



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

April 2021

## 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  
343 older people and people with disabilities received psycho-social support, food and hygiene parcels, 250 received also PPE against COVID-19  
344 Syrian Armenians received individual counselling  
294 Syrian Armenian families supported with case management  
605 Syrian Armenians participated in group based integration support events

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

241 most vulnerable Syrian Armenian families supported with monthly rental subsidies: all families were contacted by phone by ARCS/AC social workers. Sustainable housing strategy currently under development based on study of socio-economic conditions / housing concept paper finalized last December.

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

Board meeting 18 March: report on BI 2020 activities and regulation on advisory body approved, partner bank selected for further negotiations.

1<sup>st</sup> Cycle 44 IRIS BI residents (22 from Yerevan, 22 in regions) have received financing (275,000€ grants / 137,000€ loans) and are participating in business incubation phase 2, receiving coaching and mentorship for 6-9 months.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle: out of 172 participants of BMC- and pre-pitch trainings / pitchings, 116 were invited to attend in Academy starting end of March.

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

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

340 teachers, partners and state stakeholders trained in Psychological First Aid. Three more PFA trainings to follow in April/May.

6,020 Syrian Armenian and local children (6-9 yrs.) participated in Tolerance Education classes: still ongoing for appr. 2,500 pupils in 9 schools, to be completed by April.

229 children and youth (6-18 yrs.) participated in children rights and integration activities: final event for 19 beneficiaries organised end of February.

194 youth mobilised for creative projects regarding tolerance building and social inclusion: 23 new initiatives selected, with appr. 230 young people involved in implementation, to be finalised in May/June.