



EUROPEAN UNION



The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

Project Factsheet

IRIS

Increased resilience of Syrian Armenians and host population

OBJECTIVES

- Improve social and economic resilience of Syrian Armenians and the local population.
- Strengthen institutional capabilities for economic growth in Armenia.

BUDGET
EUR 3 million

START DATE
04/07/2018

DURATION
36 months

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Provide improved access to health and social services, including comprehensive information provision, psychological support and social services for Syrian Armenians and most vulnerable local population.
- Improve housing conditions for Syrian Armenians.
- Increase access to economic opportunities including business development and employment support for Syrian Armenians and the host population.
- Improve integration and resilience of Syrian Armenians and local Armenian children and youth.

BENEFICIARIES

22,000

Syrian
and local
Armenians

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԿԱՐԻՏԱՍ
ARMENIAN CARITAS



WITH FUNDING FROM
AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

PROJECT LOCATIONS



Yerevan
Armenia

OUR IMPACT



© Vahram Vardanyan/Austrian Red Cross (AutRC)

Visiting services

Mr and Mrs Kasparovs, living in one of the dormitories in Hrazdan are more than happy about the support given through the IRIS programme: “We been living here in this small room for more than 25 years, we don’t have family members in Armenia, and getting older means getting lonely and not being able to do simple daily work such as house work anymore, let alone going to shops for necessary items. We are happy to receive these items to our home, but what is equally important is that these young volunteers from the Armenian Red Cross come to visit us and talk with us.”

Since the start of the IRIS programme 200 most vulnerable older beneficiaries were selected based on the needs assessment, and 20 volunteers were recruited by the Armenian Red Cross, in order to deliver necessary psycho-social support.

Each volunteer is now visiting, on a regular basis, up to 10 beneficiaries once a week, for communication and support in daily household issues, such as shopping, washing, cleaning, etc. Moreover, these 200 most vulnerable beneficiaries receive food parcels and hygiene items once for per quarter, including basic needed items.

Housing support

Since the start of the IRIS programme, around 800 applications for rental subsidy support got registered with the Armenian Red Cross, out of which 342 have been shortlisted according to

certain criteria.

Mrs. Zvart Barsumian, one of the lucky beneficiary of the IRIS programme housing component, says: “Unlike local Armenians who usually own their apartments, we Syrian Armenians have to rent apartments – rents are high, interest rates for credits of commercial banks are not affordable and we Syrian Armenians simply lack savings and resources to pay for housing”. The IRIS programme wants to tackle this issue at the roots: a sustainable housing strategy for Syrian Armenian low and middle class families will be developed jointly together with relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders active in the field of housing.



© Vahram Vardanyan/Austrian Red Cross (AutRC)

Employment-traineeships

Mari Yusuf and Eva Arnoved are one of the first beneficiaries of the traineeship component of the IRIS programme implemented by the Armenian Red Cross Society. Thanks to the IRIS programme they started their 3 month traineeship in a private atelier.

“In Aleppo, there were some ateliers, but I would never think of learning how to sew and to go to work there. I studied English language and literature, but didn’t manage to graduate from university because of the war. The work is really interesting, especially when people bring some old clothes and ask for redesigning and making them modern: I feel like a real designer” – says Eva – “I am a mother of five children and I need to work to take care after my children, every day I spend one hour or more on the bus to reach my work place, but I am happy, as I have some money for my family, for my children and this all thanks to the IRIS programme”.