



With funding from

 Austrian  
Development  
Cooperation



## Increased Resilience of Syrian Armenians and Host Population (IRIS) 2018 - 2021, Programme Factsheet

*October 2020*

### PROGRAMME PROFILE

#### Overall objective

To contribute to the National Integration Policy that intends to guarantee a dignified life for Syrian Armenians in Armenia through full protection and integration

#### Specific objective

To improve social and economic resilience of Syrian Armenians and host population and to strengthen institutional capacities for economic growth in Armenia

#### Target groups

9'000 Syrian Armenians better informed on existing services | 1'100 Syrian Armenians and local Armenians to benefit from psychological and social well-being | 720 Syrian Armenians to benefit from housing support | 200 entrepreneurs supported with business plans and trainings | 3'000 children and adolescents reached with integration activities | 360 teachers trained in Psychological First Aid

#### Final beneficiaries

22'000 Syrian Armenian refugees and local host population

#### Duration

36 months, July 2018 – June 2021

#### Donors

EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (the 'Madad' Fund), Austrian Development Cooperation, Austrian Red Cross

#### Lead & Key partners

Austrian Red Cross (Lead), 'Armenian Caritas' Benevolent NGO, Armenian Red Cross Society, Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenians' Issues, SME Co-operation Association NGO; Save the Children (Associate Partner)

### INTERMEDIARY OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES – SUMMARY of achievements to date

1. **Improved access to health and social services**, including comprehensive information provision, psychological support and social services for Syrian Armenians and most vulnerable host population provided

9'000 Syrian Armenians regularly updated with respective information on available services for Syrian Armenians through website and social media  
317 older people and people with disabilities received psycho-social support, food and hygiene parcels, 250 received also PPE against COVID-19  
285 Syrian Armenians received individual counselling  
240 Syrian Armenian families supported with case management  
483 Syrian Armenians participated in group based integration support events

2. **Improved housing conditions** for Syrian Armenians

220 most vulnerable Syrian Armenian families supported with monthly rental subsidies: currently case management done by phone due to COVID-19  
Sustainable housing concept paper: study of social-economic conditions and potential of Syrian-Armenians residing in Armenia finalised Phase II in August

3. **Increased access to economic opportunities** including business development and employment support for Syrian Armenians and host population

IRIS Business Incubator Foundation since Jan. 2020:

IRIS Academy 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle/2<sup>nd</sup> Batch started classes end of July until Sept.; 37 candidates developed and pitched business plans before Jury in July & Sept: 32 BPs were approved for funding

12 grants and 10 loan agreements were signed and 1<sup>st</sup> transfers done

22 IRIS BI residents having received financing are participating in business incubation phase 2, receiving coaching and mentorship for 6-9 months

Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle planned for beg. October postponed by 1 month due to outbreak of hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh

73 Syrian Armenians and local Armenians participated in traineeships, out of which 57 have permanent employment afterwards

4. **Improved integration and resilience** of Syrian Armenian and local Armenian children and youth

224 teachers, partners and state stakeholders trained in Psychological First Aid: next PFA trainings planned to be conducted in Nov.

6'020 Syrian Armenian and local children (6-9 yrs.) participated in Tolerance Education classes: recently online due to COVID-19

196 children and youth (6-18 yrs.) participated in children rights and integration activities: CRP online workshops completed in 4 schools in July/Aug.

194 youth mobilised for creative projects regarding tolerance building and social inclusion: 30 young people took part in 2 Youth Innovative Camps end of Aug.; 9 projects launched in Aug/Sept.

