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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Armenia: Hailstorm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRAM004	Glide n° OT-2018-00146-ARM
Date of issue: 8 September 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 7 December 2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: CHF 257,134	
Total number of people affected: 9,900	Number of people to be assisted: 1,143 households from three most affected communities (approximately 5,000 people)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) works countrywide through its 11 regional, 1 territorial and 52 community branches and with the support of over 3,500 volunteers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The operation will be implemented by ARCS with the support from IFRC.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Shirak regional authorities, local village level authorities.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 17 and 18 August 2018, a hailstorm damaged almost all yield capacity in Shirak region of Armenia. According to the rapid assessment conducted jointly by the Armenian Red Cross Society and Shirak regional authorities, 2,202 households (approximately 9,900 people) in 11 communities were affected out of which 1,143 households from the three most affected communities lost from 80 to 100 per cent of their yield capacity. These include potatoes, vegetables, flax, cumin, lentils, peas, cucumber among others. Moreover, there were also few cases of damaged houses and cattle farm roofs reported, but not to a large scale.

The Armenian Red Cross Society together with its Shirak Regional branch conducted several meetings with regional authorities, obtained all available official assessment reports and in its turn organized needs assessment in some of the affected 11 communities. After meeting with regional government representatives and presenting ARCS's planned activities, ARCS developed beneficiary selection criteria. Afterwards, ARCS assessment team had additional meeting with local authorities from the three most affected communities, and presented the selection criteria to them, based on which they were assigned to prepare a list of affected people/families. Additionally, ARCS organized a meeting with the Ministry of Emergency Situation and Shirak regional administration and agreed to share all information and coordinate activities in the affected region.



Destroyed plants after a severe hailstorm in Armenia. Photo: ARCS

The situation

In August 2018, unprecedented hailstorm destroyed almost all yield capacity in Shirak region of the Republic of Armenia. According to official data provided by the Government, 11 communities with 2,202 households and over 780 hectares of agricultural lands were severely affected in the region.

In Arapi community, 185.8 hectares of potatoes, vegetables, flex, lentils, etc. were damaged. In Nahapetavan community, 25 hectares of wheat fields were completely damaged. Witnesses claim that crops were left without leaves after the hail, thus destroying the annual harvest. In Sarnaghbyur community, 127 hectares of cultivated land suffered damages by the hail. Damages to other communities count from 50 to almost 70 per cent for almost all types of crops.

It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the affected communities total damage adds up to 903.54 million Armenian drams (approx. 1.9 million USD). The provincial commission visited the disaster area, trying to estimate the amount of damage. The Government is committed to support the commercial losses reported by farmers. In addition to these losses, the rapid assessment teams found that home garden production was also affected, and impacting on household food security.



Hail damaging crops and fields in Armenia.
Photo: ARCS

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Armenian Red Cross Society's auxiliary role to the Government of the Republic of Armenia is mandated by the 1993 Presidential decree. The mission of the organization is to reduce vulnerability of the population through mobilization of the power of humanity, to be prepared to cope with situations, which may cause vulnerability among the population, to provide essential support by assisting people made vulnerable by harsh socioeconomic conditions. ARCS implements its mission countrywide through its 11 regional, 1 territorial and 52 community branches and with the support of over 3,500 volunteers. ARCS focuses its activities in the spheres of health and social care, disaster preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, population movement, youth, first aid, etc.

The hail that hit the region has caused a huge damage not only to the people living there, but also affected the state as such. For that reason, the Disaster Response Team (DRT) assigned by ARCS met with the Shirak Region (Marz) representatives where the situation was presented in details.

Overall, Armenian RC has conducted the following activities:

- DRT assessment including data collection from official sources, partners and media;
- Needs assessment in some of the most affected 11 communities;
- Meeting with the Shirak regional administration and other regional government representatives, where ARCS initiative was presented;
- Selection of to be targeted communities;
- Development of range approach for assistance distribution;
- Meeting with local authorities of the three most affected communities to assign preparation of list of beneficiaries;
- Initiated the collection of all beneficiaries lists presented by communities and preparation of the final/consolidated list of beneficiaries;
- Meeting with Ministry of Emergency Situations to discuss the situation and present ARCS planned activities;
- Permanent information sharing with relevant stakeholders.

Coordination and partnerships

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) as well as the national, regional and local authorities have initiated several meetings to identify the consequences of disaster, the size of affected population, communities and needs.

The National Society as a UN DMT member receives and shares info on the situation with all stakeholders. For the time being, the Armenian Red Cross Society is the only organization among INGOs and NGOs that takes action for provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

At the regional level, the ARCS representatives met with the Shirak Region administration staff, where agreement for cooperation and information exchange was reached.

At the local level, ARCS met with local authorities of the affected communities and is receiving regular updated information regarding the situation in place. Moreover, ARCS Shirak regional branch team visited several affected communities to assess the situation and meet with affected people.

The National society is in permanent contact with the above mentioned structures to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that the most vulnerable and affected people are reached.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The main source of income of the people living in the targeted communities is agriculture. The season starts in spring and ends with harvest in autumn. During this period the people take loans for purchasing seeds, fuel, fertilizers, etc. It is important to highlight that local business strategy, considering local economy, context and peoples' relations, is based on mutually beneficial approach that allows small markets to sell their products from spring to autumn period mostly without cash being guaranteed that locals after harvest will get money and pay their debts back. The resultant loss of crops therefore has an impact on the local market, as their investment will be difficult to recover, which is putting a strain on the entire local market system.

Therefore, to meet peoples' basic needs, ARCS is considering an option for support with unconditional and unrestricted cash to support their living costs. ARCS has experience of providing unconditional cash (in envelopes) to people affected by hails and mudflows during previous DREF operations. Local markets are fully functional and the selected communities are close to the second largest city of Armenia (Gyumri) up to maximum 20 km.

Based on the data available from official sources and ARCS Shirak regional team, ARCS DRT together with regional government representatives selected the three most affected communities (the regions map and list of most affected communities is attached) as a target of the operation. The meeting was held with the heads of the three most affected communities (80%-100% of yield capacity is damaged) to present criteria for selecting beneficiaries. According to them, hail in these communities has destroyed even leaves of the crops leaving farmers without means of living.

Based on the information received from local communities and from ARCS assessment, the people affected by hail have a gap in their basic needs. ARCS is planning to provide one-off distribution of unconditional cash to 1,143 families which represents approximately 5,000 persons. The base for the amount suggested is in accordance with the monthly food basket cost in Armenia per person, which is AMD 27,000 (CHF 55) per person per month. The planned assistance will allow the targeted people to cope with the immediate needs which is not possible to cover from the income from the seasonal harvest expected. Moreover, it will provide them with the possibility to cover essential food expenses for a month. In addition, it will make possible for families to pay back the debts accumulated through the season while purchasing the essential items for their households.

ARCS will closely coordinate with the regional and local level authorities to finalize the lists of beneficiaries and agree on the selection process and most appropriate distribution methods, time and place.

Hail storms are real danger for agricultural area and the communities often suffer losses due to the sudden and devastating effects of hail storms. Taking this into account the Government of Armenia is planning to initiate the agricultural insurance system for the farmers to minimize the losses from the expected harvest. The ARCS will follow the progress of this and related forecast-based financing initiatives.

ARCS will communicate with the affected families in order to keep them informed on the criteria and selection process for the one-off unconditional cash distribution. Besides the complaint mechanism through selection process where the beneficiaries will be able to raise their concerns and provide suggestions for improvement will be established in the communities. All the complaints and suggestions will be discussed during the lessons learnt event planned at the end of the project.

Taking into consideration above mentioned arguments, the ARCS decided to apply for DREF to provide unconditional cash to the affected population as the most appropriate and fastest means of assistance.

Targeting

According to the rapid assessment results conducted by ARCS and Shirak regional authorities, 11 communities and 2,202 households have been affected. Out of this number, 1,143 households are from the three most affected communities that have lost from 80% to 100% of their yield capacity. Therefore, these three most affected communities have been selected to be targeted by this DREF operation. The operation will be implemented in the period of three months.

B. Operational strategy

Unconditional Cash distributions

Outcome: The most affected population (1,143 households / approx. 5,000 persons) have their basic needs met through the provision of cash (CHF 46 per person, which is 85% of the food basket value) to help them cope with consequences of hail storm and loss of their income.

Outputs (expected results)

- Assess the disaster area to identify the most affected households.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy, encashment plan and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Establish easily accessible compliant mechanism in targeted communities.
- Distribute direct cash (in envelopes).
- Monitor and evaluate the activities and provide reporting on cash distributions.

The ARCS in close cooperation with regional and local authorities will implement the community mobilization activities and provide necessary technical support throughout the programme cycle (such as in compiling beneficiary lists, encashment planning, information dissemination and post distribution monitoring). A monitoring system will be established to follow up every step of the implementation process. The base for the amount suggested is in accordance with the monthly food basket cost in Armenia per person, which is AMD 27,000 (CHF 55) per person per month. The suggested amount is to cover up to 85% of the food basket value. The principle criteria to select the communities in the target area is the highest amount of losses (from 80% to 100%) of the harvest. The planned assistance will allow the targeted people to cope with the immediate needs, which is not possible to cover from the income from the seasonal harvest expected. It is anticipated that Government will be able to compensate commercial losses, however, small holder producers are particularly vulnerable and through the intervention it is expected that the affected people will have a choice to spend the cash provided for essential food items or to cover other basic needs including paying back the debts accumulated during the season. The city of Gyumri is located near the affected communities and markets are accessible for purchasing the needed items for households. In addition, the local economy will be supported by unconditional cash distributed.

After completion, ARCS will organize a workshop on the national level with participation of all involved parties to share experience and lessons learnt during the operation.

The visibility of Armenian Red Cross Society activities and strengthening of the National Society's image will be ensured through maximizing the visibility of National Society during relief distribution, visits to the affected people, monitoring and evaluation by ARCS volunteers.

Operational support services

Human resources

The ARCS will recruit one local coordinator and mobilize 10 volunteers from NS HQ DRT and affected communities. For the operation ARCS will also assign the Disaster Management staff, driver and other support staff as required to support the implementation of the operation. The IFRC Regional office for Europe will deploy its Regional Cash Coordinator to assist NS in setting up the planned cash response.

Logistics and supply chain

ARCS will provide sufficient number of vehicles to implement the operation and the DREF budget will support with the fuel costs.

Information technologies (IT)

The ARCS web-site will be used to cover the process of the project implementation sharing the updates from the field, as well as photos and other relevant materials. The IT support will be ensured by ARCS for establishing the beneficiary database.

Communications

ARCS will ensure that all relevant press releases are produced and media coverage is ensured to promote the operation and the profile of the National Society.

Security

The area of the operation does not have major security issues. Cooperation with local authorities will ensure the safety and security at the distribution points.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The planning, monitoring and evaluation will be conducted by the ARCS DM department through the whole period of the project implementation. A lessons learnt workshop is planned to be conducted at the end of the project. Technical support for the cash distribution will be provided by IFRC Cash Coordinator. Bi-weekly DREF operation progress reports will be shared with IFRC ROE to inform on the operation progress and achievements. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

ARCS NS Finance Officer will be following closely the financial component implementation and provide assistance through the implementation and provide inputs for the development of the final report.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 1,143 households (approx. 5,000 persons)

Male: 60%

Female: 40%

Requirements CHF 230,000

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	1,143 selected households with multipurpose cash grants (to cover basic food and reduce negative impacts of indebtedness)															
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs	1,143 selected households with multipurpose cash grants (to cover basic food and reduce negative impacts of indebtedness)															
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Unconditional/multipurpose cash distributions					x	x	x	x								
	Cooperation with the Authorities. Information on the State's assistance and request of access to beneficiaries' lists	x	X														
	Set the selection criteria for the households to be included in the programme.		x														
	Set up selection/registration processes and feedback mechanism			x	x												
	Develop a database and adapt relevant tools to register beneficiaries (forms, maps, etc.) to support the programme and future CTP interventions			X													
	Selection of beneficiaries & Data processing		x	x													
	Finalize encashment plan; including details on registration and encashment points, financial requirements and logistic needs-				x	x											
	Create beneficiaries lists and ensure financial procedures are agreed and SOPs are clarified			x	x												
	Create and run a CTP hotline Integrate feedback and complaints mechanism into a help desk at each registration point					x	X	x									
	Prepare and organize Post Distribution Monitoring						x	x	x	x							

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements CHF 11,500

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform																	
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected																	
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP040	Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face	x	x	x	x													
AP040	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
AP040	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained	x	x	x	X													
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards																	
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	AP050	Warehousing, goods reception, forwarding, fleet, fuel costs, not related to a specific area of focus (Output S2.1.4)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues																	
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	AP053	Communications work	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.																	
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	AP055	Work on needs and capacity assessments, rapid assessments for markets, planned and budgeted monitoring and evaluation activities and learning opportunities other assessments, evaluations and research	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.																	
	Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved																	
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

	Weeks																	
AP058	Work on reporting, accountability to communities, community engagement and accountability	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
P&B Output Code	Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders																	
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP064	Finance work	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
AP065	Administration work	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					

Budget

Please click [here](#) to see the DREF operation`s budget

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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 (NGOs) 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



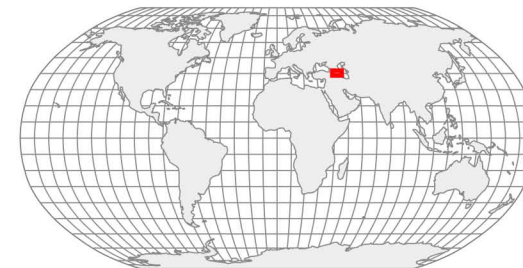
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

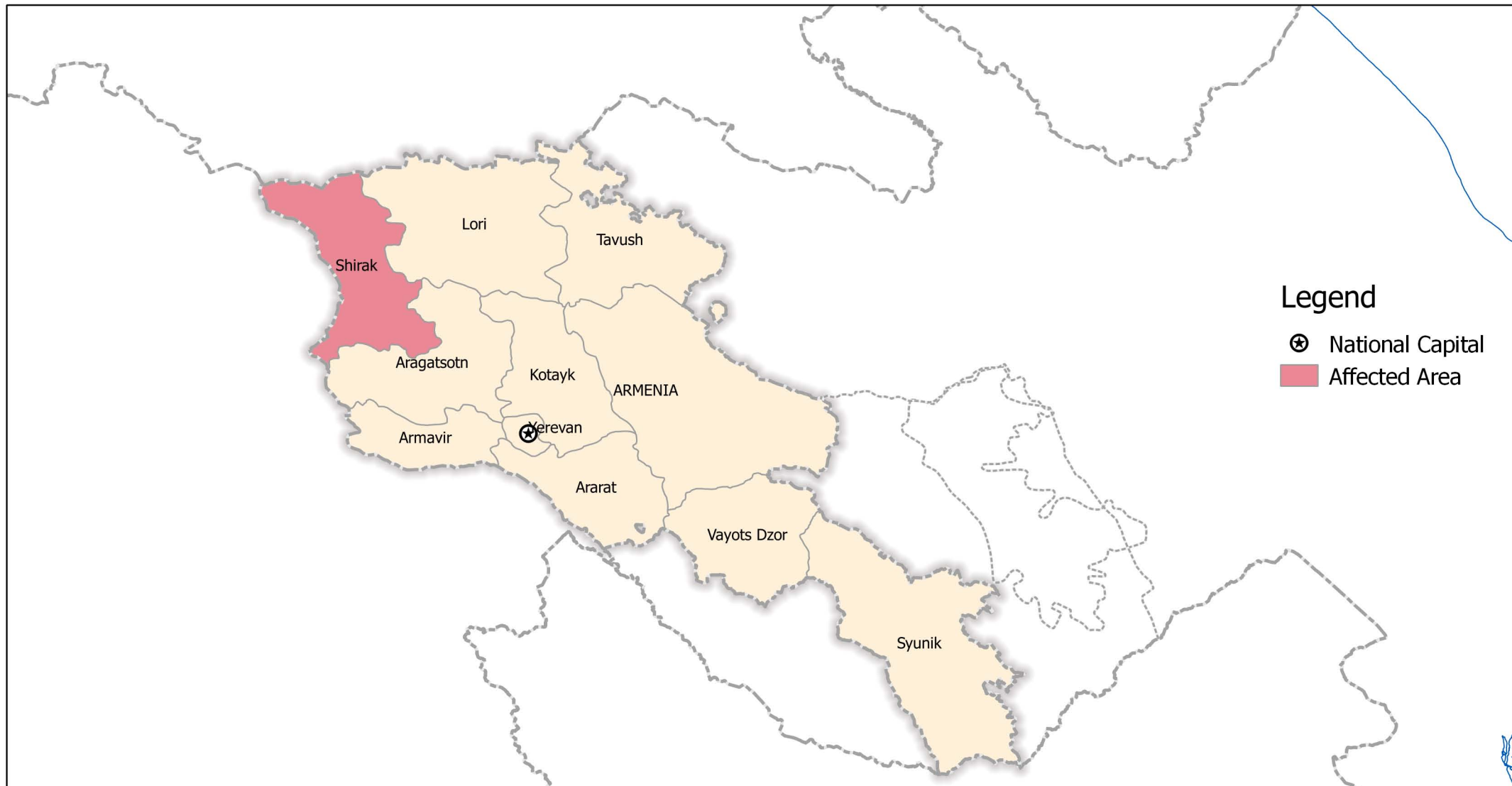


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



Armenia, Hailstorm

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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: DEVINFO, International Federation



EMERGENCY APPEAL

Armenia Hailstorm
MDRAM004

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF	
500	Shelter - Relief	0	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0	0
520	Food	0	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0	0
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	230,000	230,000
	Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRU	230,000	230,000
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Eq	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
	Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EC	0	0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Dsitribution & Monitoring	390	390
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	450	450
594	Logistics Services	0	0
	Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT	840	840
600	International Staff	0	0
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	3,300	3,300
667	Volunteers	900	900
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
	Total PERSONNEL	4,200	4,200
670	Consultants	0	0
750	Professional Fees	0	0
	Total CONSULTANTS & PROFE	0	0
680	Workshops & Training	700	700
	Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	700	700
700	Travel	5,100	5,100
710	Information & Public Relations	0	0
730	Office Costs	600	600
740	Communications	0	0
760	Financial Charges	0	0
790	Other General Expenses	0	0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0

	Total GENERAL EXPENDITURE	5,700	5,700
		0	0
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
	Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0
599	Programme and Services Support	15,694	15,694
	Total INDIRECT COSTS	15,694	15,694
	TOTAL BUDGET	257,134	257,134
	Available Resources		
	Multilateral Contributions		0
	Bilateral Contributions		0
	TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCE	0	0
	NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NE	257,134	257,134