

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

AZERBAIJAN

Appeal no. 01.78/2003

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Health and Care	203,082	163,910
2. Disaster Management	1,081,037	593,296
3. Organizational Development	485,441	250,528
4. Humanitarian Values	126,678	100,016
Total	1,896,238¹	1,397,139

Introduction

The Azerbaijan Republic is the largest state in the Caucasus and is situated in southeastern Europe on the edge of the Caspian Sea. The territory of Azerbaijan is over 86,000 square kilometres. It borders the Russian Federation (Republic of Dagestan), Georgia, Armenia, Turkey and Iran. The population is eight million and the majority lives in cities and towns. The biggest group within the Azerbaijan population are of Azeri origin (91 per cent). The rest are Russians, Armenians and Lezgins with minorities such as Ukrainians, Georgians, Tatars, Jews and Kurds.

Azerbaijan was founded as a democratic republic in 1918, integrated into the USSR in 1922 and in October 1991 declared independency for the second time in its history. At the end of the twentieth century, Azerbaijan experienced a decade of instability. The transition from the state-controlled to a market economy created many economic and social problems and had a dramatic impact on the country and the people. It had a significant impact on the health of the population, with very limited access to quality medical and social care and health information which contribute to good health. Traditionally, there was a strong tendency to emphasize intervention, rather than prevention. The conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh exacerbated the problem by creating a large group of refugees and displaced people dependent on aid.

The oil sector has made Azerbaijan one of the fastest growing ex-Soviet Union republics. Real GDP reached 9.9 per cent in 2001, its second highest yearly expansion since independency. Apart from oil, Azerbaijan has capacities for industrial and agricultural production which were poorly developed since the fall of the Soviet regime.

Despite this growth in the socio-economic sector, according to a recent World Bank survey, Azerbaijan is classified among the poorly developed countries in the world with 61.5 per cent of households throughout the country considered as being poor and 20.4 per cent as very poor.

¹ USD 1,301,071 or EUR 1,288,397.

² These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.

Human Development Indicators at a Glance

Human development index (HDI) rank, 2000	88
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000	71.6
Adult literacy rate (per cent age 15 and above), 2000	97.0
GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000	2,936
Life expectancy index, 2000	0.78
Education index, 2000	0.88

(Source: UNDP HDR 2002)

Country Strategy

The main strategy of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan (RCSAz) is to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity through disaster management, health and care, promotion of humanitarian values and organizational development programmes.

The RCSAz initiated a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the results of which were issued in mid-2001. The strategic work plan of the national society takes into account and addresses the important needs that were identified in this report.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of the former Soviet Union met in Kiev in June 2001. This conference reflected a commitment of all participants to assist the most vulnerable groups in their respective countries. This commitment focused on health, migration, organizational development and regional cooperation.

The sixth Regional Red Cross/Red Crescent Conference took place in Berlin in April 2002. The result of this conference was a declaration of commitments and intentions as well as an appeal to governments aiming to improve conditions of the most vulnerable within health and migration but also connecting to disaster preparedness and response as well as promotion of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

The Kiev Declaration and the Berlin Charter both require commitment, direction and form as well as the VCA, which is a part of the national society's strategic work plan within health, migration, disaster management and humanitarian values.

Azerbaijan has inherited a universal public health system with an extensive medical infrastructure. The quality of service was poor owing to inefficiencies. Preventive care and early treatment were neglected. The financing of public health has been insufficient and is deteriorating. Immunization efforts have come to a halt, and epidemic prevention measures were reduced resulting in epidemics of polio, diphtheria and malaria. There is also an increase in anthrax, tuberculosis and other infection diseases.

The strategy includes community-based activities focused on reproductive health, nutrition, and preventive health dissemination, including HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns.

Between 1992 and 1994, Azerbaijan lost control over nearly 20 per cent of its territory to Armenia and consequently 800,000 people became internally displaced. Today 135,000 internally displaced

still live in tented camps, uncompleted buildings and railway wagons. The rest have found accommodation with friends or relatives or live in public buildings, such as schools or tourist and health facilities, with generally no more than one room per household (UNDP 2000). In the middle of 2002, approximately 33 –35 per cent of internally displaced people (IDPs) were resettled as new houses were built or repatriated to their own villages (UNDP 2002). Most shelters and settlements of the IDPs have a poor water supply and dilapidated sanitation facilities. Poor sanitary conditions and hot weather contribute to the spread of various diseases.

The RCSAz, with the support of the Federation, was active in the repatriation and rehabilitation of IDPs from the southern camps to their places of origin. Besides construction and reconstruction, the national society supports rehabilitation of the infrastructure and initiation of occupational opportunities training. The intention is to focus more on community development, support to the IDPs for self-sustainability and at the same time improve the national society's services in this sector.

Within disaster preparedness, the focus is on recently experienced natural disasters such as earthquake and floods as these have proven to adversely affect the most vulnerable population. The RCSAz role in the national emergency plan will be recognized and the mobile technical teams trained accordingly.

A natural part of the activities of the RCSAz is continuous dissemination of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values through its members and volunteers and its network of countrywide branches.

Related challenges are to be found in the South Caucasus region and Turkey, and close regional cooperation in knowledge sharing, shared participation in like activities and sharing of human resources will all contribute to the efficient implementation of the programmes.

Close coordination is being maintained with the ICRC, which shares the task with the Federation in developing the national society through its activities. Coordination was maintained with all other stakeholders. These relationships with partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will be reflected in the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) which will be elaborated during 2003 on the basis of the strategic work plan of the national society.

The cooperation agreement strategy is a process to enable the priorities of a national society, as expressed in its strategic/development plan, to be fully supported by the partners (both Red Cross Red Crescent and external). Through this process commitment to a shared strategy can be developed that will strengthen the impact of the national society's work in improving the lives of vulnerable people.

The Federation's priority, in the coming years and taking into consideration experiences from previous years and lessons learned, will be to continue strengthening the RCSAz so it can take over all activities related to the most vulnerable population, phasing out the Federation's presence in the country. This is a part of the current regionalization process that is taking place.

National Society Priorities

The decree establishing the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan was passed in parliament in October 1994 and the society was admitted into the Movement the following year. The statutes of the national society were formally approved by the Ministry of Justice in November 1996. The Rascal consists of 83 local branches of the Red Crescent, seven regional centers (Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran, Sumgait, Mingechaur, Nakhichevan, Sabirabad) and the headquarters based in Baku. It has 128,000 members, 11,000 volunteers and 341 employees.

Being supported by the Federation, the ICRC and partner national societies, the RCSAz is carrying out the following projects: disaster preparedness/response, community-based health/care and first aid, youth and volunteers, organizational development, migration, dissemination of international humanitarian law and tracing.

In 2001, the national society carried out a vulnerability and capacity assessment through its regional centres and local branches. It is the only available document in the country identifying local vulnerabilities and capacities, and it provides for the future programmes to be more focused and responsive on the level of the communities. The strategic work plan that will be revised by the end of 2002 clearly shows these priority areas of RCSAz.

The RCSAz continues to be dependent on external funding (the Federation, ICRC, PNSs, local donors). Certain attempts and results can be observed, however, within the RCSAz to improve the financial situation, like the increased number of members, small income from existing income generation projects and continued work with the government on the Red Crescent Law.

According to the SWOT analysis conducted by the RCSAz, the national society's strengths are: countrywide network of local branches and regional centres; increased number of members; recognition of the RCSAz inside and outside the country; human resources/volunteers; recognition by the ICRC, the Federation and the government; VCA. The challenges the national society needs to address are: weakness of the financial technical base; weak organizational structure of regional centres and local branches; lack of communication system between headquarters, regional centres and local branches; Red Crescent Law is not yet adopted by the RCSAz.

The implementation of programmes based on the Strategy 2010, strategic work plan of the national society, VCA, close cooperation with the Federation, the ICRC, the government and other partners, will help in building the capacity of the national society, and it can be more effective in adding value to the humanitarian work.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

During the ten years of the Federation's presence in Azerbaijan, support was received from a wide range of sources. The main partners supporting RCSAz today are the Red Cross Societies of Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Finland and Great Britain. Other donors are: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the US Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), EuropaAid (former Tacis), EXXON and Statoil.

A long-term bilateral programme on youth exchange, funded by the Norwegian Red Cross Society, started in 2001 with the arrival of two delegates of the Norwegian Red Cross Youth. The programme aims to exchange experiences and provide assistance to the RCSAz to develop its youth and volunteers projects. Within the framework of the programme, one RCSAz staff member has left for Norway in October 2002 for a six-month mission.

In September 2002, a bilateral programme funded by the Netherlands Red Cross Society started. The programme targets the most vulnerable beneficiaries living in the remote areas through the work of a mobile technical team in Goranboy. The team will assist elderly vulnerable population, identified by the local branch of the Red Crescent Society with minor repairs of their homes. This will be a three-year programme.

The Iranian and Turkish Red Crescent Societies continue their bilateral assistance to the capacity building of the RCSAz.

A country assistance strategy (today called the cooperation agreement strategy) was developed in 1999 and was not since updated. In August 2002, steps were taken to start revisions of the CAS, as

well as in finalizing the strategic work plan of the national society. Considerable change in the CAS priorities took place in accordance with the Federation's strategy 2010, focusing on building the capacities of the national society through its programmes.

Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

With the aim of improving the lives of the most vulnerable in Azerbaijan, the RCSAz identified, in its strategic work plan the following as priorities:

- to strengthen and improve its governance and leadership;
- to strengthen and improve capacities of the regional centres of the Red Cross, local Red Cross branches and volunteers;
- to develop the disaster management policy and to strengthen the role of RCSAz in the national health plan of the preventive health advocacy; and
- to advocate in the society the importance of the fundamental principles and non-discrimination for all and to improve the image of the RCSAz.

The support provided directly by PNSs, the ICRC and other partners will complement the Secretariat programmes and focus on the following programme areas:

1. Strengthening of the national society

- ***Health and care***

Taking into account the need in Azerbaijan for quality health education, public awareness campaigns, and preventive measures, the RCSAz will continue to develop its community-based health and care programmes.

- ***Disaster management***

The RCSAz implements its disaster management programme in order to effectively meet the challenges of natural and man-made disasters by improving the disaster preparedness and response capacities.

- ***Promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values***

The RCSAz encourages respect for other human beings and a willingness to work together to find solutions to community problems through its mandate by dissemination of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

- ***Organizational development***

The RCSAz continues with its capacity building in the areas of management and planning, strengthening of its migration policy in the frame of the population movement programme and with the process of improving youth and volunteer management systems.

2. Federation Coordination: The priority is to ensure that the cooperation agreement strategy is taken forward with the participation of relevant stakeholders (PNSs and the ICRC) supporting the priority programmes of the national society and securing long-term funding.

3. International Representation: Promoting the Federation's policies and the agendas of the national society in Azerbaijan as well as in the region which will improve the lives of the vulnerable by mobilizing the power of humanity.

1. Health and Care W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Although health structures are in place in Azerbaijan, the general health situation in the country is fragile owing to the lack of financial resources and lack of focus on preventive health measures. At the beginning of the 1990s, during the transition process and the Karabakh conflict, the immediate repercussions on the health of the affected population included malnutrition, lack of immunization and outbreaks of water and sanitation-related diseases. Steps were taken to address these emergencies. A decade later, the focus is now on preventive measures.

The 2003 Appeal activities centre on helping were identified affected individuals to access appropriate care in line with the strategy of the national society to advocate good health practices, and to implement the Strategy 2010 and the Berlin Charter decisions.

Referring to the VCA published in the middle of 2001, the main health hazards as perceived by the population participating in the survey, were measles, tuberculosis and heart attacks. These findings are serving as a basis when planning health activity programmes in the RCSAz strategy for addressing measures to reduce vulnerability within communities related to natural, man-made as well as health disasters.

Further, as a part of the goal of this programme, the community-based first aid and health promotion project was identified as a lesson learned from past experiences. This requires limited resources, offers long term impact for the beneficiaries and strengthens the capacities of the national society by training more volunteers.

Over the last years, the number of HIV/AIDS infected people increased significantly in the bordering countries, mainly Russia, while Azerbaijan is still characterized as a low HIV/AIDS prevalence area. According to the National AIDS Control and Prevention Center, there were a total of 420 HIV/AIDS cases within Azerbaijan (as of July 2002). Given lack of countrywide surveillance, the above figure is a gross underestimate of the real situation. Guided by the regional health strategy for the South Caucasus 2001-2006 and supported by the Federation's delegation, the RCSAz implemented a five-month HIV/AIDS educational project for young people in the Baku metropolitan area from August to December 2001. This pilot project showed positive interest among the volunteers of the national society. It is obvious there is an urgent need for HIV/AIDS educational activities in the country. By increasing the awareness of HIV/AIDS and its ways of transmission and prevention, the RCSAz has expressed willingness to expand the project through the regional centres and local branches and in that way to ensure nationwide coverage.

Cooperation is essential in planned training programmes and activities. The UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, IMC, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Health Family Planning Center, AIHA and Pathfinder, offer an example of the broad range of operating partners contributing to the HIV/AIDS prevention activities. A number of successful interagency relationships were established by the Federation and the RCSAz.

Overall Goal

Health vulnerability in Azerbaijan is reduced through health education and advocacy.

Programme Objective

Community-based health promotion in the areas of nutrition and good sanitation practices, HIV/AIDS education and first aid is developed and linked more closely to preventive activities through the disaster preparedness programme.

Expected Result(s)

- Creative, community-based first aid and health promotion activities are maintained by the RCSAz in all regions covered by the regional centres, through training of 90 volunteers in health

promotion, distribution of training material and first aid kits, and seminars on focal issues such as breast feeding, and prevention of diarrhoea and malaria.

- Ten RCSAz youth volunteers from each regional centre are able to conduct HIV/AIDS peer education among teenagers, adults and affected communities. Their participation in harm reduction activities and at the HIV-positive centres takes place a minimum of four times per year.

2. Disaster Management W [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The collaboration of the Federation and the RCSAz started in 1993 when as a result of the Karabakh conflict and the socio-economic crisis, the Federation launched a large scale emergency appeal for relief assistance and established its delegation in Baku.

At the time, the operational and management infrastructure of the RCSAz was not developed nor equipped with relevant means to cope with emergencies of such dimensions. Therefore, the Federation took responsibility in implementing the relief programmes. Through its increasing cooperation with the Federation, though, the national society started a process of capacity building, mainly in the areas of disaster management and health and care.

In October 2000, the RCSAz supported by the Federation commenced on a project geared towards achieving a better understanding of the hazards, risks, capacity and vulnerability within Azerbaijan and the Red Crescent Society itself. The project involved the seven regional centres and 72 branches and their volunteers. The process led to a full-scale analysis of the vulnerability in the country which resulted in the publication of the VCA in May 2001. More than a year later, taking into consideration the evolving vulnerabilities and capacities in the country and the necessity for a more precise, concrete and compact document, this VCA needs to be updated. Based on the VCA findings, mobile volunteer teams (MVTs) were formed in each of the seven regional centres and have since then conducted awareness campaigns in their centres to reduce local vulnerabilities and to increase the capacities of vulnerable communities to prevent future disasters.

One of the main tasks for the continuation of the disaster management programme is for the national society to position itself within the governmental framework of disaster preparedness. The Government of Azerbaijan started to develop a national disaster plan. The national society is a member of the state emergency commission and has established good links with the UNDP and ASPI (Azerbaijan Special Project Investigation), in charge of defining the national disaster plan. The RCSAz has begun to elaborate its own disaster policy to prepare a disaster plan of action. Training for staff and volunteers is very important; in this respect, the guidelines of the mobile volunteer team were developed and distributed, and community disaster awareness training continued.

The disaster management programme also includes continuous assistance to the IDPs in the southern camps. These activities started out as relief assistance but were redirected to development and self-sustainability for the IDPs. Development will continue through implementation of repatriation, rehabilitation and agricultural activities.

Overall Goal

The vulnerability of the population to disasters and their impact is reduced.

Programme Objective

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan has a well-functioning and effective disaster preparedness and disaster response programme to ensure its capacity to alleviate the consequences of disasters on the affected population.

Expected Result(s)

- The disaster policy and disaster management plan of Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, based on a regularly updated VCA, are developed and disseminated to all stakeholders. The status of the national society and its auxiliary role to the government in disaster preparedness and response is clarified.
- Disaster management volunteers and first aid groups are identified with the assistance of regional centres and branches; training programmes in disaster needs, assessment and tracing, as well as basic intervention, are developed.
- Emergency stocks for a total of 200 families, with adequate warehouse facilities, are available in all seven regional centres, and communication means including telecommunication equipment, maintenance and training, are provided for in the seven regional centres and the headquarters.
- The capacity of the national society to improve self-reliance of displaced persons, thus reducing their dependency on outside assistance, is increased through completed rehabilitation of housing in the Alkhanli village and continuous support within agriculture activities in the form of technical advice and initial inputs to the 140 repatriated IDPs families in the village.
- A total of 60 displaced people and 30 refugees receive skills training and psycho-social support, through training in computer and English skills. Organization of a two-week summer camp for 200 IDP and refugee children and support to vulnerable people living in remote areas of Azerbaijan is provided through implementation of mobile technical teams activities in Quba, Ismaili and Lenkoran.

3. Organizational Development W *<Click here to return to the title page>*

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The structured development process of the RCSAz started in 1997, in the form of organizational and resource development and continued in the form of organizational development. The beginning of the process coincided with the Federation's shift from relief to developmental support of national societies.

The RCSAz has faced in the last few years a major change in its human resources as well as in the type of assistance provided to the beneficiaries. This enhanced the need for the Federation to increase its support to the development of the national society, as well as the support of the change process taking place in all elements of the Movement including the RCSAz and its need to adapt to it. The RCSAz has committed itself for a strong change process. According to the national society's strategic work plan, organizational development and capacity building are among the priority programmes for the future of the RCSAz.

Through the Federation's initiative, a leadership course in the Russian language, based on the Henry Dunant Institute's three modular course piloted for the national societies' leadership in the region, is planned during 2003. This will be an important contribution to the capacity building activities of the RCSAz during the year.

Over the last two to three years organizational development was extended to regional centres, and financial and volunteer management development was begun from the headquarters to the regional centres' and branches' levels.

The main recent achievement, besides participatory and interactive approach of all levels of the national society through the vulnerability and capacity assessment exercise, is the increased number of volunteers involved in all the main programmes/projects such as health, disaster preparedness and response. Volunteer management including recruitment, work and training of volunteers was developed and results are visible through better implementation of different activities within the core programmes. The development of volunteer management through the setting up of a volunteer board and further development of volunteer policy will be continued. The future work will be implemented through more involvement of regional and local branches of the Red Cross. The youth exchange

bilateral project, which is a three-year project between Norwegian Red Cross Society and the RCSAz will be continued.

The national society was working on the improvement of its legal base. The Red Cross law draft was submitted to the government for comments and suggestions but still needs additional work and adoption. The work on adjusting and improving the statutes will be continued.

The current community development and repatriation programme achievements and knowledge will be used for the continuing development of the regional and local branches of RCSAz. The experience in implementation of community-based activities among internally displaced people will be used in further capacity building of regional and local branches of the Red Cross and defining role of the Red Cross in this area.

Fund-raising was identified by the national society in its strategic work plan as one of the priority areas for further improvement and development. Experience already gained in and lessons from the current income generating projects and the experience and knowledge gained through the agricultural project will be used as a base for further development of similar services.

The population movement programme has become one of the focuses of the national society's activities for the most vulnerable IDPs/refugees and other migrants. The project activities started in 1998, and the knowledge and experiences already gained will be used in implementation of the mobile technical team project. The Netherlands Red Cross Society is now funding a mobile technical team in Goranboy village. The team assists the elderly beneficiaries living alone in remote areas with minor repairs to their homes. Further activities will be discussed together with the UNHCR and the government in areas of providing educational and therapeutical activities for refugees.

The interactive programme implementation proved that the development process should be carried out using more the national society's own, already developed resources rather than external resources at this stage. The recently appointed organizational development coordinator within the national society works in line with the Secretary General and programme managers assuming better coordination, planning and management of the programmes.

Overall Goal

The capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan are strengthened in order to enable it to provide needed services to the most vulnerable population.

Program Objective

The RCSAz has improved its functioning with sufficient and relevant operational and management capacities to develop and implement programmes on the central and branch levels.

Expected Result(s)

- The national society has strong management skills, as well as the ability to identify strategic priorities, and support and motivate its own human resources. The knowledge and understanding of the Federation's means and tools to support the national society's development and capacity building is increased, as well as readiness to make use of these services.
- The development of the headquarters of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, seven regional centres and 83 local branches is strengthened in the fields of programme management, financial management, human and material resources, through quarterly training activities and development of specific plans and roles.
- The ability to raise funds from different sources for national society programmes is improved by establishing a strict fundraising policy and plan, and ensuring that staff members are trained accordingly.

- The legal base of the national society is consolidated through the adoption of the Red Cross law by 2004 and formalization of relations with governmental offices and regulatory bodies.
- The number of volunteers of the national society taking an active part in service programmes is increased. A management system is developed, a volunteer board and policy of national society is set up, and specific training models for volunteers in core activities are developed.
- Increased capacity of the national society to improve self-reliance among the returnees by encouraging community mobilization and community development, thus reducing their dependency on outside assistance.

4. Humanitarian Values W *<Click here to return to the title page>*

Background and achievements/lessons to date

In the Federation's Strategy 2010, the promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values is defined as a core area. Further, at the European Conference held in Berlin in April 2002, it was recognized that the impact of international humanitarian action is seriously challenged by lack of respect for international humanitarian law and the human rights law. There is therefore a critical need for reaffirmation of respect for and trust in the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, IHL and human rights law as the starting points for reducing vulnerability and for protecting and assisting the most vulnerable.

Over the past years, the RCSAz supported by the Federation and the ICRC developed the skills of its dissemination and information department in order to advocate the fundamental principles and human values in Azerbaijan. In the past and the future programmes of the national society, the volunteers were and will continue to be trained to advocate behavior of non-discrimination and non-violence, respect for humanitarian values and application of the fundamental principles.

The national society continues to conduct nationwide campaigns in order to reduce discrimination and violence, to draw the society's attention on the problems of the most vulnerable, and also to attract people to become volunteers and members of RCSAz by promoting the Movement's fundamental principles, humanitarian values and international humanitarian law.

Overall Goal

Behavior in the community is influenced and discrimination is reduced. A culture of non-violence and non-discrimination is promoted.

Programme Objective

Through advocacy, the RCSAz promotes the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and at the same time promotes the culture of non-violence and non-discrimination as committed to in the Berlin Charter.

Expected Result(s)

- The national society has a well planned and pro-active communication strategy. Through provision of computer equipment to the seven regional centres, internal communication and information techniques are improved.
- Higher awareness among the population of Azerbaijan of the humanitarian values and the fundamental principles was achieved through nationwide campaigns in media and through distribution of materials and education on recognition and respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem, as well as campaigns against discrimination, violence and stigmatization.
- Existing tools of the Federation and the RCSAz, such as youth guidelines in the Russian version, the CD "From Principles to Action", and the "Seven steps for seven principles" manual were shared at the headquarters, seven regional centres and 83 local branches, all for 170 staff and 830 volunteers.

5. Federation Coordination W [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The history of collaboration between the RCSAz and the Federation goes back to 1993 when the Federation responded to the humanitarian crisis in Azerbaijan as a result of both the socio-economic challenges resulting from the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Through its work, the Federation provided relief assistance to the internally displaced people and at the same time supported the national society in its growth and change process.

As the first component of organizational development a comprehensive assessment of the foundation, capacity and performance of the RCSAz was carried out in 1997 in cooperation with the Federation. Results indicated training and support in operational/project planning and in strategic planning was called for. In 1999, the entire management and governance structure was changed and commitment to change was expressed with clear understanding of potential benefits.

In line with the 1997 assessment results and considering the national society's willingness to build its capacity, the Federation initiated a shift from relief assistance to developmental programmes. Leadership training took place, strategic workshops were held and a strategic workplan was drawn up. These activities resulted in the establishment of the current structure of the seven regional centres of the RCSAz, allowing the national society to expand its programmes nationwide, as per its strategic workplan. Further, the need for a well-functioning financial management system was recognized and through the Federation's facilitation a contact was established with the British Red Cross Society which financed a financial management programme to improve the financial reporting and management capacities of the national society.

Through its work in Azerbaijan, the Federation has gradually handed over the responsibilities for programme management to the RCSAz and thus contributed to the strengthening of its capacities. However, although the national society achieved progress in developing its capacity, it still needs external support to be able to deliver needy services to vulnerable people. In the current challenging period of decreased funding, the Federation will strengthen its coordination role, in order to ensure that the limited resources are best used in supporting the national society's priority programmes. In this regard, the process of drafting a new cooperation agreement strategy has started.

Overall Goal

The RCSAz has become a dynamic and well-functioning national society through the assistance of the Federation.

Program Objective

Through the coordinating role of the Federation, the RCSAz has established a strong relationship with all stakeholders, which enables it to make the best use of available resources.

Expected Result(s)

- Bilateral and multilateral programmes/projects were coordinated in order to ensure that the priority programmes of the RCSAz were supported and maximum impact was achieved in capacity building and through its assistance to the most vulnerable.
- The CAS is finalized, adopted and being implemented by the end of 2003, contributing to strong working relationships between the RCSAz and stakeholders inside and outside of the country.

6. International Representation W [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

With a decade of experience in addressing the needs as well as bringing relief to the most vulnerable population, the national society, supported by the Federation, still has a big challenge to continue its mission in improving life conditions of the vulnerable groups. The Federation as well as other humanitarian organizations are facing a decline in funding as well as waning donor interest in long-term disasters.

Therefore the Federation and the RCSAz need to emphasize programme strategies in Azerbaijan within the international forum operating in the country in order to gain attention and assistance.

A strong effort has to be made in advocating for the national society at the national level in order to enhance its credibility and image and to create a favorable environment for its activities, ensure that the government supports the strategic plan of action of the national society and facilitates its implementation where necessary. Advocacy initiatives were identified as essential by the national society to highlight the major concerns of the most vulnerable in the country.

Overall Goal

Recognition for the image, accountability and ability of the Federation and the RCSAz in their efforts to reduce vulnerability by mobilizing the power of humanity.

Programme Objective

To continue to advocate the Federation's Strategy 2010 and policies as well as the priorities of the RCSAz within Azerbaijan and the region.

Expected Results

- The delegates of the Federation and the staff of the national society contribute to the overall goal in international as well as national forums, being fully aware of and promoting the seven principles, the Federation's Strategy 2010 and the strategy and programmes of the national society, and have a common understanding of the goals and objectives.
- The national society has increased its presence and voice in the national as well as regional fora and coordinates with the Federation its work vis-a-vis the government and donor organizations in order to mobilize resources to implement its priority programmes.

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BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.78/2003

Name: Azerbaijan

PROGRAMME:	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	315,830	0	0	0	315,830
Clothing & textiles	0	14,000	14,010	0	0	0	28,010
Food	1,764	0	7,440	0	0	0	9,204
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	32,500	0	0	0	0	32,500
Teaching materials	3,000	26,500	22,950	0	0	0	52,450
Utensils & tools	0	0	11,250	0	0	0	11,250
Other relief supplies	5,418	0	45,550	0	0	0	50,968
SUPPLIES	10,182	73,000	417,030	0	0	0	500,212
Land & Buildings	0	3,750	9,750	6,103	0	0	19,602
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	29,850	0	0	0	29,850
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	3,750	39,600	6,103	0	0	49,452
Warehouse & Distribution	1,686	2,580	26,505	150	0	0	30,921
Transport & Vehicules	49,753	8,570	61,830	6,769	0	0	126,922
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	51,439	11,150	88,335	6,919	0	0	157,843
Programme Support	31,554	13,200	70,267	8,234	0	0	123,255
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	31,554	13,200	70,267	8,234	0	0	123,255
Personnel-delegates	125,725	17,150	56,350	8,575	0	0	207,800
Personnel-national staff	97,595	46,990	237,555	28,134	0	0	410,274
Consultants	3,000	0	11,300	0	0	0	14,300
PERSONNEL	226,320	64,140	305,205	36,709	0	0	632,374
W/shops & Training	45,920	4,670	39,688	7,851	0	0	98,129
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	45,920	4,670	39,688	7,851	0	0	98,129
Travel & related expenses	11,290	3,420	7,720	3,954	0	0	26,384
Information	67,096	14,068	23,258	36,818	0	0	141,240
Other General costs	41,640	15,684	89,934	20,090	0	0	167,348
GENERAL EXPENSES	120,026	33,172	120,912	60,862	0	0	334,972
TOTAL BUDGET:	485,441	203,082	1,081,037	126,678	0	0	1,896,238