

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## ICRC in Azerbaijan 2023



ICRC



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in the region since 1992 and is working to alleviate hardship in conflict-affected communities. In 2023, we carried out a wide range of activities, from increasing awareness about weapon contamination to supporting the authorities in clarifying the fate of people missing in relation to conflict, as well as providing humanitarian protection and supporting people affected by conflict to earn a living. We worked in close partnership with various government entities and Movement partners. In Karabakh, the ICRC continued support and assistance to those in need. Following the 19–20 September operations, we temporarily scaled up our response, including the deployment of staff specialized in the fields of protection, health, forensics, and weapon contamination to respond to the humanitarian needs.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

 13,369

people benefited from risk and safer behaviour sessions, conducted in collaboration with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS), raising their awareness to mine risks and weapon contamination and building resilience.

 8,000

risk education items including posters, booklets, activity books were distributed to beneficiaries in weapon contaminated areas.

 5,202

people benefited from curative consultations and routine vaccination services at primary-health-care centres upgraded by the ICRC.

 3,474

people received high quality seed as part of a Potato Production project. Beneficiaries received high quality potato seeds to increase productivity.

 2,602

individual psychological support sessions were conducted for 221 children and adults by ICRC psychologists and national mental health professionals trained and supervised by the ICRC.

 2,356

families of missing people were contacted by companions and 129 of them received basic psychosocial support.

## RISK AWARENESS AND SAFER BEHAVIOR



13,369 people benefited from risk and safer behaviour sessions, conducted in collaboration with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS), raising their awareness to mine risks and weapon contamination and building resilience. 8,000 risk education items including posters, booklets, activity books were distributed.

1,500 mine warning signs were donated to Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) to mark mined areas. 50 mine awareness billboards were installed in areas contaminated with mines and explosive ordnance. 30 tablets were donated to support surveys, risk assessments and mitigation measures conducted by ANAMA.

47 ANAMA staff members in Fuzuli, Aghdam, and Terter districts participated in forensic training to increase their capacity in the dignified management of human remains. 31 paramedics attended first-aid training to improve their response to emergency cases during demining activities.

Over 50 employees of the Ombudsman Office participated in two-day workshops organized in Baku and Nakhchivan on International Mine Action Standards focusing on support to mine victims.

37 medical personnel and military engineers of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) participated in blast trauma course organized in Baku. The course aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of people responsible to provide medical and first-aid support amid clearance operations of landmines/explosive remnants of war.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY



3,474 people received high quality seed as part of a Potato Production project aimed at supporting the livelihood of conflict-affected people.

2,327 people benefited from a Smart Gardening project, which provided beneficiaries with tools and seed to produce food for their families.

1,576 people benefited from a beekeeping project. 720 people received support through the poultry support project.

1,456 people – including mine survivors, the families of mine victims and children repatriated from the Middle East – received cash assistance to meet their needs.

226 people saw their livelihood improve through the microeconomic initiative and cash-for-work projects.

## HEALTH CARE



5,202 people benefited from curative consultations and routine vaccination services at primary-health-care centres upgraded by the ICRC.

1,558 people in 8 conflict-affected communities benefited from ad hoc donation of war wounded kits and other basic medical items to health-care centres.

Approximately 1,000 sick and wounded patients were transferred to Armenia. Also, we regularly supplied baby formula, food supplies and medicine for health structures in Karabakh.

260 people from ambulance service, school and kindergarten staff and students received first-aid training conducted in collaboration with the AzRCS.

102 people, including mine survivors, family members of missing people, people repatriated from the Middle East and those affected by conflict, received financial assistance to cover their health-care needs.

21 medical staff benefited from public health care training in partnership with TABIB and Gazi University of Medicine.

12 health-care workers benefited from Basic Emergency Care training. 6 health staff members participated in Training of Trainers in Basic Emergency Care.

## PROMOTION OF IHL AND ICRC MANDATE



930 cadets and junior officers of the MoD participated in international humanitarian law (IHL) related seminars.

384 legal professionals, representatives of governmental entities, volunteers of the National Society participated in IHL sessions and training programmes.

66 instructors of the MoD educational institutions participated in Training of International Humanitarian Law instructors seminar.

137 students benefited from extra-curricular activities organized by the ICRC, including study trips, moot-courts, research projects and guest lectures.

44 journalists attended sessions related to the ICRC's mandate and activities in Azerbaijan.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



2,602 individual psychological support sessions were conducted for 221 children and adults by ICRC psychologists and national mental health professionals trained and supervised by the ICRC.

301 children (aged 6–12) benefited from 182 focused psychosocial support group activities through The Book About Me manual. This was facilitated by volunteers of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS) who were jointly trained and supervised by the ICRC and the National Society.

147 people, including psychologists, social workers, school professionals and AzRCS volunteers, benefited from 22 training sessions on the effects of violence on mental health and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions adapted to support affected people.

131 supervision sessions were provided to 56 MHPSS professionals working with people affected by violence (repatriated children and women and mine survivors and victims' families).

28 accompaniers benefited from 2 one-day workshops on psychosocial support in specific moments as part of the multidisciplinary training for accompaniers.

## MISSING IN RELATION TO THE CONFLICT



2,356 families of missing people were contacted by accompaniers and 129 of them received basic psychosocial support.

900 family members of missing people attended 25 commemoration events. 60 family members attended the International Conference on Missing Persons.

160 families benefited from financial and health assistance.

160 people joined the First International Forensic Archaeology and Forensic Anthropology Conference organized with the support of the ICRC's forensic team, the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons (State Commission) and the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. Speakers from Argentina, Türkiye, Switzerland, and Azerbaijan shared their experiences in the conference.

Over 100 attendees of various national organizations involved in efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people benefited from various training sessions organized by the ICRC in collaboration with the State Commission. 13 journalists participated in the Media in Humanitarian Forensic Actions workshop to increase their knowledge and skills when reporting on the topic.

30 accompaniers participated in 4 two-day quarterly training sessions, strengthening their knowledge of how to address issues related to missing people and help their family members.

24 officials representing organizations involved in exhumation and identification work took part in conferences and training programmes abroad through the ICRC's support.

Exhumation works conducted in 3 gravesites was supported by the ICRC through technical expertise and donation of various items to the authorities to help bring answers to families of missing people. Recommendations based on the work were discussed and shared with the institutions concerned.

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION



3,345 students in 9 conflict-affected communities received general school supplies and sports items.

2,201 students from 6 communities benefited from Youth Engagement projects that were conducted in partnership with the AzRCS.

1,144 students from 3 communities benefited from training in Disaster Risk Reduction that was carried out in partnership with the AzRCS.

138 children from vulnerable families, including those repatriated from Iraq and Syria, received support for continuing formal or alternative education.

33 kindergarten teachers from 12 communities benefited from the refresher training and new modules on Child Safeguarding and Early Childhood Development.

## COOPERATION WITH AZRCS



- 128 Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS) volunteers gained basic knowledge regarding the Movement and the National Society.
- 110 volunteers increased knowledge through sessions on Minimum Protection Approach and Restoring Family Links.
- 98 volunteers increased their knowledge and skills in delivering first aid and 81 First-aid Posts were conducted.
- 78 awareness sessions about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were conducted by AzRCS volunteers in conflict-affected communities and schools.
- 76 volunteers attended training of trainers on Risk and Safer Behaviour.
- 63 volunteers attended various training programmes, including relief course, communication and basics of IHL and disaster risk reduction.
- 24 AzRCS volunteers joined 4 training sessions to build their capacity for conducting psychosocial support activities among people affected by violence.
- 18 AzRCS volunteers improved their knowledge of stress management, leadership, conflict resolution and basic IT skills through different training sessions.
- 8 AzRCS staff members and 17 volunteers started attending English language courses with the ICRC's support.
- 8 district branches of the AzRCS received first-aid material, IT equipment and office supplies.

## DETENTION



- 80 visits to 19 places of detention were conducted to monitor the conditions of detention, treatment of detainees and to support them in maintaining family links. During visits 1,600 oral, video, written messages and phone calls were exchanged between conflict-related detainees and their family members in Armenia. Approximately 40 oral, video, written messages, and phone calls were exchanged with conflict-related detainees in Armenia and their family members in Azerbaijan in 2023.
- Over 6,000 detainees received various items, including summer and winter clothes, shoes, hygiene kits, books, sports equipment etc.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



- 648 persons, among them patients of a specialized care center, were supported with transfer to and from Karabakh upon their will and in collaboration with concerned decision-makers.
- 20 people in Karabakh were able to reconnect with their family members in Armenia and other countries through over 150 video and phone calls by December 2023.
- 21 Red Cross messages (containing brief family news) were exchanged between people stranded abroad and their relatives in Azerbaijan.
- Several vulnerable families of repatriated children received financial support which helped them sort out documentation-related issues.

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