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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED
PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Emergency international assistance to refugees and
displaced persons in Azerbaijan

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to resolution 48/114 of 23 March 1994, in which the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Urgently appealed to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate and sufficient financial, medical and material assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons (para. 2);

(b) Invited the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the overall situation of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan and to make available his good offices as required (para. 4);

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution (para. 6).

I. BACKGROUND

A. Military conflict and economic deterioration

2. Since gaining independence in August 1991, Azerbaijan has experienced a marked socio-economic deterioration as a result of largely intractable problems that include military conflict, instability and a need for profound structural adjustment, while the ongoing conflict over Nagorny Karabakh has led to large-scale population movements.

3. Following an upsurge in the fighting in and around Nagorny Karabakh in April 1994, peace efforts intensified during May and June 1994 in an attempt to bring an end to the region's conflicts. The Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) Minsk Group and the Russian Federation have revitalized their mediatory efforts, but negotiations seem to be deadlocked.

4. Since the first influx in 1988 and during successive waves of Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons, the country has been experiencing great difficulty in coping with the ever increasing needs of that destitute population. In addition, economic dislocation as a result of recent regional changes has exacerbated the situation, causing the Government of Azerbaijan to rely heavily on international support. The already overstretched institutional capacity of the Government to deal with the problem of refugees and displaced people needs to be supplemented by cohesive and concerted humanitarian intervention.

5. Conflict has also resulted in substantial damage to the infrastructure and loss of agricultural land and other resources. Although revenue from the oil industry and the absence of a fuel shortage enable the authorities to provide some grain supplies, foreign exchange and budget constraints remain severe and limit the Government's capacity to import essential supplies, including other basic foodstuffs.

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6. There has also been much disruption through the loss of trade with other republics of the former USSR and the war in Nagorny Karabakh. Supply and market links have been disrupted with the collapse of interrepublic trade and the contraction of the military industry.

7. Since 1988 production has fallen drastically, personal incomes have decreased rapidly and unemployment has increased sharply. Annual inflation reached 2,000 per cent in 1993 but subsided somewhat in 1994. Fuel prices in real terms have tripled along with transport costs and have had a negative impact on all sectors of the economy. Government debt increased sharply in 1993 and if the war in Nagorny Karabakh continues, economic conditions will deteriorate even further.

B. Affected populations

8. The number of refugees to date, mostly originating from Armenia, are reported to total 250,000, while a further 658,000 people are estimated to be internally displaced. Of the latter, only 10 per cent are living in organized camps; the rest are housed either in public buildings, shelters provided by the Government or with host families. In addition, the most recent Armenian offensive has displaced another 50,000 persons, mostly from the Terter area.

9. Thus, close to a million refugees and displaced persons are now crammed into the houses of relatives, schools, collective farms, tents and thousands of makeshift shelters across Azerbaijan. Many of them live under the most difficult conditions, leaving them entirely dependent on outside help. Given the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities, cases of hepatitis A, measles, diphtheria and poliomyelitis have increased.

10. The inadequate living conditions of refugees and displaced families - characterized by poor sanitation and ignorance of the measures that prevent the spread of disease - make them more vulnerable to disease outbreaks and make it important to strengthen the health education component.

11. At present, around 200 schools country-wide are occupied by refugees and displaced persons, with the result that some 58,500 children are unable to attend school on a regular basis. The lack of paper for printing textbooks and the shortage of other school supplies are severely disrupting the learning process of many students. The situation of handicapped and displaced children in boarding schools and orphanages is particularly difficult.

12. It was determined by the World Food Programme (WFP) that some 447,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and members of most vulnerable groups were in need of relief food aid. The neediest IDPs are living in temporary shelters along roadsides or in temporary communal accommodation, such as schools, sanatoria, hostels, boarding houses, disused railway cars and other public structures. Vulnerable beneficiaries include elderly persons living alone with incomes below the minimum monthly pension as well as the institutionalized disabled, handicapped and orphans.

13. Only about 10 per cent of the total number of displaced persons live in organized camps run by the Iranian and Turkish Red Crescent Societies and the Islamic Relief Organization. During 1993, the number of camps sheltering displaced persons has increased all over Azerbaijan. The most important camps are in Imishli, Agjebedi, Saatli, Bilasuvar, Beylagan, and Sabirabad, several of which are on the Iranian border.

14. Most IDPs have little or no access to cash resources for their livelihood and largely depend on international humanitarian aid. The budgetary difficulties of the Government have severely constrained its ability to continue to support these people in need; the social safety net has virtually collapsed.

II. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

A. Assessment of overall requirements

15. The most immediate requirements of Azerbaijan are related to the impact of military conflict and economic deterioration on the situation of large segments of the population. One of the most urgent needs, therefore, is supplementary food rations for those worst affected.

16. The aggregate cereal requirement for the period April 1994-March 1995 was estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at 2.3 million tons, comprising 1.1 million tons for direct human consumption, nearly 1 million tons for animal feed and 250,000 tons for other uses. Assuming an average 1994 grain harvest of 1.3 million tons in July-August, the food grain import requirement for the 12-month period beginning 1 April 1994 would be 1 million tons.

17. The Government had planned to import that quantity on a commercial basis, using credit allocations and export earnings from oil and other products. However, in view of the fall in exports and the rapid devaluation of the manat, the Government is experiencing great difficulties in meeting the minimum grain import requirement.

18. Foreign-exchange constraints will continue to severely limit the imports of other basic foodstuffs and feedgrain. In mid-June, in response to the economic crisis, the price of bread and fuel was raised sharply and will henceforth be reviewed at least on a quarterly basis. In view of the current problems, supplementary food assistance will be required for the large number of IDPs and refugees as well as for other needy groups.

19. Urgent actions continue to be required to alleviate the deteriorating situation in the health sector, including measures to reduce the increasing incidence of water-borne diseases and diphtheria and expand immunization programmes. Large amounts of essential drugs and other medical supplies, financed through donor countries, are required. Support for prostheses is also considered important in view of the large number of people injured by conflict or mines and the current lack of adequate treatment and facilities.

20. Assistance to the education sector is also critical both to enable children to return to school and to improve their learning environment. Repair of schools, the provision of temporary school classrooms, paper for the printing of textbooks and other basic school materials are required. Special attention is also needed for children in institutions, including orphanages and centres for the handicapped and disabled.

21. Since the end of July 1994, rail transport between Azerbaijan and the northern Caucasus area of the Russian Federation, which carries most of the traffic to and from Azerbaijan, has been suspended. Currently, some 2,000 wagons containing food and other supplies for Azerbaijan are being held in Chechnya; at the same time, exports are being prevented from leaving Azerbaijan.

22. There is a continued need for the provision of shelter, other non-food items and protective services for refugees and IDPs who are housed in public buildings and in hard shelters and tents, including the rehabilitation of some shelters and the provision of commodities to help them through the next winter. Income-generating activities are also required to provide opportunities for refugees, returnees and displaced persons to become self-sufficient.

23. The Government needs technical assistance and data-processing equipment to strengthen its capacities to effectively coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Similar support is required by the sectoral ministries (health, education and those involved with refugees and IDPs).

24. Due to severe constraints on the logistics capacity across the entire region of the Caucasus, support is also required for the ports and railways to ensure that the anticipated amount of relief cargo can be delivered to Azerbaijan; that should include improvements to the communications network in the region.

25. Water and sanitation systems are highly inadequate and need urgent improvements. While some short-term assistance in those sectors is being provided through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and by some non-governmental organizations, the needs of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan are immense and costly.

B. Resource mobilization

26. During 1993, donor response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for humanitarian assistance to the Caucasus was generous but less substantial than anticipated. 1/

27. Following an inter-agency needs assessment mission led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, a United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus covering the period 1 April 1994-31 March 1995 was issued. The Appeal called for US\$ 29,252,373 to meet the needs of the emergency situation in Azerbaijan. As of end-July 1994, just under US\$ 10.5 million had been pledged, or 35.7 per cent, creating a shortfall of almost US\$ 19 million.

28. While donations in 1994 have improved, a serious shortfall remains. In an effort to ensure that the most urgent needs continue to be met, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs is currently working with humanitarian partners in the Caucasus to review priorities in the light of available donor funding. As part of the ongoing process, the draft strategy plan that was circulated at the end of May 1994 will be further revised in October 1994.

C. Organizational arrangements and logistics

29. The structure through which the United Nations system delivers relief is headed by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, who is also the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs, acting through the United Nations representative and its coordinator in Azerbaijan, is responsible for the coordination of humanitarian assistance on the part of the United Nations system.

30. The Department Coordinator in Azerbaijan is responsible for facilitating the work of other humanitarian partners and providing a liaison role, on behalf of the Department, with the Government, non-governmental organizations and donor representatives.

31. Inter-Agency meetings chaired by the Department are held every week in Baku. The Department is expecting to have a humanitarian affairs officer in place by 1 September and is in the process of fielding an assistant humanitarian affairs officer. As an interim measure, the Department sent a humanitarian affairs officer to Baku at the beginning of August to assist its coordinator until longer-term arrangements are in place.

32. UNHCR continues to provide assistance for refugees and displaced persons. During 1994/95, a special emphasis will be placed on providing target groups with the means to promote self-sufficiency. As part of its legal and protection mandate, UNHCR will strengthen its registration mechanisms for refugees and will continue to provide refugee law training.

33. A formal agreement was reached at the end of June 1994 between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) regarding the management of the camps in southern Azerbaijan, holding close to 46,000 displaced persons, under the joint responsibility of the Federation and the two Societies. The joint running of the camps is envisaged for a six-month period, during which the possibilities for transferring camp management responsibility to the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society will be explored.

34. The transport of large quantities of humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan is a major logistical operation. Recognizing the crucial role of the regional rail network for transporting relief goods, WFP has undertaken actions aimed at strengthening the Caucasus railway system for the transport of humanitarian cargo. Air transport of relief food has only been resorted to in exceptional cases. Road routes for imports into the Caucasus countries are currently being investigated.

35. The Caucasus Logistics Advisory Unit (CLAU) was established by WFP in late 1993, with its main office in Georgia; its initiatives have been valuable in improving logistics coordination for the transport of humanitarian cargo to Azerbaijan. CLAU carried out an assessment of Baku port in April and as a result, WFP is investigating the possibility of direct shipments by rail and sea from Europe to Azerbaijan.

III. SECTORAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Food-supply situation and food aid

36. Agricultural production in Azerbaijan has been declining since 1991 due to disruptions caused by military conflict and the associated loss of productive crop and pasture land. Current indications point to a limited recovery in food output in 1994, but livestock production is expected to contract further as a result of the shortage of animal feed.

37. Food aid to Azerbaijan, both bilateral and multilateral, is coordinated by WFP with a view to ensuring a better coverage of the affected people and to avoid overlapping and duplication of effort.

38. WFP has assessed emergency food aid requirements for the period 1 July 1994-31 March 1995 at 28,782 tons. Donors have so far pledged a total of 12,267 tons; consequently, the shortfall for the nine-month period is 16,614 tons, valued at US\$ 10.3 million, including external freight, internal transport, storage and handling and management costs.

39. Over 4,000 tons of WFP-supplied emergency food aid have been delivered to Azerbaijan since operations began in late 1993. Of that amount, 2,449 tons have consisted of family food parcels. Other commodities received were 818 tons of wheat flour, 550 tons of pasta, 212 tons of vegetable oil and 200 tons of potato flakes.

40. WFP provides the overall coordination of transport and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the region. WFP has several implementing partners that carry out distributions. Most WFP food has been distributed through the Government, with smaller distributions through the Ministry of Education (to schools for handicapped children) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (for single elderly people living alone).

41. Distribution of the food supplied by WFP was first undertaken in Baku and a number of provinces that were considered priorities. Food parcels were collected by beneficiaries from warehouses following registration and the issuance of vouchers by local housing authorities. In 1993, prior to the commencement of WFP food operations, UNHCR had provided limited quantities of various food items.

42. To date, supplementary food has been provided to over 116,000 families or an estimated 580,000 family members. In addition, supplementary food has been provided to more than 8,600 single persons. UNHCR has indirectly supplemented

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food intake by providing vegetable seeds and agricultural implements to all displaced persons with access to land, a quick impact project that has had highly positive results.

43. Distribution to other target groups will be carried out through non-governmental organizations as implementing partners, to the extent feasible, and through government implementing agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education, particularly for institutional feeding. IFRC, CARE International, Relief International, and the local Red Crescent Society are already involved in the distribution of WFP-supplied food. WFP will continue to supervise and monitor the implementation of feeding programmes.

44. By the end of August, IFRC will finish the distribution of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) family food parcels (for four months each) among 200,000 IDPs in the following settlements: Imishly, Saatli, Agjabedi, Sabirabad 1 and 2, Geranboy and Yevlakh.

45. Between January and July 1994, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) distributed 41,500 family food parcels to displaced people in districts close to the frontline (mainly Agdam, Terter and Bejlagan). The same beneficiaries were also assisted with non-food items - 25,000 blankets, 2,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, 256 tents and other urgently needed relief items.

46. ICRC, whose relief activities are carried out in close cooperation with IFRC and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, will continue to focus on the districts close to the frontline. The specific future relief assistance of ICRC will partly depend on the activities of other humanitarian agencies.

B. Health

47. The World Health Organization (WHO) has placed a liaison officer at the Ministry of Health in Baku and is planning to accelerate the tuberculosis (TB) programme in Azerbaijan. The programme includes training courses for managers and physicians, and seeks to ensure adequate TB drug supplies, laboratory equipment and diagnosis procedures for TB. In parallel, WHO also plans to step up human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis testing to guarantee safe blood testing and transfusions. Two nutritional surveys are also planned with the Ministry of Health before the end of the year.

48. WHO collaborates closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies and organizations involved in the health sector to ensure the most effective use of resources and to standardize approaches to the provision of health services and medical supplies.

49. In order to reduce the incidence of preventable diseases and better respond to the continuous increase in the number of affected children, UNICEF has concentrated its efforts in Azerbaijan in the field of immunization. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF carried out an Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) workshop at the end of June. UNICEF will continue to provide the Ministry of Health with all basic vaccines for children

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up to two years old and with syringes for vaccination. It is estimated that, following vaccination campaigns undertaken jointly by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in December 1993, February and March 1994, 90 per cent of children under the age of two have been vaccinated.

50. UNICEF plans to assign a cold chain consultant to Azerbaijan for the second time in September 1994 to train trainers on the maintenance of compression and absorption refrigerators.

51. Another focus of UNICEF activities will be to provide medical kits containing medicines and disposable medical items to all paediatric institutions in Azerbaijan until the end of 1994.

52. UNICEF assistance to Azerbaijan will continue to concentrate on EPI, iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) and capacity-building, as well as on introducing new projects on breast-feeding (the baby-friendly hospital initiative), family planning, water supply, environmental sanitation, emergency rehabilitation and health education.

53. In 1993, UNICEF distributed in refugee camps high protein biscuits (10 tons) and winter clothes for children up to 5 years of age (2,000), anti-lice shampoo (5,088 bottles), and benzyl benzoate lotion (500 bottles). UNICEF also provided the Ministry of Health with children hospital kits (67 sets) and anti-diphtheria serums.

54. In the future, UNICEF also plans to undertake work in laying the basis for longer-term cooperation in child development, including research to determine the nature of the factors underlying the main health and social problems affecting children in the country.

55. UNICEF assessment teams have also undertaken a study in the health and educational sector to monitor the changing conditions of children and how they are affected by the economic, political and security situation.

56. UNHCR is providing funding to three non-governmental organizations for supplies of medicines, training and mobile medical clinic services. In the first half of 1994, more than 30,000 patients were attended to by the medical outreach programme.

57. A further area of engagement is to establish permanently staffed medical outreach posts to serve as rural clinics. Efforts are being undertaken to provide for the supply of medical hardware, such as dressing and surgical equipment, in support of hospitals, as well as to expand treatment capacity in order to provide for an increased number of patients.

C. Water supply and sanitation

58. In view of inadequate water supply facilities in terms of availability and reliability, comprehensive water system rehabilitation and construction work is under implementation, involving 15 most needy regions. Technical interventions linking water mains with distant settlements are being put in place to provide

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outlying communities with potable supplies; improved water availability and quality is aimed at enhancing rural living and contributing to the overall physical well-being of the beneficiary communities. Rural and isolated settlements will particularly benefit from such improvements.

59. In addition to the provision of improved water supply, the rehabilitation of existing sewage facilities and the construction of new units (pit latrines) is being undertaken so as to enhance efforts made in the field of water supply.

D. Refugee shelter, household support and protection

60. In addressing the needs of the refugees and the displaced populations, UNHCR is focusing on a care-and-maintenance type of assistance, including the provision and replacement of household items.

61. During 1993, UNHCR provided assistance to about 300,000 out of some one million refugees and IDPs in various forms, such as clothing, shelter, domestic utensils, food and other items. The recipients are considered the most vulnerable among the refugees and displaced. From the above case-load, about 70 per cent of the refugees and IDPs are children, women and the elderly. The majority of the displaced persons are from rural areas.

62. While the 1993 programme focused on the delivery of emergency assistance, that aspect of the programme is planned to be concluded in 1994, if financial resources and logistical considerations permit. A pilot project is being prepared that will gradually shift the emphasis to finding a more long-term solution to the problem of shelter for some 80 per cent of the displaced persons, who are temporarily housed in public buildings, such as schools, dormitories and technical institutes. Such a long-term solution would reduce the strain on infrastructure in the health and education sectors, improve water and sanitation, and promote a measure of economic activity for those displaced persons who are unemployed.

63. As a result of inadequate programme resources to meet the additional needs and problems relating to transporting relief items to outlying areas, the provision of relief items to the case-load of beneficiaries has not been fully achieved to date.

64. In an effort to maintain the basic health and physical well-being of the refugees and IDPs and to replenish items made available previously, UNHCR is procuring blankets (150,000), liquid or solid fuel heaters (stoves) for 20,000 families, kitchen sets (10,000) and locally made kerosene lamps (2,000). In addition, UNHCR will provide 100 tons of toilet soap for a target population of 150,000 over a period of six months, as a one-time supply.

65. The most vulnerable segments of the refugee and IDP communities will be provided with locally procured clothing and footwear (1,000 pieces of each). Children below the age of 12 are the main target group of beneficiaries. The distribution of domestic items will be undertaken by the regional executive committees overseen by the Government, central authority, and the Department for Refugees and Displaced Persons, with UNHCR-appointed non-governmental

organizations carrying out the distribution in their regions of operation. To support the most vulnerable families, UNHCR will, whenever necessary, provide one-time financial assistance amounting to US\$ 50 covering a total of 70 families during the period of project implementation.

66. As in the previous year, arrangements are being continued for the supply of heavy-duty plastic sheets to provide shelter to many refugees and displaced persons housed in simple or inadequate structures and to improve their immediate living conditions.

67. UNHCR is in the process of procuring 2,000 double-fly tents to partially replace tents that suffered damage and no longer provide adequate shelter for displaced communities residing in roadside settlements and camps. A large number of tents will need to be replaced in the preparation for the 1994/95 winter season, particularly in the camps.

68. The project is also providing for one-family dwellings to be constructed with locally available construction material and to make permanent shelter available to some of the displaced persons who are living in occupied public school buildings and other learning institutions, in order to relieve the pressure on the educational facilities to enable some of the schools to resume teaching.

69. ICRC visits persons detained in relation with the Karabakh conflict and is facilitating contacts between the detainees and their families via Red Cross messages. Furthermore, one international and one national staff are exclusively involved in the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law in the Azerbaijan armed forces, the media and other target groups.

E. Education

70. It has been found that, in the massive displacement and exodus of populations since 1988, approximately 45 per cent of the 908,000 refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan live in temporary shelters, tents or in the open; their children have virtually no access to education.

71. Access to schools in the areas of Azerbaijan affected by the conflict is a critical issue, with 200 school buildings currently occupied by refugee and internally displaced families, and more than 58,500 children unable to attend school regularly.

72. Since school buildings provide shelter to the displaced people, plans are under way to provide children with alternative school facilities in order to revive primary and secondary level classroom activities and to cater to an increased number of school-going children. It is thus envisaged to erect up to 300 school tents with dimensions of 3.5 m x 8.0 m.

73. The shortage of textbooks is a cause for concern. Shortages are particularly acute among refugees and displaced children. UNHCR is addressing the issue through a pilot project that envisages the provision of school furniture and teaching materials.

F. Social sector

74. UNDP is funding a pilot labour-force survey, which is being conducted through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Azerbaijan. The project will analyse future employment needs and trends, taking into account the needs of families expected to resettle in Azerbaijan in the near future.

G. Small business assistance

75. The activity is designed to equip selected tradesmen with tool kits to support their renewed skills and to promote economic activity and self-reliance among the trained artisans. The project will enable a limited number of tradesmen, such as masons, carpenters, car mechanics, electricians and plumbers, to resume their trades as well as to provide regular services to displaced communities.

76. UNHCR is also implementing a programme for supporting small-scale agricultural activities by refugee and displaced families. About 4 tons of seeds have been made available, providing up to 60,000 families with the opportunity to grow their own vegetables. In addition to hybrid seeds, the project is also providing for the procurement of 11,000 sets of farming implements to complement and support vegetable growing by the beneficiaries. The tools will also find application in the rehabilitation and repair work of temporary shelter and in providing means for practical work by the beneficiaries themselves, promoting a degree of self-reliance.

IV. ASSISTANCE BY STATES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

77. Significant bilateral humanitarian assistance is being provided to Azerbaijan by States, operating through regional organizations, such as the European Union, and international and national non-governmental organizations. Information on such assistance, which was provided by States in response to a request by the United Nations Secretariat, has been collated below.

78. Egypt has provided assistance to Azerbaijan by sending packages of blankets, medicines and medical equipment for a total sum of 364,000 Egyptian pounds.

79. The Islamic Republic of Iran is actively engaged in relief operations in Azerbaijan by providing food, water, sanitation and health-care facilities through IRCS. Health care and medical services to the displaced persons are being provided in IRCS clinics. To date, almost 2,500 cases of measles and polio have been treated, and diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) vaccinations for children under five have been conducted.

80. Japan has provided US\$ 1 million for the provision of medicines, blankets and other materials through UNHCR; US\$ 1 million for the provision of medicine and medical equipment through ICRC; 1.25 million yen for the provision of UNICEF

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emergency medical kits and contributed US\$ 600,000 through UNHCR in support of its efforts on behalf of Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons from Armenia.

81. Norway has contributed a total of 11,467,602 Norwegian kroner (Nkr) to relief efforts for Azerbaijan, of which Nkr 7,410,000 was allocated to food, refugee camps, medicines, tents and protection of civilians; Nkr 3 million was donated through UNHCR to programmes for refugees and internally displaced persons; and Nkr 1,057,602 was allocated through Norwegian non-governmental organizations to internally displaced persons and to the secondment of personnel.

82. Pakistan has contributed 2.4 million Pakistan rupees for special humanitarian assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees; the sum was used to purchase relief goods, including 100 tents, 2,500 blankets and 1,885 kgs of medical supplies, which were delivered through the IRCS.

83. Switzerland provided emergency assistance to the three countries of the Caucasus in the amount of 3,570,000 Swiss francs in 1993; the sum was distributed among ICRC, UNHCR, WFP and the Swiss Red Cross. Assistance provided in the first quarter of 1994 amounted to 700,000 Swiss francs and was channelled through WFP.

84. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has provided assistance to Azerbaijan in support of refugee and displaced persons in the amount of 2,199,736 pounds sterling (£) since December 1992; it provided £2,035,597 in the financial year 1993-1994. In addition, the United Kingdom provided £750,000 for the United Nations Consolidated Appeal in March 1993, of which £500,000 was delivered to WFP, £200,000 to UNICEF and £50,000 to WHO. The United Kingdom also contributed funds totalling £2,092,000 to the European Union's humanitarian assistance programme in Azerbaijan.

85. The United States of America has earmarked US\$ 12 million for emergency assistance to Azerbaijan in fiscal year 1994. Of that sum, US\$ 10 million has been disbursed to date in the following manner: US\$ 3,050,000 was allocated through CARE International for the provision of food and transportation; US\$ 1 million worth of pharmaceuticals were provided through Save the Children (United States of America); US\$ 500,000 was made available to WFP for the provision of food; and US\$ 6,174,000 was donated through private organizations for the procurement of medical supplies, sanitation equipment, tents and food, through the United States Department of Agriculture and WFP.

86. The European Union has provided emergency food assistance (wheat, sugar and vegetable oil) to the three countries of the Caucasus in the amount of 13 million European currency units (ECUs).

87. The World Bank responded early in 1994 to the request of the Government of Azerbaijan for assistance in alleviating the severe water supply shortage in Baku; it is currently preparing a project for Bank financing. The Bank agreed to follow up on two technical assistance projects and the proposed Baku water supply project in fiscal year 1995. The Bank also agreed to initiate the

preparation of a gas rehabilitation project and an irrigation rehabilitation project for fiscal year 1996.

88. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provided over 800 tons of wheat flour and 8,000 family food parcels.

89. The Swiss Academy for Development, in a joint assistance programme with IRCS, has donated a large amount of food, household and hygienic items.

90. OXFAM (United Kingdom) is engaged in the implementation of a project for the rehabilitation and construction of water and sanitation components, as well as in the accompanying solid-waste and pest control and related health education programmes of the project. OXFAM has undertaken to install 270 toilets and established five baths with 20 showers. The construction work on the baths has begun.

91. Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium) is the primary partner of UNHCR in the implementation of projects in the health sector. It is providing basic medical field assessments, the rudimentary training of local medical auxiliary staff and the distribution of appropriate medicines to the beneficiaries. The UNHCR-appointed non-governmental organization is responsible for the purchase of selected medical supplies and its distribution on a case-by-case basis to refugees and displaced persons in the most vulnerable districts. The organization is also fielding international medical staff in support of the activities of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan.

92. Relief International (United States of America) in cooperation with Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium), ensures the implementation of projects in the health sector serving primarily the most isolated and rural communities, where it provides primary health-care outreach and mobile clinic programmes. It also acts as a partner to WFP and has undertaken most of the distribution of food to vulnerable categories and to internally displaced persons in over 10 districts around Baku.

93. CARE Canada has recently established its presence in Azerbaijan, with distribution activities centred in Mingachevir, and will become the main implementing partner of WFP for most future consignments.

94. ADRA (United States of America) is distributing food to displaced persons in the Nakhitchevan region.

95. The Azerbaijani Red Crescent Society is responsible for the receipt, storage, transport and distribution of relief items in the metropolitan area of Baku.

V. OBSERVATIONS

96. Azerbaijan has been ravaged by six years of conflict over the Nagorny Karabakh region. In July 1994, the Azerbaijani and Armenian Defence Ministers and the military representative of Nagorny Karabakh signed a declaration committing themselves to continue to abide by the cease-fire reached

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early May until the signing of the comprehensive political agreement. The Russian Federation and the CSCE Minsk Group have revitalized their mediatory efforts. The international community has high hopes that a resolution to the long conflict can be found in the near future.

97. The military conflict has taken a terrible toll on the people of Azerbaijan and has contributed to a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Azerbaijan, in particular due to the displacement of large numbers of civilians. Even in regions not directly affected by fighting, the impact of the war is nevertheless being felt in terms of economic breakdown, the deterioration of social services, marginal living standards and influxes of injured and war-displaced people who have little hope of receiving adequate care.

98. The United Nations system has been in the forefront of the efforts to alleviate the plight of the many thousands of refugees and displaced persons, but the success of its efforts to provide assistance will depend entirely on effective international support that provides adequate means for the task.

99. The continuing conflict constrains the ability of the United Nations and its partners in relief to assist in finding a durable and lasting solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

Notes

1/ For contributions to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus (as regards Azerbaijan), see tables 1 and 2. It should be noted that a number of donors have also provided funds for the coordination of the inter-agency humanitarian programme in Azerbaijan.

Table 1. United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus (relative to Azerbaijan): total contributions/income, by agency, as of 29 July 1994

(United States dollars)

Country	Agency	Requirements (Apr. 94- Mar. 95)	Pledged carry-over	Shortfall	Percentage covered
Azerbaijan	UNHCR <u>a/</u>	6 988 400	2 413 370	4 575 030	34.5
	UNICEF	2 339 296	298 507	2 040 789	12.8
	WHO	3 645 000	80 000	3 565 000	2.2
	UNESCO	1 526 000	0	1 526 000	0.0
	UNV	186 000	0	186 000	0.0
	IOM	98 400	0	98 400	0.0
	WFP <u>b/ c/</u>	14 469 277	7 652 338	6 816 939	52.9
Total		29 252 373	10 444 215	18 808 158	35.7

a/ UNHCR budget covers the period 1 January to 31 December 1994 because it has an ongoing programme with an annual budget cycle.

b/ Food requirements based on the 1 August 1994 to 31 March 1995 time-period.

c/ WFP has reported a further requirement of 25,526 tons and a further carry-over of 12,267 tons, which constitutes a shortfall of 13,259 tons and a coverage of 48.1 per cent for that requirement.

Table 2. United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus (relative to Azerbaijan): donor breakdown of contributions, by agency, as of 29 July 1994

Donor	Channel	Project code-sector	US\$
Canada	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	182 482
France	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	175 131
Netherlands	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	561 798
Norway	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	410 959
United Kingdom	WHO	CAU-94-1/N23-B - Health	10 000
United Kingdom	WHO	CAU-94-1/N24-B - Health	45 000
United Kingdom	WHO	CAU-94-1/N25-B - Health	10 000
United Kingdom	WHO	CAU-94-1/N26-B - Health	15 000
United Kingdom	UNICEF	Relief assistance to displaced people and other vulnerable groups	298 507
United States	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	683 000
	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - Assistance to refugees/IDPs	300 000
Stichting Vluchteling (NETH)	UNHCR	CAU-94-1/N28 - For health services through MSF and Ref. Int.	<u>100 000</u>
Total for Azerbaijan			2 791 877
<u>WFP food contributions</u>			
			<u>Tons</u>
			<u>US\$</u>
United States	WFP	CAU-94-1/N21 - Emergency food assistance	5 926
<u>WFP food contributions: carry-over</u>			
			<u>Tons</u>
			<u>US\$</u>
Finland			137
Netherlands			1 593
United Kingdom			1 760
United States			1 633
United States			400
European Community			<u>818</u>
Total for Azerbaijan			6 341
			4 784 338