environment



5,000

Disasters
and crises



17,000

Health and
wellbeing



130

Migration and
displacement



130,000

Values, power
and inclusion

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 Severity rating **Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **89**

World Bank Population figure **10.2M**

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

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Armenia, Azerbaijan & Georgia, Tbilisi

Funding requirements

2025

Total 2M CHF



Participating National Societies

Italian Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society

IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

MAAAZ003

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Italian Red Cross			●			●	
Turkish Red Crescent Society	16,000			●		●	●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 16,000**

Hazards



Floods



Droughts



Earthquakes



Wildfire



Conflict



Volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan introducing concepts around risk reduction in schools and communities, in June 2024
(Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)

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, 85 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 Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, the Law on Protection of Emblem and relevant governmental decrees.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has prioritized 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).

The Strategic Plan 2021-2025 of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan focuses 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.

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 and Caucasus Mountains and spans both Asia and Europe. The country declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and now has a population of over 10 million made up of more than 80 different ethnic groups. These groups include Azerbaijani (91.6 per cent), Lezghin (2 per cent), Russian (1.3 per cent), Armenian (1.3 per cent), Talysh (1.3 per cent) and others (2.4 per cent). The far eastern part of Azerbaijan has the highest population density, particularly in and around Baku.

Apart from some small urban areas, the rest of the country has a fairly low density and evenly distributed population. 54.5 per cent of the population lives in urban areas, while 44.5 per cent reside in rural areas. During the last five years, the average birth rate has increased reaching 11.7 persons per 1,000 population in 2024. Life expectancy has shown an improvement, increasing from 71.4 years in 2019 to 73.33 years in 2023. The demographic profile of Azerbaijan indicates a growing older population. In 2024, approximately 9 per cent of the population is aged 65 and over, reflecting a steady increase in the percentage of older citizens.

Azerbaijan's economy continues to rely heavily on hydrocarbons, which contribute approximately 40 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of export revenues, posing risks amid global shifts toward renewable energy and oil price

volatility. The Azerbaijan government has prioritized economic diversification through investments in technology, agriculture and tourism. Economic growth has shown resilience, recovering significantly after the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This recovery has been driven by strong performance in manufacturing, transportation, retail trade and information and communications technology. The rebound has also extended to the services sector, particularly in hospitality. Per capita GDP growth for Azerbaijan is projected at 0.8 per cent for 2025 and inflation rates are forecast to reach 6.5 per cent in 2025.

After restoring the country's independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has paid particular attention to developing the social protection legislation and numerous normative legal acts have been adopted to enhance people's social welfare. In 2023, Azerbaijan's government provided social assistance to 63,848 households. Efforts to enhance social services included expanding the Targeted State Social Assistance (TSSA) programme and refining the Centralized Electronic Information System (CEIS) for streamlined management of benefits and pensions.

In education, inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities expanded to 40 schools by 2023, serving over 250 children. Access to early childhood education improved significantly, rising from 16 per cent in 2015 to 35 per cent in 2023, with a target of reaching 50 per cent by 2026. Ongoing efforts focus on improving kindergartens, addressing urban-rural disparities and ensuring education access in conflict-affected areas despite safety concerns.



The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan distributing food boxes in Neftchala, Azerbaijan during Ramadan, in April 2024
(Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Azerbaijan boasts a diverse climate ranging from the coastal areas along the Caspian Sea to the mountainous regions in the north and west. This diversity results in a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions. Coastal lowland areas near the Caspian Sea experience mild winters, with temperatures rarely falling below freezing and hot, humid summers, with temperatures often exceeding 30 degrees Celsius. Inland regions face more extreme temperature variations, with colder winters and hotter summers. In the low-lying Kura-Aras Plain, summer temperatures can surpass 40 degrees Celsius while winter temperatures drop below freezing.

Climate change significantly increases risk in Azerbaijan, driving more extreme weather patterns and greater unpredictability. Heatwaves are occurring more frequently, posing serious health risks. The most pronounced warming is projected during the summer months, with average temperatures from July to September expected to rise by nearly 6 degrees Celsius by 2090.

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 independence in 1991, Azerbaijan's rapid economic growth has caused significant environmental issues, including severe air pollution and Caspian Sea contamination. The country faces frequent flooding, especially in the Greater Caucasus and Nakhichevan regions. Worsening water shortages, air pollution and land degradation are likely to increase risks in agriculture, health, water resources and other sectors.

The water sector faces severe climate change implications due to uneven seasonal and geographical distribution. Future scenarios predict a 10-15 per cent reduction in total available water resources by 2040 if temperatures rise and rainfall decreases. Transboundary rivers, a crucial fresh water source, are already experiencing reduced flows due to decreased winter and spring precipitation. Projections suggest significant reductions in river flows by 2,100. The UN estimated that by the end of 2020s, only half of Azerbaijan's population could access a potable 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 highly vulnerable due to its reliance on subsistence farming, low productivity, soil degradation and limited land availability. Rural communities, making up 47 per cent of the population, depend heavily on agriculture and face economic instability, food insecurity and challenges to their overall well-being due to adverse climate change effects.

In November 2024, Azerbaijan submitted its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the UNFCCC, outlining strategies to integrate long-term climate adaptation into national development planning. At COP29, held in Baku in November 2024, Azerbaijan reaffirmed its commitment to addressing climate change by expanding wind and solar energy projects, reforestation efforts, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing renewable energy capacity. The country also emphasized its dedication to the Paris Agreement targets and collaborative efforts with international organizations to adapt to climate change impacts.

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 2025

- 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 also support the



Disasters and crises

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

Azerbaijan, the largest of the three countries in the southern Caucasus region, straddles the boundaries of Europe and Asia. Bordered by the Caspian Sea to the east with an 850 kilometre coastline and the Greater Caucasus mountain range to the north, the country faces moderate to high risks of natural disasters such as [earthquakes](#) and [flooding](#). The Absheron and Aran regions are particularly vulnerable due to their high population density and economic activity, whereas other areas have relatively lower exposure owing to less urbanization.

Azerbaijan is frequently affected by floods and earthquakes. Floods have been particularly impactful in the past two decades, affecting an estimated [1.68 to 1.85 million](#) people between 1990 and 2019. The agricultural sector, a vital component of Azerbaijan's non-oil economy, suffers from these floods, alongside erratic weather patterns affecting crop production.

Earthquake risk is substantial, with [30 per cent](#) of the country prone to seismic activity potentially affecting 3 million people. On average, the country experiences about five earthquakes of magnitude 5.5 or larger per year. The eastern part of the country is affected by seismicity occurring at intermediate depths greater than 35 kilometres. In the west of the country, the earthquakes are shallower and more common in proximity to the borders with Georgia and Armenia.

Azerbaijan is highly susceptible to droughts, which frequently lead to forest fires. [Landslides](#) are another prevalent hazard, affecting approximately 25–30 per cent of the country's land area, particularly in mountainous regions such as the Greater and Lesser Caucasus, the Talysh Mountains and the Absheron Peninsula. These landslides cause extensive damage to agriculture, infrastructure and housing.

According to UNHCR, the 2020 conflict escalation in Azerbaijan displaced 112,000 people. Although most have returned, critical needs for food, hygiene, livelihoods and risk

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.

awareness persist. In September 2023, tensions in Karabakh triggered [mass movements towards Armenia](#). Some areas remain susceptible to [mine risks](#). The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) estimates it will take 5-6 years to neutralize unexploded ammunition in combat zones and 10-13 years in mined areas.

Azerbaijan is establishing a national disaster risk reduction strategy extending until 2030 to enhance resilience against natural disasters. This includes developing early warning systems (EWS) and multi-hazard information systems.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan is pivotal in emergency response and disaster risk reduction, mandated by national law. It works in coordination with government bodies at all levels, providing vital support during emergencies. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan aims to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response mechanisms by enhancing coordination and partnerships with governmental institutions, establishing its role in the national disaster management and response plan and focusing on branch and volunteer development. It seeks to improve organizational capacities in areas such as communication, disaster management, financial systems and livelihoods. To achieve this, the National Society will develop [early action protocols](#), engage in community-based disaster risk management and implement branch-level disaster response initiatives, supported by trained emergency mobile volunteer teams.

The National Society aims to increase community resilience through multi-level disaster risk reduction approaches, integrating community-focused hazard identification and early warning systems. It will continue to expand its cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes to support vulnerable communities and livelihood recovery efforts. It will prioritize volunteer capacity-building to ensure sustained availability of skilled responders during emergencies.

Planned activities in 2025

- 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
 - Implement multi-purpose cash projects to address evolving needs of vulnerable groups
 - Organize a roundtable with representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to review agreement concerning humanitarian access
 - Train its staff and volunteers in shelter assistance and the provision of food security and livelihoods (FSL)
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure effective coordination and harmonization of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) response components in relief and recovery, while fostering connections with external CVA stakeholders, including government actors and the private sector. It will continue to support the expansion the emergency mobile volunteer teams (EMVTs) of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan across regional branches and improve internal systems for logistics and warehousing.

Additionally, given the limited mine risk awareness interventions in Azerbaijan, IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in promoting safe behaviour through communication and education targeting children and adults in high-risk locations. This will include a mine risk awareness and the creation of safe spaces for children, where safety rules and mine risk recognition will be taught alongside other activities.

The **Italian Red Cross** will provide the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan with technical support in building the capacity and skills of its volunteers to respond to emergencies.



Health and wellbeing

Azerbaijan announced its universal health care (UHC) policy in March 2021. Currently the [UHC coverage](#) in rural areas is 41 per cent against 52 per cent in urban areas. Tuberculosis is one of the major public health problems in Azerbaijan, estimated at 60 per 100,000 of the population. HIV-negative tuberculosis mortality is 5.9 per 100,000 people and HIV-positive incidence is 0.94. Treatment coverage meanwhile is 80 per cent and the success rate of treating new cases in 2018 is estimated at 84 per cent, close to the World Health Organization (WHO) target of 85 per cent.

[Non-communicable diseases](#) are also a growing concern in Azerbaijan – it is estimated that they account for 87 per cent of all deaths in the country. Of these deaths, 52 per cent are due to cardiovascular disease, 16 per cent due to cancers, five per cent injuries, three per cent chronic respiratory conditions, two per cent diabetes, nine per cent communicable maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions and 13 per cent other non-communicable diseases.

There is currently a high demand for mental health and psychosocial support in Azerbaijan, particularly in rural areas. However, human resources and services are limited, especially in these areas. This, combined with the pervasive stigma around mental health, contributes to a growing gap between demand and response. People either cannot access relevant support or they are faced with low-quality support.

In terms of climate change impacts on health, [vector-borne diseases](#) such as malaria are a potential threat in Azerbaijan, especially in the highlands, where favourable conditions for mosquitoes have increased. Temperature increase due to climate change could reverse the successful elimination of malaria in the country. These same temperature increases could also lead to an increased risk of heat-related illness and mortality, especially in urban areas such as Baku. Older populations and those with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to such issues and those with lower energy security or limited access to technologies such as air conditioning are also at risk.

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 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.

- 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 programs, 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 MHPSS 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 Society** 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. Additionally, the Turkish Red Crescent Society will provide assistance by facilitating its participation in international professional networks.

Planned activities in 2025

- 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



Migration and displacement

According to the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, during the first six months of 2024, the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan processed 164,503 applications for the registration of foreigners and stateless persons and 33,536 applications for temporary and permanent residence permits. Additionally, there were 7,452 applications for establishing Azerbaijani citizenship. Legalization of residence was granted in 2,417 cases. Other significant activities included handling 37,788 calls and 64,356 e-applications concerning stay registrations, residence permit extensions and work permits.

According to UNHCR data, 5,771 refugees, 168 asylum-seekers, 513 stateless persons and 657,749 internally displaced persons were living in Azerbaijan as of December 31, 2023. The

displacement figures mainly include displaced people who left their places of origin in the late 1990s during conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Ukraine is the leading country (4,206 individuals), followed by Afghanistan (1,121), Russia (268), Iran (64), Pakistan (47) and Syria (34).

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 have been introduced and implemented by the Government of Azerbaijan to facilitate a safe return of displaced people. The process of relocation is implemented on a voluntary basis and has reached several achievements in recent years; Azerbaijan initiated the return of the displaced people to the territories opened for settlements in July 2022. As of [April 2024](#), over 6,500 people had returned to various locations, including Fuzuli, Lachin and Zabukh. The government has set goals, planning to [resettle 20,000 people](#) in five cities and 15 villages by the end of 2024 and 140,000 by late 2026.

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 Azerbaijan, 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 2025

- 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

Significant efforts have been made to advance gender equality in Azerbaijan over the last few decades. The country's constitution explicitly mentions the right to equality between all men and women and this provision is further reinforced through a series of normative acts adopted or revised thereafter. Nevertheless, gender inequality is still among the factors that continue to affect the formation of relationships within families and society at large. Despite existing legal provisions on equal rights, women have more limited access to economic resources compared with men. In addition, women lack the opportunities and skills necessary to fully participate in decision-making in their personal lives and public and political life. Despite many civil society organizations in Azerbaijan working on gender equality and human rights, the overall expertise of local organizations in protection, gender and inclusion remains limited. As a result, development initiatives may not always fully integrate gender-sensitive approaches, potentially limiting their effectiveness in reaching the most vulnerable groups within target communities.

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 2025

- 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.

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.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish partnerships with organizations active in southern Caucasus
- Focus on resource mobilization and fundraising
- Ensure movement coordination through regular working group meetings

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 Society** 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 PMER capacity.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

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 Society**. Currently only the **Turkish Red Crescent Society** in-country presence.



The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan conducting a first aid awareness session through its Mobile First Aid Post initiative (Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan)

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 Society** has been actively supporting the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan since

the early aftermath of the conflict escalation in 2020. The Turkish Red Crescent Society 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 various departments in Azerbaijan are primary partners for the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, with the Society working closely with agencies and ministries involved in disaster response. The Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, State Migration Service, National Agency for Mine Action and State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons all maintain memoranda of understanding and agreements with the National Society, focusing on humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness, health and migration-related issues. The National Society's strong collaboration with these bodies is reinforced by its legal framework, clarifying roles and responsibilities in emergencies.

The EU is an essential partner IFRC in Azerbaijan. Through a three-year partnership with the EU Delegation, the IFRC works to strengthen the capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan and other civil society organizations, aiming to address humanitarian needs in a sustainable manner.

Until recently, USAID has supported initiatives such as the South Caucasus Regional Health in Emergencies project and contributed to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

strengthening community resilience through health and hygiene promotion in all three countries of South Caucasus.

The UN has been present in Azerbaijan for over 30 years. The UN and the Government of Azerbaijan signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021 to 2025, identifying priority areas such as inclusive growth, strengthening institutions, protecting the environment and achieving gender equality. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan works with various UN agencies, including UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and IOM, particularly in disaster response and health initiatives, including a tripartite cooperation agreement with the WHO and the IFRC. The IFRC continues to strengthen partnerships and support capacity building, ensuring the Society's accountability to donors and communities.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan also collaborates with the IOM, with an agreement signed in 2012, focusing on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance, while discussions for further cooperation are ongoing. Additionally, a tripartite agreement with the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons was signed in July 2023, aiming to provide joint support in the Karabakh region.



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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 2025 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 Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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