



ICRC



January–December 2025

International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Armenia

Operational highlights



147
messages,

oral, video and written Red Cross messages were exchanged between families and their relatives detained in relation to the conflict escalations. Furthermore, the ICRC continued regular visits to individuals detained in relation to the armed conflict, to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment as well as to help them maintain contact with their relatives.



778
calls

and individual visits were received at the ICRC delegation in Yerevan and subdelegation in Goris concerning the conflict-related family separation.



3,402

persons benefited from the direct mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).



201
tons

of first reproduction certified wheat seeds were provided to 348 households (1131 individuals) in seven villages of Kut, Kutakan, Azat, Norabak, Jaghatsadzor of Gegharkunik region, Bardzravan and Kornidzor of Syunik region.



Missing, Detained and the Dead

424

Armenian citizens and ethnic Armenians from Karabakh (including 51 cases of precarious burials, for which the families requested ICRC's facilitation in the transfer of human remains from Karabakh to Armenia) are still missing in relation to the escalations in 2020–2023, as per individual requests received by the ICRC from affected families. The ICRC continues to work with the concerned authorities to facilitate the process of search and identification, to help them provide answers to the respective families.

5

preparation sessions for awareness raising and commemoration events were organized for the families of Ararat, Kotayk, and Gegharkunik regions.

6

forensic DNA experts

from the Scientific Practical Centre of Forensic Medicine (SPCFM) completed advanced international trainings and study visit in Georgia's DNA Laboratory, focusing on ISO-aligned laboratory practices and the analysis of complex and degraded DNA samples, particularly skeletal remains.

90

families representing all the missing caseloads from Armenia and Karabakh (1990s and 2020–2023), participated in six regional meetings, bringing together co-founders of the new Pan-Armenian Association of Relatives of Missing Persons and family members from all the ten regions of Armenia and Yerevan.

20

family members of missing persons attended a four-day Workshop on Constructive Communication between the Families and the Authorities.

3

social, cultural and two commemoration/awareness-raising events were organized for the families of Ararat, Kotayk, Aragatsotn, Shirak, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik regions.

3

external consultants

from a world-renowned genetic company provided technical oversight, hands-on training and mentoring, including DNA matching software, ensuring that procedures, equipment, and staff competencies were properly documented, assessed and standardized.

14

introductory, right to know, legal, forensic-related sessions were held for families of the missing in Ararat and Gegharkunik regions, in the scope of the Accompaniment Program.

7

meetings of the Communication Platform, launched with ICRC support for better coordination and unification of all existing groups of families, were facilitated so far, providing a neutral space for coordination, dialogue, and planning.

2

DNA experts

participated as presenters at the 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Balkan Academy of Forensic Sciences, contributing to regional knowledge exchange and professional visibility.

Specialized laboratory equipment, reagents, and consumables were provided to strengthen DNA extraction, amplification, and contamination-control workflows, particularly for challenging or degraded samples linked to missing persons cases.

Thanks to the ICRC support, the DNA laboratory of the SPCFM received a certificate of excellence from a world-renowned genetic company, confirming alignment with international quality standards and reinforcing the sustainability of local DNA identification capacities.



K.Serobyan/ICRC



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

3,317 people, including those who moved to Armenia from Karabakh and those living in border communities, attended group sessions organized jointly with the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) focused on promoting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

125 family members of missing persons participated in MHPSS activities, which included individual and group psychological support sessions, home visits, and information sessions.

43 persons previously detained in relation to the conflict benefited from 34 individual and group MHPSS sessions.

192 MHPSS group and individual sessions were organized in various regions of Armenia for 38 family members of missing persons.

18 health workers from Goris Hospital who participated in the Help-the-Helper cycle in 2024, took part in four supervision and support sessions.

20 mental health professionals from local NGOs, public authorities, and ARCS, working with released conflict-related detainees and individuals affected by violence and conflict, participated in a five-day training course jointly organized by the ICRC and the Swedish Red Cross.



Water and Habitat

11 health facilities were provided with Solar PV systems of a total capacity of 420 kWp: Vardenis MC, Mets Masrik PHC, Tsovak PHC, Vayots Dzor MC, Vayk polyclinic, Aygehovit PHC, Koti Rural Medical Outpatient Clininc, Noyemberyan MC, Goris Department of the "Yeolyan" Hematology and Oncology Center, Norashenik PHC, and Baghaberd PHC.

3 health posts were built in Kornidzor village of Tegah community, Syunik, Artavan village of Vayk community, Vayots Dzor, and Sarigyugh village in Ijevan community, Tavush.

1 Safe Emergency and Surgery Unit was established in the basement of the Vayots Dzor Medical Center.

Healthcare

141 healthcare workers, including 47 physicians/medical specialists and 94 nurses (35 of them community nurses) from 10 hospitals, were trained in the Basic Emergency Care (BEC) course across four regions and Yerevan.

8 hospitals were supported with medical materials and equipment, including Kapan Medical Center, which received assistance for repairs to its central suction system and the procurement of patient monitors.

Goris Department of the Yeolyan Hematology and Oncology Center (under the Ministry of Health) was supported with relocation and supplied with essential furniture and equipment.

243 people including 212 rescuers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and 22 volunteers of the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) in Tavush and Vayots Dzor regions, were trained in Basic First Aid by ARCS First Aid instructors.

13 healthcare workers from six hospitals in Tavush, Gegharkunik, and Syunik regions received internationally recognized certificates after completing a Prehospital Trauma Life Support course provided by the Armenian Emergency and Disaster Medicine International Training Center at Erebouni Medical Center, Yerevan.

Staff of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center of the Ministry of Health in Yerevan participated in the Mass Casualty Incident Management course.

3 medical educational institutions, Nursing College of Yerevan State Medical University, Yerevan Basic Medical College, and the Armenian Emergency & Disaster Medicine International Training Center at Erebouni MC, were provided with educational equipment.

2 new health posts built in 2024 in Shatvan village, Vardenis community, Gegharkunik, and Aravus village, Tegh community, Syunik, were fully furnished and equipped to begin service in newly constructed facilities.



Promotion of International Humanitarian Law



4 basic IHL sessions were conducted for 60 officers of the Armenian Armed Forces across Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik, Tavush, Ararat, and Lori provinces.

30 servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces preparing for deployment to Kosovo in the scope of NATO-led KFOR mission were briefed on the basics of Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law at the Peace Support Training Center in Abovyan.

14 service members of the National Security Service Border Guard Troops in Shirak region were briefed on the history, mandate, role of the ICRC, as well as the basics of Human Rights Law and IHL.

1 thematic IHL lecture was held in Yerevan for 34 middle- and high-ranking officers from the MoD and General Staff, focusing on selected IHL challenges in contemporary armed conflicts.

35 students and young professionals from 14 countries attended the 9th Regional Summer School on IHL.

17 participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia attended a workshop on IHL and IHRL in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, highlighting their relevance to diplomatic work.

10 representatives of major media outlets participated in a press tour on humanitarian issues and their coverage, in Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions.

10 editors-in-chief of the key media in Armenia participated in a closed briefing chaired by the head of the ICRC delegation in Armenia and the Communication and Prevention Manager to promote the understanding of the ICRC mandate, role and added value in the context.

14 teams of students representing nine educational institutions from across Armenia participated in the National Moot Court competition on IHL.

An English Armenian IHL glossary was developed and printed with the support of the IHL Hub members.



Economic Assistance

496 households from six communities of the Gegharkunik region and eight communities of Syunik region were provided with hygienic kits.

29 households (105 individuals) across multiple regions benefited from improved living conditions through the House rehabilitation program.

37 households with special protection considerations, including vulnerable families of the missing, conflict-related detainees, and released detainees, were assisted with small-scale productive grants to start income-generating activities across Armenia.

19 households with protection considerations benefited from multi-purpose cash assistance to cover their basic needs.

41 ARCS volunteers and one staff member from Vayots Dzor and Tavush regions participated in Economic Security Basics training aimed at enhancing their capacity and knowledge in economic security.

31 households (90 individuals) benefited from the land rehabilitation project in Bardzrahan village, Syunik region, which supported the improvement of 45 ha of unused land. The same households received 13.5 tons of the 1st reproduction certified wheat seeds to sow the rehabilitated land.

43 ARCS managerial staff and lead volunteers completed the Assessment, Implementation, and Monitoring Course for National Societies training.

45 households in four border communities of Gegharkunik region (Kut, Azat, Norabak, Jaghatsadzor) were assisted with small-scale productive grants to start income-generating activities.

103 households benefited from the land rehabilitation project in Khachik village, Vayots Dzor region, which supported the improvement of 100 ha of unused land for 450 individuals.

48 households in three border communities of Syunik region (Shurnukh, Vorotan, Nerkin Khndzoresk) were assisted with small-scale productive grants to start income-generating activities.



50 households moved to Armenia from Karabakh benefited from the Beekeeping project implemented in cooperation with Himnatavush. They received 200 beehives with colonies, 50 sets of tools and uniforms, and attended beekeeping trainings in 12 border communities.



Weapon Contamination

284 residents

from 16 border communities of Gegharkunik and Syunik regions were involved in the Weapon Contamination (WeC) assessment aimed at identifying current needs and gaps related to WeC and offering recommendations to address them.



28 participants from ARCS, IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies (Austrian RC, Swiss RC), took part in the workshop on the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement (MCCIA), commonly known as the Seville Agreement 2.0, co-facilitated by the IFRC and ICRC.



Cooperation with the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS)*

14 ARCS staff members participated in the Safer Access Framework (SAF) Induction Training of Trainers, organized and facilitated by the ICRC.

48 ARCS Disaster Response Team (DRT) volunteers from four border regions of Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik, enhanced their operational readiness through a five-day DRT training combining classroom-based sessions and practical field exercises.

41 ARCS DRT volunteers were deployed for a weekend duty at the Sevan public beach to apply their skills in real-life settings.

19 ARCS headquarters and regional branch staff and **178 volunteers** participated in the SAF briefing sessions organized by the ARCS Disaster Management department.

42 participants from ARCS headquarters and leadership of 12 regional and territorial branches took part in a two-day Branch Forum.

15 media representatives from Yerevan and Shirak region participated in a press trip to the Shirak region, including a visit to the ARCS-run Gyumri Daycare Center and a discussion on the mandate and work of the ARCS and ICRC in Armenia.

23 volunteer leaders representing all the 12 ARCS regional and territorial branches, and seven headquarters staff members participated in a two-day workshop for Volunteer Leaders to strengthen capacity in delivering operations at branch level.

17 ARCS representatives took part in the Training for Branch Leadership aimed at increasing competencies in branch management.

1 national simulation exercise on major earthquake in Yerevan was conducted in Stepanavan, involving ARCS headquarters and branches staff and volunteers, DRTs, and observers from local authorities, Rescue Service, IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies active in Armenia.

4 regional preparedness activities were conducted by ARCS DRTs to strengthen cooperation with the Armenia's Rescue Service Departments.

3,000 volunteers attended 50 information sessions across 12 regions by trained volunteer-instructors, to disseminate knowledge about the RCRC Movement, its Fundamental Principles, mandate and key activities of Movement partners present in Armenia.

***For operational activities carried out in partnership with the ARCS please refer to other parts of this document.**

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