

MAAAM002
30 April 2015

**This report covers the
period
from 1 January 2014
to 31 December 2014.**

*Psychosocial support to lonely elderly
people
Photo: Armenian RC*



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 Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) received very limited funding in general. However, the programmes continued to be implemented mainly with bilateral support from traditional and new partners by Movement partners such as the American, Austrian, Italian and German Red Cross Societies, and external partners like DIPECHO with the co-funding of the Danish and the Icelandic RCs, Austrian Development Agency, 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 efforts. As one step forward to the development of its resource mobilization, the National Society adopted its Communication Strategy for the years 2012-2020.

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 Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	“Building Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)
IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund	Armenia: hail storm DREF operation
European Commission, Austrian Development Agency,	“Climate Forum East” project

Austrian Red Cross Society and World Wide Fund for Nature	
International Committee of the Red Cross	“Mines and Explosive Remnants of War/EPW Victims Causality and Needs Data Collection in Armenia”
Austrian, German and French Red Cross Societies	Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red Cross Society “Relief and Empowerment for Syrian Armenians” project II phases
Austrian Development Agency and Austrian Red Cross Society	“Relief and Empowerment for Syrian Armenians” project III phase
Iranian Red Crescent Society through IFRC	Urban DRR
Danish Red Cross	Assistance to Hailstorm affected population in Armavir region
Italian Red Cross	Funding of HIV prevention project: Harm reduction, Relief support and advocacy
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.
Danish Red Cross	Children Resilience program for Syrian Armenian. The aim is to ensure integration of Syrian Armenian children into the society
German Red Cross through European foundation for piece	Exchange visits aimed at Supporting handicapped children
Global Fund	TB prevention
Eli Lilly & Co. through IFRC	TB prevention

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, Vayots Dzor 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, Vayots Dzor and Armavir regions is enhanced and ensured in 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.		70	50
2.2.1 Climate change at local level is promoted and advocated and integrated into NS ongoing programs.		120,000	120,000
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, Vayots Dzor and Armavir regions is increased.		144,000 (including 30,000 school-children)	144,200 (including 30,000 schoolchildren)
2.3.1 Risk reduction and risk reduction <i>changes</i> are promoted and advocated in the legislation at community level.		50	50

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.

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was conducted for Vahagni and Koghes communities, which includes a Disaster Preparedness and Response plan of action and community risk areas mapping for each community. Overall, 70 community inhabitants were involved in the VCA process. Afterwards, meetings were organized in targeted communities for presenting and finalizing VCA results. VCA report was printed in Armenian and English languages and shared among targeted communities as well as relevant stakeholders on national and regional levels.

An MoU was signed with Municipalities of Darpas and Kurtan communities on supporting and implementation of prioritized mitigation projects. Further, mitigation projects have been started in Kurtan and Darpas communities. For Kurtan community 800 m drinking water system was renovated, where pipelines were provided by ARCS and the rest of the work has been conducted by local authorities and with small in-kind contribution by World Vision Armenia. In Darpas community 327 m mudflow channel was renovated, where ARCS had 10% contribution. ARCS team monitored the process.

“Building Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)

VCA was conducted in 4 new communities, as well as meetings were organized in 14 other communities for updating already implemented VCA results. Overall 450 people were involved from 18 targeted communities in the VCA process. VCA reports including community Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plan of Action were printed, after conducting final meetings in each of 18 communities for presenting and discussing VCA results and possible mitigation actions.

Assistance to Hailstorm Affected Population in Armavir Region

While in May 2013 an unprecedented hail destroyed the yield capacity in 46 communities of Armavir region, there was a common perception that the hardest period would come during winter 2014, when farmers and their families heavily depend on savings made during the year and household expenses become higher. For that reason, the Armenian Red Cross Society with financial support of Danish Red Cross, distributed hygiene parcels to 15 communities of Armavir region most affected by hail in the beginning of 2014. The process of distribution was disseminated through the media. Overall, 1,085 families have become beneficiaries of the ARCS-led assistance.

2.1.2.**“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project**

A regional meeting was organized in Bakuriani, Georgia, for programme staff and key stakeholders. During the meeting the project partners presented their achievements in a framework of the project for the 2014 year and planned activities for 2015. Also, in December, a regional meeting was organized in Tbilisi, Georgia aiming to present planned the project's regional evaluation methodology and agree on timing. In December, the Armenian part of the evaluation was conducted by an external expert hired by the Austrian Red Cross.

“Building Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)

To ensure the mobilization of the CVGs in case of emergency, their involvement in the regional Emergency Situation Plan and all state simulations and events, MoUs have been developed which state certain roles and responsibilities of Shirak Rescue Service-Regional Hall-Local Authorities-ARCS for maintaining and further developing CVGs. It is planned to be signed in early 2015.

Several coordination meetings were held with the participation of ARCS, OXFAM, UNICEF, UNDP, Save the Children and the National DRR Platform for discussing DIPECHO project synergies and joint actions as well as agreeing on the Platform's capacity building approach. It was decided and agreed that every organization should support the process.

On 6 and 7 November 2014, the first DRR III Steering Committee Meeting was held in Iceland. The

Steering Committee was composed of representatives of the Red Cross Consortium supporting DRR III and representatives of the implementing national societies. Moreover, the field study prior to Steering Committee meeting have been organized in Iceland during which different meetings with state and non-state stakeholders took place. The meetings helped to clearly define the state and voluntary DR structures and the role/place of Red Cross within the system. It is worth to mention that the Head of Crisis Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia also took part in the field trip.

Two regional trainings titled “Psycho-Social Support and Children Resilience program” facilitated by Icelandic, Palestinian, Georgia and Armenian RCs and “Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood Protection” facilitated by Austrian Red Cross were organized in Armenia for Armenian and Georgian Red Cross staff, volunteers and relevant stakeholders.

2.1.3.

“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project

Two community teams were formed consisting of 20 members each in Vahagni and Koghes communities. Moreover, they will support the implementation of community centred projects aimed at disaster risk reduction. To provide new established CTs with corresponding knowledge in the sphere of Disaster Risk Reduction and Response, as well as ensure high level of preparedness, ARCS jointly with the “LORE” rescue team organized the following theoretical and practical trainings: “General concepts in DRR including Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment”, “Hyogo Framework of Action”, “Climate Change & Adaptation”, “Actions During Disasters”, “First Aid and Rescue Skills”, “Psychosocial Support” etc.

In order to strengthen the gained knowledge, simulation drills were organized for four CTs with Lori regional Rescue Service of RA Ministry of Emergency Situations and “LORE” Rescue Service. Moreover, before simulation exercises, special rescue equipment and uniforms were distributed to 2 new CTs.

“Building Safer Local Communities in the South Caucasus” project

Trainings/refreshments titled “Disaster Risk Management“, “RC/RC Movement dissemination” and “IFRC Disaster Response tools/mechanisms”, “Psycho-social support”, “Basic Rescue” and “First Aid” have been conducted for new and old Community Volunteer Groups (CVG).

Over 360 CVG members participated in the trainings. Afterwards, simulation drills were organized jointly with Shirak Regional Rescue Service for 18 CVGs (360 members). Moreover, personal protective equipment, tools and uniforms have been distributed to CVGs. It is worth to highlight that 6 targeted communities were provided with special equipment for operations during hard snow which is typical for their area, as well as all CVGs received fire protection equipment. Also, three CVGs participated in the state simulation drill organized by the Regional Rescue Service having certain role and responsibilities. It is worth to mention that during the reporting period, all 18 CVGs made 31 local emergency responses in total.

Two regional trainings titled “Psycho Social Support and Children Resilience program” facilitated by Icelandic, Palestinian, Georgia and Armenian RCs and “Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood Protection” facilitated by Austrian Red Cross were organized in Armenia for Armenian and Georgian Red Cross staff, volunteers and relevant stakeholders.

“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.

Urban DRR

A large study on “Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Communities” with key focus on differences between rural and urban communities has been conducted. For the purposes of this study various meetings with experts from Yerevan Rescue Service, relevant experts from the Ministry of Emergency situations, DRR National Platform, UNDP, UN OCHA, World Vision, UNICEF, “Lore” Rescue Team NGO etc. have been organized.

In order to define differences between urban and rural contexts, a two day workshop was organized in Stepanavan city with the participation of representatives from the ARCS DM Team, “Lore” Rescue Team and Yerevan Rescue Service professionals and staff. During the workshop, differences of DRR in rural and urban context, essential elements of risk assessment process in rural and urban context, hazards typical to Yerevan etc. that have been included in the draft version of the Urban DRR study report have

been discussed. As a result, numerous recommendations and comments have been noted and further incorporated into the finalized study report.

In order to start the testing of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) tool in the target district of Yerevan, ARCS called its volunteers to participate in a one day workshop to launch the process. Different types of questionnaires, the division of the district for conducting interviews with residents, the rules and ethical norms during the interviews were presented and discussed. As a result, 12 volunteers were selected to conduct those interviews. It is worth to note that the VCA process was carried out not only for the purpose of collecting information, but mainly for testing VCA tools in an urban community.

The Ajapnya municipality was also provided with the District Map and specialists on utility services and building maintenance assisted in preparing the division of the district for conducting the testing of VCA tools, sharing key messages and follow up on the monitoring.

The next step involved a self assessment based on the “Resilient Cities” specific questionnaire, developed by UNISDR and adapted in place by UNDP, UNICEF, UN OCHA, World Vision, ARNAP and ARCS, where interviews have been conducted with the Head of Ajapnyak District and Municipality Staff. The aim of this process was to understand the roles and responsibilities of the staff of the administrative district in DRR related issues, financial and budgeting processes, functions, legal and legislative issues etc.

Afterwards, focus group discussions with heads of condominiums and representatives of services available in the administrative district have been organized.

Thus, based on the above mentioned activities, “Testing of VCA Tools in Urban Communities” Report which included recommendations for VCA in urban setting has been developed.

The Disaster Risk Reduction manuals have been adapted for the local context and translated into Armenian. During the process of adapting it to the local context, various meetings and discussion have taken place with ARCS’s relevant departments, e.g. First Aid Department, Health Department, etc. All recommendations and comments have been noted and included into the final adapted document and distributed in the target district by volunteers. Overall, 6,300 key messages have been distributed and the final evaluation on their effectiveness has been conducted through a specially designed questionnaire.

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 Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)

The “Family Safety” manual, assigned for all 23.000 pupils, and two handbooks for teachers, which was developed within the framework of the project, were distributed at the targeted 86 schools. The manual included a chapter on Climate Change adaptation.

2.2.2.

“Building Safe and Resilient Communities” project

For raising the awareness of teachers, schoolchildren and their family members and prepare for disaster risks, a training of trainers (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 Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)

Two regional trainings titled “Psycho Social Support and Children Resilience program” facilitated by Icelandic, Palestinian, Georgia and Armenian RCs and “Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood Protection” facilitated by Austrian Red Cross were organized in Armenia for Armenian and Georgian Red Cross staff, volunteers and relevant stakeholders. In order to gain/refresh knowledge on DRR, First aid, and climate change, etc. three day training for 40 teachers from new 21 targeted schools as well as one day refreshment training for 230 teachers from 65 beneficiary schools of Shirak region have been organized.

After, “Family Safety” manual, assigned for all 23,000 pupils, and two handbooks for teachers, which was developed within the framework of the project, were distributed to targeted 86 schools. Trained teachers, according to the methodology and special handbooks that had been given to them, organized local DRR trainings with pupils of their schools. Later, pupils based on Family Emergency Plan checklist opened discussions in their families on disaster risks and preparedness for developing their Family Emergency Plans. As a first phase, in-school competition has been organized in each school and 3 best plans from each targeted 86 schools were selected and awarded with incentive prizes. After, the best plans were presented to the second phase/regional level competition. Also, Drawing Competition dedicated to International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Day was organized in Gyumri. Over 380 pupils from 12 classes of 4 schools of Gyumri participated at the competition. In November, it was followed by exhibition organized based on the best Drawings which were later included in the Project Calendar for 2015. Moreover, to ensure targeted schools’ safeness, Fire Protection equipments (fire extinguishers and fire panels) were distributed to 86 schools and evacuation signs to 4 schools, that haven’t received before.

“Climate Forum East” project

As a result of last year Drawing competition, a trip to Yerevan for kids from Vayots Dzor region has been organized. Three classes from Vayots Dzor secondary schools, winners of Drawing competition, have been invited to visit Yerevan. 54 kids and 24 parents/ teachers have participated in the event. The group from Vayots Dzor has visited the State Museum of Nature of Armenia and the Yerevan Zoo.

Furthermore, two days training for Journalists on “Media coverage of Climate Change challenges” has been organized. Armenian Red Cross Society and UNDP Armenia teamed up to organize a two day training on climate change related challenges and their coverage by media in Yerevan in the scope of the UNDP-EU “Clima East Pilot Project” and ARCS “Climate Forum East Project”. Some 15 journalists representing republican and regional mass media from Yerevan, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions of Armenia enhanced their knowledge on climate change and environmental challenges, such as climate change impacts in Armenia, climate change mitigation and adaptation, frequently used concepts and terms on climate change etc. Film watching, group works and prepared presentations covered variety of issues related to the CC and its impact, for instance global warming, extreme climate events, water resources vulnerability, forests vulnerability and agriculture vulnerability.

As a continuation, two days training on “Communication and Advocacy” for the Armenian Climate Forum member organizations was organized where resources and methods for organizing advocacy campaigns, basic skills in working with Media representative, using media and communication tools etc. have been among the main topics of this training. As a result, Advocacy Strategy of the Armenian Climate Forum has been developed at the end of the year.

Following this events, training for teachers in 12 schools of Armavir region has been organized. Overall, 24 teachers from 12 schools (2 teachers from each school) have participated in the event. They have received basic knowledge on current trends related to Climate change. Following the training, teachers organized classes on Climate Change for pupils thus preparing them to participate in a Drawing competition. As a result, 36 pictures from 12 schools have been selected and published in the 2015 Calendar printed within the framework of the Project and distributed all over relevant institutions, agencies and organizations throughout the country.

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.

“Building Resilient local communities in Georgia and Armenia” project (III phase)

During the reporting period, a meeting was organized in Shirak region with participation of heads of 6 targeted communities located in a flood prone/downstream area of Mantash dam to discuss the development of Early warning system for communities.

In order to present the Project's achievements, lessons learned and best practices from last two phases, as well as the Project's III phase activities Regional Coordination meeting was organized in Shirak region with the participation of heads of 18 targeted communities, regional authorities, project staff etc.

To ensure the mobilization of the CVGs in case of emergency, their involvement in regional Emergency Situation Plan and all state simulations and events, MoUs has been developed which states certain roles and responsibilities of Shirak Rescue Service-Regional Hall-Local Authorities-ARCS for maintaining and further developing CVGs. It is planned to be signed in early 2015.

Several coordination meetings were held with the participation of ARCS, OXFAM, UNICEF, UNDP, Save the Children and National DRR Platform for discussing DIPECHO project synergies and joint actions as well as agreeing on the Platform capacity building approach. It was decided and agreed that every organization should support the process.

“Climate Forum East” project

A two-day training on “Communication and Advocacy” for the Armenian Climate Forum member organizations was organized where resources and methods for organizing advocacy campaigns, basic skills in working with media representative, using media and communication tools etc. have been among the main topics of this training. As a result, the Advocacy Strategy of the Armenian Climate Forum was developed at the end of the year.

Urban DRR

ARCS has established cooperation with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations (MTAES) and Yerevan Municipality. Both structures have indicated their readiness for cooperation and based on the nature and peculiarities of the Project, the Yerevan Rescue Service was appointed as a focal point on behalf of the MTAES.

Several meetings took place with the Yerevan Rescue Service with the aim to set up a Yerevan risk map where different types of hazards specific to Yerevan city have been highlighted, and the map was attached to the above mentioned study report.

The legal component of the Project was supplemented with separate ECHO funding through IFRC Geneva with the aim to have a broader and more detailed study on Legal DRR in the context of Yerevan city as well as to define how legal issues could be better integrated into RC tools and become part of ARCS advocacy agenda with certain actions developed based on the report.

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

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>In the framework of the “Smiley Club” project launched in 2003 Red Cross Youth volunteers organize various educational workshops, entertainment, sporting events and summer tent camps for children of 70 families living in care centres (“dormitories”).</p> <p>Excursions, organized for both the children living in dormitories and schoolchildren, who participated in “HIV/AIDS prevention” sessions, are of special importance, as they have been a great opportunity for the children to socialize with their peers and to integrate into the society.</p> <p>The project is being implemented in 2 dormitories and the activities are being organized in renovated, furnished and equipped rooms for various trainings and events.</p> <p>10 Red Cross youth volunteers led by 2 youth leaders visited weekly around 70 beneficiaries from 2 dormitories of Yerevan. The volunteers provided them with food on a monthly basis, hygiene parcel once in three month, organized various social and cultural events, such as going to theatres and concerts, sightseeing, and did some housework during the weekly visits. Volunteers marked the beneficiaries’ birthdays with presents and sweets, brought newspapers and entertaining magazines. Starting from 2014, a specially equipped laundry room is operating in both dormitories.</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

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			
# 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.		176	189
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>The Armenian Red Cross Society, with the support of the 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.</p> <p>“HIV prevention in Armenia” programme is implemented in Vanadzor, Gyumri and Yerevan cities within youth aged 15-23. Within the frames of the program peer to peer educational seminars were organized for students with Q&A sessions for the faculty members. The students were provided with informative materials on HIV/AIDS, as well as they were provided with counseling through calls and visits. The project is funded by the American Red Cross.</p> <p><u>HIV Prevention in Armenia through Italian Red Cross funding, in Yerevan and Vanadzor cities</u></p> <p>1. Dissemination of information through HIV awareness sessions</p> <p>Armenian Red Cross Youth, in collaboration with the Armenian Apostolic Church Ararat Patriarchal Diocese Day Center, is implementing HIV prevention and awareness sessions for different groups of people, namely</p>			

injection drug users (IDUs), medical personnel, university students, journalism students, mass media representatives and members of Youth Associations of the Armenian Apostolic Church, taking into consideration the specific features of the targeted groups, as well as their scope of activities.

By printing and distributing informative materials to the public sessions strive to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

2. Broadcasting a talk show and a TV analytical program, as well as conducting a social survey related to HIV/AIDS

TV analytical programs and TV shows are organized for the dissemination of the problem, e.g. reduction of risk behavior, as well as contribution to dismantling some of the false stereotypes that haunt PLHIV.

3. Social support to the beneficiaries of the program

The beneficiaries of the program "HIV Prevention in Armenia" are injection drug users and people living with HIV, who are from Yerevan and Lori region. Those based in Yerevan are the beneficiaries of Ararat Patriarchal Diocese Day Center. Food and hygienic parcels are distributed based on the needs assessment of the beneficiaries.

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.

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			
Not funded.			

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)	200
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
Database has been developed under the Bridging the Digital Divide Initiative.			

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 knowledge and skills on resource mobilization	-	400 (100 per year)	110
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
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 the implementation of its 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 International 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 Secretariat's Country Representation and the IFRC Secretariat's 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
Regional/Territorial Branches have been provided with computers, printer/scanner and have been trained on the use of the technique			
Communication Strategy is developed			Completed
Communication plan for the years of 2015-2016			In the progress, will

			be finalized early in 2015
NS's official web site developed			Completed, updated regularly
Accounts in Social Media created		3	4
In schools, dissemination sessions conducted		16	10
Biannual newsletter developed and printed		750	750
Coordination seminar for dissemination volunteers organized		1	1
Promotion materials printed (calendar, poster) distributed			
Training for journalist		1	1
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>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.</p> <p>ARCS website is being continuously refreshed, with new stories published. 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.</p> <p>Promotional materials with ARCS logo and messages were published and disseminated.</p> <p>Media relations were established while organizing the media coverage of ARCS events.</p> <p>Press kits containing promotional materials were delivered to media outlets.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2015-2016 to achieve the goals set in that Strategy is under development and will be finalised early in 2015.</p>			

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.

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.

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
<p>Key Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In order to have high results and outcomes from the programs it is important to implement more long-term programs. • Some communities’ volunteers are not flexible in order to work within the framework of the DM projects. • Disaster awareness in communities is not done regularly, which will decrease inhabitants’ level of awareness about disaster (<i>DP and DM tools.</i>) <p>Positive factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 the population from future natural disasters. • 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. • Trained staff/volunteers with technical knowledge are more prepared and it gives them the opportunity to answer communities’ questions if they ask more. • ARCS has effective tools for strengthening disaster preparedness of the NS and communities in high risk areas. 	<p>L</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster awareness in communities should be kept up regularly, even after the completion of the project. • 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	H	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability to disaster of projects' targeted communities has been decreased through communities' capacity building, public awareness and risk reduction activities. 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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.

<https://fednet.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/Development%20Operational%20Plans/2014/SP569AM14arf.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 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **Armenian Red Cross Society:**

Dr. Anna Yeghiazaryan, Secretary General

email: redcross@redcross.am; phone: +374 10 583 630

- **IFRC Secretariat Europe Zone Office**

Mette Petersen, Head of Country Cluster

email: mette.petersen@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 45 15