



ARMENIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

23 December 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 35.3M**

In support of the Armenian Red Cross Society



64

National Society branches



300

National Society staff



6,858

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



90,000

Ongoing emergency operations



400,000

Climate and environment



200,000

Disasters and crises



624,000

Health and wellbeing



28,000

Migration and displacement



45,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and preparedness
 - Protracted displacement
- Health, water, sanitation and hygiene
- Elderly care • Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Digital transformation • Community Engagement and Accountability • Branch development
- Youth engagement & volunteer management
 - Resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **2.8M**

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **85**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Armenia, Azerbaijan & Georgia, Tbilisi

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 23M CHF

Total 6.3M CHF

Total 6M CHF

Through the IFRC

17.2M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 3.6M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 2.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

2.7M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 1M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 2.6M CHF

Through the IFRC

3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 295,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

2.8M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Ongoing emergency operations

15M CHF (2023 - June 2025)

Longer-term needs

735,000 CHF

Climate and environment

532,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

195,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

214,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

221,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

320,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross

Red Cross of China

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross

Monaco Red Cross

Netherlands Red Cross

Slovenia Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing Emergency Appeals:

MDRAM012

Longer-term needs:

MAAAM002

Hazards



Earthquakes



Conflict



Drought



Hailstorms



Population movement

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Armenian Red Cross Society** is an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and the largest voluntary organization in the country. It was founded in 1920 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1995.

The National Society has a network of 12 regional branches, one territorial branch and 52 community sub-branches. It has 300 experienced and committed members of staff and a total of 6,850 volunteers, out of which 2,265 are active. Increasingly, young people and volunteers are taking an active role in Red Cross services.

By implementing disaster risk reduction projects in recent years, the National Society has formed strong disaster management capabilities. It has equipped seven experienced disaster response teams at headquarters and branch level, and plans to train and equip an additional four, to cover all regions of Armenia.

In addition to disaster preparedness and response services, the National Society is well recognized in the country for its provision of social services and healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support, and assistance to migrants and displaced groups. The National Society is well positioned

as a key humanitarian actor to the Government in supporting disaster management and response activities.

Recent Armenian Red Cross humanitarian operations include the response to the conflict escalations in 2020 and 2022. With support from International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, the National Society supported conflict-affected individuals with services such as the distribution of non-food items (100,000 people reached); shelter (more than 16,000 people); food; mental health and psychosocial support (24,000 people); first aid; children's resilience; and medical care and other health services (70,500 people). In addition, the National Society has been implementing cash and voucher assistance activities for displaced people and their host families, gaining considerable experience in this area.

The Armenian Red Cross Strategy 2022–2026 defines three strategic goals for the Armenian people:

- To better anticipate and respond to disasters and crises, and recover faster
- To lead safe, healthy and dignified lives, with opportunities to thrive
- To mobilize for inclusive and supportive communities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Nearly 30 years after Armenia became an independent state, it remains strategically sensitive in the South Caucasus region. Two of the country's four land borders are still open, but its borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey are closed. Conflict escalation remains a risk. According to the INFORM Risk Index, Armenia's risk severity score has increased to 10 because of increased hostilities in 2020. This is a similar score to some of the crisis-stricken countries in the Middle East. In addition, there have been large anti-Government protests since April 2022, and opposition leaders continue to demand the removal of the current Government.

Armenia is also exposed to a number of complex natural hazards including earthquakes, droughts, floods, hailstorms and landslides.

The country has evolved from having a solid manufacturing base to a service-based and small-scale agricultural economy. According to data from 2022, the service sector employs 33.5 per cent of the labour force. Agriculture remains a significant employer, with a labour market share of 24 per cent, and there is a high rate of unemployment. Based on the country's definition of the poverty line, poverty persists and affects about 26 per cent of the population, which is gradually decreasing.

According to the World Bank, price levels started to rise more quickly at the end of 2020, after a long stable period of low inflation. Prices accelerated further in 2021, driven mainly by a

17 per cent food inflation, and reached their peak in November 2021 when inflation was running at 9.6 per cent per year. Geopolitical challenges continue to limit Armenia's growth prospects, because some of its borders are closed, it has no economic relations with two of its four neighbours, and some regional communication networks are blocked.

Since 1992, Armenia has been a member of the intergovernmental military alliance known as the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The country joined the Eurasian Economic Union in 2015. In 2017, Armenia and the European Union signed a comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement, envisioning cooperation in economic trade and political matters. The Armenian economy is expected to be adversely affected by the conflict in Ukraine, because global food and fuel prices are rising and the country has substantial trade and financial links with Russia, along with remittances and foreign direct investment. Armenia still faces significant structural challenges, including the need for improvements in the business and environment, persistently high unemployment, mismatched labour skills, and weak levels of competitiveness between companies.

There have been substantial short- and long-term effects of the conflict escalations in Armenia. According to the Armenian

Migration Service, during the early September 2020 escalation, more than 90,000 people fled from conflict-affected areas to Armenia, and the majority (about 88 per cent) were women and children. Continuous assessments by the National Society, the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the public authorities and international organizations show that there are still an estimated 20,000 displaced people or more in Armenia. They need shelter, food, essential hygiene items, access to health services, mental health and psychosocial support, longer-term livelihoods and recovery support.

From September 19, 2023 the number of people who have arrived in Armenia after the escalation of hostilities in Karabakh remains stable at 101,848 individuals, with most persons (~70 per cent) staying in the capital region (Yerevan and surrounding marzes [districts] of Kotayk and Ararat). According to the World Health Organization, 52 per cent of the arriving persons are female, 48 per cent male, 18 per cent over 65 years of age, 31 per cent under 18, and 2 per cent live with disabilities. More than 2,000 women arriving are pregnant. According to the Prime Minister of Armenia, a few thousand people have reportedly left Armenia for other countries, primarily the Russian Federation.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Armenia](#)

Emergency Operation	Armenia Population Movement Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MDRAM012
People affected	120,000
Duration	30 September 2023 to 30 June 2025
People to be assisted	90,000
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements: • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 15 million • Federation-wide: CHF 20 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Armenia Population Movement Emergency Appeal
Links to Operational Strategy and Operational Update	Operational Strategy , Operational Update

As a result of the military escalation in September 2023, thousands of civilians have been displaced to the territory of Armenia. As a result of these developments, in the course of several days, a significant number of people, including elderly individuals, women and children, left their homes.

Despite the cessation of armed conflict, the humanitarian challenges faced by the affected people persist and continue

to grow. The number of people who have arrived in Armenia after the escalation of hostilities in Karabakh starting from 19 September, remains stable at 101,848 individuals. About 70 per cent of these persons are staying in the capital region (Yerevan and surrounding districts of Kotayk and Ararat). Given the ongoing nature of the crisis, there is an urgent and continued need for the provision of humanitarian aid to meet the evolving needs of the affected population.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Operational Strategy reflects ongoing adjustments to align with the evolving situation and governmental directives. So far, the Armenian Red Cross has reached more than 84,500 vulnerable people affected through the emergency appeal. The highlights of the assistance are:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution of essential household items such as blankets, pillows, bed linen, water boiler, mattresses, kitchen sets and foldable beds to the affected population. Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to displaced people.

Livelihoods

Distribution of monthly food parcels including wheat flour to the affected population. Provision of income-generation support to the refugees through informational sessions on employment opportunities, job placement, career development, and other relevant subjects. Distribution of income generation tools and specialized business training sessions.

Health and care

Provision of psychological first aid to displaced people and installation of an active helpline.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Distribution of hygiene kits and items to the affected population.

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), migration

The operational strategy integrates PGI and CEA as pivotal elements in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits, and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement, and transparent communication, extending into long-term resilience building. Migration related activities include establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs) to provide cash and voucher assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), accepting applications for family reunification (RFL).



Armenian Red Cross Society volunteers attending to displaced people at a humanitarian service point, in September 2023 (Photo: ARCS)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

According to the World Bank Group's Climate Change Knowledge Portal, all four seasons in Armenia are steadily getting warmer. Projections indicate an increase in overall annual precipitation by 2050, but a decrease over the summer months, suggesting a likely increase of heavy precipitation events. Armenia regularly gets very hot in the summer – the average maximum temperature in August is 34.3 degrees Celsius. The current likelihood of a heatwave is about three per cent per year, and this is expected to increase to 5–18 per cent by the end of the century.

Climate change is likely to influence food production in Armenia. There is already a significant probability that the country will experience severe droughts, and as droughts are expected to become more frequent and intense, it is likely that the quality of the soil across the country will decline. Changes in rainfall and temperature and the availability of carbon dioxide will directly affect crop cultivation. Other factors include the availability and seasonality of water resources, soil erosion, changes in pest and disease profiles, the introduction of invasive pest species, and a decline in arable areas.

Household heating continue to be an important part of Armenia's energy needs. An estimated 35 per cent of households use wood for heating, primarily because it is affordable. However, the rate of deforestation in Armenia is likely to continue, so more biomass fuel will be used for heating, there will be less firewood available, and it will get more expensive. This trend is expected to have an adverse impact on the poorest households.

There is a lack of climate change adaptability and resilience among people who are dependent on the agricultural sector, and this will become more apparent as the growing seasons change, extreme weather events increase, and new invasive species of pests appear. A recent baseline assessment in the Tavush region showed that these threats are likely to significantly affect food security and livelihoods, but most households engaged in agriculture are not resilient to disasters and they have no insurance. The effects of climate change are likely to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable people: poorer businesses are the least able to afford air conditioning; poorer farmers and communities are the least able to afford local water storage, irrigation infrastructure and the technologies needed to adapt. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, most agricultural holdings in Armenia are small, many farming households are poor, and some rely on remittances sent from family members who migrate seasonally for work.

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It is expected that climate-related hazards will create increased risks to human health, including heat-related illnesses and an increased vulnerability to outbreaks of communicable diseases.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Armenian Red Cross Society aims to focus on development and implementation of programmes that contribute to reducing the impacts of the climate and environmental crises and prevent further degradation of the environment. It also aims to serve as an agent of change to catalyze mitigation efforts and promote more sustainable environmental practices through engaged and trained volunteers, youth, and senior management.

The Armenian Red Cross Society seeks to mainstream and integrate environmentally friendly practices into its projects and programmes and to build climate resilience in communities through strengthening community early warning systems and capacities to act early to address climate risks.

Planned activities in 2024

- Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, to strengthen early warning systems and anticipatory action that saves lives and livelihoods
- Build climate-smart disaster risk management capacity to prepare, anticipate and respond to increasing heatwaves and other climate hazards
- Develop Early Action Protocols climate hazards and increase institutional readiness for effective anticipatory action
- Develop the capacity of communities to manage risk, strengthen community early warning systems and co-design early warning
- Promote locally led adaptation

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC intends to support the Armenian Red Cross with the climate resilience of communities in Armenia through strengthening community early warning systems and capacities to act early to address climate risks. It will support the National Society to build climate-smart and gender-sensitive disaster risk management capacity and develop Early Action Protocols for climate hazards, increase institutional readiness for effective anticipatory action.

The **Italian Red Cross** will continue to engage with Armenian Red Cross and support it to implement IFRC Secretariat environment policy and contribute actively to zero environmental footprints.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Armenia](#).

Armenia is in a high-risk zone regarding natural disasters and is exposed to various complex hazards. Risks associated with geophysical hazards are significant, as Armenia lies in one of the most seismically active regions in the world. It has suffered from earthquakes, rock falls, mudslides, hailstorms, early spring freezing, forest fires, storms, and floods.

According to the Natural Hazard Assessment Network, all Armenians are at risk of earthquakes, 98 per cent of the population are at risk of droughts, and 31 per cent flooding.

In some geographical areas, these hazard events happen every year, affecting the same people, damaging crops and irrigation channels, depriving small-scale farmers of their sources of income and leaving them exposed to longer-term indirect losses.

In August 2022, a major explosion occurred in the Surmalu market, one of the largest in the capital Yerevan, about 2 kms south of the city centre. It killed 16 people and injured 62. It is believed that the explosion was caused by a fire in the nearby fireworks warehouse that had started several minutes earlier. The scope of the disaster challenged the capacity of civil protection authorities.

The Government and other stakeholders in Armenia have worked towards establishing anti-hailstorm stations. However, there is only a limited number of them, because they are expensive, and even when they are installed, they often do not provide significant protection from hailstorm damage. The Government is considering other alternative preventive measures, such as protective nets, but this solution is only effective on gardens and small land plots, not farms growing crops like wheat or barley.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Armenian Red Cross Society is a first responder to crises in Armenia and it remains in the communities it serves before, during and after emergencies. In recent years, the National Society has implemented several programmes focused on strengthening its capacity in the field of disaster management, in particular disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

The National Society aims to continue delivering services through its professionally equipped and trained teams. These include in-kind and [cash and voucher assistance](#), mental health

and psychosocial support, livelihoods and resilience activities, search and rescue and tracing. It also seeks to engage with local communities to provide risk information on natural and man-made hazards, including weapon contamination, and reduce communities' vulnerability and exposure. This will help people to prepare, address the impacts of disasters, and enhance disaster risk reduction.

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct and update its IFRC [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) action plan, review and update its Movement Contingency Plan
- Replenish stocks of non-food items
- Improve preparedness and response mechanisms through contingency planning
- Train and equip disaster response teams and volunteer firefighters
- Encourage volunteer participation within the National Society and with civil society organizations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Armenian Red Cross Society to respond to smaller-scale emergencies through faster stock replenishment and cash interventions. It will support the National Society to deliver humanitarian assistance in a timely manner by assisting in the prepositioning of emergency stocks, cash and voucher assistance. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society with mechanisms such as [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeal.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will support the Armenian Red Cross to institutionalize a 'Volunteer First Responder Service' programme in Armenia with the aim of increasing preparedness for response to disasters and strengthening resilience in Armenia in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the multi-year high-level objectives of the Armenian Red Cross through an institutional preparedness project to institutionalize the preparedness capacities of the National Society to deliver sustainable humanitarian services and effective responses to vulnerable and crisis-affected people in Armenia.



Armenia's constitution enshrines a commitment to Universal Health Coverage, but the country's health system faces several challenges. Its public spending on health is among the lowest in the region and, in recent years, improvements in health outcomes have been slower than in neighbouring countries.

In Armenia, people aged 65 years and over make up 13.15 per cent of the population, according to the 2022 census, but the care needs of elderly people are not being met. Older people are entitled to free or subsidized medical services only if they are classified as the most vulnerable, so many people cannot access medical services. Standards for palliative care were introduced in 2017, but there are no specialized medical centres for palliative care.

Health and care programmes are focused mainly on building the resilience of local communities on Health in Emergencies and Health Emergencies, with particular emphasis on the prevention of communicable diseases, [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#) (MHPSS), First Psychological Aid, First Aid, Health and aging, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and healthy lifestyle, integrated home-based care, residential care, and community health.

The effects of climate change can have an adverse impact on people's health and well-being – in particular, the changing patterns of disease, extreme weather events, and water and food insecurity. The most common diseases that spread after a disaster are measles and other vector-borne diseases, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhoeal and other water-borne diseases. This is due to overcrowding in shelters, a breakdown in hygiene practices, and a lack of access to water and sanitation. Malnutrition increases the impact of these diseases, especially in children under the age of five. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Armenia is currently estimated at 0.2 per cent of the population – up from 0.1 per cent in 2003. There is also growing concern about the increase in non-communicable diseases in Armenia, which account for approximately 93 per cent of all deaths.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the September 2020 escalation generated increasing demand for mental health and psychosocial support services in Armenia, and later among people who were on the move while resettling. Despite the current high demand for mental health and psychosocial support in Armenia, human resources and services in this area are limited and the pervasive stigma around mental health makes matters worse.

According to the 2022 SDG 6 snapshot, only 11 per cent of the population used safely managed sanitation services and 1 per cent of domestic wastewater was treated. According to the 2023 JMP, 82 per cent of the urban population used improved water supplies and 94 per cent had access to basic hygiene facilities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Armenian Red Cross Society will continue to play an active role in public health emergency preparedness and response platforms, and work with the Government to develop a clearly defined role in health emergencies. The National Society cooperates with primary health care providers, who participate in diagnosing and treating tuberculosis. Activities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS include raising awareness and promoting rapid testing among at-risk population groups across Armenia. The National Society aims to increase access to safe water for 9,500 vulnerable people in rural Armenian communities that have irregular access to water and reach 200,000 people through hygiene promotion. It also aims to improve people's mental health and well-being by addressing the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, frontline workers, staff and volunteers.

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct sensitization sessions and campaigns to raise awareness on mental health and psychological wellbeing
- Provide [mental health and psychosocial support services](#) (MHPSS) to frontline workers, including doctors, nurses, schoolteachers, and set up MHPSS hotline operators
- Strive to improve the living conditions at the residential elderly care centre in Gyumri, and the quality of the services provided

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Armenian Red Cross Society to be a member of public health advocacy groups that promote healthy and active ageing by lobbying and advocating for the rights and needs of vulnerable population groups, including migrants and people being cared for at home or in residential care. It will also support the National Society to conduct activities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS include raising awareness and promoting rapid testing among at-risk population groups across Armenia.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will support the Armenian Red Cross Society to improve its preparedness for future epidemics and pandemics through strong community engagement efforts, focusing on the most vulnerable population.

The **Monaco Red Cross**, as part of the home-based care and active aging project, will continue to support the Armenian Red Cross to enrol older people in active aging groups and

provide home-based care to up to 700 older people and people with disabilities.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the Armenian Red Cross in the improvement of living conditions at Gyumri Care Centre.



Migration and displacement

Immigration to Armenia has been steadily decreasing in the last decades, after reaching its highest point in the year 1995 (693,999 people), according to the [Migration Data Portal](#). United Nations [Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(UN DESA\)](#) figures indicate that 190,300 international migrants were living in the country as of mid-year 2020, which represents 6.3 per cent of the country's total population. The distribution of immigrants by sex indicated that 59 per cent are female and 41 per cent male. The majority of immigrants in 2020 were 20-64 years old (60.5 per cent), followed by people 65 years and older, who made up 31.1 per cent of total immigration. The latest update on [registration data](#) on spontaneous arrivals from the Migration Service of Armenia as of 9 December 2020 indicate that 90,640 spontaneous arrivals are scattered across 593 settlements and communities, with 74 per cent hosted in urban settlements and 26 per cent in rural settlements.

Armenia also hosts people from Syria, almost all ethnic Armenians, who have arrived since the beginning of the conflict in Syria. According to UNHRC, nearly 15,000 of these people remained in Armenia by the end of 2021, and most are still dependent on various integration support schemes.

Since February 2022 there has been an influx of Ukrainian and Armenian nationals who had been residing in Ukraine. There is no official data about people affected by the Ukrainian conflict currently living in Armenia. However, the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure has received more than 2,000 calls to request different types of support, mainly cash assistance and housing. Between February and June 2022, 200 people applied for asylum in Armenia.

As of February 2024 over 100,000 people were reported to have fled to Armenia since September 2023 due to recent hostilities in the region. This includes around 19,000 refugees from the Karabakh Economic Region of Azerbaijan, many of whom are women, children, and the elderly.

In Armenia, all migrants, regardless of their migration status, can access government-funded health services provided by the Ministry of Health in the same way as citizens, as per a law on Medical Aid and Service to the Population (last amended in 2022). All foreign residents have the same access to employment as nationals. Temporary, permanent, and special residents, citizens of countries that have international

agreements with Armenia, and foreign citizens of Armenian nationality may work without an employment permit. By the end of 2022, Armenia has registered the highest number of asylum applications for the past 15 years (960 as of 31 December 2022). The number of asylum-seekers considerably exceeds the national reception capacity. The only Reception Centre for asylum seekers is full since it can only accommodate a maximum of 50 individuals. The construction of the new Reception Centre (RC) has been considerably delayed due to insufficient funding. It remains unclear if the Government will be able to open the new RC in 2023. Notably, the conditions at the current Reception Centre have been substandard for a while due to insufficient allocations from the state budget. The amount of government rental support does not ensure access to shelter due to the overheated rental market caused by the massive arrival of Russian citizens to Armenia, including those who sought to avoid partial mobilization.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Armenian Red Cross Society aims to develop a population movement strategy in line with the government's priorities. The National Society also aims to provide mental health and psychosocial support to people who are displaced and living in a refugee-like situation in Armenia by approaching integration in an inclusive manner, engaging both displaced and host families. Its other high-level objectives include to:

- Define its role in the field of migration and displacement
- Conduct regular [needs assessments](#) and establish information sharing mechanism for the humanitarian situation of migrants
- Address the livelihood needs and enhance the self-reliance support for the migrant population
- Engage in community mobilization, peaceful coexistence and community empowerment activities
- Build capacity of staff and volunteers
- Engage with global and regional to facilitate learning and information sharing and establishes coordination mechanisms

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct needs assessments and establish information sharing mechanism for displaced people migrants
- Engage in community mobilization, peaceful coexistence and community empowerment activities
- Build capacity of staff and volunteers
- Engage with global and regional networks including the Movement Leadership Group on Migration, the IFRC Global Migration Task Force, the Movement Reference Group on Internally Displaced Persons, the Asia Pacific Migration Network, the Sahel+ Technical Group on Migration, and PERCO in Europe to facilitate learning and information sharing

- Provide conditional cash grants, seeds and agricultural tools, training in improved food production techniques, vocational training and employment support programmes for migrant population
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the Armenian Red Cross Society with the revision of the tools and methodologies in the field of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery at the global, regional, and country levels to integrate migration and displacement principles and practices. It will continue supporting the National Society to assist families and individuals displaced from areas affected by the conflict, providing access to essential services and aid, while addressing their longer-term needs and ongoing welfare.



Values, power and inclusion

Armenia's constitution guarantees equal rights to women and men. The law on equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women laid the foundations for gender policies and new legislation. Armenia is signatory to international conventions on gender equality that require its commitment to improving its legislative and policy framework on gender equality..

Although women's right to equality is gradually becoming more accepted as a social norm, prevailing gender stereotypes limit women's and men's lives to defined social, domestic, and economic roles. Occupational stereotypes limit women's choices, with more than 60 per cent of women working in only three sectors: agriculture, education, and health, all of which have lower salaries. Women have less access to resources to absorb income losses and recover from disasters, making them more financially vulnerable and more likely to remain poor. Women represent 56 per cent of people experiencing poverty, and households headed by women have a higher incidence of poverty (29.2 per cent) than households headed by men (24.4 per cent).

Women's labour force participation is lower than men's, with just over half (51.4 per cent) of women of working age participating in the labour force, compared with 70.6 per cent of men. Unemployment is high among the younger population, at 45 per cent of female, compared to 33.3 per cent of male in the same age group. Women are underrepresented in management positions. Only an estimated one in five small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have a female owner.

According to official statistics, violence against women is also an issue in Armenia, with 8 per cent of women experiencing physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner. Many women do not report domestic violence, so the actual incidence is likely higher. The government has introduced domestic violence legislation, but the proposal requires further amendments to meet international standards for women's access to justice and support services.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Armenian Red Cross Society will continue to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion in needs assessments, programme and project design, and the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its interventions. Through continuous analysis and action, with due consideration of all aspects of protection, gender and inclusion, the National Society seeks to ensure equal and equitable access to its services.

The Armenian Red Cross Society also identifies community engagement and accountability as a strategic priority area of its work. A fundamental pillar of the National Society's community, engagement and accountability (CEA) approach is establishing and managing a well-functioning and sustainable central community feedback mechanism comprising tools and processes for receiving feedback, managing, analyzing and sharing the resulting data, acting on feedback, responding to communities, and informing them of what actions have

been taken. The Armenian Red Cross Society also aims to mainstream humanitarian values in the education sector.

Planned activities in 2024

- Support up to 500 vulnerable and marginalized children by addressing the main challenges that hinder their access to education
 - Strengthen strategic partnerships and collaborations in the areas of education in emergencies and building life skills
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Armenian Red Cross Society in conducting a needs assessment among youth, aimed at identifying their educational, social, and cultural requirements. It will support safe, equitable, and uninterrupted access to quality education for all individuals, with a particular focus on boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis or displacement. The IFRC will also support the National Society in the integration of community engagement and accountability in all its programmes.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Armenian Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening, and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) in 2014. The self-assessment part of

the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a resource mobilization strategy and identify, develop and adopt innovative approaches towards resource mobilization
- Increase and widen its involvement in, and leadership of, civil society groups and other coalitions at national and local levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Armenian Red Cross Society in engaging with the Movement and non-Movement partners. Additionally, it supports the coordination efforts of the Armenian Red Cross Society, ensuring evidence-based country and emergency plans. It will also support the National Society in resource mobilization.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Focus on financial sustainability by defining new donor acquisition strategies, and establishing and operating commercial and domestic first aid training services
- Identify organizational capacity needs and gaps, and define measures to address them
- Enable young people from all backgrounds to engage and contribute through the youth academy
- Enhance its volunteer base by developing alternative volunteering systems such as remote and spontaneous volunteering

- Enhance communication on topics such as lifelong learning, cash and voucher assistance, weapons contamination and awareness, and youth and volunteer exchanges
- Develop the capacity of its staff, at headquarters and in branches, equipping them with skills and tools they need to support humanitarian activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Armenian Red Cross Society in expanding its youth-led initiatives and building competencies through selective training. It will also support the National Society in training its staff and volunteers-programme management, volunteer management cycle and leadership training.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Reinvigorate its public advocacy efforts to increase the impact of its activities, build trust in communities and develop people's understanding of its role in Armenia
- Continue to advocate for the approval of the draft Red Cross law that will legally enshrine its auxiliary role and mandate in times of crisis

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Armenian Red Cross Society in strengthening its humanitarian diplomacy with the aim of strengthening its auxiliary role and voice.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure that its programmes focus on community resilience and risk reduction
- Develop and leverage QR code technology for local fundraising
- Continue to improve its information management mechanism and digital engagement and accountability
- Reform its volunteer management system

- Develop a customer relationship management system for fundraising data analysis and donor retention

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Armenian Red Cross Society in the development of a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) framework and building capacities of PMER staff. It will also support the National Society in its digital transformation efforts.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has been present in the South Caucasus region, including Armenia, since 1992, delivering large-scale humanitarian assistance. The IFRC has a regional country cluster delegation for the region, based in Tbilisi, Georgia. It supports the three Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. There is also an IFRC office in Armenia.

The IFRC support to the Armenian Red Cross Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Armenian Red Cross through a number of DREF operations in relation to hailstorms, population movement, conflict and a massive

explosion. In 2022, the National Society pursued an IFRC Capacity Building Fund application to enhance its volunteer management system. In support of National Society development, the IFRC assigned a programme development specialist, in March 2022, who supported the National Society with conducting community resilience assessments.

In 2020, the national security strategy for Armenia (focused on supporting resilient Armenians in a changing world), was adopted by the public authorities. To support this strategy, the Armenian Red Cross identified the need to establish a humanitarian centre. Consequently, a fundamental pillar of its institutional preparedness and strength is the establishment of a humanitarian centre in Ijevan, Tavush region. It has already reached the major milestone of securing a site for the centre – made available by the public authorities – and the IFRC financially supported the renovation of the building, which was completed in February 2022.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Armenian Red Cross Society has long-term partnerships with several participating National Societies, including the **Austrian Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross**, which are present in the country:

The **Austrian Red Cross** has worked closely with the Armenian Red Cross since 2012 and has had an office in Yerevan since 2018. Its support to the National Society focuses on financial and technical assistance in all five strategic priorities. The programmes and projects they have jointly implemented include activities in disaster relief, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, health (including home care and psychosocial support), climate change adaptation, and assistance to Syrian Armenians through income generation. Particular emphasis

is placed on National Society development, in support of the National Society's strategies and plans.

The **Danish Red Cross** and **Italian Red Cross** also provide financial and technical support to the Armenian Red Cross from their respective headquarters and regional delegations, and have conducted visits to the country.

The **Monaco Red Cross** provides technical and financial support through the Swiss Red Cross, towards disaster management and response, health, migration, education and National Society development.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** provides technical and financial support through the ICRC towards disaster management and response, health, migration, education and National Society development.

The **Swiss Red Cross** restarted its partnership with the Armenian Red Cross in 2016, by opening its country representation and introducing its model of integrated community-based home care and active ageing. It has a comprehensive strategy for supporting the National Society in the areas of health and ageing, disaster risk management and response, and National Society development, including building the capacities of regional branches. Since 2016, more than 10 partnership projects have been implemented.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	2.3M		●	●	●	●	●
Italian Red Cross	23,000		●	●	●	●	●
Red Cross of Monaco	20,000						
Swiss Red Cross	1.3M		●	●			●

Total Funding requirement

3.6M

Movement coordination

The Armenian Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC has been working in Armenia since 1992, assisting people affected by the Karabakh conflict. It prioritizes the needs of missing people and their families, supports mine victims, and helps communities living along the border with Azerbaijan. It also visits detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons or who are otherwise vulnerable, and helps them establish and maintain contact with their families. The ICRC promotes the dissemination and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) among national authorities, academics and military personnel.



Armenian Red Cross volunteers distributing food and non-food items to people affected by the escalation of the Karabakh conflict, in April 2021 (Photo: Armenian Red Cross Society)

Coordination with other actors

The Armenian Red Cross Society continuously works in cooperation with governmental bodies at national and community level, and it has memoranda of understanding with all relevant government departments. This includes the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the office of the Prime Minister, and local and regional authorities.

The Armenian Red Cross Society is the Government's key partner in its humanitarian response efforts. The recent crises relating to the conflict escalations and the COVID-19 pandemic made their partnership even more robust. The national and local authorities trust the National Society, and they have collaborated more closely than before. Since 2021, the National Society has attracted new partners by demonstrating its relevance, effectiveness, accountability and transparency in its implementation of various programmes.

The National Society has enhanced its collaboration with key stakeholders, to ensure the complementarity of activities and avoid duplication. Since 2021, it has actively participated in the inter-agency operational working groups set up by the UN to coordinate humanitarian efforts and maximize the efficiency of response efforts in conflict affected areas. The National Society coordinated bilaterally with UNHCR, to support shelters and the distribution of non-food items, and with UNICEF on education and mental health and psychological

support activities. The National Society also consulted with local NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance.

The National Society also regularly participates in the health working group meetings coordinated by WHO. The representatives of this working group are WHO, the Armenian Red Cross, the Armenian Ministry of Health, UNFPA, UNICEF, ICRC, MSF and others. The working group is responsible for providing updates on activities, including health components, for the purposes of coordinating and avoiding duplication.

The IFRC supports and facilitates the cooperation between the Armenian Red Cross and WHO. The National Society is in the process of agreeing on a joint plan of action in partnership with the IFRC and WHO – the plan is adjusted to the country's needs, and based on an agreement between the IFRC and WHO at the European region level. The National Society has joined WHO and UNICEF to co-chair the Armenia Technical Reference Group on mental health and psychological support. This working group aims to serve as a technical forum to ensure the responsibility, accountability and productivity of all actors delivering mental health and psychological support actions and responses.

The IFRC facilitated National Society participation in the national capacity building of newly-established emergency medical teams. This process began with a high-level stakeholder meeting in Yerevan, organized by WHO, with an Emergency Medical Team Concept Note Endorsement Ceremony by MoH, MES, WHO and Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Georgia.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Armenian Red Cross Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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