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# Armenia

## Annual Report 2013

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAAM002**  
**30 April 2014**

**This report covers the  
period  
from 1 January 2013  
to 31 December 2013.**

*Participants of the Safe School project.  
Photo: IFRC Armenia Office*



### 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. The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) received very limited funding in general. However, the programmes continue to be implemented mainly with bilateral support and the support from new partners. The programmes are supported bilaterally by Movement partners such as the American, Austrian and German Red Cross Societies, and external partners like DIPECHO with co-funding of the Danish and Icelandic RCs, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria, 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. In spite of that, the ARCS is still facing challenges with its local resource mobilization. As one step forward to the development of its resource mobilization, the National Society adopted its 2012-2020 Communication Strategy.

### Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Scope / framework of cooperation
Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red Cross Society	"Building Safe and Resilient Communities" project
European Commission Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection Directorate General (DIPECHO), Danish, Icelandic and Austrian Red Cross Societies in a consortium with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	"Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus" project
IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund	Armenia: hail storm DREF operation
European Commission, Austrian Development Agency, Austrian Red Cross Society and World Wide Fund for Nature	"Climate Forum East" project
International Committee of the Red Cross	"Mines and Explosive Remnants of War/EPW Victims Causality and Needs Data Collection in Armenia"
Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red	"Relief and Empowerment for Syrian Armenians"

Cross Society	project
Italian Red Cross	Funding of HIV prevention project: Harm reduction, Relief support and advocacy
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.
American Red Cross	“HIV Prevention in Armenia” programme is to reduce the vulnerability to HIV among youth/students aged 15-23. The aim is to reduce risky behaviours and build appropriate attitudes towards personal health.

## Progress towards outcomes

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

Measurement				
Indicators		BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
2.1.1	In Shirak, Lori, VayotsDzor and Armavir regions resilience is improved through cooperation with local authorities and local communities, including NGOs.		4	3
2.1.2	Local level coordination of Shirak, Lori, VayotsDzor and Armavir regions is enhanced and ensured interrelation between local-regional-national levels.		70	70
2.1.3	Armenian RCS Disaster Preparedness and Response tools and mechanisms are strengthened to provide effective and operative disaster response.		60	40
2.2.1	Climate change at local level is promoted and advocated and integrated into NS ongoing programs.			
2.2.2	The level of awareness and preparedness regarding disaster risk and climate change of the general population, mainly school age children in Yerevan, Shirak, Lori, VayotsDzor and Armavir regions is increased.		20,000	55,200
2.3.1	Risk reduction and risk reduction <i>changes</i> are promoted and advocated in the legislation at community level.		30	25

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

##### 2.1.1

##### **“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project**

Two community teams (CTs) were formed consisting of 20 members in each team, which represents a local capacity and a tool for protection of the population. To provide the CTs with corresponding knowledge in the sphere of DRR and ensure a high level of preparedness, the following theoretical and practical trainings on DRR, CCA, First Aid, etc. were organized. In order to stabilize their gained knowledge and develop practical skills, simulation drills were organized for the CTs. Moreover, before the simulation exercises, special rescue equipment and uniforms as well as first aid kits had been distributed to the CTs.

##### **“Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” project**

In order to strengthen the communities’ resilience as well as capacities and practical skills of the CTs, the NS, together with Shirak Regional Rescue Service, organized a competition with the participation of 14 targeted CTs. The competition consisted of 5 parts: 1) Crossing a river, 2) Providing first aid, 3) Testing DRR knowledge, 4) Evacuating injured people from the car after a road accident, 5) Lifting heavy goods/materials and providing first aid to affected people. There were about 400 participants; among them were as guests the Governor of Shirak region, the Minister of Emergency Situation of the Republic of Armenia, the President of the Armenian Red Cross Society, representatives from the Danish and

Georgian Red Cross Societies, as well as 280 CVDPRT members, about 50 representatives from the Rescue Service, regional (Health Department, Police, etc.) and local authorities.

In order to share experience, introduce working techniques and the available equipment of the fire-fighters to ensure an effective cooperation in case of an emergency, several experience-sharing and informative meetings were organized at two fire-fighter stations of Shirak region for 14 CTs (280 members). The targeted community teams used some of the equipment in simulated situations and learned more about the skills and capabilities of the fire-fighting teams.

As a mitigation project, a centralized garbage removal system was established in 6 targeted communities where 85 garbage collection boxes were provided. Moreover, the Community Hall (council) made an annual service agreement with the service provider who will regularly remove household garbage from the communities. With this approach, disaster risks have been reduced, public awareness and participation have been increased.

### **DREF**

The NS with the support of IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) delivered immediate humanitarian assistance (food and basic non-food items) to the 14 most affected communities of Armavir region affected by hail. The NS distributed 2,090 parcels of food and 2,090 hygiene parcels aimed to cover the basic needs of the beneficiaries in the 14 most affected communities. Overall, 4,020 people or 983 families received DREF support. During the distribution process, ARCS was actively cooperating with the regional and local authorities.

#### **2.1.2.**

##### **“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project**

For sharing knowledge on the national level, exchanging experience as well as building capacity on community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) between Red Cross Societies, two regional meetings were organized in Georgia for programme staff members and key stakeholders. In order to advocate for risk reduction activities on community level, VCAs were conducted in the targeted two communities which included a disaster preparedness and response plan of action and community risk areas mapping for each community. Moreover, they will support the implementation of community centred projects aimed at disaster risk reduction.

##### **“Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus” project**

For enforcing and facilitating regional and local level coordination and cooperation and increasing knowledge and skills of relevant stakeholders “Disaster preparedness and mitigation plan of action” and the “Who Does What and Where” manual have been developed, printed and distributed to stakeholders for their future use.

A Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction model was developed with the participation of regional and local authorities and shared with national, regional and local stakeholders. A Steering Committee was established within a cooperation MoU signed between ARCS, OXFAM GB Armenia, UNICEF Armenia, “Save the Children” Armenia, as well as the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Emergency Situation and Armenian DRR National Platform/ARNAP foundation. Moreover, a Steering Committee was organized at community level with high level participants of all MoU parties for presenting the project's results, achievements and the lessons learned as well as discussing the planned activities.

For enhancing regional cooperation, a South Caucasus Steering Committee and Cooperation Meeting was organized in Yerevan where programme update and lessons learned, challenges from phase one and two, programme activities, the third phase of the DRR programme and the strategic development for DRR in the South Caucasus were included in the agenda. Also, a regional meeting was organized in Tbilisi. Moreover, a “Case Studies and Best Practices” manual was developed for the project and shared with relevant stakeholders at country level.

#### **2.1.3.**

##### **“Safe Schools” project**

Volunteers also improved their skills and knowledge on Disaster Preparedness and DRR through corresponding training sessions organized for them.

##### **“Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus” project**

The NS Communication Strategy was developed.

The Head of Disaster Management and Population Movement Department participated in the DRR Global Platform meeting in Geneva held by UNISDR. During the meeting the ARCS representative, being key

note speaker, presented the NS's experience in community education and awareness raising and its importance in community resilience with several practical examples. Moreover, the head of Disaster Management and Population Movement Department participated in the Central Asia and Southern Caucasus regional workshop in Almaty. The workshop was organized by ECHO with the purpose to exchange information, highlight good practices and lessons learned. The head of DM/PM department presented the ARCS's achievements and lessons learned within the "Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus" project.

#### **"Climate Forum East" project**

The CFE project focal point, the network coordinator and several representatives of the "Armenian Climate Forum" Network strengthened their capacities and knowledge through participating in regional workshops entitled "Climate Vulnerability Assessment", "Effective Advocacy and Communication Strategies" as well as by taking part in several regional meetings organized within the framework of the project.

#### **2.2.1.**

#### **"Climate Forum East" project**

During the reporting year an "Armenian Climate Forum" Network was established which includes the Red Cross and about 20 active NGOs working in different fields. The NS signed an MoU with the "Armenian Climate Forum" Network aiming to jointly advocate and influence decision-makers on the necessity of climate change adaptation, raise the awareness of decision-makers and the general public, coordinate and cooperate between Civil Society organizations and relevant governmental institutions. A workshop was organized under the title "EU Environmental and Climate Change Policy". Another workshop, "CC Policy Priorities", was held for selecting five policy priorities, namely Disaster Risk Reduction, Health, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Water Resources for conducting a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA).

#### **"Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus" project**

Public awareness on DRR and Climate Change were raised through distributing educational materials developed and printed within the framework of the project for 10 schools of Yerevan.

#### **2.2.2.**

#### **"Safe Schools" project**

This was achieved through informative and educational public campaigns, quiz contests for children, training sessions on natural and man-made disasters, earthquake evacuation drills etc. A significant achievement of the project is the fact that pupils having taken part in a non-structural mitigation activity entitled "Family Emergency Plan" have developed, jointly with their family members, their own realistic Family Emergency Plans which allow to have a structured and timely reaction and protection in case of a disaster. Also, drawing competitions were organized in 3 targeted schools where the best pictures were awarded incentive prizes. A press conference dedicated to the World DRR Day was organized for increasing the level of awareness on disaster preparedness among population, and an awareness raising event dedicated to December 7 was organized for pupils and teachers from different schools not targeted by the project. Moreover, all targeted schools' evacuation schemes were revised together with emergency instructors and all targeted schools were given evacuation signs, fire panels and fire extinguishers which is also one step forward to be more secure.

#### **"Building Safe and Resilient Communities" project**

For raising the awareness of teachers, schoolchildren and their family members and prepare for disaster risks, a ToT was organized for 80 teachers from the targeted 14 schools of Yerevan and Lori region, where First Aid, DRR related issues, Climate Change etc. were included in the agenda. Then the trained teachers organized similar trainings for their pupils, and distributed a Family Emergency Plan checklist for developing realistic individual Family Emergency Plans with their family members, based on which competitions were organized at the targeted schools. Also, drawing competitions were organized in each targeted school where the best three drawings were awarded incentive prizes. Moreover, based on the best drawings, a calendar for the year 2014 was developed. To ensure an adequate school safety level, all targeted schools' evacuation schemes were revised by the Government's emergency instructors and all targeted schools were given evacuation signs. Practical evacuation drills were conducted too.

#### **"Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus" project**

In order to make schools more secure, the NS organized workshops for the emergency instructors of 65 targeted schools in Gyumri. Evacuation related RA legislation, procedures, responsibilities of each person and plan revision process were discussed. After the revision of the evacuation schemes, evacuation signs

were distributed at all targeted schools for enhancing the schools' evacuation capacities. Moreover, NS together with Shirak regional Education Department organized evacuation drills at 82 targeted schools dedicated to the World Disaster Day.

#### **“Climate Forum East” project**

In order to raise the awareness level of teachers, schoolchildren and their family member's on CCA, several drawing competitions were organized at 12 schools of VayotsDzor region. Also, a ToT was organized for 24 teachers from the targeted 12 schools on Climate Change Adaptation. Afterwards the teachers conducted training on CCA at their schools for their pupils. Moreover, all schools were provided with brochures titled “Climate Change Adaptation” developed within the framework of the project. As a result, 3 drawings from each 12 school (totally 36 drawings) have been selected and awarded prizes. Also, the project's annual calendar was developed and printed which includes not only children's drawings, but also logos of the Network's member organizations and their relevant messages on the climate change issue, thus ensuring the visibility of the Armenian Climate Forum Platform and the Climate Forum East Project.

#### **2.3.1**

#### **“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project**

A meeting took place between the Governor of Lori region, the ARCS President and Secretary General, as well as the President of ARCS Lori Regional Branch and the Head of DM/PM Department where the project was presented and discussed. The Governor expressed his willingness and readiness to cooperate and support the project's implementation.

The NS started implementing the “Mines and Explosive Remnants of War/EPW Victims Casualty and Needs Data Collection in Armenia” project funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The main objective of the project is to collect, centralize, analyze mine/ERW casualty data and victim needs through the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and make it available to the interested stakeholders. Besides the ARCS's positioning and fulfilling its auxiliary role to authorities, the activity will help meeting the needs of mine/ERW victims and support their socio-economic reintegration into society. After the project the needs of 400 mine/ERW victims and their families will be better understood through the collection and the systematization of IMSMA questionnaires in view of the establishment of an adequate response to their needs by the Armenian authorities. During the reporting year, the collection of IMSMA questionnaires was carried out in all regions of Armenia.

### **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 the Federation since the beginning of 2000s, continued with the support of the Austrian RC on a bilateral basis. Local corporate partners were 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			
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. One of the significant achievements of the project is the scaled impact on the children resulting in continuation of the education in higher institutions. Last summer three of the children who had been long involved in the Smiley Club activities went to the university to get their specialization.

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 cultural events (traditional dance, theatre performances, etc.) and excursions, for instance a visit to Ejmiadzin, Armenia's religious centre. The growing interest among the aging population in the dormitories and in the project activities speak for the usefulness and the need of the services provided in the framework of the project.

**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 IDUs and PLHIV receiving harm reduction and psycho-social services.		270	270
# of targeted population (representatives of government and local authorities, mass media representatives throughout the country, journalism students, practicing doctors in Yerevan and medical staff in remote villages, medical students in universities and colleges) reached with advocacy campaigns		620	620
# 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>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 a designated short number and within 24 hours trained young volunteers sent back a brief and accurate response to the questions. The project ended in mid 2013. About 27,000 questions were received during the project.</p> <p><b>The Armenian Red Cross Society, with the support of Italian Red Cross, has been implementing the "HIV Prevention in Armenia" program since August 2013. The program aims at both advancing the impact of effective HIV prevention among vulnerable and high-risk groups, e.g. injection drug users (IDUs), and advocating people living with HIV (PLHIV) and IDUs to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support.</b></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, Alaverdyans and Stepanavan, targeted by the program was reduced through legal, psycho-social assistance, awareness raising activities and counselling. 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.	1,650 (2012)	1,000	1,000
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>After a successful implementation of the healthy lifestyle promotion project in 2011-2012, the project continued in 2013 on a smaller scale due to the additionally raised funds by the local dairy products company "Ashtarak Kat" Ltd.</p> <p>The cooperation started in 2011 and the ARCS, with the received financial support, 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 &amp; lifestyle. The program also had an environmental component, when the schoolchildren were taken on ecological excursions at the end of the sessions. 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. Upon the suggestion of the donor, the project was prolonged for five more months.</p>			

**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	215 (in 2012)	1,500 (500 for each year)	No central database available; 128 registered recruitments
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>The ARCS has been effectively implementing the youth volunteer management mechanism in regard of recruitment-training-involvement into activities. 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. ARCS Youth Board having 5 members has been actively working in direction of youth development within the Red Cross Youth (RCY).</p>			

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

**Outcome 4.4:** Work with Resource Mobilization towards the harmonisation of 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	-	400	110

knowledge and skills on resource mobilization		(100 per year)	
<b>Comments on progress towards outcomes</b>			
Not funded			

**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 IFRC 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
<b>Comments on progress towards outcomes</b>			
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 adopted strategic directions. During the strategic planning process, the National Society had regular consultations and peer support through the IFRC Country Representation and the IFRC 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
Journalists established contacts with ARCS	16 (in 2013)	25	10
Communication Strategy is developed			Completed
NS's official web site developed and launched			Completed
Accounts in Social Media created	3		
In schools dissemination sessions conducted	10		
Biannual newsletter developed and printed			
Coordination seminar for dissemination volunteers organized	1		
Promotion materials printed (calendar, poster) distributed			
Training for the students of journalism faculties titled "ICRC and ARCS activities in Armenia and covering crisis and humanitarian issues" organized	1		

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

ARCS puts the communication and dissemination of key Red Cross values as the cornerstone of its activities. To ensure the visibility of the organization and reach wider audience, all the available tools and means of communication are being used.

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

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 celebration of 150 years of humanitarian action on May 8th, the first competition of 14 community response volunteer teams in Shirak region in the frames of "Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus" project, "Help. I Can, You Can, We Can ...", "Yerevan without Smoking" etc. During the year ARCS actively cooperated with the mass media, inviting media representatives to cover remarkable events of the organization. ARCS staff and volunteers participated in a number of TV shows. 1 film and 4 videos have been made on ARCS projects and activities.

Press kits containing promotional materials were delivered to media outlets.

ARCS continued the dissemination of Red Cross values in the schools. Specially trained volunteers worked with high school students, presenting the history, principles and activities of the Red Cross.

Starting from 2013, Armenian Red Cross Society has been acting as an organizing party of the National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law to disseminate and promote humanitarian values of the International Movement of Red Cross among youth. In the National Moot Court Competition on IHL 2013, the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University team was the winner.

In 2013, the Communication Strategy was developed and approved as a tool to establish effective and long-standing relations with government bodies, beneficiaries, donors, the mass media and the general public. A detailed Communication Action Plan for 2014-2015 to achieve the goals set in that Strategy is under development.

### Stakeholder participation and feedback

During the first half of the year, within the scope of "Safe Schools" project, the NS cooperated with the Republic of Armenia (RA) Rescue Service and the Educational Department of Yerevan City Council and the schools' administrations.

Within the scope of the "Relief and Empowerment for Syrian Armenians" project the NS closely cooperates with the RA Ministry of Diaspora, the State Migration Service, the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenians' Issues and the State Employment Service Agency.

During the DREF distribution process, the ARCS was actively cooperating with regional and local authorities of RA Armavir region. Moreover, ARCS Armavir regional branch staff and volunteers were involved in the project and were actively assisting the distribution process.

Within the framework of the Climate Forum East project, an MoU was signed between NS and Armenian Climate Forum Network which includes 20 active civil society organizations. It is a good step forward in cooperating with civil society organizations. It will give the opportunity to jointly develop and implement programmes, to organize conferences, workshops, seminars, etc. as well as organize public awareness activities on climate change and environment. As a result of the CFE project, many CSO members became more interested in the RC movement and expressed their willingness to participate in NS activities as volunteers. Moreover, NS closely cooperates with Armenian State Hydro-Meteorological and Monitoring Service.

Within the "Building Safer Local Communities in Southern Caucasus" project 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.

Moreover, within the “Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project, the cooperation is enhanced with Lori regional and local authorities, the regional rescue service and the educational department.

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to revise and practice NS Contingency Plan, as it sets up certain definition of roles and responsibilities, reaction mechanisms, plan of action and it is utmost 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>• Some communities’ volunteers are not flexible in order to work within the framework of the DM projects.</li> <li>• Disaster awareness in communities is not done regularly, which will decrease inhabitants’ level of awareness about disaster (<i>DP and DM tools.</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Positive factor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By sharing best practice 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 that have already experienced a disaster, as the perception of risk among these communities is higher.</li> <li>• Trained staff/volunteers with technical knowledge are more prepared and it gives them the opportunity to answer communities’ questions if they ask more.</li> <li>• ARCS has effective tools for strengthening disaster preparedness of the NS and communities in high risk areas.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster awareness in communities should be kept up regularly, even after the completion of the project.</li> <li>• The 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>• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through close cooperation and coordination with state and non-state partners ensure further development and maintenance of capacities directed at risk reduction.</li> </ul>

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

During the year several workshops, training sessions, seminars and meetings were held at national, regional and local levels which are very useful for information sharing and coordination.

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 "Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus" project is purposefully developed and successfully implemented, and the positive image obtained during several years of work is spread beyond the planned areas. A clear example is the work of 17 schools voluntarily involved in the project.

Parents together with their children and school staff have established a DRR network in a small but very active town, Artik. Moreover, an FEP competition which triggered pupils' activity in this field has also encouraged the development of this network.

It is noteworthy that many schoolchildren are consciously following the rules and requirements for keeping their communities safe from natural and man made disasters. Many initiatives such as cleaning up potential hazard areas, instructing the younger generation in the community and bringing the knowledge back to the families have become an ordinary issue for many community members where the project was implemented.

Competitions are considered as a best practice as it was organized in Arapi Community and was well coordinated by Shirak Regional Rescue Service and supported by the Police, the Ambulance Services and Shirak Regional Municipality.

The regional initiatives held within the "Climate Forum East" project served as a good platform for sharing experience and knowledge between the neighbouring NSs as well as other PNSs.

## Financial situation

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

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAAAM00213arf.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.

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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)

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