

ANNUAL REPORT

Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society

20
24





AZERBAIJAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society is the largest humanitarian organization operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and its role is defined by national legislation. The National Society bases its activities on the principles of human rights, humanism, voluntarism, and impartiality and endeavors to promote humanitarian values in the country and internationally.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society comprises its headquarters located in Baku, a Youth Committee, 8 Regional Centers (Baku, Ganja, Sumgait, Mingachevir, Sabirabad, Lankaran, and Karabagh), the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Committee, and 92 local and field branches. This extensive network enables the National Society to provide timely and effective humanitarian assistance to people in need in all regions of the country.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society is an inalienable member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest humanitarian organization. It is one of the three components of the Movement for its position. The National Society actively participates in the implementation of global humanitarian missions in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The National Society's activities include providing humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters, armed conflicts and other emergencies; improving the welfare of socially vulnerable groups; promoting first aid to victims; organizing blood donation campaigns; implementing various initiatives in the field of health and social protection; improving disaster preparedness of the population; and promoting volunteerism among young people.

Our mission is to mobilize the capabilities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and the power of humanity to help people in need, improve their living conditions, and promote humanitarian values. Our main goal is to provide timely and effective support to all those in need, without discrimination, and to help them integrate into society as fully equal members.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES



Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.



Impartiality

The Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, political opinions or social status. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs. It gives priority to the most urgent cases of distress.



Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.



Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.



Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.



Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all National Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is world-wide.



Unity

There can only be one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

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FOREWORD

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, being the representative of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Republic of Azerbaijan, carries out its charitable mission in the country in accordance with its mandate. Through our local branches, we support the humanitarian efforts of the state, primarily by providing assistance to vulnerable groups of population and people affected by natural disasters. The year 2024 was a particularly successful year in the fulfillment of this challenging but honorable mission.



Looking at the activities implemented within the framework of the “Strategic Development Plan for 2020-2025”, it can be seen that the tasks assigned to our National Society are being carried out responsibly. One of our priorities is to ensure continuity in the management of the National Society's human resources. In close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the necessary steps are being taken to strengthen the National Society's human resources capacity and to involve staff in projects. This is also a practical contribution to the development of our National Society.

Our activities at the international level have also increased significantly. We take an active part in international events. Our business relationships with foreign partners help us to achieve effective results. We regularly share experiences with our partners. This year, we have also received invitations to several high-level international events held both locally and in Baku. The presentation of new initiatives related to climate change by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society at the COP29 Climate Change Conference chaired by Azerbaijan should be considered as a new success in the activities of our National Society. This participation has played a significant role in the international recognition of our country and National Society and has opened up new prospects for us. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society is committed to responding to the new challenges of our modern world.

In the coming years, we will also increase our focus on specific humanitarian challenges such as climate and environmental crises, disasters, health and well-being, migration and displacement, as well as values, power and inclusion.

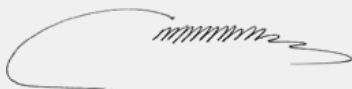
The discussions held by the representatives of our National Society who participated in the 34th Statutory Meeting of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Geneva on expanding cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of different countries, participation in joint projects and mine risk awareness work of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society are remarkable.

52,000 people have been reached by mine risk awareness activities carried out by our National Society in the Karabakh Economic Zone. One of our main goals for the coming period is to increase this number to 100,000 people. This is one of the most pressing issues for us.

I am sure that the year 2025 will be a particularly significant year for the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, as it will be the 105th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. Our National Society, which has been successfully carrying out this humanitarian mission since 1920, has set itself the main goal of helping people in need at home and abroad.

Overall, 2024 can be considered a productive year. Thanks to our diversified activities, we have achieved our goals not only domestically but also internationally.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support the activities of our National Society, especially our volunteers, staff and our Movement partners, including the ICRC and the IFRC. I am confident that our humanitarian work will be sustainable and highly appreciated both locally and internationally.



Sincerely, Dr. Novruz Aslanov

President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, MP

Brief Overview of the Year



84043 +

People covered by activities



27076 +

Children covered by activities



34 +

Regions covered



1274 +

Families that received food and noon-food assistance



7740 +

People covered



51933

People reached by awareness-raising activities on dangers of landmines



95800 AZN

Financial and non-financial support from local donors



Health and Care

During 2024, important steps were taken to improve community health. A total of 1,864 people benefited from the health awareness sessions conducted. At the same time, a new group of volunteers was created at the initiative of the “Health and Care” department, and most of this group is made up of volunteers trained in health. Awareness session topics included: “Healthy lifestyle”, “Healthy aging”, “Environment and children's health”, “Health for all”, “Volunteering and its principles”, “Sanitation and hygiene”, “Youth day and youth health”, “Volunteer Day”, “Tuberculosis and drug resistance”, “Diabetes and its complications”, “Non-communicable diseases”, “Risk communication”, “Behavior change and immunization”, “Interactive approach to childhood tuberculosis”, “Epidemic information network”, “Food safety”, “Healthy eating awareness”.

Community Health

 1864

People covered

“Love Boxes”

 285

Women covered

“The Love boxes” project is an early childhood development and care project. The project aims to provide mothers with the knowledge and resources they need to raise their children in a healthy, safe and loving environment. It addresses to meet both physical and emotional needs. 285 people has benefited from the project. The project activities were carried out in Baku, Sumgait, Lankaran cities, Lerik, Guba and Gusar districts. This project, which was financed by Türk Kızılay, was also implemented with the joint support of UNICEF and TƏBİB. Awareness sessions on good nutrition for pregnant women, nutritional care and early learning opportunities, and child safety and protection were conducted as part of the project. Information about the "Hi Mom!" book was also provided. After the training, the pregnant women were given a "Love bunch". This is a box of supplies to meet the first needs of women after childbirth.

“Love box” project: The Lankaran branch of the AzRC, together with the patronage nurses of the “Family Health Center” and the “Perinatal Center,” held an awareness session.



In 2024, the AzRC held a major seminar at the Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations as part of the course "Ethical Standards of International Humanitarian Operations". Elshan Salimzadeh, Amina Jabbarova and Nurana Gasimzadeh gave a presentation at the event. Amina Jabbarova provided detailed information on the role of the International Tracing and Rescue Advisory Group and the application of ethical norms in humanitarian operations.



Seminar within the framework of the course “Ethical Standards of International Humanitarian Operations”

The Climate Change Summit, with the participation of AzRC, was organized in cooperation with CIFAL Istanbul Youth Platform, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Bahçeşehir University and Azerbaijan Technical University. The aim of the event was to explore the socio-economic impacts of climate change and discuss ways to combat the negative effects of climate change. The AzRC staff, the Turkish Red Crescent representative and the AzRC volunteers actively participated in this meeting held at Azerbaijan Technical University. The staff of “Health and Care” department of the AzRCS attended the COP-29 event to make presentations on health and awareness, environmental crises, and psychosocial support.

Program to Fight HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis: AzRCS actively participated in the HIV/AIDS and TB program to strengthen national capacity and treatment services for vulnerable groups of population. Surveys were conducted in 2024 to analyze the treatment outcomes of TB patients and the social status of TB patients. At the same time, stigma against TB patients was assessed.

Other activities: With Turkish Red Crescent support, a WASH program and ToT trainings reached 285 people. First aid training for doctors was held with the State Institute, attended by 96 participants. In Lankaran, 25 infants were screened, and 18 elderly people received free medical check-ups.

Blood Donation campaign: blood donation campaign was organized in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Blood Donation Development Center. A total of 145 people participated in the campaign and donated blood.


First Aid

On October 29-30, a training on first aid was held at the Baku Regional Center. The training was attended by 15 people. During the training, the basic principles of first aid and practical application of first aid techniques were explained to the participants. The training, which combined theoretical knowledge with practical skills through exercises and simulations, was organized in an interactive format and provided participants with a broader knowledge of responding to emergency situations.

On December 3, first aid training was held at the Baku Regional Center. 16 people attended the training. The aim of the training was to develop the first aid skills of the participants. During the training, the participants studied the basic stages of first aid and practiced life-saving techniques in different situations. In 2024, a total of 85 first aid posts were established by the Terter, Aghdam, Fizuli, Jabrayil, Gazakh, Tovuz, and Barda district branches of the AzRC. A total of 2,323 people participated in these activities and received first aid knowledge.

In 2024, 42 first aid sessions were organized in kindergartens by the Terter, Aghdam, Fizuli, Jabrayil, Gazakh, Tovuz and Barda district branches of the AzRC. These sessions were attended by 552 people who received first aid knowledge.

 **3202**
People who benefited from training

 **85**
First Aid Post

 **125**
Educational Institution where training was provided



First aid post: members of the EMVT inform participants about intervention methods in case of respiratory arrest

Psychosocial Support

In 2024, mental health and psychosocial support activities have been implemented with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) under the European Union (EU)-funded “Bridge” project. These activities included mental health awareness sessions and psychosocial workshops for children in schools. A total of 1996 people (1128 children) participated in the awareness-raising activities, including 1,133 women (572 children) and 863 men (556 children). These activities were conducted in the cities and districts of Baku, Aghdam, Barda, Fizuli, Terter, Tovuz, Gazakh, Mingachevir, Sumgait, Sabirabad, Bilasuvar, Saatli and Gusar. 18 volunteers were involved in conducting the sessions. A total of 71 children, including 34 girls and 37 boys, participated in psychosocial trainings conducted in schools. This activity was conducted in Aghdam (Afetli and Hajiturali villages), Barda (Jeyirli and Guloglular villages) and Fizuli (Gazaxlar village) districts. Six volunteers were involved in the psychosocial training. The main targets of the psychosocial support activities were people affected by the armed conflict and other crises (refugees and internally displaced persons, families living near the former line of contact, families where a family member died, disabled people, etc.).



A volunteer from the Tovuz district branch of the AzRC conducts an awareness session on a mental health at the Youth Center

Educational sessions

 **1996**

People covered by awareness sessions

 **13**

Regions covered by awareness

Psixososial məğələlər

 **71**

Children covered by psychosocial trainings

 **3**

Regions covered by psychosocial trainings

Other activities conducted during 2024

Throughout 2024, a wide range of mental health and psychosocial support activities were undertaken. Among these activities, psychosocial training was of particular importance. In particular, online and face-to-face meetings and trainings were organized to help volunteers update the knowledge they had acquired in previous years. These trainings not only improved the volunteers' knowledge and skills, but also enabled them to work more effectively in their communities. The process of mapping mental health and psychosocial support services by the AzRC branches in the districts was also successfully completed. This mapping was done to improve accessibility and quality of services. Visits to the regions were organized to strengthen ties with local branches and better understand their needs. This, in its turn, ensured better serving of local communities.



Barda district, Guloghlular village, Kelbajar district, school No. 45: psychosocial trainings

In addition, important work has been done to raise community awareness about mental health. In this context, a psychosocial program consisting of seven specially designed exercises for children to promote their social-emotional skills has been successfully implemented. The publication of materials (brochures and leaflets) on mental health and psychosocial support was also part of the awareness-raising activities. Trainings on mental health and psychosocial support activities for civil society organizations, organized by the AzRC consultant, served to increase the knowledge and experience of civil society organizations in this area. The sessions organized on Primary Psychological Care (PPC) for staff of the Ministry for Emergency Situations were aimed at implementing effective interventions in emergency situations.

In 2024, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society's mental health and psychosocial support consultant represented the AzRC at the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Forum in Petrčane, Croatia. This international event provided an important platform for professionals, organizations and practitioners working in the field of mental health and psychosocial support. During the forum, the AzRC consultant shared the organization's experience and achievements in the field of mental health and psychosocial support with other participants, as well as exchanged knowledge and skills with specialists from other countries.



October 10, 2024, World Mental Health Day, self-care workshop

In 2024, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society's mental health and psychosocial support consultant represented the AzRC at the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Forum in Petrčane, Croatia. This international event provided an important platform for professionals, organizations and practitioners working in the field of mental health and psychosocial support. During the forum, the AzRC consultant shared the organization's experience and achievements in the field of mental health and psychosocial support with other participants, as well as exchanged knowledge and skills with specialists from other countries. Among the topics discussed during the forum, special attention was given to better responding to the mental health needs of communities, organizing psychosocial support during humanitarian crises, and applying innovative methods and approaches.

Emergency Situation

Over the past year, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS) has taken important steps towards emergency preparedness, disaster prevention and response. This report provides a brief overview of the work carried out during the past year. The main activities carried out during the year are as follows:

Awareness and emergency preparedness

- In January, a joint event with the Ministry of Emergency Situations on forest fire preparedness and early warning systems was held in the Gabala district.
- In March, a simulation exercise was held in the city of Baku together with the Civil Defense Headquarters and relevant agencies, where evacuation of the population, registration and first aid were provided.

Assistance to affected families:

- Assistance was provided to 43 families affected by natural disasters. In particular, 25 families in Khankendi city received assistance in March.
- Assistance was also provided to the victims in Ismailli, Sabirabad, Aghsun, Saatli and Kelbajar districts.

Awareness-raising activities:

- In Ganja, Aghsu, Saatli and Ismailli districts, awareness-raising activities on hygiene and protection from viruses were conducted among more than 1,000 people. In addition, volunteers distributed among the population brochures and leaflets on protection from viruses and hygiene rules.

International and local cooperation:

- In April, an online discussion was organized with the Italian Red Cross Society to present new proposals for disaster preparedness and prevention.
- The project "Building Safe and Sustainable Communities" was prepared and presented to an international partner.
- A memorandum was signed with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources on climate change.

Active participation of experienced volunteers from the Barda district branch of the AzRCS in the "Integrated Civil Defense" training organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Beylagan district.



Cash and Voucher Assistance

Progress in “Cash and Voucher Assistance” project implementation

- **January 2024:** A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has been developed and approved by senior management. This document defines the key roles and responsibilities of management and staff during the project.
- **February-March 2024:** The Roadmap Journal for CVA was adapted to the Azerbaijani context, printed and distributed to more than 20 staff of the organization, including members of the working group.
- **April 2024:** The CVA Level 2 training was successfully held from 22 to 25 April. The training was facilitated by VCA staff from the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, the International Federation Representative Office in Azerbaijan, and the Turkish Red Crescent Representative Office in Azerbaijan. The main objective of the training was to improve the knowledge and skills of the participants to enable them to be more effective and coordinated in emergency situations. A total of 20 people attended the training. They included staff and volunteers from local branches, headquarters staff, and members of the VCA Technical Working Group. Through group work, simulation exercises, and practical tasks, the training participants improved their knowledge of VCA and, with the experience gained, strengthened their capacity for more effective humanitarian interventions in the future.



22 - 25 April. the CVA Level 2 training

In November and December, the CVA project was successfully implemented in Shusha, Sumgait cities and Ismayilli district. The project provided cash assistance of AZN 300 to each of 374 vulnerable families (households) identified on the basis of vulnerability criteria. The purpose of the assistance was to meet the daily needs of vulnerable families and to help improve their living conditions. The aid was delivered to beneficiaries in a transparent and timely manner, using the services of Azerpost. This approach increased beneficiary satisfaction and ensured the proper and timely distribution of aid. The project also contributed to strengthening the social well-being of vulnerable families in these regions.



374

Families receiving cash assistance



Ismayilli
Sumgayit
Shusha

Regions covered by CVA

300 AZN

Amount of assistance

Home visits in Ismayilli district before cash assistance delivery



As part of the post-distribution monitoring process, a large-scale monitoring was carried out from 17 to 20 December in Shusha, Sumgayit cities and Ismayilli district to assess the effectiveness of the assistance and the level of satisfaction of the families. During the monitoring, 192 heads of households were interviewed by mobile phone, their opinions were listened to and the adequacy of the assistance to the real needs was assessed. 6 volunteers actively participated in this activity and supported the process of data collection and analysis. The results of the monitoring provided a more accurate picture of the effectiveness of the aid and the impact of the project.

Weapon Contamination

Since 2005, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society has been working to protect children and adults in villages and communities in the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan that were once an arena of fierce battlefields from the risks of encountering landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). These activities serve to ensure the safety of our compatriots and improve their living conditions.


Activities and outcome

Awareness sessions:

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) and the State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, organized large-scale awareness campaigns on mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk reduction. From January to December 2024, the AzRC conducted **19,842** sessions, educating more than **51,933** people about mines and UXO. The activities were carried out in Fizuli, Tovuz, Gazakh, Gedabey, Terter, Goranboy, Agdam, Jabrail, Dashkesan, Absheron, districts and the cities of Sumgait and Baku, as well as in settlements of temporary accommodation of IDPs. Awareness-raising activities were carried out in the form of "door-to-door", "school sessions" and "theatre classes".

 **19842**

Number of awareness sessions

 **51933+**

People covered by awareness sessions

 **200+**

Number of volunteers

 **12**

Number of regions covered



Door-to-door awareness sessions

Over 200 trained volunteers were involved in these sessions, and their active participation expanded the scope of the activities and created opportunities to inform more people about the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance.



Door-to-door awareness sessions

- **Trainings for volunteers**

The AzRC, together with the ICRC, organised training sessions to raise awareness of mines and unexploded ordnance among volunteers. During the reporting year, more than 200 volunteers benefited from these trainings. The knowledge gained from the training helped the volunteers to conduct more effective awareness sessions in villages and communities.

- **Special Training Programmes**

ANAMA, the ICRC and the AzRC organized *a three-phase training program* on mines and unexploded ordnance. More than *200 participants*, including volunteers and mine victims, took part. At the end of the training, participants received *an ANAMA certificate*. The training program involved new volunteers from Jebrayil, Aghdam, Tovuz, Dashkesan, Gedabey, Barda and Terter district branches.



Awareness of the danger of explosives

Youth and Volunteers

Education in Emergencies

The main objective of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) project is to ensure the continuity of children's education before, during and after disasters. The AzRC implements comprehensive strategies and innovative projects to ensure the protection and continuity of education in emergencies. With a focus on preparedness, inclusiveness and sustainability, the organization works with local and international partners to ensure the continuity and quality of education for children in times of crisis: the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent, government institutions, local communities, volunteers, etc. Below are examples of effective activities carried out by the organization under the EiE project:

Risk reduction training

Trainings on "Risk reduction in schools during emergency situations" were organized to develop the skills of schoolchildren for safe behavior in emergency situations. With the participation of 3 volunteers each from Tovuz, Gazakh and Gedabey district branches, two-day training sessions were held for schoolchildren aged 12-16 years. These training sessions were held in the secondary school named after Elkhan Mammadov of Tovuz district, in the secondary school named after Azad Mikayilov of Khanlyglar village of Gazakh district and in the secondary school No. 1 of Gedabey district.

Community engagement

Within the framework of the "Active Youth for Safe Schools" project, the active participation of communities in creating a safe school environment was ensured. Through sprint seminars, schoolchildren developed proposals for social projects. A total of 120 schoolchildren participated in sprint seminars, 30 projects were evaluated and 1-2 projects were implemented in Fizuli, Aghdam, Barda, Terter, Gazakh and Tovuz districts.

Protecting the environment

Tree planting campaigns conducted in Tovuz, Aghdam, Barda and other regions have increased green spaces in schools and raised environmental awareness among students.



17850

Number of people covered



6793+

Number of children covered



470

Children got warm clothes



1370

People reached with hygiene education



650

Number of trees planted

**11 SPRINT
Projects**

The tree planting campaign was one of the selected projects. The project was conducted in a lyceum school named after Nasreddin Tusi in Tovuz district, Uchoghlan village secondary school in Aghdam district, Garadaghli village secondary school in Terter district, Khanliglar village secondary school in Gazakh district and Kalantarli village secondary school in Barda district. A total of 650 trees were planted during the tree planting campaign, which involved staff and volunteers from the above mentioned district branches, as well as teachers and students from the secondary schools. The AzRC local branches developed sustainability plans with schools to ensure that trees are appropriate for the climate and that the community cares for trees. Based on the 'Sprint' project written by students, 10 benches were installed and trees planted to provide greenery in the playground of the secondary school in Garadaghly village of Tarter district. Around 550 students and teachers will benefit from the project. Two water dispensers and 23 waste bins were purchased for Uchoghlan village secondary school in Agdam district and the lyceum school named after Nasreddin Tusi in Tovuz district as a result of the “Sprint” project written by students. In total, around 2,200 students and teachers will benefit from this project.

Repair of sports grounds

The renovation of school sports grounds has created conditions conducive to a healthy lifestyle for children. In the districts of Aghdam and Barda, repairs were carried out on the basis of “Sprint” projects drawn up by schoolchildren. The stadium for volleyball, football and basketball at the secondary school in Kalantarli village, Barda district, and the stadium for football and volleyball at the secondary school in Uchoghlan village, Aghdam district, have been repaired. Around 1,400 students and teachers, as well as children from other rural schools, will benefit from this project.

Promotion of national values

Providing students with national costumes strengthens the preservation of national heritage and children's commitment to cultural values. As part of the “Sprint project”, national costumes were purchased for the students of Garadaghli village secondary school of Terter district, and secondary school No. 1 named after Mirza Ulugbey in the town of Fizuli. Both schools have 830 students. A total of 20 national costumes for 10 boys and 10 girls were purchased and distributed to the schools.

Simulation exercises on “Tracing, rescue and first aid”

As part of the project, the Youth and Volunteers Department of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organised large-scale simulation exercises on "Tracing, rescue and first aid" at Gedabey district secondary school No. 1, a lyceum-school named after Nasreddin Tusi in Tovuz district and Khanliglar village secondary school of Gazakh district. Representatives of various organisations, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the State Fire Service, the State Traffic Police, the Emergency Medical Service of the Central District Hospital, volunteers from

AzRC regional offices and school staff took part in the simulation exercises. The event included scenarios on rescue and first aid in emergencies, fires and earthquakes, videos and presentations by MES, discussions with students and teachers by trained volunteers, and participants were given different roles. The simulation exercises were designed to improve the emergency preparedness and response skills of school staff and AzRC volunteers. A total of 4,000 people benefited from the simulation exercises.



Simulation exercises on “Tracing, rescue and first aid” conducted in Tovuz and Gedabey districts

A fire-free festivities on New Year's Eve

The aim of the "Fire-free festivities on the New Year's eve" project was to teach children fire safety rules, to inform them about fire safety rules and to conduct training in this direction. As part of the project, more than 200 students and teachers attended an event at the secondary school in Uchoghlan village, Agdam district, where they learned fire safety rules, first aid techniques and safe behaviour skills. The event also included a demonstration of handicrafts to develop the pupils' creative skills. As a result of the project, the participants gained basic fire safety knowledge and were able to apply this knowledge in their daily lives.

Organising summer activities for children

A poetry evening for schoolchildren

In August, a "Poetry evening" was organized among the students of secondary school No. 9 in the Safarli settlement of the Agdam district. The main purpose of the event was to reveal the cognitive and creative potential of the students, to support the preservation and development of the national literary heritage and to strengthen social ties. The event included scenes on climate change, poetry and dances. The event was attended by 50 people, including students, teachers, parents and famous poets. At the end of the event, all participants received certificates and gifts.

Football competition among schoolchildren

In August, football competition was held among schoolchildren at the Horadiz Olympic Complex in Fizuli district and in the village of Khanliglar in Gazakh district. The aim of the competition was to increase children's physical activity, develop their social skills and strengthen solidarity. As part of the event, volunteers provided first aid training. The participants were provided with sportswear and balls from the AzRC. The teams that took the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were awarded with diplomas and gifts, while the rest of the participants received letters of thanks. In total, more than 150 people participated in the competition.

Excursions for schoolchildren

Summer excursions were organized for schoolchildren in Gedabey and Barda districts. The purpose of the excursions was to ensure that students spend their summer holidays effectively. During the events, interactive training sessions were held on climate change, its causes and consequences. The children also planted flowers in pots and trees, cleaned up litter and built nests for birds. At the end of the event, flower pots were donated to the schools and handicrafts were given to the children. In total, more than 100 people took part in the excursions.



The end of football competition for schoolchildren in the Horadiz Olympic complex in Fuzuli district

Other activities carried out during the year

Providing children with warm clothes

The aim of the project is to provide schoolchildren from vulnerable families with the opportunity to study in a healthy and safe environment, as well as to protect children from the cold in winter. This initiative aims not only to meet the children's physical needs, but also to improve their psychological well-being, increase their motivation for education and strengthen social equality in

society. The project was implemented mainly in the districts of Tovuz, Gazakh and Aghdam and in the city of Lankaran. The process began with an assessment of the social situation of students in schools and the identification of the most vulnerable children. As a result, 150 students and 320 children living in 3 orphanages in Lankaran were provided with warm clothes and shoes.

Hygiene awareness activities

Hygiene and health awareness sessions were conducted among more than 1,100 children in orphanages and schools. During the sessions, children were taught the rules of hygiene and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the event, the children were given hygiene kits to help them put into practice what they had learned during the sessions.

Establishment of a library in the Lankaran orphanage

With the financial support of the Turkish Red Crescent and the organizational support of the AzRC, a library was opened in Lankaran Children's Home with the aim of increasing the children's knowledge and promoting the culture of reading. The library has a rich collection of literature and educational materials for children. More than 1,500 books, tables, chairs, sofas, sports equipment and children's clothes have been donated.

Intellectual game rooms in the Lankaran Children's Home

In another orphanage in the Lankaran district, intellectual play rooms have been created to develop the creativity and logical thinking skills of 90 children. Various interactive games and activities in these rooms allow the children to learn while having fun.



Event at a special type boarding school, Lankaran district

Strategies, Modules and Policies:

Child Protection Policy

The main objective of the Child Protection Policy is to provide a framework to ensure that AzRC's programs and projects are in the best interests of children and to ensure their implementation. The policy gives priority to preventive measures, prioritizes the protection of children from all forms of violence, exploitation and neglect, and is based on the principle of accountability. In this way, the AzRC demonstrates a strong and structured approach to child protection.

This policy applies to all AzRC employees, including staff, volunteers, interns and consultants. However, the AzRC requires its partners, contractors and suppliers to take specific steps to protect children in programs associated with the organization and to report suspected cases of abuse, exploitation and neglect. These principles and approaches have been formally adopted with the approval of the Governing Board and communicated to local branches for implementation in the AzRC's activities. At the same time, meetings were organized to raise awareness of the policy and resources were mobilized for the effective implementation of the policy.

Road safety module

A road safety module developed by the AzRC with the support of the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent aims to raise awareness and provide basic information on road safety among adolescents and young people. As part of the project, a training for AzRC volunteers was organized in Baku on 25-26 September. The training provided knowledge on the basic components of road safety and first aid, and included practical exercises to deepen the knowledge of participants. The training was attended by the Ministry of Interior staff, project managers and international representatives who provided technical support to the volunteers and answered their questions.

Trainings and drawing contest in Gazakh district

The training of trainers (ToT), which took place in Gazakh district on 21-22 November, aimed to disseminate road safety knowledge in the regions. Volunteers from the Gazakh, Tovuz, Gedabey and Terter district branches of the AzRC took part in the training and were trained on how to promote road safety in schools and local communities. The training was followed by sessions in Khanliglar and Garadaghli village schools. A total of 860 students and teachers participated in the trainings and sessions. 40 of them were teachers. Drawing contests were also organised in schools to raise awareness of road safety and encourage creativity. The paintings of schoolchildren were displayed in the foyers of schools. The winners of drawing contests were awarded prizes. More than 1,500 people took part in the activities, and the support of traffic police officers enhanced the impact of the project.

A culture of awareness and safety

Trainings and contests conducted within the framework of the project helped the students to understand the importance of road safety. It promoted the rules of safe

behaviour and developed the students' imaginative thinking through creativity. The activities provided theoretical and practical knowledge about road signs and how to deal with dangerous situations. These activities have led to increased public attention to the problem of road safety.

Results and long-term effect

As a result of the drawing competitions and trainings, the students and their families have become more aware of and attentive to road safety issues. The project has strengthened the promotion of safety culture among the younger generation. The activities were not limited to raising awareness, but also created a platform for discussing safety issues and building common approaches. The long-term goal of the project is to promote responsible road safety behaviour among all members of the community.

Training on “Road safety” for AzRC volunteers supported by IFRC



A list of common documents prepared during the year:

- Volunteering Strategy
- Volunteer agreement
- Safety Strategy
- Emergency Response Strategy
- Child Protection Strategy
- Updated the volunteer registration form
- Updated module on Movement
- Updated module “Leader”
- Updated methodological manual on reducing the risks of emergencies in schools
- Road safety module

Youth and volunteer related activities

Participation of youth and volunteers in international and local trainings

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society prioritizes youth development and improving the knowledge and skills of volunteers. To this end, in 2024, one volunteer participated in an international training in Italy, one volunteer in England and two volunteers in Turkey, gaining experience in different fields. At the same time, 50 students from different universities had their internships at the AzRC, enriching their theoretical knowledge with practical activities. These activities contributed to the development of youth leadership skills and the promotion of volunteering values.

Events dedicated to the Day of establishment of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and the International Volunteers Day

More than 1000 students participated in the blood donation campaign dedicated to the Day of establishment of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. In addition, more than 500 students took part in first aid campaign held at the Azerbaijan Technical University, gaining important knowledge on health and safety. To support the personal development of volunteers, 10 volunteers received special training on hygiene and health issues. At a meeting held in Gazakh district on 5 December – the International Volunteers Day - volunteers were informed about various AzRCS projects, in particular the “Access to Education in Emergencies” project. The volunteers' participation in this project and their contribution to the project were highly appreciated.

Meetings with volunteers and awarding of volunteers

Representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Turkish Red Crescent joined the AzRC volunteers at the International Volunteers Day event in Gazakh district. During the meeting, the work done in various AzRC projects, plans for further activities were discussed and a number of recommendations were given to the volunteers. At the end of the event, the volunteers were presented with certificates and gifts in recognition of their efforts. These events emphasized the importance of the volunteering movement and created motivation for more active involvement of young people in volunteering activities.



Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams

Throughout 2024, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society organized a series of training sessions for volunteers in different district branches to ensure more effective and efficient community activities. These training sessions provided an important platform to enhance volunteers' knowledge, skills and practical experience.

Practical sessions:

The main objective of each training session was to inform the volunteers about the principles, history, structure and emblems of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to ensure that the volunteers had a deeper understanding of the mission and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. During the sessions, the participants reinforced their theoretical knowledge with practical experience and acquired important skills for conducting more effective dissemination sessions in the communities. A total of 87 volunteers, including 10 volunteers from the Terter district branch, 12 volunteers from the Aghdam district branch, 17 volunteers from the Tovuz district branch, 9 volunteers from the Gazakh district branch, 14 volunteers from the Barda district branch, 13 volunteers from the Fizuli district branch, and 12 volunteers from the Jebrayil district branch, participated in the practical training sessions held from April to December.

Soft skills trainings:

In September 2024, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) jointly organised a two-phase soft skills training for volunteers from different district branches of the AzRC. The first phase of soft skills training was held on 17-20 September for 20 volunteers from Fizuli, Jabrayil and Barda district branches and the second phase was held on 24-27 September for 18 volunteers from Gazakh, Tovuz and Barda district branches. The trainings focused on the development and improvement of personal skills of volunteers, which are necessary for effective communication, co-operation and professional development.

A basic introductory courses on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

From August to December, the AzRC, together with the ICRC, organized basic introductory courses on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for volunteers from various district branches. The aim of these courses was to familiarize newly recruited Azerbaijani Red Crescent volunteers with the history,



**Training sessions for
volunteers**

87

**Volunteers
participating in
practical sessions**

38

**Volunteers
participating in soft
skills**

53

**Volunteers
participating in a
basic introductory
courses on the
Movement**

the basic principles, emblems of the Movement and activities of AzRCS. The trainings were organised in Tovuz, Gazakh, Barda, Jabrayil and Fizuli district branches, with a total of 53 volunteers participating in the trainings. The trainings were conducted in an interactive form, theoretical knowledge was supported by practical exercises. These trainings became an important step towards improving the professional training of volunteers and contributing to their more effective functioning in the communities.

Regular events taking place throughout 2024:

First Aid posts

The local branches of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC), with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), regularly organize first aid posts. These posts are organized once a month in public places and ensure the dissemination of first aid knowledge and skills in communities. In 2024, 85 events were organized in the districts of Tartar, Aghdam, Fizuli, Jebrayil, Gazakh, Tovuz and Barda with the participation of 2,323 people. The application of first aid techniques created conditions for the continuous strengthening of the volunteers' knowledge. 346 volunteers were involved in the process.

Dissemination sessions on the “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”

The Emergency Mobile Volunteer Team members organize dissemination sessions on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in schools. These sessions provide the school children with information on the history of the Movement, its basic principles, emblems and activities of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. The sessions aim to promote the values of the Movement among school children. In 2024, seven district branches organized a total of 83 field sessions with 1,742 people benefiting from these activities. 254 volunteers were involved in the process.

First aid sessions in the kindergartens

First aid sessions in the kindergartens are focused on providing kindergarten staff and teachers with first aid skills to ensure the safety of children. These sessions, designed for both everyday and emergency situations, raise awareness in communities. In 2024, seven AzRC district branches held a total of 42 sessions, and 552 people benefited from these events. 126 volunteers were involved in the process.



Volunteers who received membership cards for EMVT



Number of insured volunteers

The ICRC support to district branches of the AzRCS

In 2024, 200 volunteers of the AzRC were covered by Accident Insurance Program of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Membership cards for Emergency Mobile Volunteer Teams have been prepared for 200 volunteers of the AzRC.

The ICRC temporarily supported the income-generating activities of the city and district branches of the AzRC in order to increase their financial independence. As part of this process, support was provided to the Vocational Training Center, which has been functioning as a computer training center in the Barda district branch office since July 2024.

In order to develop the National Society's technical base, the ICRC donated office furniture, technical equipment (computers, printers, loudspeakers, etc.) and identification items (aprons, jackets with the AzRC logo, etc.) to the district branches of the AzRC.

Support was provided to renovate the offices of the Jebrayil, Gedabey and Khojavand district branches of the AzRC. In 2024, English language classes were organized for 25 staff members and volunteers of the AzRC.



Civil defense training at the Perinatal Center Hospital, organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Sumgayit Regional Center, with the active participation of members of the EMVT of Sumgayit city branch of the AzRCS

Migration

During the reporting year, various initiatives were implemented to protect the rights and ensure the well-being of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. The focus was on advocacy, social integration and humanitarian assistance, with particular attention to meeting the basic needs of vulnerable groups of population.

One of the main initiatives was the free of charge Azerbaijani language courses organized for migrants. For the academic year 2024/25, the 12th course was opened in October. Regular meetings were organized with the students of the course, their problems were listened to and support was provided according to their needs. Several families received humanitarian aid, school supplies and medical services. A total of 24 migrants were enrolled in Azerbaijani language courses and were provided with study materials, and a tea party was organized for them. At the same time, 28 migrant families were assisted, and about 112 people benefited from this assistance. Awareness sessions were organized to strengthen the integration of migrant communities into society. As part of these sessions, hygiene items, food aid, clothing and household items were distributed to migrant families. A total of 75 migrants benefited from these awareness sessions and assistance. Part of the humanitarian assistance provided to migrant families was the distribution of sacrificial meat portions to them. Sacrificial meat portions were provided to 122 migrant families, about 488 people. In addition, food parcels, clothing, school bags and other basic necessities were distributed to migrant families according to their needs. A total of 121 migrants benefited from this assistance.



1470

Number of migrants assisted



290

Number of migrant families assisted



The 12th Azerbaijani language course was held to speed up the integration of migrants into society.

During the year, 7 new migrant families applied for assistance. 16 Pakistani and 14 Afghan migrants were provided with clothing, food and household items according to their needs. In addition, 14 migrants were enrolled in Azerbaijani language courses. In the field of medical assistance, appeals were also considered; 7 migrants were provided with medical assistance. Information on compulsory health insurance was provided, some families were referred to local polyclinics, and 3 people received financial assistance from individual sponsors to purchase drugs prescribed. In addition, 8 members of a Pakistani family received food and clothing. One Afghan family received bedding and a food parcel.

Migrants were invited to various events related to significant days. At the invitation of the Green Start Academy Educational Center, 21 migrants visited museums. Students and teachers from “İdrak” lyceum met with 56 migrants. At the invitation of the Republican Women's Society and “Vertebra Spine Clinic”, 22 migrants attended a festive event organized at the GM City Hotel. During these events, books, clothing items, shoes and bags were donated to each participant and a lunch table was set up for them. Regular participation of migrants in events organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations is ensured. From January to December, the “Migration” department of the AzRC participated in meetings and events dedicated to Migrants' Day, Ramadan and Novruz holidays, Victory Day and New Year celebration. The accumulated experience was applied in the activities of local branches, which contributed to a more effective organization of work with migrants. On the occasion of Ramadan holiday, sponsors provided food and sacrificed meat portions to 52 migrant families, which included about 208 people. On the occasion of Novruz and Ramadan holidays, material assistance was provided to 30 migrant families. Children from migrant families were congratulated on the occasion of June 1 - International Children's Day. Children from 9 migrant families together with their parents attended the events and received holiday gifts. A total of 36 migrants participated in these events. In May-June, within the framework of the Azerbaijani language course, environmental lessons were organized and excursions were organized for migrants to the historical site "Yanardagh" near Baku, as well as to historical monuments and museums in Beylagan district. The 11th closing ceremony of the Azerbaijani language course was held in June, and the opening ceremony of the 12th course was held on October 30. At the closing ceremony, 24 migrant students were awarded certificates and a dessert table was organized for them as part of the event, while at the opening ceremony, 24 migrants were enrolled in the Azerbaijani language course and provided with study materials. On the occasion of the New Year and World Azerbaijanis Solidarity Day, food aid was provided to 31 migrant families. From January to December, food and clothing were regularly distributed to needy migrant and local families. In total, more than 290 migrant families were provided with food, clothing and hygiene kits. The beneficiaries were mainly migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

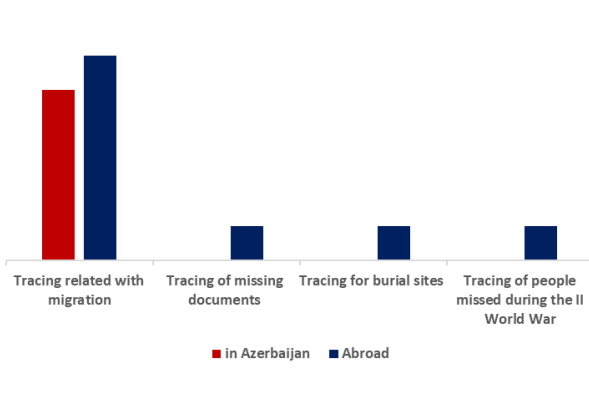
Tracing Service

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society's Tracing Service aims to help reunite family members who have been separated as a result of war, armed conflict, natural disasters, and forced migration. The main objective of the service is to trace missing persons, restore family ties, and provide legal, social, and psychological support in this process.

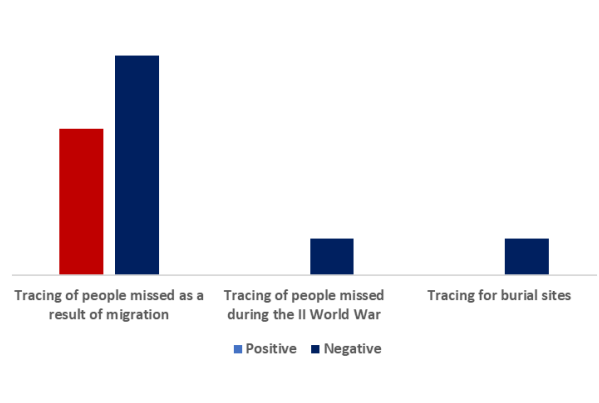
During 2024, the AzRC Tracing Service received various tracing requests from citizens and conducted tracing work both nationally and internationally. The report details the work carried out by the Tracing Service during the year under review, the results achieved, the challenges encountered and the future prospects for the tracing service.



Number of opened cases: 14



Number of closed cases: 11



Within the framework of the work of the Tracing Service Sector, mutual exchange of information was carried out with a number of state structures, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of State Security, the Republican Prosecutor's Office, the State Archives Department under the Cabinet of Ministers, the Baku Executive Power, the Military Commissariat, the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs. In addition, contacts were made with the telephone information service and other public organizations (educational institutions, former workplaces, etc.) to assist citizens in obtaining information about missing relatives. Regular meetings were also held throughout the year with tracing delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), strengthening cooperation to leverage international expertise and achieve more effective results.

Humanitarian Aid

During the reporting period, guided by humanitarian values, AzRCS continued its activities to help people in need. The National Society carried out various activities to support the elderly, lonely and disadvantaged people, refugee and displaced families, low-income people, people affected by natural and man-made disasters, as well as some migrant groups.

Activities and outcomes:

- In cooperation with regional centers and local branches, applications received from citizens were promptly reviewed by the department, and they were responded to positively to the extent possible.
- The department organized a reception of citizens every Wednesday, during which 48 people applied individually.
- The registration of persons in need of humanitarian assistance was carried out, with an additional 3 persons registered at the Humanitarian Aid Department and 28 persons registered at local branches. In total, around 10,000 vulnerable people were registered across the country.
- As part of the social situation assessment and support, 22 written and 44 individual applications were received. 18 people were supported with medical examinations.
- During the year, the department received applications from 8 migrant families seeking assistance to improve their social situation. Of these, 6 migrant families were provided with appropriate assistance. One migrant family's application was forwarded to the appropriate agency.
- On the occasion of significant dates and national holidays, the department assisted vulnerable people through local branches of the AzRC.
- To support families affected by the war, food and household items were delivered, and humanitarian aid was coordinated in the regions.

Registration of persons in need of humanitarian aid:

1 0000

Total number of
vulnerable people
registered

3120

The number of
vulnerable people
registered in Baku

6820

The number of
vulnerable people
registered by district
branches

Regional Centers

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRC) carried out various activities during the reporting year to strengthen the material and technical base and human resource potential of its regional centers and local branches.

Key activities and achievements:

Humanitarian support

Schoolchildren in Zangilan district were provided with school bags for the new school year. Health awareness activities were organized to prepare for pandemics, epidemics and natural disasters.

Staff development

In August and September, zonal meetings were held in the Baku, Ganja and Sumgayit regional centers to discuss increasing membership and strengthening humanitarian activities. Trainings and seminars were organized to improve the knowledge and professionalism of staff of local branches.

Expanding partnerships

Cooperation relations with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations have been developed. A number of letters have been sent to executive authorities and universities. The letters included requests for the collection of membership fees and the allocation of office space.

With the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, local branches were provided with equipment and vehicles. Shamkir District Branch, Ganja District Branch and Apsheron District Branch received 1 computer and 1 printer. The Karabakh Regional Center and district branches covered by the Karabakh Regional Center received 4 motor vehicles.

Organizational improvement

The offices of the Ganja, Sumgayit, Ismayilli and Apsheron district branches were renovated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Reporting and election conferences were held in 85 district branches, resulting in the election of 6 new chairpersons.

The General Headquarters of the AzRC has strengthened the activities of the primary organizations of 7 district branches covered by the Karabakh Regional Center and the provision of more effective and qualitative services in this direction.

Important events

Holiday gifts were distributed at the events dedicated to Novruz (Spring) holiday, the International Solidarity Day of Azerbaijanis, Day of the Elderly. At the meetings on the results of the year held in the Baku, Ismayilli and Mingachevir Regional Centers, the achieved results were analyzed.

Visits to the Karabakh Economic Zone

The AzRC, in accordance with its humanitarian mission, carried out a number of trips to support the residents of the Karabakh economic zone of Armenian origin. Thus, on January 29-30, the staff of the AzRC visited the residents of the Karabakh economic zone of Armenian origin. The main purpose of the visit was to assess the daily needs of the residents of the Karabakh economic zone of Armenian origin and to get acquainted with the current situation. At the same time, a bilateral meeting with the AzRC representatives was organized at the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Khankendi. During the meeting, the possibilities of mutual cooperation with the ICRC and coordination of humanitarian activities were discussed.

In March, the AzRC President and MP Dr. Novruz Aslanov and the organization's leadership visited residents of Armenian origin living in Khankendi. During the visit, sincere conversations were held with the residents and information was gathered about their social status and needs. In addition, the AzRC distributed food and hygiene kits to meet daily needs of residents of Armenian origin living in Khankendi. On August 26, the AzRC, together with the Turkish Red Crescent, organized another humanitarian visit to the Karabakh Economic Zone. During this visit, meetings were held with residents of Armenian origin to learn about their social situation. Humanitarian aid, including hygiene products were distributed. The visit was seen as an example of international cooperation and commitment to humanitarian principles.



Needs assessment visits organized to the Karabakh Economic Zone on different dates

International Relations

A bilateral meeting between the AzRC and the ICRC was held at the AzRC headquarters on 16 January. The meeting was attended by AzRC President Novruz Aslanov, Executive Secretary Jeyhun Mirzoyev, Head of the ICRC Representative Office in Azerbaijan Dragana Kojic and ICRC Cooperation Department staff Agueda Aguilar Garcia and Ravana Hasanli. Opening the meeting with an introductory speech, Dr. Novruz Aslanov welcomed the guests on behalf of AzRC staff, volunteers and members, stressing that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss cooperation between the two organisations and future plans. In her speech, Dragana Kojic spoke about the existing fruitful cooperation between the two organizations and joint activities carried out by the ICRC Representative Office in Azerbaijan and AzRC, noting that the working relationship between the two organisations was at a high level.



A bilateral meeting between the AzRC and the ICRC Representative Office in Azerbaijan at the AzRC headquarters

On 8 April 2024, a delegation led by the President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Pirhusein Kolyvend, who was on a visit to Baku, met with the President of the AzRC, MP Dr. Novruz Aslanov, at the AzRC headquarters. The meeting was attended by Saeed Kanani, representative of the Iranian Red Crescent Society in Azerbaijan, Seyid Jafar Aghayi, deputy ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan, Farhad Pouralihani, official of the Iranian embassy, Majid Feizullahi, representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Gafar Askerzadeh, vice-president of the AzRC, and Jeyhun Mirzoyev, Executive Secretary of the AzRC. The meeting reviewed existing cooperation and prospects for future joint activities between the Red Crescent Societies of the two countries. A bilateral meeting between the AzRC and the ICRC was held at the AzRC headquarters on 1 May. The meeting was attended by the AzRC President Novruz Aslanov, Executive Secretary Ceyhun Mirzoyev, Karabakh Regional Centre Coordinator Afag Huseynzadeh, Head of the ICRC Representative Office in Azerbaijan Dragana Kojic and Cooperation Coordinator Bernard Julier. The future activities planned in the Karabakh economic zone were discussed at the meeting. Dragana Kojic noted the success of joint projects.

The preparatory meeting for the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement began on 6 May. The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, with the participation of more than 100 National Societies. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society was represented at the preparatory meeting by Secretary General Ceyhun Mirzoyev and Deputy Secretary General Shaban Shayev.



Participation of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in the Preparatory Meeting for the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

On 11 May, AzRC, ICRC, IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent Society jointly organised a large-scale event dedicated to the 'International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent' and the activities to be carried out in the Karabakh Economic Zone. The main purpose of the event was to discuss the activities carried out during the last 5 years, to celebrate the International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to highlight the close cooperation between the four organisations and to present the activities planned by AzRC in different directions in the Karabakh Economic Zone in the coming years.



11 May, a large-scale event dedicated to the 'International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent' and the activities to be carried out in the Karabakh Economic Zone.



On 29 May, the AzRC President Dr. Novruz Aslanov met with the President of the Islamic Forum on International Humanitarian Law, Dr Fawzi Oussedik. Novruz Aslanov presented the President of the Islamic Forum with the jubilee medal of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society.

Meeting with the President of the Islamic Forum on International Humanitarian Law

A bilateral meeting was held on 19 September between Dr. Novruz Aslanov, President of AzRC, and Dragana Koic, Head of the ICRC Representative Office in Azerbaijan. During the meeting, the work carried out in the framework of cooperation between the two organisations and future activities were discussed. The meeting was also attended by Mohammad Zubair Khan, coordinator of cooperation with the Movement, who recently joined the ICRC team in Azerbaijan. He expressed his satisfaction with his stay in Azerbaijan and stressed that he would make efforts to support AzRC and strengthen cooperation.

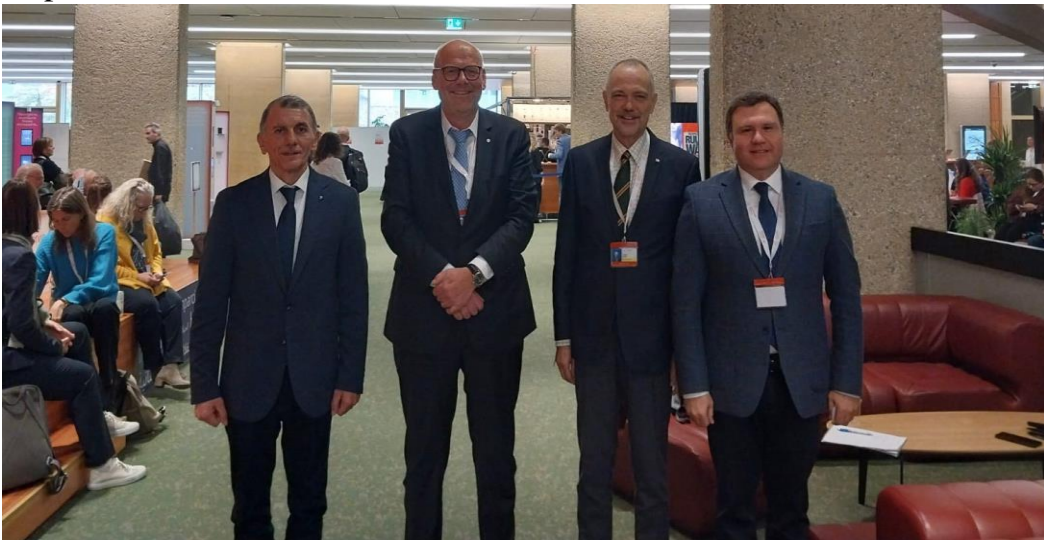
On 10 October 2024, an important event was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, aimed at establishing a cooperation network of Turkic states. President of the AzRC Dr. Novruz Aslanov and Executive Secretary Ceyhun Mirzoev attended the event. The main purpose of the meeting was to strengthen humanitarian cooperation and expand mutual assistance among Turkic states. During the event, joint action plans were discussed and further steps in humanitarian aid delivery, disaster management and improving the efficiency of emergency services were considered.



Participation of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in in the Turkish Cooperation Networking event in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

On 14 October 2024, the AzRC President Novruz Aslanov received Davron Mukhamadiyev, Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) South Caucasus Representative Office, Serdar Gunel, Programme and Operations Manager of the International Federation's Azerbaijan Representative Office, and Alexander Mordovin, National Society Development Representative. Dr. Novruz Aslanov expressed his satisfaction with Davron Muhammadiyev's visit to the AzRC and his meeting with the National Society's leadership, stressing the importance of this visit. At the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the joint work of the two organizations, humanitarian projects implemented within the framework of mutual cooperation. As in previous years, this year within the framework of cooperation, both the AZRC and the International Federation noted the importance of timely and qualitative fulfillment of their obligations in order to achieve the set goals. The current situation in the Karabakh Economic Zone was also discussed during the meeting.

Executive Secretary of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society Ceyhun Mirzoyev and Deputy Executive Secretary Shaban Shayev attended the 34th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held on 22 October 2024. During the panel discussion on prisoners of war and missing persons, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society shared its experience with the conference participants.



Participation of the AzRC in the 34th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

On 15 November, a bilateral meeting took place between the President of AzRC, Dr. Novruz Aslanov, and the President of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari. During the meeting, the sides discussed issues related to humanitarian cooperation between two countries, further joint activities, provision of humanitarian assistance and related services during natural disasters, and assistance to victims. Various initiatives were proposed to further strengthen ties between the humanitarian organisations of the two countries.

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was successfully held in Baku. The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan took part in this important event and presented its new initiatives and projects in the field of combating climate change. Various panel discussions and meetings were organized during the conference. During these panel discussions and meetings, the AzRC shared its actions to mitigate climate change and build community resilience. The purpose of COP-29 was to bring together the collective efforts of the international community to combat climate change, and the session created new opportunities to further strengthen cooperation in this regard.



Participation of the AzRC in the COP29 event, meeting with representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent at the IFRC pavilion.

On 11 December, the AzRC President Dr Novruz Aslanov received the newly appointed Head of South Caucasus Country Cluster Delegation of the IFRC, Ms Sonja Veronica Bjorklund. Dr Novruz Aslanov congratulated Sonja Veronica Bjorklund on her new position and wished her success in her future work. Novruz Aslanov stressed the importance of expanding opportunities for further cooperation and expressed his confidence that joint activities would bring more productive results.



The meeting between the AzRC President Dr Novruz Aslanov and the newly appointed Head of South Caucasus Country Cluster Delegation of the IFRC, Ms Sonja Veronica Bjorklund.

Information and Public Relations

Throughout 2024, the Information and Public Relations Department of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society implemented a number of important projects. The new website has been successfully launched and updated with a more interactive and functional design for user convenience. In order to facilitate the acceptance of donations, video guidelines were developed and posted on social media channels, which contributed to the transparency of the National Society and strengthening public relations. Alongside this, the "Yardım.et" platform is actively functioning and being used for various charitable projects.

By the end of the year, more than 300 articles about the activities of the National Society were published. They were prepared in Azerbaijani and translated into English and presented to a wide audience. In addition, activity on social media platforms was increased, and various strategic approaches were applied to establish a closer connection with the subscriber audience. In this context, the coverage of the National Society's LinkedIn page in 2024 reached 31,939 people, while the number of followers on Instagram and Facebook platforms significantly increased.

The standardisation process in the field of information and communication continued, and new logos and cover images for 39 local branches were developed and put into use. A separate Facebook page is planned for the Karabakh Regional Centre.

In the framework of international cooperation and training, dissemination sessions on International Movement were organized. A total of 1742 people participated in 83 events organized by 7 district branches of AzRC. In addition, staff of the AzRC participated in international trainings and events in countries such as Italy, Russia and the United Kingdom.



300

Number of articles



38277

Followers in Facebook



69301

431

Number of views and new followers



130

Number of post attracting attention



31939

Followers in LinkedIn

Human Resources

In 2024, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society took important steps towards human resources development and modernization of management.

In this context, 1C software integration was implemented in the HR department, which contributed to the automation of business processes, more efficient operation management, and minimization of errors.

At the same time, the organization introduced a Code of Ethical Conduct, defining ethical principles for employees, volunteers, and interns. This Code contributed to strengthening the organizational culture and supported risk management by increasing transparency and accountability.

During the reporting period, the basics of the performance assessment system were developed. This system made it possible to objectively assess the contribution of employees and determine the goals of further development. In order to study the global HR experience, representatives of the organization took part in a 6-day Impact training organized in Russia. The knowledge and approaches gained during the training will be integrated in accordance with the human resources strategy of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society.

Documents

- Recruitment Policy
- Recruitment procedures
- Employee Performance Assessment Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Adaptation instructions for new employees
- Job description
- Job offer
- Employee requirement form
- Probation period assessment form
- Reference verification form
- Invitation to an interview
- Interview protocol
- Salary supplement agreement
- New service contract

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Report

The annual report for 2023 was prepared and presented accordingly. In the course of compiling the report, the collected data was analyzed and systematized, and the main indicators reflecting the organization's activities were identified.

To ensure international accountability, information on the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society was regularly updated on the IFRC GO platform to reflect the organization's activities and key performance indicators globally. A field report on the floods in Hajigabul district was added to the IFRC GO platform. In order to accurately document the events and actions taken during the flooding, a field report was prepared and posted on the platform to be shared with the IFRC. In addition, the Field Report and DREF sections of the platform were translated and submitted to the Department for Emergency Situations. To enhance the disaster management capacity of local branches, a post-disaster initial assessment form was developed and submitted to the Department for Emergency Situations. This form will ensure a more systematic and rapid collection of primary information during emergencies.

One of the main priorities of the reporting year was the coordination of activities under the “Unified Plan”. Meetings and trainings related to the “Unified Plan” were organized and conducted with the participation of stakeholders. At the same time, the “Unified Plan 2025” document was drafted and finalized together with PMQH officer of the IFRC. ‘Unified Plan 2025’ presentation of the AzRC was prepared and presented at the IFRC's Unified Plan presentation event. This presentation was an important step towards sharing future directions of activities and strategies of the organization on an international platform.

The semi-annual report for 2024 was prepared and submitted to the regional office. The report helped to assess the implemented actions and achieved results. PMER Officer of the AzRC attended the 4-day global PMER meeting in Geneva. During this event, global experience in PMER was discussed and new approaches were explored.



*The first day of the
4-day Unified Plan
Training*

Community Engagement and Accountability

Within the framework of the Community Engagement and Accountability Program, a number of initiatives have been carried out successfully with external partners over the reporting period. Collaboration with the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) continued, and important steps were taken to develop mechanisms for community feedback, data collection, and visualization. Various trainings on community engagement and accountability were organized with the support of CBF, and the necessary resources were provided to strengthen local capacity.

Collaboration was carried out with the 5:10 team of the Dutch Red Cross in the areas of data management, community needs assessment and accountability. The training “Introduction to EspoCRM: Feedback Mechanism” was conducted for AzRC staff and volunteers to strengthen their skills in using digital systems. As part of the project, trainings on “Community Feedback and Visualisation” were organised for volunteers from the pilot regions, which developed their skills in visual presentation and analysis of the collected data. In addition, trainings on installation and use of EspoCRM system were held in Sumgayit and Baku Regional Centers. The participants of the training were explained the functionality of the system, database management, and the rules of proper registration of feedback from communities. In addition, an EspoCRM user guide for those working with the system was developed and introduced into daily operations. The developed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will assist both AzRCS staff and volunteers in collecting data for the Feedback Mechanism. In addition, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project evaluation process was supported. Community engagement and accountability officer of the AzRCS participated in a three-day training on community engagement and accountability held in Budapest.



Two-day training on “Introduction to EspoCRM: feedback mechanism” organised for volunteers

Fundraising

Food aid and humanitarian support

Throughout 2024, with the support of various corporate partners and donors, humanitarian aid campaigns were organised to provide humanitarian assistance to low-income families and vulnerable groups of the population.

- On 16 February, 35 boxes of humanitarian aid (food items and hygiene kits) were distributed to residents of Armenian origin living in a shelter in the Karabakh Economic Zone. This initiative was carried out with the support of the “GrandMart” company.
- On the occasion of the Novruz (Spring) holiday on 17 March, food aid was provided to 120 families in the Sheki and Gakh districts. This humanitarian campaign was carried out with the financial support of “Pasha Bank.” Each beneficiary family received a food parcel worth AZN 7,500.
- On 12 April, a total of 1.5 tonnes of food aid was delivered to 80 vulnerable families in Neftchala and Zagatala districts. Under this initiative, initiated with the support of “Lu-Mun Holding” company, each family was provided with food parcel containing more than 18kg of food.
- On 15 June, on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, food parcels containing meat products were distributed to 112 families of martyrs living in the towns of Neftchala and Mingachevir. This humanitarian action was carried out with the financial support of “Lu-Mun Holding” company.
- On 29 and 30 December, food aid was provided to 255 families in the Ismayilli, Aghsu, Sheki, Khachmaz, Gakh, Zagatala and Absheron districts and the towns of Sumgayit and Baku as part of the "Winter Miracle" campaign supported by “Silk Way West” Airlines.



Winter Miracle" campaign was held on 29 and 30 December with the support by “Silk Way West” Airlines.

 **2042+**

Number of people covered

 **305+**

Number of children covered

 **95800**

Amount of support from local donors during the year (in AZN)

 **8**

Number of activities implemented

 **17**

Number of regions covered

Support for education and the role of donors

As part of the social projects implemented in the second half of the reporting year, various activities were organized to support the education of school-age children from low-income families.

In this context, a special event was organized on 4 September for 85 students of the secondary school in Agali village, Zangilan district. During the event the students were provided with school supplies and festive sweets to help them better prepare for the new school year. This initiative was sponsored by “Al-Market” and “Shokki-Mokki” companies.

From 5 to 10 September, a large-scale campaign was held. “AzINTELECOM” LLC donated school bags and stationeries to 200 schoolchildren living in Fizuli district and neighbouring villages. This initiative was aimed at reducing education costs for low-income families, as well as at improving schoolchildren’s readiness for school.

Another important project aimed at supporting education was implemented as part of the "Become part of history" initiative. On 11 October, 20 students from Dashkesen, Gadabay and Shamkir districts who have achieved high results in their studies were presented with laptops. This project was implemented at the initiative of “ABCTelecom” company and was aimed at supporting students from rural schools.



With the support of “AzINTELECOM” LLC, 200 school children from Fuzuli and neighboring villages were presented with school bags and stationery as part of the 'Back to School' campaign.

Leading donors and partners

During the reporting year, the implementation of humanitarian and social projects was supported by many companies and international donor organizations. The following companies are among the most active donors:

- **“Pasha Bank” company**
- **“LU-MUN Holding” company**
- **“ABC-Telecom” company**
- **“Silk Way West” company**
- **“AzINTELECOM” company**
- **“Coca-Cola” company**
- **“Tabaterra” company**
- **“Aurora” company**
- **“Bazarstore” company**
- **“GrandMart” company**
- **“AzeriGold” company**

During the reporting year, hundreds of families received food aid, social support and educational opportunities as a result of working with these donors. It is planned to strengthen these partnerships even further in the coming years to enable more projects to be implemented and more people to be supported.



Donor-supported relief campaigns held throughout the year

Information Management

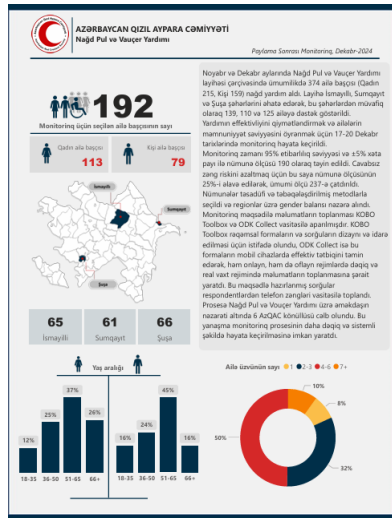
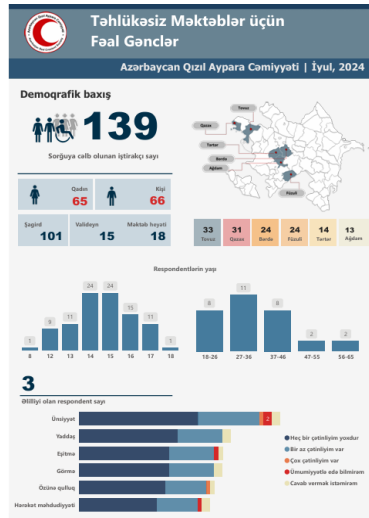
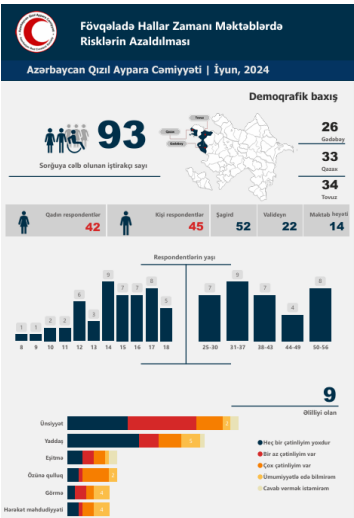
During 2024, the EspoCRM interface was compiled and translated into Azerbaijani language. During this process, localization was carried out to make the platform more user friendly and all main functions were made available in the Azerbaijani language.

In addition, several trainings on the use of the EspoCRM system were organized. Sessions were held for both AzRCS staff and volunteers on 'Introduction to EspoCRM: Feedback Mechanism' and 'Community Feedback and Visualization'. During these trainings the EspoCRM platform, collecting community feedback, survey design, Kobo Toolbox and data visualization were explained to participants.

Training sessions on the successful installation of the EspoCRM system were held in the Sumgait Regional Centre and the Baku Regional Centre. These trainings provided participants with practical knowledge on system configuration, data entry, and data management. In addition, the contextualization of the EspoCRM user manual and the editing of the manual were carried out.

In addition, as part of “The Active Youth for Safe Schools” project, surveys were developed and data visualized on the Kobotoolbox platform. At the same time, surveys on “Risk reduction in schools during emergencies” were developed and the information analyzed and visualized.

Cash and voucher assistance was supported towards information management. In this context, the lists containing data on people in need were cleaned, and surveys were prepared in Kobotoolbox. Data processing and visualization were carried out. A sample dataset for post-distribution monitoring was developed, appropriate surveys were developed and the results were analyzed and visualized.



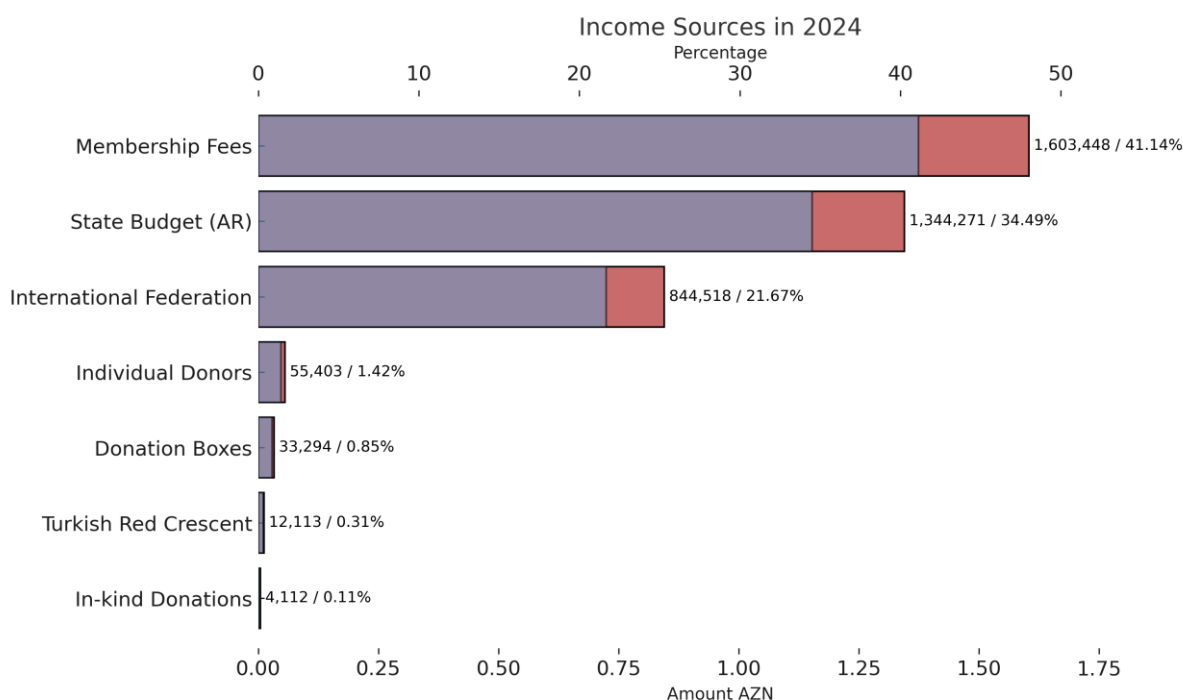
Finance

In 2024, the organization's total income amounted to 3,897,159 AZN. The largest share of income came from membership fees, with 1,603,448 AZN received from this source, accounting for 41.14% of the total revenue.

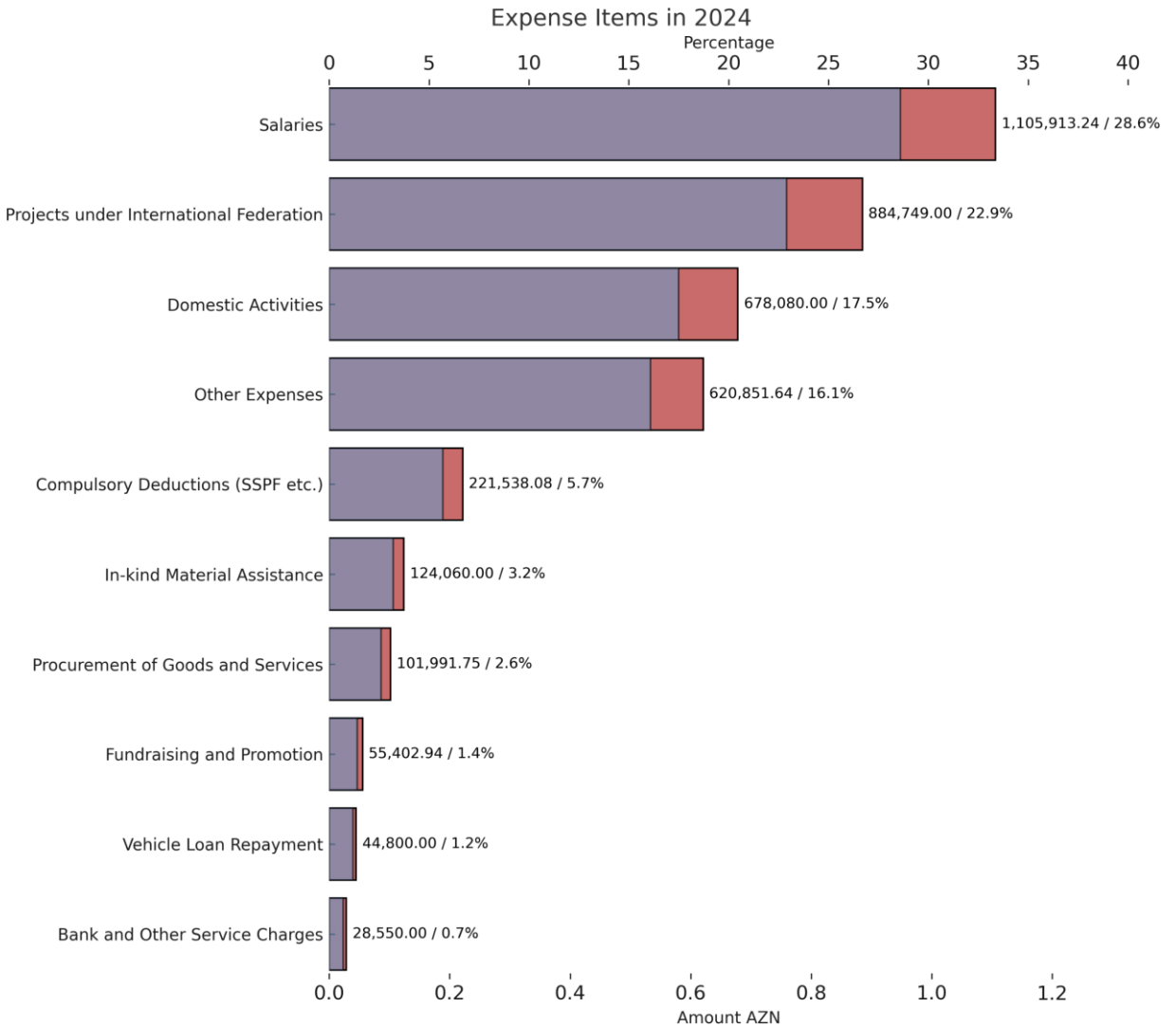
Government support also played a significant role. A total of 1,344,271 AZN was allocated from the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan, representing 34.49% of the organization's income, highlighting the government's commitment to the humanitarian sector.

The third main source of income was the International Federation, which contributed 844,518 AZN, making up 21.67% of the total and reflecting the importance of international cooperation in the organization's activities.

The remaining funds were mainly secured through individual donors, donation boxes, the Turkish Red Crescent, and in-kind donations. Contributions included 55,403 AZN (1.42%) from individuals, 33,294 AZN (0.85%) from donation boxes, 12,113 AZN (0.31%) from the Turkish Red Crescent, and 4,112 AZN (0.11%) from in-kind donations.



In 2024, the organization’s total expenditures amounted to 3,865,936.65 AZN. The largest expenses were allocated to salaries (28.6%), projects under the International Federation (22.9%), and nationwide activities (17.5%). Other expenditures mainly covered social contributions, material assistance, services, and various operational costs.



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