

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CAUCASUS RESEARCH-RESOURCE CENTER ARMENIA FOUNDATION





*In loving memory of **Vartan Gregorian**, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. His contribution to the establishment of the Caucasus Research Resource Centers is invaluable.*



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THE FIGURES

10

PROJECTS
COMPLETED

9

ONGOING
PROJECTS

??

TRAININGS
CONDUCTED

IMPACT AREAS



Health ' &
Environment



Education, Skills &
Research Capacity



Migration



Economy &
Labor Market



Evaluation Research &
Policy Making



Gender Studies



CSOs, Human Rights &
Civic Education



Media

MAIN PROJECTS



Enforcing democratic achievements in Armenia through Open Data and Democratization

Funder: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Sweden

Budget: \$74,158

Objective: To empower the project target groups from Yerevan and all other ten provinces of Armenia with a comprehensive and standard package of instrumental tools evolving their capacities of data collection, data processing, as well as targeted and diversified use of data.

Planned activities:

1. Rapid update of available data-based/data-driven information in Armenia and globally on open data;
2. Development of Action Plan based on the rapid update results;
3. Open call for trainees' enrolment; selection of/formation of training groups from the target groups;
4. Capacity building trainings for the target groups on:
 - a. Open Data, data interpretation and visualization;
 - b. Archiving and processing of data;
 - c. Data democratization with diversified content focus per target group;
 - d. Identification of stakeholders by each of the target group in utilizing information from the trainings;
5. Trainee self-assessment analysis will be conducted focusing on the practical usage of the tools gained by the participants;
6. The data received will be compiled, analysed, recommendations made and publicized in an anonymous form for relevant stakeholders. This will be in the form of a project (effectiveness) evaluation report that will provide important recommendations for follow-up activities;
7. A joint final wrap-up Forum (networking event) will be organized by the end of the project to present the outcomes.

MAIN PROJECTS



Research and Advocacy for Women's Labor Rights and Economic Empowerment in Armenia

Funder: UN Women Georgia

Budget: \$58,275

Objective: This project seeks to address the overall problem of the exclusion, discrimination, and low rate of women in the formal labor market in Armenia. As noted in the TOR, this low rate of participation among women in the formal labor market occurs mainly due to high burdens of unpaid domestic work, family responsibilities, embedded gender norms and stereotypes, and unequal gender distribution of domestic work.

Planned activities:

1. Regulatory Impact Assessments of the ILO Convention #183 (Maternity Protection), ILO Convention #156 (Workers with Family Responsibilities) and ILO Convention #189 (Domestic Workers) with the support of a UN Women international expert;
1. Assessment of Minimum Social Protection Floors in Armenia by supporting international experts in data collection, stakeholder consultations, and providing the final review of the report of the minimum social protection floors developed by the international experts in line with the ILO Convention #102 (Social Security).

MAIN PROJECTS



Sustained Cross-border Open Data Initiative in the South Caucasus: Regional Cooperation

Funder: Carnegie Corporation of New York

Budget: \$ 68,850

Objective: The project aims at providing reliable, up-to-date and accessible data on social, political, and economic issues of the current developments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Planned activities:

1. Provide quality data by developing and conducting nationwide surveys – Caucasus Barometer Wave 2019 (CB) in Azerbaijan and Georgia and World Values Survey Wave 7 (WVS) in Armenia;
2. Strengthen linkages between three SC countries by organizing a regional forum/conference focused on social and political trends in the South Caucasus for the past decade;
3. Further increase the capacity of trained researchers who can contribute to complex research projects and produce international quality research publications.

MAIN PROJECTS



Public Opinion on Current Political Parties and Country Priority Areas

Funder: National Democratic Institute

Budget: \$76,836

Objective: Promoting democracy-supporting institutions in their effort of boosting the democratic renewal in post-revolutionary Armenia through targeted and data-driven capacity building activities taking into consideration perceptions/estimations made by the constituency at large.

Planned activities:

1. Nationwide representative survey with constituents in Yerevan and 10 provinces of Armenia;
2. Focus Group Discussions in three different provinces that have had the highest votes in favour of one of the three National Assembly factions.

Research of Armenian Political Elites

Funder: Carolyn Coberly

Budget: \$2,738

Objective: A two-round survey of Armenian political elites focused on political party development and coalition formation.

Planned activities:

1. To identify contact information of political party members from the sample (500 names) composed and provided by CRRC-Armenia's staff;
2. To coordinate fieldwork activities of five interviewers in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor;
3. To transliterate/translate the list of respondents (sample) into English;
4. To submit weekly update report to CRRC-Armenia's staff on the progress of the fieldwork implementation;
5. To contact the administrators of political parties, fractions to have interviews.

MAIN PROJECTS



For Research-Driven Media in New Armenia(ReDriM)

Funder: National Endowment for Democracy

Budget: \$ 10,967

Objective: To support Armenia's transformation process by making quality data on social, economic, and political processes available and by engaging journalists in its use, analysis, and dissemination.

Planned activities:

1. Nationwide Caucasus Barometer survey in Armenia with 100 questions ranging from socio-demographic to economic behavior at both the individual and household level. 1,600 adult respondents are to be interviewed throughout Armenia.
2. Capacity building training for journalists in Armenia on research-driven data analysis
3. Dissemination of journalistic outputs of the trainees-journalists
4. ReDriM Data Fest and Blog Launch Reception
5. Blog Set-up and Maintenance and Outreach



Organization of Consultations in Tavush Region

Funder: Armavir Community Center for Development

Budget: \$65,295

Objective: Recruitment and organization of consultations for Tavush Region stakeholders.

Planned activities:

1. Needs assessment of Tavush stakeholders;
2. Recruitment of consultants;
3. Organizations of consultations for stakeholders.

MAIN PROJECTS

Geopolitical Orientations of People in Borderland States



Funder: CRRC-Georgia/University of Colorado Boulder/ National Science Foundation/ Economic and Social Research Council of the UK

Budget: \$38,776

Objective: To conduct a multi-site survey across different territories of the former Soviet Union aiming at understanding geopolitical attitudes of residents of this region.

Planned activities:

1. A representative survey of adults, conducted in the Republic of Armenia (RA) and a representative survey of adults in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR). The sample size in RA was 1,200 respondents and a sample size in NKR amounted to 750 respondents.

MAIN PROJECTS



WORLD BANK GROUP

Tax Perception Survey

Funder: The World Bank Group

Budget: \$45,361

Objective: The project goal is to explore taxpayer perceptions on access to services and information, as well as trust towards tax authorities. A special emphasis was made on women entrepreneurs.

Planned activities:

1. Formation and Operation of Project Steering Committee;
2. Formation of Questionnaire Review Committee (QRC);
3. Development of Research Methodological Tools;
4. Questionnaire for Enterprise Survey;
5. Questionnaire Testing;
6. Sampling;
7. Recruiting / Training the Interviewers;
8. Conducting Interviews / Survey Implementation;
9. Quality Control of the Interviewing Process;
10. Reporting of results and headline findings.

Attitudes toward Coronavirus in Armenia - Public opinion survey with citizens

Funder: The World Bank Group

Budget: \$8,478

Objective: To better understand Armenian citizens awareness, attitudes and perceptions about the coronavirus. The survey specifically focused on the beliefs and behaviour of respondents during the pandemic, trust towards public institutions and sources of information, the government's response, future expectations regarding the pandemic, and how the respondents have been financially impacted by the virus.

Planned activities:

The survey was conducted June 21-29, 2020 and targeted the adult population of Armenia via phone (CATI) using a randomly-generated mobile number list. The final sample included 774 interviews, and post-stratification weight by settlement type, age and gender were introduced based on the latest data provided by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia.

MAIN PROJECTS



Women Entrepreneurship Study in Armenia

Funder: International Finance Corporation

Budget: \$25,000

Objective: The main objective of this study is to provide the IFC's Armenia Women Entrepreneurship project with an improved understanding of firm-level challenges and constraints for women owned businesses in Armenia.

Planned activities:

1. Development of Work Plan with Timeline;
2. Desk Research;
3. Organization and Implementation of Focus Groups;
4. Follow-Up Interviews;
5. Interviews with woman entrepreneurs;
6. Interviews with stakeholders;
7. Analysis and reporting.



Armenian Phone Poll

Funder: International Republican Institute

Budget: \$33,727

Objective: Public opinion data was obtained through a survey of Armenia that was designed to obtain the most accurate possible information about:

- (a) Public perceptions of state institutions,
- (b) State of democratic reform and internal socio-economic policies
- (c) Foreign policy (d) Sources of information and media.

Planned activities:

1. Nationally representative sample of 1500 adult population above 18 years old was achieved through CAPI.
2. Quality control of interviewing process.
3. Data cleaning/weighting.
4. Data delivery/analysis.

MAIN PROJECTS



Adult Education Study

Funder: DVV International

Budget: \$32,776

Objective: The data expected to be received from the projected quantitative survey will be of twofold significance. Firstly, it will be a timely initiative for boosting Adult Education in Armenia, contributing to develop data-driven policy proposals. Thus, the survey outputs will meet the current challenge of lack of the Adult Education data-based policy and will enhance the professionalization of the Adult Education sector and policy dialogue. Secondly, the survey results will be beneficial for strategic planning of DVV International's goals and activities for Armenia as an important promoter of local Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, supporting also local actors engaged in the field.

Planned activities:

1. Adjustment of the AES standard questionnaire (Eurostat Model Questionnaire) to the local peculiarities with DVV and DIE and translation into Armenian;
2. Elaboration of a manual on conducting the Survey with DVV and DIE;
3. Preparation of the tablet form for interviews and Recruitment of interviewers;
4. Training of interviewers-pre-testers;
5. Analysis of the pre-test results, development of Pre-test Report and submitting to DVV/DIE for their evaluation/finalization of AES concept at a workshop;
6. Conducting countrywide survey/ data collection face-to-face interviews.

MAIN PROJECTS

CIVILNET
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CIVILNET Thematic Polls

Funder: Civilitas Foundation

Budget: \$20,730

Objective: To provide an overview on social protection in Armenia and make recommendations on policy directions to strengthen social protection mechanisms to achieve food security and nutrition outcomes in the country. The objective of the project is to study social protection (particularly safety nets) from the perspective of food security and livelihoods and nutrition outcomes, informal safety nets and their importance in combating hunger and food insecurity and social protection for refugees, displaced people, as well as host communities.

Planned activities:

1. Before moving to the main fieldwork the CRRC-Armenia staff will discuss the Survey Questionnaire(s) with CIVILNET representative for feedback/revision/;
2. Interviewers will be hired to conduct the telephone interviews (if scenario 2 is followed). They will be selected from the CRRC-Armenia roster of experienced and trained interviewers. Like for every new project, the selected interviewers will be trained on all the issues and aspects related to the Questionnaire and its administration, the aim and peculiarities of the survey;
3. After finalization, the Questionnaire will be tested. The pilot data will include a minimum of 15 pilot interviews. The test results will be discussed with CIVILNET and contribute to the further finalization of the document, if need be, before starting the interviewing process, therewith making it maximum pertinent;
4. After the data are collected CRRC-Armenia will introduce weights and (ii) develop a coding scheme for open-ended questions (if any);
5. To clean data incomplete, incorrect, inaccurate parts of the data will be identified and fixed. Data cleaning will proceed in several stages, namely: detection of entry errors/misspellings, and other irrelevant data; validation of the accuracy of data via statistical methods.

MAIN PROJECTS



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

Student Democracy Now

Funder: European Union

Budget: \$19,354

Partners:



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION



Objective: The goal of this project is to protect the rights of young people and strengthen the capacities of students and student organizations and to empower them to engage in public affairs. Specific objective 1: to reinforce students' civic engagement and promote democratic education through enhancing the capacities of the students and student organizations; Specific Objective 2: to promote research-based and student-led policy advocacy and engage students in dialogue with policy-makers on youth and student-responsive policies.

Planned activities:

1. Capacity-building for students and student organizations on civic activism, organizational development, research methodologies, communication and advocacy and participatory governance.
2. Support to student initiatives on monitoring HEIs, reform of student self-organization, student engagement in university governance, development of e-tools for promotion of student democracy and participation.
3. Study of international practices and local situation and development of policy and legislative recommendations in spheres of student self-organization, student engagement in university governance, student-centered education, reform and proper institutionalization of internship and scholarship mechanisms.
4. Evidence-based policy advocacy carried out by students based on the consolidated experience acquired during the trainings, camps, initiatives, study trips and conducted studies.

MAIN PROJECTS



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

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MAIN PROJECTS



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe
Facility of the European Union

Poverty Reduction Know-How

Funder: European Union

Budget: \$231,982

Partners:



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION



Objective: Focusing on solutions that address the causes and effects of poverty and inequality through enhancing civil society capacity to revitalize public discourse on inequality and poverty, advocate for community-level poverty reduction policies, develop replicable community-based services and practices for tackling multidimensional poverty, and increase the ability of vulnerable groups to manage economic and social risks and shocks due to COVID-19 crisis.

Planned activities:

1. Initial studies on undocumented areas related to poverty and vulnerability: Multidimensional Poverty Assessment (including calculation of COVID-19 Multidimensional Vulnerability Index) and identification of key (new) risks.
2. Budget analysis (state and community based programmes) and assessments of effectiveness and consequences of policy interventions on the well-being of the vulnerable community groups.
3. Mapping of existing services to identify current initiatives for vulnerable groups.
4. Development of policy recommendations and design of mitigating actions for tackling poverty and improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups.
5. Awareness raising activities to put the spotlight on poverty and inequality, and new social-economic risks.
6. Capacity building of CSOs to better understand and analyze poverty, participate in policy and budget formulation and monitoring process (at local and national levels), and to act jointly for advocating for poverty reduction policies and mitigation of social-economic risks.
7. Capacity building of CSOs in policy development, communication, and advocacy.

MAIN PROJECTS



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe
Facility of the European Union

Poverty Reduction Know-How

Funder: European Union
Budget: \$231,982

Partners:



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION



Planned activities:

8. Capacity building of CSOs in budget formulation and monitoring.
9. Training and capacity building of vulnerable groups to manage economic and social risks and to break the cycle of poverty.
10. Mobilization of vulnerable citizens to actively participate in deciding their development priorities and engaging with the policy makers.
11. Designing and piloting of innovative actions and services for tackling poverty and improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups offering region-specific solutions in line with European anti-poverty networks and organizations policies and priorities.
12. Awarding of sub-grants and supporting development/establishment of community engagement initiatives (social entrepreneurship, participatory budgeting, crowdfunding, e-shopping and e-marketing, rapid response etc.).
13. Networking and collaboration between CSOs working on poverty reduction and exchanges with European anti-poverty networks and organizations.
14. Policy dialogue, lobbying and advocacy campaigns and promoting actions to address inequality and poverty (income and consumption poverty, education and learning poverty, health and nutrition poverty, etc.) in Armenia. Participation and influence of communities in budget formulation processes and monitoring of key national program.

MAIN PROJECTS



Public Opinion Poll on the Public Perceptions Regarding the Current Situation

Funder: Management Systems International

Budget: \$22,042

Objective: The research is to conduct a representative CATI survey with citizens in Armenia, to better understand their attitudes and perceptions at this very challenging time. These data will inform the MSI, a Tetra Tech Company, and beyond work and engagement regarding the current situation in Armenia.

Planned activities:

1. Developing a questionnaire and a respective tablet form and other supplementary forms that enable CATI.
2. Recruiting and training interviewers.
3. Pretesting the questionnaire via tablet and CATI techniques.
4. Finalizing the questionnaire based on the results of pretesting.
5. Developing the sample and fieldwork plan (schedule).
6. Conducting survey fieldwork.
7. Development of data collection report.
8. Data archiving, cleaning, weighting and coding of interview data.
9. Preliminary analysis of the received data to prepare summary findings.
10. Back-checks to control the quality of data.
11. Submission of the cleaned Dataset in Excel and SPSS.
12. Drafting a topline summary of the methodology (including the margin of error) and summary of findings. Recruiting and training interviewers.

MAIN PROJECTS



Youth Health and Integration Assessment

Funder: Youth Initiative Center Gyumri

Budget: \$24,608

Objective: CRRC-Armenia conducted a national survey on youth mental health in the conditions of COVID-19 for the Youth Initiatives Center in Gyumri, which aims to identify the mental health problems caused by the effects of COVID-19 among the youth in Armenia.

Planned activities:

1. Submission of research methodology to the client for approval.
2. Presentation of the preliminary version of the research report to the client.
3. Include recommendations based on the client and project experts' observations and conclusions of the analytical report.
4. Preparation of analytical report and submission to pre-printing works.
5. Provide a copy of the final databases to the customer.



Evidencing Effectiveness of Covid-19 Response

Funder: CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

Budget: \$5000

Objective: The study aims to capture the application of effective development cooperation (EDC) principles in national and sectoral strategies and policies for Covid-19 response.

Planned activities:

1. Submission of data-gathering template and processing of data.
2. Presentation of findings on regional webinar.
3. Submission of webinar presentations and case study presented as summary of key findings to BSCDN.
1. Submission of revised presentation and summary of key findings following comments provided by the Global Secretariat of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness.
2. Video lectures on Civil Society and Human Rights issues in Armenia.

MAIN PROJECTS



WORLD BANK GROUP

STAPL End Line Assessment

Funder: The World Bank Group

Budget: \$20,755

Objective: To assess tax perception among businesses.

Planned activities:

1. Ten (10) pre-test interviews and carry on collection of 600 interviews among businesses around Armenia. To coordinate fieldwork activities of five interviewers in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.
2. To transliterate/translate the list of respondents (sample) into English.
3. To submit weekly update report to CRRC-Armenia's staff on the progress of the fieldwork implementation.
4. To contact the administrators of political parties, fractions to have interviews.



WORLD BANK GROUP

Tax Perception Survey

Funder: The World Bank Group

Budget: \$45,361

Objective: The project goal is to explore taxpayer perceptions on access to services and information, as well as trust towards tax authorities. A special emphasis was made on women entrepreneurs.

Planned activities:

1. Formation and Operation of Project Steering Committee;
2. Formation of Questionnaire Review Committee (QRC);
3. Development of Research Methodological Tools;
4. Questionnaire for Enterprise Survey;
5. Questionnaire Testing;
6. Sampling;
7. Recruiting /Training the Interviewers;
8. Conducting Interviews /Survey Implementation;
9. Quality Control of the Interviewing Process;
10. Reporting of results and headline findings.