

AZERBAIJAN

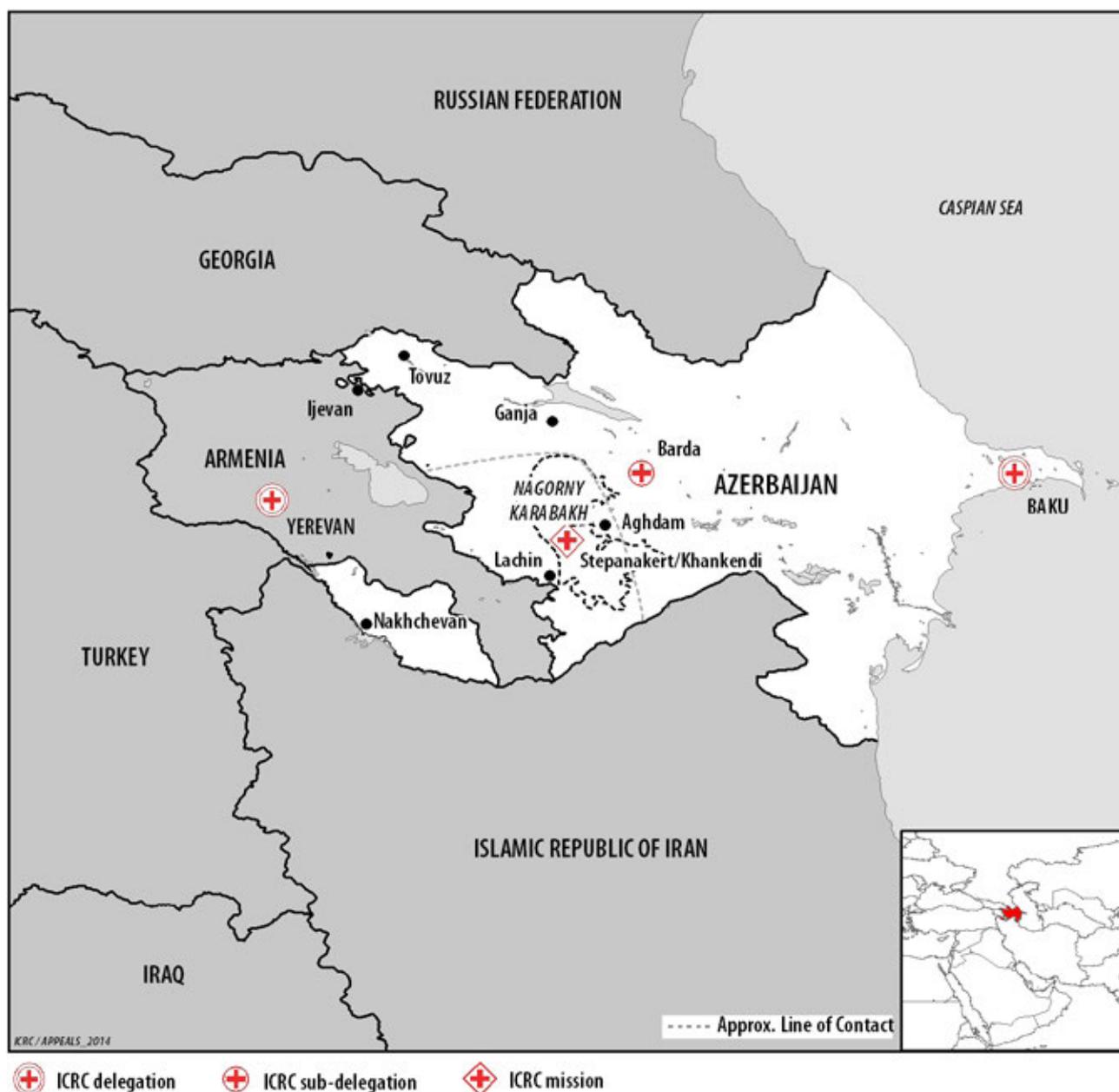
The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan since 1992 in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh armed conflict. It focuses on the issue of missing persons and on detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons, and works to protect and assist communities living along the Line of Contact and the international border with Armenia. It promotes implementation of IHL and its integration into armed and security forces' training and into academic curricula. The ICRC works in partnership with and aims to help strengthen the capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,905
Assistance	4,569
Prevention	778
Cooperation with National Societies	313
General	-
Total	7,565
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	462

PERSONNEL

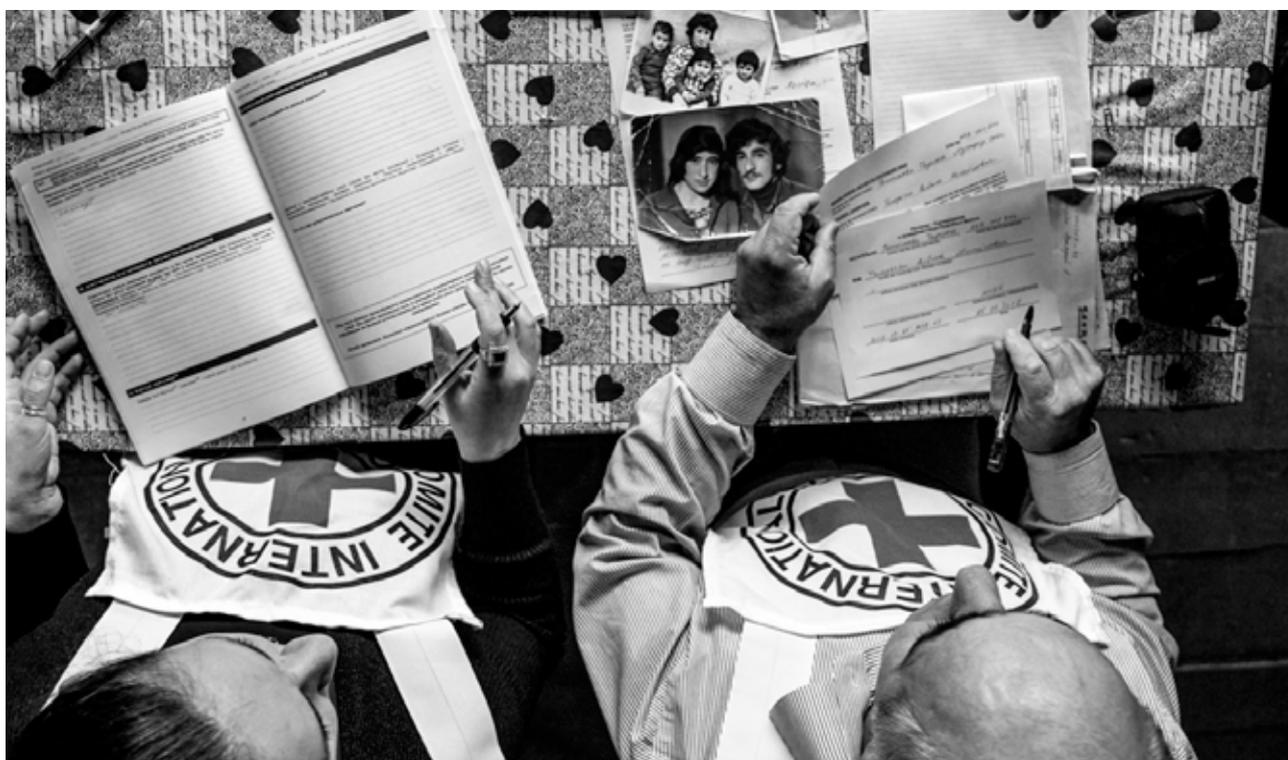
Mobile staff	12
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	75



MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ members of conflict-affected communities boost their livelihoods and coping mechanisms with National Society/ ICRC material assistance
- ▶ willing relatives of missing persons start providing DNA samples to aid authorities in the future identification of human remains
- ▶ some 665 families of missing persons access psychological and social support from ICRC-trained service providers
- ▶ the authorities take steps to identify possible gaps in existing legislation protecting the rights of missing persons and their families
- ▶ the authorities renew an agreement granting the ICRC access to detainees in accordance with its standard procedures
- ▶ detainees of ICRC concern, including POWs and civilian internees, benefit from measures taken regarding their treatment and living conditions, following ICRC visits and recommendations made to the authorities

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	545
Cash	Beneficiaries	1,365
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	20
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	5,400



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CONTEXT

Despite several high-level meetings between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mediated by the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), no progress has been made in finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

Tensions persist along the Line of Contact and the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Incidents of cross-border fire and the presence of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to affect civilians living in the area, in addition to causing both military and civilian

casualties and exacerbating political tensions between the two countries.

Azerbaijan is active in international fora and is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is an important player in the energy sector in Europe and Central Asia. In recent years, Azerbaijan has increased its annual military spending.

Owing to its isolation, Nagorny Karabakh's local economy depends mainly on subsidies from abroad.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the ICRC will continue working to alleviate the humanitarian consequences in Azerbaijan of the unresolved conflict over Nagorny Karabakh, acting, in particular, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary. It will monitor the situation of civilians living near the international border with Armenia and along the Line of Contact, while encouraging the authorities, armed forces and community leaders to address humanitarian concerns. If necessary, it will remind the parties to the conflict of their obligations under IHL.

Helping resolve the fate of persons missing in relation to the conflict and addressing the needs of their families will remain a priority. The ICRC will provide expertise to aid the authorities in their efforts to provide answers to families of missing persons, particularly in the management of ante/post-mortem data and the proper handling and identification of human remains. With the authorities concerned, the ICRC will begin a pilot phase of collecting DNA samples from willing relatives of missing persons. Meanwhile, it will continue providing assistance to families of missing persons, coordinating with the authorities, NGOs and other service providers to address their other multifaceted needs.

While drawing the authorities' attention to the specific needs of vulnerable civilians and urging them to address these, the ICRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan in responding to the economic needs of residents and IDPs living close to the Line of Contact and the international border, including those arising from weapon contamination and the risk of cross-border fire. The National Society and the ICRC will jointly implement projects to improve people's living conditions, including securing their access to safe water, empowering them to identify risks and implement self-protective measures, and boosting their self-sufficiency. In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC will

help families of the missing and families of mine victims, as well as particularly vulnerable urban residents, including the elderly and the disabled, meet their basic needs.

People deprived of their freedom will receive visits from ICRC delegates to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable individuals, including POWs and civilian internees held in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, on whose behalf the ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, will liaise with the authorities regarding their detention and possible repatriation. The ICRC will continue to monitor the quality of the TB-control programme in prisons and promote it as a model to other countries.

To contribute to building an environment conducive to the respect of IHL, the ICRC will encourage the authorities to adopt national measures to protect the rights of missing persons and their families and to enhance the protection of cultural property in armed conflict. It will sustain contacts with the armed and security forces, the media and academic circles to raise awareness of IHL and internationally recognized standards, as applicable, and to promote acceptance of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

As in past years, the Azerbaijani Red Crescent will receive technical and financial support to strengthen its capacities, both when partnering the ICRC and when conducting its own activities, including in communications, first aid and restoring family links. All National Society/ICRC activities will be coordinated with Movement partners and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.