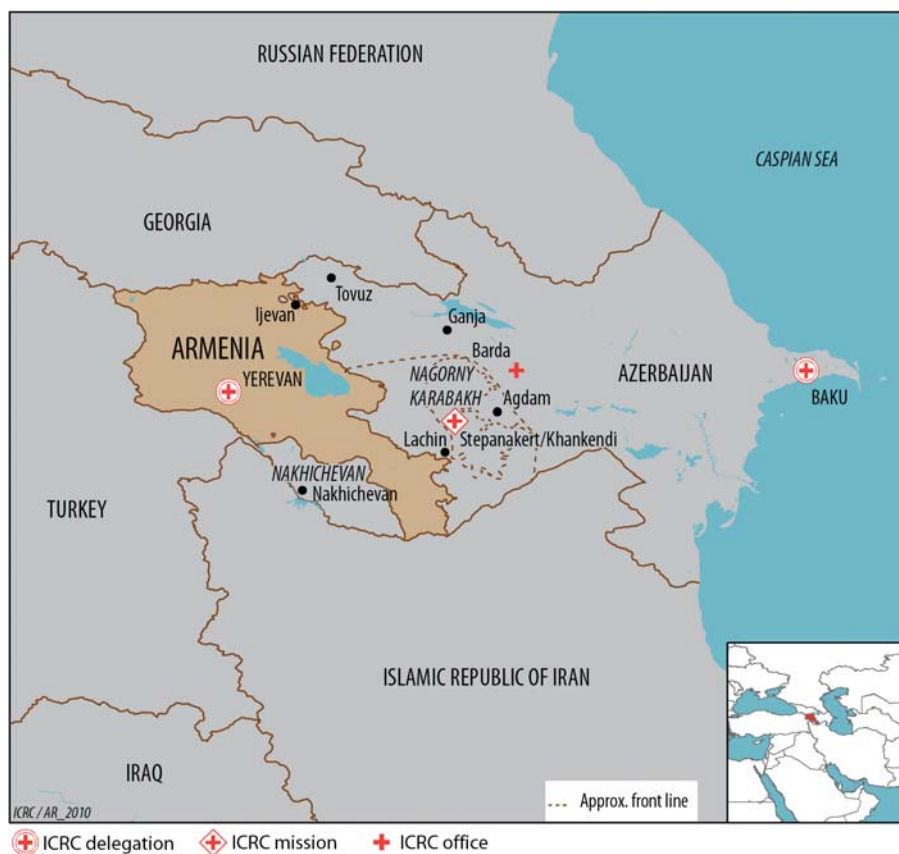


# ARMENIA



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)	
Protection	592
Assistance	580
Prevention	597
Cooperation with National Societies	263
General	-

▶ **2,032**  
of which: Overheads 124

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	98%

PERSONNEL	
Expatriates	3
National staff (daily workers not included)	28

## KEY POINTS

**In 2010, the ICRC:**

- ▶ continued monitoring the situation of people deprived of their freedom, including those held in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, POWs and civilian internees
- ▶ acted as a neutral intermediary in the repatriation of POWs, civilian internees and human remains
- ▶ provided people living in the frontline village of Koti, in Tavush province, with safe access to clean water by rehabilitating 5 spring water catchments
- ▶ with a local NGO, funded the repair of 8 houses belonging to vulnerable families of missing persons, following completion of a household economic survey
- ▶ handed over ante/post-mortem database software to the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons to aid its management of data collected in 2008 and 2009
- ▶ identified local mental health professionals and social workers who could support families of missing persons and began training them using ICRC-devised materials

The ICRC has been working in Armenia since 1992 in relation to the Nagorno Karabakh armed conflict. It focuses on the issue of missing persons and on detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons, and works to protect and assist communities living along the international border with Azerbaijan. It promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the armed and security forces' doctrine, training and sanctions and into academic curricula. The ICRC works in partnership with and aims to strengthen the capacities of the Armenian Red Cross Society.

## CONTEXT

Despite several high-level meetings between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mediated by the three co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and meetings mediated by the Russian Federation, little progress was

made in finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. Incidents along the international border with Azerbaijan and the presence of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to affect the lives of the local civilian population, causing both military and civilian casualties and exacerbating political tensions between the two countries.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
PROTECTION				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
<b>Red Cross messages</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>UAMs/SCs*</b>	
RCMs collected		8		
RCMs distributed		8		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		1		
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>		<b>Total</b>		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		2		
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		3	1	1
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		2		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		411	24	14
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued		5		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>
Detainees visited		12		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		12		
Detainees newly registered		2		
Number of visits carried out		14		
Number of places of detention visited		5		
<b>Restoring family links</b>		<b>Total</b>		
RCMs collected		8		
RCMs distributed		8		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		4		
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		2		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,300		

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC in Armenia continued to tackle the humanitarian consequences of the unresolved Nagorny Karabakh conflict, acting as a neutral intermediary during the return of civilian internees, POWs and human remains. Delegates monitored the situation of civilians through field visits to areas along the international border with Azerbaijan and raised any concerns with the authorities when necessary.

A household economic survey of families of persons missing in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict was completed, confirming their vulnerability, and recommendations on specific areas of possible support were submitted to the authorities and other actors concerned (including the Armenian Red Cross Society), with a view to developing joint activities. The ICRC and a local NGO signed a cooperation agreement to rehabilitate dilapidated houses of vulnerable families of missing persons in the province part-funded

through long-term, interest-free loans. At the same time, the delegation laid the groundwork for the provision of psychological support to such families by identifying local mental health and social workers and giving them the appropriate training using ICRC-devised materials. With the National Society, it also raised awareness of the issue among the general public and other organizations working in the country and brought together representatives of families of the missing to share their concerns and potentially form family associations. The ICRC also provided the authorities with software with which to start entering ante-mortem data collected in 2008 and 2009. In a bid to improve safe access to sufficient quantities of water for people living in the border village of Koti, Tavush province, including families of the missing, the ICRC supported the rehabilitation of five spring water catchments.

The ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom, including those detained in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, and provided confidential

feedback to the authorities. A review of the prison health system, conducted by the ICRC and focusing on tuberculosis (TB) following the handover of its TB programme, enabled the authorities to assess the care they provided to inmates and make any necessary improvements.

ICRC delegates held regular meetings with the authorities to discuss Armenia's accession to and implementation of IHL treaties and work was in progress on the adoption of a national law on missing persons. In line with a cooperation agreement signed in 2009, the ICRC and the Defence Ministry continued integrating IHL into military doctrine, education and training and supported the training of IHL instructors. The delegation completed its support to the education authorities in incorporating IHL into the secondary school curriculum, notably by training textbook authors. Meanwhile, the National Society and the ICRC, for the first time in collaboration with the Armenian Association of International Law, organized a moot court competition for law students to further encourage the study of and research in IHL.

Cooperation between the Armenian Red Cross and the ICRC included assisting families of missing persons, restoring family links, dissemination, and first-aid training, during all of which the National Society strengthened its capacities, in coordination with the International Federation.

## CIVILIANS

### Civilians' basic needs met

Civilians living along the international border with Azerbaijan, particularly in Tavush province, faced continued insecurity because of cross-border fire and the presence of mines/ERW. Through field trips to all five of the regions along the border, and its contact with local civilian and military authorities and National Society branches, the ICRC kept abreast of the situation. During these field trips, civilians were able to raise their concerns with ICRC delegates, who brought them to the attention of the authorities. The authorities were also reminded of their obligations and responsibilities towards civilians and received further assistance in integrating IHL into military doctrine and training (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

The prevailing insecurity impeded access to means of livelihood for people living near the border, particularly in terms of land and water for irrigation. However, 1,300 residents in Koti village, Tavush province, were able to access clean water from five spring catchments rehabilitated by fellow villagers in exchange for cash and using ICRC-donated tools.

### Families of the missing better able to cope

As a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, 4,571 people were still unaccounted for, with 411 families in contact with the National Society/ICRC in this respect. To assess the economic and other needs of the families of missing persons and, on that basis, make recommendations to the authorities, plan joint activities with the National Society and mobilize social actors, an ICRC-sponsored

household survey initiated in 2009 was completed. It confirmed that families had lost assets while searching for missing relatives, lacked opportunities to improve their economic conditions and struggled to live with the psychological trauma of a relative's disappearance. It also identified other organizations working with families of the missing in Armenia with a view to future collaboration, and they, along with the authorities, received a comprehensive report on the findings. Consequently, a local NGO specializing in the rehabilitation of homes via a long-term, interest-free loan programme signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC to provide technical assistance, materials and partial funding for the repair of houses belonging to the most vulnerable of these families. Work began on the repair of the roofs of eight homes in Tavush province, with the owners taking part in the construction.

In parallel, local mental health professionals and social workers who could provide psychological support to these families were identified, and some received training using ICRC-devised materials. Representatives of families of the missing came together for the first time at three meetings organized by National Society branches and the ICRC, where they shared their concerns and discussed the possibility of forming family associations to represent their interests.

The general public and national and international actors in Armenia learnt more about the issue of missing persons, including where to obtain further information or seek advice on the matter, and the ICRC's role in this domain, through media reports and ICRC publications (see *Civil society*).

### Authorities assisted in assuming their responsibilities towards the missing

The authorities received updated lists of missing persons and discussed the humanitarian nature of the issue and support for the families with the ICRC, which provided input to a draft law on the subject (see *Authorities*).

During dialogue with the ICRC, officials expressed a desire to improve forensic procedures, including the management of ante-mortem data collected from families of missing persons in 2008 and 2009. With this in mind, they received specially designed software from the ICRC, while the ICRC/National Society continued to prepare electronic files, including photographs and other documents, for handover to the authorities.

Representatives of the State Commission for Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons learnt about the proper management of human remains and standard operating procedures for exhumations and identification from an ICRC expert. They also received ICRC-produced materials on best practices.

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, four families in Azerbaijan received the remains of dead relatives, of which two were transferred from Nagorny Karabakh and two were repatriated from Armenia, while one family in Armenia and one family in Nagorny Karabakh received the remains of their relatives respectively repatriated and transferred from Azerbaijan.

### Families separated by conflict receive support

Conventional communications links between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh, had not been fully restored. RCMs and ICRC-facilitated satellite phone calls thus remained the only means for some family members separated by the conflict to communicate with one another. For example, a phone conversation was organized between a mother and her daughter living in Azerbaijan. A family of four and another individual without the necessary identity papers received travel documents from the ICRC at the request of UNHCR to enable their resettlement abroad.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Civilians and soldiers continued to be captured along the international border with Azerbaijan in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, albeit in small numbers. Detainees, including three POWs and one civilian internee held in connection with the conflict, were visited by the ICRC according to its standard procedures. Delegates assessed their treatment and living conditions and shared their findings and any recommendations confidentially with the relevant authorities. Particular attention was paid to vulnerable individual detainees, including foreigners, women, minors and people arrested in relation to post-electoral events in 2008.

When needed, detainees were able to correspond with their families via RCMs. Inmates of Azeri origin received books in Azeri. At the request of all parties, one POW and one civilian internee were repatriated from Armenia to Azerbaijan, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary.

### Detainees with TB and other health problems receive treatment

Following the 2009 handover of the ICRC's TB programme in Armenia's prisons to the national authorities, the ICRC continued monitoring the situation. The authorities received ICRC technical expertise where necessary, particularly to encourage coordination between the penitentiary and civilian health sectors. A survey of the prison health system, focusing on TB post-handover, was completed and served as a means for the authorities to assess the care they provided to inmates and make any necessary improvements. Other international organizations working in the field

of TB, as well as educational institutions, pursued dialogue and cooperation with the ICRC where relevant.

To help prison health services increase their capacities to deal with infectious diseases, including TB and HIV/AIDS, 13 prison doctors underwent ICRC-supported training in related issues, including sexually transmitted infections and skin diseases. Similarly, five prison doctors undertook postgraduate training in family medicine, public health and TB prevention at the National Health Institute.

The distribution of 1,200 clinical waste-disposal containers to prison health units improved infection-control measures.

## AUTHORITIES

Although Armenia had not yet acceded to several key treaties, the authorities and the ICRC regularly discussed humanitarian issues of mutual interest. These included ICRC activities and Armenia's progress in the ratification of IHL treaties, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Additional Protocol III, the latter of which was submitted to the Constitutional Court to ensure it complied with the national legal framework, a prerequisite for ratification.

The Culture, Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries established a commission charged with implementing the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, with ICRC input. Representatives of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs discussed IHL implementation with regional counterparts and presented a report on the state of IHL implementation in Armenia at the third Regional Seminar on the Implementation of IHL, held in November in Minsk, Belarus (see *Moscow*). Officials from the same ministries reaffirmed their commitment to the process by attending the third Universal Meeting of IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Meanwhile, the interministerial working group, established in 2009 to work on a draft law protecting the rights of missing persons and their families, held regular meetings, with ICRC input, including legal expertise. State officials and parliamentarians gleaned further advice from Armenian-language copies of *Missing Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	ARMENIA	IN ARMENIA, IN RELATION TO THE NAGORNY KARABAKH CONFLICT
<b>ICRC visits</b>		
Detainees visited	8	4
Detainees visited and monitored individually	8	4
Detainees newly registered		2
Number of visits carried out	3	11
Number of places of detention visited	3	2
<b>Restoring family links</b>		
RCMs collected	1	7
RCMs distributed	1	7
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	1	3
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		2

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL continued to be taught at the Defence Ministry's main institutes of higher education, but it had not been fully integrated into military doctrine, training and operations. To better focus future activities, the Defence Ministry began assessing the level to which such integration had taken place, with ICRC technical support. To improve the quality of IHL training in the armed forces, the Defence Ministry and the ICRC co-organized two IHL train-the-trainer courses, while a senior ministry official participated in an IHL course in San Remo. A high-ranking army officer also shared experiences in IHL implementation with counterparts at the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in Lucerne, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Some 40 officers and soldiers set to join the NATO-led international forces in Afghanistan were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities.

During all of these activities, Defence Ministry and armed forces representatives were reminded of their duties under IHL to protect civilians and detainees and to ensure ICRC access to vulnerable populations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media continued to raise public awareness of humanitarian issues, drawing on press releases, meetings and interviews to produce articles on National Society/ICRC activities, including those for missing persons and their families and for detainees. Trainee journalists learnt about IHL relevant to their profession during ICRC presentations, and international organizations, foreign embassies and NGOs kept abreast of ICRC activities via publications in Armenian and English.

The ICRC's IHL education programme for secondary schools was completed and handed over to the authorities, along with a report on the programme's 15-year evolution to promote its sustainability. The programme's integration into the curriculum continued, and local authors added basic information on IHL, acquired at an ICRC seminar, to the 10th grade military education textbook. To boost the quality of IHL teaching, six universities introduced the subject in their teacher-training syllabuses, in one instance following a lecturer's attendance at an IHL summer course in Warsaw, Poland, which was also attended by Armenian legal specialists, cadets and humanitarian actors.

University lecturers and students enhanced their IHL knowledge after receiving relevant materials. Law students tested their skills at a national moot court competition organized for the first time by the Armenian Association of International Law, with National Society/ICRC support. The winning team participated in the de Martens regional IHL competition (see *Moscow*) with ICRC funding.

The pool of national IHL experts, created with ICRC support to further encourage IHL research in universities, formalized its existence by establishing an NGO. Some of these experts participated in international IHL events.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Armenian Red Cross continued to respond to the needs of conflict-affected people and to strengthen its capacities in the areas of restoring family links, dissemination of IHL basics and the Fundamental Principles, and first-aid training, with ICRC technical and financial support provided in close coordination with the International Federation. It also played a pivotal role in efforts to support families of missing persons (see *Civilians*).

Drawing on ICRC expertise, the National Society carried out a countrywide assessment of potential family-links needs during disasters. The findings contributed to ongoing efforts to increase the Movement's family-links capacity in Armenia.

As part of emergency preparedness activities, around 70 National Society volunteers and residents from communities along the international border learnt first aid during six ICRC-funded courses.

Armenian Red Cross staff/volunteers were familiarized with IHL and ICRC action, particularly its education programmes, before undertaking IHL dissemination activities themselves, sometimes alongside the ICRC.