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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Armenia: Landslides

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation n° MDRAM003</b>	<b>Glide n° MS-2016-000070-ARM</b>
<b>Date of issue: 8 July 2016</b>	<b>Date of disaster: 24 June 2016</b>
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<b>Operation start date: 8 July 2016</b>	<b>Expected timeframe: 2 months (8 July – 8 September 2016)</b>
<b>Overall operation budget: CHF 55,046</b>	
<b>Number of people affected: 750 people (162 households)</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 600 people in 132 households</b>
<b>Host National Society Presence: The Armenian Red Cross (ARCS) has regional branches affected Gegharquniq and Shirak regions which will be key role players in the field operation.</b>	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The local and regional authorities of targeted areas will be actively involved in the operation.</b>	

### A. Situation analysis

#### Description of the disaster

On 24 June 2016, as a result of heavy hailstorm and rains, an unprecedented mudflow seriously damaged Karchaghbyur village of Gegharqunik region and Artik city of Shirak region with homes, public buildings, streets and bridges as well as agricultural lands seriously affected. Following the disaster, electric power cuts made response activities even more difficult on the local level.

*Karchakhbyur village* is located 30 km away from the border with Azerbaijan in a remote and isolated area of Gegharqunik region, which is one of the poorest regions in Armenia.<sup>1</sup> The total population of the village is 2,518 people or 752 households. People in the village are mainly involved in potato growing and cattle breeding.



Affected houses in Artik city.  
Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/artiki.qaxaqapetaran/photos?pnref=lhc>

<sup>1</sup>Social Snapshot of Poverty in Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia at [http://armstat.am/file/article/10\\_poverty\\_2015e\\_7.pdf](http://armstat.am/file/article/10_poverty_2015e_7.pdf)

The streets are in a poor condition, which causes problems for any type of activity within the village. According to the information provided by the local authorities, there are around 140 affected households in this village where mainly homes and agricultural lands (arable lands, hayfields, pastures, and sown areas) and livestock have been seriously affected. Moreover, the ground floor of the village school has also been flooded and needs significant repairs.

*Artik city* is located in Shirak region which is also one of the poor regions in Armenia. There are quarries around the city, and many of them have been operating since the Soviet times. On 24 June, as a result of hailstorm and heavy rains, the water from the hills flooded the city bringing down stones from a canyon to the residential area. The flow was so high that the walls of the sewage canals broke and the water spilled into different directions covering many parts of the city. Moreover, as a result of lightening, the electricity was cut off causing difficulties to response activities. Approximately 12,000 m<sup>3</sup> of stone appeared in the yards and streets of the city as well as inside of the houses making cleaning impossible without special machinery involvement. This also resulted in a cut-off of water supply. Gas supply was immediately shut down by the relevant service provider to avoid secondary disasters.

According to the local authorities' estimates, 12 households have been seriously affected by the disaster and another 30 households have indicated medium level losses. The regional and local authorities responsible for relevant operations are fully engaged in providing assistance to the population. Special equipment and machinery from the region have been mobilized in the city of Artik. According to a rapid assessment report, there are many volunteers among the residents who are engaged in response activities helping people clean their yards and homes from the mud, dirt and stones.



Rapid needs assessment in Artik city.  
Source: Photo done by ARCS.



Affected house in Artik city  
Source: Artik municipality, at  
<https://www.facebook.com/artiki.qaxaqapetaran/photos?pnref=lhc>

The Emergency Situations Governmental Commissions were activated for conducting an assessment of the damages in both locations. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, together with the respective Ministers of Emergency Situations, Territorial Administration and Development and Urban Development visited Artik city on 25 June in order to understand the scope of disaster and assess the operative situation and the scale of damages caused<sup>2</sup>. The next day, the Prime Minister called for an emergency meeting to discuss the final outcomes of local Emergency Situations Commissions' assessment findings and measures to be undertaken by the Government. It was decided to provide financial support to the suffering people in Artik city for the recovery of their homes. Also, the regional Rescue Services and regional authorities were actively involved in the response operations providing all necessary assistance and ensuring coordination. It is worth mentioning that the Artik Municipality is offering the affected people temporary shelter until the situation is solved. At the moment, however, the affected people are refusing to leave their damaged homes.

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<sup>2</sup> H. Abrahamyan visits Artik city districts damaged by mudflow, at <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/852227/pm-abrahamyan-visits-artik-city-districts-damaged-by-floods.html>

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

The Disaster Management of the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) has developed significantly during the recent years. The NS is currently one of the leading organizations in the country in this field. It has strengthened its capacities in Community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and its institutional preparedness and response. ARCS is considered by the Ministry of Emergency Situation as a leading actor in DRR and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with that Ministry for coordinating their joint efforts in disaster response and DRR. The NS is a member of National DRR Platform and is involved in different working groups, even leading some of them. The National Society has two IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team members. It has an emergency stock for around 500 families to provide temporary shelter in case of a large scale disaster. The NS also has a disaster response and contingency plan developed in the year of 2007 and revised in 2015 for an eventual earthquake scenario. The NS DM & PM department consists of 16 people including the staff in the branches. Some 350 active volunteers are involved in DM activities countrywide.



Affected house in Artik city. Source: Artik municipality, at <https://www.facebook.com/artiki.qaxaqapetaran/photos?pnref=lhc>

The ARCS has developed a Community Based DRR model, which includes community risk identification, community CB through training and establishment of voluntary groups, development of disaster preparedness and mitigation action plans and support in mitigation measures. The NS is reaching families and schools in Armenia through its awareness raising activities. From 2014 the NS has engaged in developing its urban DRR capacities.

In response to a hailstorm in Armavir region in May 2013, ARCS implemented three disaster response operations. Thus, 4,020 people were assisted with food and hygienic items for three months through a DREF operation. To complement the DREF support, the Austrian RC provided additional funds to ARCS to assist 200 people. The assistance continued through the Danish RC in the form of hygiene parcels to 3,000 people affected by the hailstorm and losing 100% of their crops. Moreover, ARCS had implemented another DREF operation in 2014 for responding to urgent needs of Syrian refugees. Within that operation, the urgent humanitarian and livelihood needs of around 980 beneficiaries was met. Thus, in 2013 and 2014 the NS conducted DREF operations to assist hail affected population in Armavir region and Syrian Armenians during a harsh winter period accordingly.

During recent years ARCS has included cash assistance for school enrolment and voucher for medication and clothes as a component in its programs especially ones directed at supporting Syrian refugees. Therefore, the procedures and forms for implementation of cash and voucher distribution are in place and can be applied to new emergency response operations.

### Actions already taken by the NS

After the first information was received about the disaster, the representatives of ARCS Gegharqunik and Shirak regional branches started an intensively communication with local and regional authorities, visited the affected areas and provided information for the ARCS HQ on the situation.

Then ARCS made a decision to activate its Rapid Response Team for organizing a rapid needs assessment in the affected areas in order to define the consequences and the need for its involvement in the operation. The activated team has agreed on the structure and methodology for conducting an assessment in order to identify the people's basic needs, the scope of damages and to establish formal



Rapid needs assessment in Karchaghbyur village.  
Photo: ARCS

communication with the local authorities.

The ARCS's Rapid Response Team comprised of representatives from the HQ, and the above mentioned regional branches have visited both disaster stricken areas. Using the list of affected local residents provided by the local authorities, 20 households out of 120 families with significant losses have been randomly selected for interviews in Karchaghbyur village and 5 out of 12 seriously affected households in Artik city. Simultaneously, interviews were conducted with local administration staff in order to identify the scope of activities undertaken by the government and other organizations. Furthermore, the affected areas have been also visited for direct observation in order to understand the scope of losses of the local residents and to find out the needs of the local people. As a result, a rapid needs assessment report was prepared by the team clarifying the current situation, the main needs and the obstacles.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

The ICRC is working closely with the NS in the fields of Mines Risk Awareness-raising, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Dissemination. The Danish Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross are represented in the country through assigned delegates coordinating programs such as "Building Safe Communities in Southern Caucasus", "Building Resilient Local Communities in Armenia and Georgia", "Climate Forum East II", etc. Those projects are supported by their Tbilisi offices in Georgia. In 2016, Swiss Red Cross opened an office in Armenia with a local delegate for strengthening cooperation with ARCS and implementing joint projects. There is no IFRC country office in Armenia.



Rapid needs assessment in Karchaghbyur village.  
Photo: ARCS

### **Movement Coordination**

The Movement Coordination Agreement was signed in 2011 to coordinate Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement activities in Armenia. The parties are having regular coordination meetings. The Danish RC and Austrian RC have also co-signed the Movement Coordination Agreement.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

In the area of DRR there are not many actors in the country implementing different projects. However, they are coordinating their activities in this field through the National DRR Platform that comprises different stakeholders and is a main coordination body that includes not only different organizations like OXFAM, UNDP, Save the Children, etc. but also the Government and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The National Society as a UN DMT member receives and shares information on the situation with all stakeholders. Starting from the second day of the disaster, there has been a permanent contact with UN OCHA inasmuch as the NS is the only actor in the country that keeps visiting both affected locations. Taking into account the medium scale of the disaster, none of the UN agencies is initiating a response and, therefore ARCS as a reliable partner is permanently contacted by UN OCHA for information on the flooding.

In order to ensure a proper coordination of the activities related to disaster relief, ARCS closely works with the local and regional authorities. The Head of ARCS Disaster Management and Population Movement department has met with representatives from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development and the Ministry of Emergency Situations assigned for coordinating government activities and clarifying the role of the NS in this regard. Similar meetings have been conducted with the local authorities of Karchaghbyur village and Artik city in addition to the regional authorities of Shirak and Gegharqunik regions accordingly aiming to clarify situation, define the needs and inform about the NS's readiness for initiating a relief operation. During the Rapid Needs Assessment, the local authorities assisted the team in conducting interviews and making observations.

## Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

As a result of the ARCS's Rapid Needs Assessment as well as the information received from the local authorities and the final act of the Governmental Emergency Situations Commissions listing the damages and losses, it becomes clear that the priority needs of the beneficiaries are construction materials for renovation/reconstruction of their damaged homes and seeds and fertilizers to recover their agricultural lands (100%), hygiene and sanitary items and food (around 85%). There were also a limited number of respondents requiring special types of tools for construction works as well as livestock.

As it was mentioned above, the affected families in Artik city have been receiving some cash assistance from the Government for reconstruction. However, there are urgent needs to be met in terms of responding to the people's basic household needs for items such as hygiene materials and food. The assessment shows that the ground floors in almost all homes were badly affected, and the stored food and non-food reserves mainly assigned for the upcoming autumn and winter period were gone.

The ARCS prioritizes supporting the suffering people with food and hygiene and sanitary parcels as well as the provision of cash for temporary home recovery solutions. Thus, having in mind the socio-economic conditions in both regions, ARCS has decided to urgently apply for a DREF allocation to provide food, hygiene and cash assistance to the affected population. Through this operation ARCS intends to support 132 vulnerable families with about 600 people. It is worth to highlight that ARCS made prioritization of beneficiaries for Artik city and from 42 affected people only 12 seriously affected ones were selected to be assisted with this operation.

ARCS has also considered using cash distribution for all types of assistance, but the assessment showed that Karchaghbyur village (120 targeted families only here) has only a few small shops in the village, and the **local market has no capacity to supply the size of relief items (food and hygiene) proposed by the action**. Moreover, considering the fact that the local small shops are turnover tax payers that have got annual turnover limitations, such a big procurement would render them automatically to become VAT tax payers. Therefore, it was decided to use cash distribution only for temporary home recovery solutions means (wood, timber and other temporary building materials). **There is no specialized construction materials shop in the village**, and the people should buy their needed materials in the nearby cities.

The beneficiaries have been selected according to the following criteria:

- Very badly or badly affected families
- Affected families with low income
- Lonely elderly people
- Families with people with disabilities
- Large families (more than 5 members)

### Risk assessment

Having in mind the possibility of heavy rains forecasted for most regions, there is a risk that the same or even worst situation might happen in many regions and communities so that the assistance to the current two communities might be insufficient.



Needs assessment by ARCS staff. In Artik city.

Photo: ARCS

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### Overall objective

The overall objective is to provide assistance to 132 vulnerable families hit by a mudflow in Karchaghbyur village of Gegharquniq region and Artik city of Sirak region. Based on the needs assessment results, the immediate needs of the vulnerable population are met through the provision of food and hygiene items and the provision of cash to 132 households for temporary home recovery solutions.

### Proposed strategy

Based on the needs mentioned above, the Armenian Red Cross Society aims to provide support to 132 vulnerable families with food, hygiene and sanitary items and cash for temporary home recovery solutions. The operation will be implemented during a 2-month period.

Specifically, the following items are planned to be procured and distributed among the affected population. Each household will receive the following:

- **1 hygiene and sanitary parcel for meeting their immediate needs.** The contents of the parcels and the quantity are defined based on experience from previously implemented DREF operations and humanitarian relief projects. It is considered that, in as much as the affected people lost their storages and the majority of them has also agricultural losses and will have livelihood problems in late autumn and winter, it is designed to support with hygiene and sanitary items for letting them to find recovery solutions.
- **1 food parcel for meeting their immediate needs.** The contents of the parcels and quantity are defined based on experience from previously implemented DREF operations and humanitarian relief projects. The operation is designed to support them with food items for letting them to find recovery solutions.
- **Cash assistance.** The amount of cash assistance is determined by the average size of the occurring damages defined by the Governmental ES Commissions' relevant acts. Therefore, each family in Karchaghbyur village is supposed to receive 70CHF per household for temporary home recovery solutions (wood, timber and other temporary building materials) whereas in Artik city 180CHF per household because on top of the temporary building materials they will also need to recover basic equipment and household items significantly damaged as a result of the mudflow. It is planned to collect data on beneficiaries' bank details which will be later approved by local authorities for transferring money from NS account to their private accounts. Moreover, if transfer will not be acceptable, in some cases, direct distribution (cash in envelopes) will be applied.

ARCS developed a distribution approach based on the following formula:

**Table 1: Distribution approach**

Family size	Number of kits/parcels
1-2 members	1
3-5 members	2
6-7 members	3
8 and more members	4

Based on the approach above, 295 parcels of food and hygiene items will be distributed to 132 families as there are 6 families with more than 8 members, 38 families with 6-7 members, 69 families with 3-5 members and 19 families with 1-2 members.

**Table 2: Food parcel contents**

Food parcel item	Quantity
Wheat flour 1 kg	8
Canned food (meat) 0.525 kg	3
Sugar 1 kg	2
Cooking oil 1 l.	2
Rice 1 kg	4
Pasta 0.8 kg	3
Condensed milk 0.38 kg	3
Melted butter	1
Buckwheat 1 kg	4
Lentils 1 kg	3

**Table 3: Hygiene and sanitary items parcel's content**

Hygiene kit item	Quantity
Washing powder 0.45kg	4
Washing powder authomat 0.45kg	5
Soap	5
Shampoo	2
Tooth paste 80 ml	6
Cleaning sanitary liquid	4
Toilet paper	12
Shower gel	3
Dishwashing liquid	4

## Operational support services

### Human resources

10 Armenian Red Cross volunteers and 5 Armenian Red Cross staff members have been involved in the Rapid Needs Assessment in the above mentioned communities. Those people will be further engaged in the DREF operation. There is no need for international staff deployment as the required technical support, including monitoring and reporting, adherence to standard IFRC procedures and financial management, will be ensured by ARCS.

### Logistics and supply chain

The Armenian Red Cross Society has a logistic department and procurement guidelines which follows IFRC procurement standards and has been endorsed by IFRC and several PNSs. The local market allows alternatives in terms of suppliers for all budgeted items. Trucks will be rented to deliver and distribute relief parcels in affected areas and costs will be charged for RC vehicles for implementation and monitoring of operation from the budget's A0811 line.

### Communications

The visibility of Armenian Red Cross Society activities and the strengthening of the National Society's image will be ensured during relief distribution, visits to the affected people, monitoring and evaluation by ARCS volunteers. Operation-related articles will be posted in the web media, newspapers and on the ARCS's website. Also, the media will be invited to disseminate distributions in both locations. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the IFRC Regional Office for Europe. Also, communication costs and stationery sets will be covered under the budget for supporting the operation.

### Security

Based on the experience gained during previous distributions, no serious security problems are anticipated. Nevertheless, there have been some incidents where the beneficiaries have shown aggression for various reasons which was handled by local authorities in cooperation with the NS's experienced staff' through communication and negotiations. Therefore, to reduce that risk, the volunteers will always be accompanied by staff members during distributions, and the overall operation will run under the ARCS DM department's direct supervision and support. Also, all people involved in operation will wear vests with the Red Cross emblem, the vehicles will be marked with RC logo and the relief parcels will have stickers for a Red Cross visibility. All team members will be briefed upon departure to distribution and will be coordinated by the assigned team leader.

### Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The ARCS will monitor the implementation of activities and the IFRC Europe Zone Office will provide the necessary technical advice. An RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team) member will be deployed to accompany the operation and also to ensure that the lessons learned be taken further in the region. Field visits will be organized by HQ and regional branches prior, during and after relief operation and relevant field reports developed. Distribution lists with detailed information on each beneficiary will be developed and

beneficiaries will sign for any assistance received. Samples of beneficiaries will be selected from the list and contacted after the completion of the operation to find out their level of satisfaction and comments and/or recommendation. A “lessons learnt” workshop and a final monitoring visit will be organized by ARCS.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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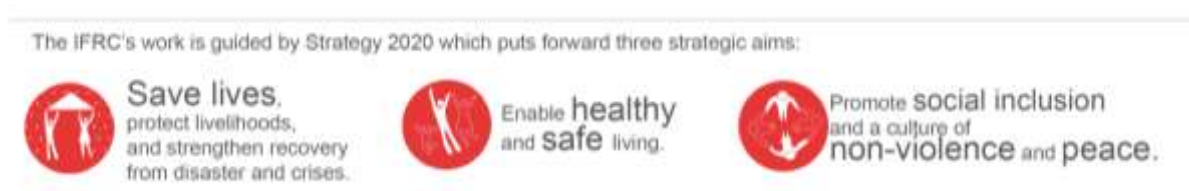
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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.







# DREF OPERATION

07/07/2016

MDRAM003 Armenia mudflow

Budget Group	DREF grant budget
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	18,408
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	12,558
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	10,560
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>41,526</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	200
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,100
Logistics Services	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>1,300</b>
International Staff	6,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	10
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,010</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	600
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>600</b>
Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	150
Communications	100
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,250</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,360
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>3,360</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>55,046</b>



# Armenia: Mudslide

