




# Armenia Annual Report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAAM002**

**30 April 2013**

**This report covers the  
period 01 January 2012  
to 31 December 2012**

*Event organized for children with disabilities by youth volunteers in Armavir region. Resources mobilized locally in cooperation with local authorities and a local NGO. Armenian Red Cross*



## Overview

During the reporting period the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) continued the implementation of its programmes and activities in line with its strategic directions, based on the needs prevailing in the country. The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies have received very limited funding in general. However, the programmes continue to be implemented mainly with bilateral support and the support from new partners. The major partners contributing to the Federation-supported programmes are DfID and the Andorra Red Cross Society. The programmes are also supported bilaterally by the American, Austrian and German Red Cross Societies, and external partners like DIPECHO through the Danish RC, the Global Fund, and the Eli Lilly & Co. Foundation.

The Armenian Red Cross Society reached several significant achievements in acquiring new partners and / or repositioning itself with the traditional ones. Thus, having worked as an implementing partner for the National Tuberculosis Programme funded by the Global Fund for several years, the Armenian Red Cross has been granted the status of sub-recipient this year.

Another significant step was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Emergency Situations on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management. This was a long awaited step after several years of preparations.

The Cooperation Agreement with Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia signed in May and the Plan of Action focusing on disaster preparedness and disaster response as well as health & social care are further achievements of the local resource mobilization - a process that started with the support of the International Federation several years ago.

The aim of building up the capacities of the regional branches in terms of local resource mobilization and communication, as well as the strengthening of their disaster management capacities are directly linked to the outputs of the DFID/IFRC partnership framework. Within the Disaster Management area, the ARCS implemented during the first half of the year the “Strengthening ARCS regional capacities” project which helped strengthen capacities and the knowledge of the residents of Armavir region, mainly targeting schoolchildren as well as strengthen the capacities of the regional branch of the ARCS to react to disasters. This was achieved through informative and educational public campaigns, quiz contests for children, training sessions on earthquake and natural and man-made disasters. Educational materials were distributed, and a special training entitled “Evacuation” was held for teachers of the targeted schools, after which evacuation drills in schools were conducted in simulation exercises. The most significant achievement of the program is the fact that pupils having taken part in a non-structural mitigation activity entitled “Family Disaster Plan” have developed, jointly with their family members, own realistic Family Disaster Plans which allow to have a structured and timely reaction and protection in the event of a disaster.

Volunteers also improved their skills and knowledge on Disaster Preparedness, Basic Rescue and First Aid, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) through the training sessions.

The ARCS has developed its resource mobilization and communication capacities through complex capacity building activities focusing on the regional branches’ staff and volunteers. The activities, such as trainings, meetings, local needs assessments, meetings with donors and journalists, strengthened the regional branches (RBs) to deliver services to the most vulnerable people in their communities from local resources. Communication skills oriented activities resulted in establishing links with the mass media and a closer cooperation with local authorities and donors.

Due to the devoted volunteers the online consultation in the framework of 'HIV SMS helpline' project continued with the limited funding.

### Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
DFID through Federation	Funding of Resource Mobilization and DM program, developing the relevant skills of RB staff and volunteers and communities.
Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia Company	On 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) and Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia Company signed a cooperation agreement on disaster preparedness and response and social-health. According to the Plan of Action Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia Company will support ARCS by providing vehicles, warehouse space in cases of disaster, support ARCS in fundraising activities as well as implement sub-projects and trainings together.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	On 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 the Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan and the President of the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) Mkhitar Mnatsakanyan signed a memorandum of understanding to ensure the effective and united reaction to potential disasters.
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (DIPECHO), Danish and Icelandic Red Cross in consortium with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	“Building Safer Local Communities in Southern Caucasus” project
Austrian RC	Funding of psycho-social program for children and

	lonely people living in dormitories (collective centres) of Yerevan
Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red Cross Society	“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project
Global Fund	Funding of HIV prevention public events targeting the general population.
Andorra RC through International Federation	Funding of HIV prevention peer education program at schools and five public events.
US Peace Corps, Orange Armenia, VivaCell-MTS	Co-funding of HIV prevention SMS helpline service.
“Ashtarak Kat” LTD (a dairy products company)	Funding of healthy lifestyle promotion program for schoolchildren countrywide.
Global Fund through Mission East as the principle recipient.	“HIV prevention among intravenous drug users (IDU) in Lori region” programme aimed at reducing the vulnerability of intravenous drug users towards HIV, Hepatitis and other blood borne and sexually transmitted infections.
American Red Cross	“HIV Prevention in Armenia” programme is to reduce the vulnerability among youth aged 15-23 / students to HIV. The aim is to reduce risk behavior to HIV and building appropriate attitude towards personal health among youth/students aged 15-23.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Business Line 1: TO RAISE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

**Outcome 1.2:** The Armenian RCS has promoted and developed humanitarian values among young people encouraging their active participation in addressing the humanitarian challenges and needs of their communities

Measurement			
Indicators	Baseline (BL)	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of schoolchildren receiving trainings about Human values in 2 regions of RA		4,000	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes
The activity was not implemented in the reporting period due to the lack of funding in spite of efforts to secure such support.

**Business Line 2: TO GROW RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**Outcome 2.1:** Establish a functional and diverse disaster management network to deliver timely quality disaster relief assistance and shelter to National Societies and to people affected

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
In Shirak, Lori, Vayots Dzor and Armavir Regions resilience is improved through cooperation with local authorities and local communities, including NGOs.	N/A	4 regions	3
# of partnerships established with local authorities and other local stakeholders	N/A	70	70
# number of volunteers	N/A	60	60

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>The project manager organised a meeting with volunteers at the Armavir Regional Branch during which the project and planned activities were presented and discussed. Armavir Regional Branch volunteers held several meetings among themselves and other meetings with the community representatives and stakeholders to discuss ways of conducting Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs). After the mentioned preparations, a VCA was organized in the community with the involvement of the RC Armavir regional branch volunteers.</p> <p>A special contact was made to the Education Department of the Regional Municipality Council to get their agreement and support for implementing disaster preparedness (DP) activities in schools. The project manager organized a meeting with the Head of Armavir Regional Rescue Service and the representative of the Regional Municipality Council to present and discuss the project, jointly select a pilot community for the VCA and awareness raising activities to be conducted by trained volunteers as well as to agree on public campaigns initiated by volunteers in regard to March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Civil Protection Day.</p> <p>About 60 volunteers from Armavir region improved their knowledge and capacities on DRR and VCA, Basic Rescue and First Aid through organised training sessions and simulation exercises.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the “Building Safer Local Communities in Southern Caucasus” project (DIPECHO 2 was launched with the involvement of partners such as OXFAM GB Armenia, UNICEF and “Save the Children”, jointly with the respective Ministries of Emergency Situations, Education and Science, and the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).</p> <p>Nine existing and five new Community Volunteer Disaster Preparedness and Response Teams (CVDPRT) members of about 280 persons upgraded and strengthened their knowledge on “Disaster Risk Management”, “RC/RC Movement dissemination”, “IFRC Disaster Response tools/mechanisms”, “Basic Rescue skill and First Aid” as well as “Psychosocial Support”.</p> <p>Four simulation drills have been organized jointly with “LORE” rescue team, Shirak Regional Rescue Service, regional and local authorities for 14 community teams (9 existing and 5 new community teams (CTs)). The simulation consisted of 1) Crossing river and providing first aid to the car accident’s injured people and 2) Testing of DRM knowledge. With the help of simulation drills new CTs gained practical skills and strengthened their knowledge on DRM, as well as existing CTs refreshed their theoretical and practical skills. Over 700 people took part at the simulations that involved 280 community team members and participants from Rescue Service, regional and local authorities, as well as pupils and teachers from schools, inhabitants from targeted communities and representatives from media. The event was disseminated on local television. It was decided to invite pupils to participate at the drills for encouraging their future integration in the team and community based DRR.</p> <p>During the year VCA process - interviews with key persons and inhabitants, risky areas mapping as well as VCA focus group discussions in 5 new communities have been held focusing on hazards threatening their communities, local capacities, vulnerability level, as well as disaster preparedness and prevention measures required for communities according to local population. There were over 400 people involved from 5 new targeted communities. Moreover, in 9 old targeted communities previously implemented VCA results were</p>

also updated.

In all targeted communities, during the VCA process, meetings were organized with the heads of the communities, as well as with inhabitants to discuss possible plans for developing mitigation projects.

Discussions have been organized with Shirak Regional Rescue Service and Education Regional Department on revision of schools' evacuation plan and its practicing. It has been agreed to start practical activities at school level from 2013.

Round table meetings for presenting and discussing mid-term results, achievements of the project and lessons learned was conducted in each of 14 targeted communities with involvement of community authorities, community team members and inhabitants. Totally about 280 people participated at the meetings.

Several Regional Coordination Commission meetings were organized in Shirak region. During the meetings the project's achievements and further activities were presented, the organizational process of the trainings and other regional events were discussed.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2012 "Building Safer and Resilience Communities" project was started in Lori region with the financial support of Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red Cross. Yerevan, Vanadzor and Stepanavan cities, as well as four rural communities are targets of the project. The main objective of the project is to contribute towards reducing vulnerability to disasters of rural and urban population in Armenia. As a result of the project, the targeted communities will be better prepared, will have adequate skills and coping mechanisms to mitigate the effects of disasters, as well as will strengthen their local capacities and will be able to initiate first response.

Activities in Vayots Dzor region has not been carried out during the reporting period, due to the lack of funding.

**Outcome 2.6:** Scale up awareness of and adaptation to Climate Change and the consciousness of the Risk Reduction importance

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of teachers, schoolchildren and their family members aware of and prepared to disaster risk and climate change	N/A	20,000	22,000

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>Capacities and knowledge of the population of Armavir city, mainly 5,000 schoolchildren and their teachers to react to disasters were enhanced through organising two simulation evacuation exercises in schools, periodical informative and educational public campaigns, four quiz contests for children, training sessions on earthquake and natural and man-made disasters with distribution of educational materials, special training entitled "Evacuation" for teachers of the targeted schools, after which evacuation drill was conducted.</p> <p>Educational booklets on Climate Change and manual including Climate Change subject were printed and distributed to 21.970 pupils from 65 schools of Shirak region.</p> <p>A significant achievement of the program is that pupils having taken part in a non-structural mitigation activity entitled "Family Disaster Plan" have, jointly with their family members, using the Red Cross educational materials and checklist, developed their Family Disaster Plan which allows to have a structured and timely reaction to a disaster, thereby raising the level of protection.</p> <p>ARCS was granted a project titled "Climate Forum East", which will start from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013. The project is co-financed by the European Union, Austrian Development Agency, the Austrian Red Cross and World Wide Fund for Nature. The main objective of the project is to contribute to global policy making processes on Climate Change, to Civil Society development in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, to advancing EaP political priorities in the area of environment governance and climate change.</p>

**Outcome 2.7:** Promote and advocate for IDRL, risk reduction; and legislation related to the Red Cross work

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of local communities covered with advocacy activities		30	15

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>The DIPECHO 2 project was presented and discussed during a meeting with the Governor of Shirak region with participation of the ARCS President, the Secretary General and the Head of DM/PM Department. An agreement was reached upon which the Shirak regional authorities will support Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives at community level, especially small scale mitigation actions. In 14 communities of Shirak region and 1 community of Armavir region VCAs and consultation processes were organized to advocate for risk reduction activities on community level. Although 30 communities were initially planned, but due to the lack of funding and resources only half of those were reached through such activities.</p> <p>The Federation office in Armenia conducted a research related to the Disaster Laws in Armenia. Based on the research, a number of recommendations are made for the Armenian Red Cross supported by IFRC to advocate and disseminate the Disaster Law in Armenia, focusing namely on DRR in communities, International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) and volunteering. These recommendations are of particular importance after the Armenian Red Cross with the Armenian Government have made a pledge to 'reduce the risk exposure of local communities to disasters and increase their protection from disasters, promoting improvement of DRR legislation and integration of DRR issues in existing strategies and plans, as well as advocating for DRR issues at local level' at the RCRC International Conference in November 2011.</p>

**Business Line 3: TO STRENGTHEN THE SPECIFIC RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Outcome 3.1:** Support for Red Cross Red Crescent programs to Promote social inclusion, a culture of non-violence and combat discrimination and exclusion

No funds were received through the Federation for this project. However, this RC Youth run project which used to be funded by the Norwegian RC through Federation since the beginning of 2000s, continued with the support of the Austrian RC on a bilateral basis. Local corporate partners are also contributing to these efforts.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of children living in dormitories who have received support in their education and integration into society through cultural events, assistance with homework, language and computer classes, etc.	95 (in 2010)	125	70
# of elderly lonely refugees living in dormitories reached with PSS (food, clothes, basic health care, small household assistance, consultations, cultural events)	400 (in 2010)	1,200	70

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>The ARCS was able to find funding only for a very low percentage of the planned targets. 70 vulnerable children improved their school results and participated in the cultural activities supporting their integration into society. The informative and skills development sessions, such as Geography, Computer, Dancing, Singing, Art, etc, contribute to the personal development of the children.</p> <p>70 lonely elderly people improved their social conditions through receiving monthly food parcels and quarterly hygiene parcels, as well as through electricity bill payments for the winter period. Their socialization with peers as well as the younger generation was supported through the organized cultural events (traditional dance, theatre performances, etc.) and excursions, for instance a visit to Ejmiadzin, Armenia's religious centre.</p>

**Outcome 3.2:** Scale-up significantly in HIV and AIDS, TB and harm reduction using the global alliance approach and implementing innovative and new partnerships in resource mobilisation

The project is supported from several sources: Andorra RC through the Federation, American RC bilaterally, US Peace Corps and local mobile telephone service providers.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of schoolchildren receiving HIV related information through peer education		1,500	2,400
# of general population, including youth and media representatives, reached with public events (concerts, sports competitions, marches, talk-shows, etc.)	489,119 (in 2010-2011)	136,800	350,000
# of people receiving bulk SMS	2,000,000 (in 2010)	2,000,000	2,000,000
# of injecting drug users reached with harm reduction activities.		125	122

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>To fight the further spreading of HIV and to reduce the related stigma and discrimination, the ARCS implemented peer education sessions for 2,400 schoolchildren countrywide through 40 ARCS volunteers, and organized public events, such as concerts, sport tournaments, candlelit ceremonies, movie presentations etc. About 10,000 information materials and 6,000 condoms were distributed to the general population during various public events. The anti-HIV stigma and discrimination calls announced by celebrities during the concerts were more appealing to young people and more likely to persuade them to develop a more tolerant attitude towards people living with HIV (PLHIV).</p> <p>At the end of 2011, the ARSC additionally launched an HIV prevention SMS helpline service, in cooperation with US Peace Corps, Orange Armenia and VivaCell-MTS mobile phone companies. Under the program, the subscribers of Orange Armenia and VivaCell-MTS mobile operators sent questions about HIV/AIDS anonymously to the special short number 6428 (at no charge) and within 24 hours the trained young volunteers sent back a brief and accurate response to the questions. About 25,000 questions were received during the reporting period. An important achievement of the program was the prize received from the International Federation in the framework of the Youth Award in the category of “Bridging the Digital Divide-Connecting People through Technologies”.</p> <p>The annual target for the people to be reached with public events was 136,800. The estimated number of people reached is about 350,000. This is due to the high interest on the topic and higher participation observed, especially among the youth. Thus, more audience was reached through public events.</p> <p>The “HIV prevention among IDUS in Lori Marz” program was implemented with the funding of the Global Fund, the principle recipient of which is “Mission East”. Vulnerability towards HIV, Hepatitis and other blood borne and sexually transmitted infections among injecting drug users in four towns of the Lori region, Vanadzor, Spitak, Alaverdy and Stepanavan, targeted by the program was reduced through legal, psycho-social assistance, awareness raising activities and counseling. By the end of 2012 122 IDUs were involved in the project.</p>

**Outcome 3.3:** Develop and improve strong support mechanisms for other health and care priorities

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of schoolchildren receiving peer education sessions on healthy lifestyle.	N/A	1,650	2,000

**Comments on progress towards outcomes**

Due to the local resource mobilization efforts, the ARSC partnered with a local dairy products company “Ashtarak Kat” Ltd. and organized peer education sessions for schoolchildren about healthy nutrition and the benefits of doing physical exercises. The interactive sessions aimed to promote healthy living among the children, as well as indirectly informing their parents and other family members about the harms of unhealthy food & lifestyle. The program also had an environmental component, when the schoolchildren were taken on ecological excursions at the end of the sessions. The program achievements were assessed according to the programme evaluation at the end, during which 60% of the children claimed to have changed their lifestyles in a healthier direction. With the suggestion of the donor the project was prolonged for more five months.

**Outcome 3.5:** Enhance social mobilisation (inter-generational programs, Club 25, youth and volunteering)

**Measurement**

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of volunteers recruited	150 (in 2011)	1,500 (500 for each year)	215

**Comments on progress towards outcomes**

The ARCS has developed a youth volunteer management mechanism which has been enhanced and progressed through systematic training sessions, recording data on youth volunteers. However, there is no centralised information about all the volunteers of the National Society and their profiles, which could be easily reached when needed. There is also a need to track the volunteers’ activities and involvement. Therefore a computerized volunteer management database needs to be developed.

The ARCS has been actively participating in the discussion of the National Law for Volunteerism as a member of the Volunteer Involvement Organization’s (VIO) Network. Currently the law is revisited by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

**Business Line 4: TO HEIGHTEN RED CROSS RED CRESCENT INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK**

**Outcome 4.4:** Work with Resource Mobilization towards harmonisation of aid assistance by alignment to National Society priorities and promote a shift from project approach to programme approach

**Measurement**

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of HQ and Regional Branch staff members who developed their knowledge and skills on resource mobilization	8 (in 2011)	60 (15 per year)	30
# of Red Cross youth volunteers who developed their knowledge and skills on resource mobilization	-	400 (100 per year)	110

**Comments on progress towards outcomes**

Complex activities were realized in the framework of the Resource Mobilization program directed at developing skills of the Regional Branches (RBs) in fundraising and communication. The program goal is to build capacities of Regional Branches / Territorial Branches (TBs) staff and volunteers for communication with potential local donors and authorities as well as for resource mobilization and fundraising.

Four RB/TBs have been involved in the program; Syunik, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik and Sevan. Workshops

and trainings were organized for the staff and volunteers of the above mentioned RBs on the topics of resource mobilization and communication. Needs assessments were completed in the communities by the RB/TB staff in cooperation with the local authorities, whereby the most vulnerable groups were highlighted. Meetings took place with the potential local donors and the authorities. During the meetings with ARCS management and the heads of the regional administrations involved in the program, the cooperation framework was discussed and possible joint actions were identified so as to draw the attention of the local organizations to the needs of the respective communities. A project on psychosocial support for the elderly has been realized in Syunik in cooperation with the local authorities targeting about 200 vulnerable elderly based on the needs assessments. Three more projects will be implemented in Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik and Sevan RB/TBs. ARCS youth volunteers also implemented fundraising activities, such as deploying about 20 charity boxes in different shops, producing bijouterie, postcards by beading for charity.

**Business Line 5: TO DEEPEN OUR TRADITION OF TOGETHERNESS THROUGH JOINT WORKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Outcome 5.4:** Promote the roll-out of S2020, National Society Strategic plans are aligned to S2020

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Armenian RC contributes to the implementation of IFRC S2020 through implementation of own new strategic plan aligned to IFRC S2020	N/A	yes	yes

Comments on progress towards outcomes
The ARCS has developed its 2011-2020 strategic plan based on the Federation`s S2020 and is implementing its programs/activities in line with the strategic directions. During the strategic planning process, the National Society had regular consultations and peer support through the IFRC Country Representation and the Europe Zone Office.

**Outcome 5.5:** Strengthen performance and accountability through different tools and tailored support to National Societies

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of journalists establishing contacts with ARCS	16 (in 2011)	25	27
Communication policy is developed	N/A		In progress Draft document is in the discussion process.
ARCS official web site developed			In progress
Accounts in Social Media created	3		Completed
Annual reports, Bi-annual newsletter developed and printed			750 bi-annual newsletter and 500 copies of annual reports printed
Revised version of Manual for Disseminating volunteers printed			200 manual

			printed
Promotional materials printed (calendar, poster, pen, paper bag, folder )			680 desktop calendar, 2000 small calendars, 300 posters, 650 folders, 300 paper bag, 145 pen Published and disseminated
Financial audits are performed annually	N/A		In progress

**Comments on progress towards outcomes**

A number of activities were organized, targeting journalists countrywide, such as two business breakfasts with 13 journalists, two dissemination seminars with the participation of 17 journalists, etc. As a result of these activities, by the end of the year, ARCS has established close contacts with 27 journalists and one of the first outputs was the dissemination of an ARCS May 8<sup>th</sup> event through nine online mass media channels. Those contacts are also referred to the regional/territorial branches for direct communication and dissemination of regional events.

To be more close to public and for presenting implemented and current projects to donors and all the interested parties, new website of the organization was developed and will be officially launched in the beginning of 2013. Taking into consideration the popularity of Social Media among youth, ARCS official accounts were created on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

Promotional materials with ARCS logo and messages were published and disseminated.

Media Relations were established while organizing the media coverage of ARCS events, such as May 8<sup>th</sup>, launch of second phase of “Healthy Generation” project, DRR International Day, TB prevention day, World AIDs day . Press Kits containing promotional materials were delivered to selected Media Outlets.

ACRS continued dissemination of Red Cross values in the schools as well.

**Stakeholder participation and feedback**

The ARCS is closely cooperating with the governmental structures (i.e. Ministries, local authorities), international and local organisations, local businesses and corporate sector while fulfilling its mission. During the reporting period new Memoranda of Understanding were signed, namely with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Coca Cola Hellenic Company on cooperation in disaster management and health & care.

During the first half of 2012 the NS cooperated with the Armavir Regional Rescue Service and the Educational Department, the schools administration and the targeted community authorities within the scope of the “Strengthening ARCS Regional Capacities” project. The targeted community authorities and population were involved in discussion on DRR, received educational materials and participated in the VCA process.

Within the “Building Safer Local Communities in Southern Caucasus” project (DIPECHO 2), the National Society closely cooperates and coordinates its activities with national level key stakeholders like the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the Ministry Education and Science, the National Platform on DRR as well as with Shirak regional and targeted local communities authorities. Moreover, the activities are also very well coordinated with other DIPECHO implementing partners (UNICEF, OXFAM GB and “Save the Children”) and some of them are even implemented jointly to ensure the effectiveness of activities. This community based programme involves all stakeholders dealing with disaster management at local, regional and national levels so that they are empowered to prepare for and respond to future events.

To engage local private sector in addressing the community needs, ARCS regularly organizes donor meetings (business lunch) and round table discussions (breakfast with journalists) for media people. This resulted in a new initiative; in cooperation with Orange Armenia (mobile operator) ARCS will organize computer and internet sessions in the framework of the psycho-social program for children in two dormitories starting in August 2012 for one year. Orange Armenia donated two notebooks and a netbook and three portable internet devices for the mini project.

After the successful implementation of the peer education project on healthy lifestyle, the donor approached ARCS with the suggestion to continue the project.

### Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<p><b>Key Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of market prices</li> <li>• There is a need to revise and practice NS Contingency Plan, as it sets up a certain definition of roles and responsibilities, reaction mechanisms, plans of action and it is highly important to be operational.</li> <li>• In order to have high results and outcomes from the programs it is important to implement more long-term programs.</li> <li>• In some communities, the volunteers are not flexible in order to work within the framework of the DM projects.</li> <li>• Disaster awareness in communities is not kept up regularly, which may decrease the population's level of awareness about disasters.</li> </ul> <p><b>Positive factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By sharing good practices and expertise in disaster on local, regional and national level, the DPR team receives new information, knowledge which hereafter will be implemented in its own activities in order to protect populations from future natural disasters.</li> <li>• Community members' motivation and commitment are key issues, as good participation and involvement from communities is crucial for the success of a project. Motivation is higher in those communities which have already experienced a disaster, as the perception of risk among these communities is higher.</li> </ul>	<p>M</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p>	<p>ARCS reviews its plan of activities or, if available, savings are used to fill in the gap between planned and actual budgets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster awareness in communities should be maintained regularly, even after the completion of the project.</li> <li>• Civil society has a crucial role in local development and, therefore, efforts should be directed to keep them motivated and committed for influencing local decisions and supporting community work.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained staff/volunteers with technical knowledge are more prepared to answer questions from the community.</li> </ul>	H	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARCS has effective tools for strengthening disaster preparedness of the NS and communities in high risk areas.</li> </ul>	H	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the framework of its projects ARCS has improved and enhanced its cooperation and coordination with RA government, non-governmental and international organizations and strengthened regional and international cooperation.</li> </ul>	H	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerability to disaster of projects' targeted communities has been decreased through communities' capacity building, public awareness and risk reduction activities</li> </ul>	H	Through close cooperation and coordination with state and non-state partners ensure further development and maintenance of capacities directed at risk reduction.

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

The resource mobilization program in regional branches (RBs) was very successful in terms of capacity building processes and establishing communication with local media people and local authorities and donors. Lunch with donors and breakfast-meeting as well as outgoing seminars for journalists have already become best practices and will continue in the future. The program activities also promoted the cooperation and the joint activities with the local authorities. The ARCS will continue this activity by expanding and involving even more regions.

The project also contributed to invaluable experience in mobilizing various resources (volunteers of other projects, established relationships with donors and media people) and using various capacities for achieving better results in ARCS activities.

Several workshops, training sessions, seminars and meetings were held at national, regional and local levels, which were proved to be very useful for further information sharing and effective coordination of activities.

Within the framework of the “Strengthening ARCS Regional Capacities” project a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was conducted; several regional meetings, as well as trainings for volunteers from the Armavir and Shirak regional branches were organized in order to strengthen capacities at regional level which would highly contribute to the level of preparedness for disasters at community level, reduce the risk of natural disasters and help communities protecting themselves and overcome the effects of disasters.

Also, the tools used during the project (mapping, VCA, awareness posters, etc.) provide knowledge to the communities. The good practice lies in the fact that the project is based on a participatory approach whereby facilitation techniques are used to empower communities to assess their vulnerabilities and capacities. Their involvement in all stages of the project empowers them per se. The key to success is the involvement of the community and the stakeholders in the project implementation process. Moreover, the educational campaigns at school level and especially the non-structural mitigation module entitled “Family Disaster Plan” were very successful in terms of involvement of the pupils' family members in the family preparedness process.

The best experience gained during DIPECHO – 2 “Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” project implementation on cooperation and coordination of efforts with implementing partners shows how efficient the National Society activities are, especially for stakeholders who work with the team and not separate actors. It helps to escape duplication of many activities like launch, national meetings and etc., which we always do jointly. Also, non-officially we are accepted by the Government and other stakeholders as a strong team which positions ARCS very well and ensures our sensitive place and role in the field.

The regional initiatives held within the DIPECHO – 2 “Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” project including the trainings on PSP and Climate Change served as a good platform for sharing experience and knowledge between the neighboring NSs as well as other PNSs.

## **Financial situation**

**Click here to go directly to the financial report.**

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF\\_Process/LTPF/2012/SP569AMLTPF\\_12arf.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF_Process/LTPF/2012/SP569AMLTPF_12arf.pdf)

## 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 Disaster 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

## Contact information

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