

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

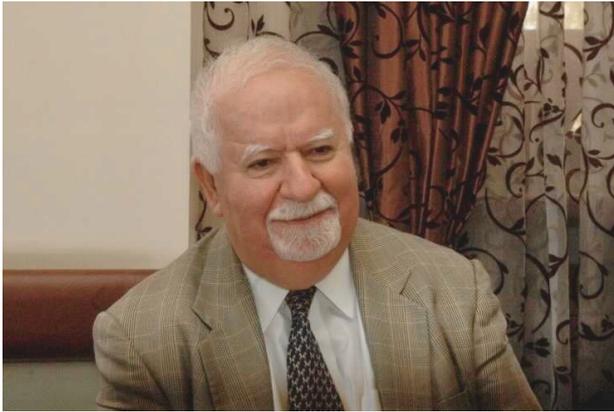
CAUCASUS RESEARCH-RESOURCE CENTER ARMENIA FOUNDATION



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*His deeds are immortal, know it well,
And they are remembered for centuries;
Blessed is he, who by this means
Lives on for ever and evermore.*

Hovhannes Tumanyan

In loving memory of Vartan Gregorian

These lines from Hovhannes Tumanyan's poem "The Capture of the Fortress Tummouk" are totally about Vartan Gregorian's life and work. This annual report of CRRC-Armenia is dedicated to Vartan Gregorian, a brilliant historian and educator, who left us on April 15, 2021.

Through the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, led by Vartan Gregorian since 1997, CRRCs have developed the social research capacity of the Caucasus since 2003.

Born in Tabriz, Iran, of Armenian parents, receiving his elementary education in Iran and his secondary education in Lebanon, in 1956 Vartan Gregorian entered Stanford University and was awarded his Ph.D. in history and humanities from Stanford in 1964. Gregorian has taught European and Middle Eastern history at San Francisco State College, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of Texas at Austin.

*The author of *The Road to Home: My Life And Times*, *Islam: A Mosaic, Not A Monolith*, and *The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan, 1880-1946* (and many other publications), he was an exemplary university leader having served as the sixteenth president of Brown University, the president of the New York Public Library (1981-1989), the University of Pennsylvania faculty Tarzian Professor of History and professor of South Asian history (1972), the founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania (1974) and its twenty-third provost until 1981.*

In loving memory of Vartan Gregorian

As a valued and distinguished innovator, he served on several boards well listed on the [webpage of Carnegie Corporation](#). The list of Gregorian's awards is also far impressive. His exemplary life also resulted in the Vartan Gregorian Scholarship (Research Grants) Program announced by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative in the fall of 2018.

This unique personality has shown us a life of a dedicated academician making changes in lives and histories.

The CRRC-Armenia staff enjoyed a few meetings with Vartan Gregorian. The most remarkable one was in 2014, October 17, when he managed to attend the presentation of the CRRC-Armenia conference proceedings on Social Capital, to come together with the YSU administration, to ask about the lives and mood of each and everyone around while passing warmth, smiles and kindness. Some photos from the day are stored [here](#).

CRRC-Armenia is blessed to have Vartan Gregorian as our educator and leader. Generations of CRRC-Armenia staff and research fellows will remember him as a supporter of social science research in the Caucasus. His gentle soul will always be in our hearts and we will always feel responsible for the concept of CRRC that he brought to life.

Message from the CEO

2020: A Year Filled with Challenges and Hope for Peace

CRRC-Armenia is deeply appreciative to be working in partnership with thoughtful researchers, a committed community of donors and long-term partners over 2020.

The passing year, with the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, was the hardest in the lives of the contemporary generation of Armenians and we are filled in with hope for peace and a better future for the Caucasus.

Further, there are no doubts that the spring of 2020 will be unforgettable in the history of humankind as the global pandemic brought changes to the ways of our work, lives, and research systems.

We now deeply believe that each of us had a role in making the year as productive as it was possible.

We, like other civil society organizations, and individuals around the world strived for implementing projects that we hoped would matter.

CRRC-Armenia was the first research organization to volunteer for an online survey on COVID-19 in May of 2020. We received 10K responses, analyzed the data, and passed findings to the decision-makers.

Thanks to the skills of our research staff we were able to operatively shift from face-to-face interviews to computer-assisted telephone interviews and online group discussions and interviews. Some things will not change anymore. The future of research is still to be conceptualized.

All our efforts during this reporting year were directed to the implementation of research projects that would contribute to understanding the rapid shifts in our societies. We have recognized that in times of changes and associated challenges, there are opportunities to remake and imagine new forms of researching, analyzing, and decision-making.

Entrusted by the EU to fight multidimensional poverty in Armenia, more than ever we are committed to bringing data, the decision-makers, and the public closer for effective decision-making and lessons to learn.

Sona Balasanyan
CRRC-Armenia, CEO

People

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARY SHEEHAN
BOARD CHAIRPERSON
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
(RETIRED)

ANDREW COXSHALL
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
PARTNER KPMG (RETIRED)

HORTON BEEBE-CENTER
EURASIA FOUNDATION, PRESIDENT (RETIRED)

WILLIAM HANLON
UNICEF SUKHUMI, CHIEF OF FIELD OFFICE

ANNA OHANYAN
STONEHILL COLLEGE, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

DEANA ARSENIAN
CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK, VICE
PRESIDENT

TALAR KAZANJIAN
AGBU ARMENIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YEVA AVAKYAN
SAVE THE CHILDREN US, ASSOCIATED VP, GENDER
EQUALITY



People

TEAM

SONA BALASANYAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HEGHINE MANASYAN
DIRECTOR EMERITA

LILIT YEZEKYAN
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

ARPINE ARAKELYAN
OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

ELLA KARAGULYAN
PROGRAM MANAGER FOR DATA INITIATIVE

MARIAM ARAKELYAN
PROGRAM MANAGER & RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

ARGISHTI ZURABYAN
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

RYAN MATTHEWS
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SHUSHANIK GHAMARYAN
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

MARIAM YEVDOKIMOVA
JUNIOR RESEARCH ANALYST

ARPI GRIGORYAN
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

ZARUHI SIMONYAN
ASSISTANT TO PROGRAM MANAGER FOR DATA INITIATIVE

IRINA YESAYAN
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

ANAHIT HAKOBYAN
DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

ARTHUR APRESYAN
IT MANAGER

THE FIGURES

10

PROJECTS
COMPLETED

9

ONGOING
PROJECTS

6

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



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



Հրայր Նաթանյան
HRANT NATEVOSSIAN FOUNDATION

Objective: To 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, 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.

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 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Local Self-Governance Bodies (LSGs) 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.



SWEDEN

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:

- Rapid update of available data-based/data-driven information in Armenia and globally on open data;
- Development of Action Plan based on the rapid update results;
- Open call for trainees' enrolment; selection of/formation of training groups from the target groups;
- 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;
- Analysis of trainee self-assessment focusing on the practical usage of the tools gained by the participants;
- The data received compiled, analysed, recommendations made and publicized in an anonymous form for relevant stakeholders. This in the form of a project (effectiveness) evaluation report that provides important recommendations for follow-up activities;
- Organization of a joint final wrap-up Forum (networking event) by the end of the project to present the outcomes.

MAIN PROJECTS



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

Funder: Carnegie Corporation of New York

Budget: \$ 68,850

Objective: Provision of 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. Providing 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. Strengthening 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. Increasing the capacity of trained researchers who can contribute to complex research projects and produce international quality research publications.



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

Funder: UN Women Georgia

Budget: \$58,275

Objective: Addressing the overall problem of the exclusion, discrimination, and low rate of women in the formal labor market in Armenia.

The 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;
2. 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



WORLD BANK GROUP

Tax Perception Survey

Funder: The World Bank Group

Budget: \$45,361

Objective: Exploring taxpayer perceptions on access to services and information, as well as trust towards tax authorities with a special emphasis 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.

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:

A representative survey of adults was conducted with the Armenian population.

The poll aimed for Obtaining the most accurate possible public opinion data 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.



Armenian Phone Poll

Funder: International Republican Institute

Budget: \$33,727

Objective: To obtain the most accurate possible public opinion data 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. A nationally representative sample of 1500 adult population above 18 years old achieved through CAPI
2. Quality control of interviewing process
3. Data cleaning/weighting
4. Data delivery/analysis

MAIN PROJECTS



DVV Adult Education Survey in Armenia

Funder: DVV International

Budget: \$32,776

Objective: The survey was a timely initiative and promotes enhancement of Adult Education in Armenia.

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

Project Outputs:

1. Working Plan,
2. Questionnaire Modified and Translated into Armenian,
3. Sampling Methodology,
4. Fieldwork Plan,
5. Pretest Report,
6. Protocols,
7. Questionnaire Codebook,
8. Fieldwork/ Back-Checking Report,
9. Database in SPSS,
10. Final Report with a descriptive analyses of data, compilation of result tables,
11. Final Presentation.

CIVILNET
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CIVILNET Thematic Polls

Funder: Civilitas Foundation

Budget: \$20,730

Objective: To reveal the public opinion on

- (i) education,
- (ii) healthcare,
- (iii) energy sector,
- (iv) Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through base-line and end-line surveys.

Planned activities:

1. Before moving to the main fieldwork the CRRC-Armenia staff discussed the Survey Questionnaire(s) with CIVILNET representative for feedback/revision;
2. Interviewers were hired to conduct the telephone interviews. They were selected from the CRRC-Armenia roster of experienced and trained interviewers. Like for every new project, the selected interviewers were trained on all of the issues and aspects related to the Questionnaire and its administration, the aim and peculiarities of the survey;
3. After finalization, the Questionnaire was tested. The pilot data included a minimum of 15 pilot interviews. The test results were discussed with CIVILNET and contributed to the further finalization of the document.
4. After the data was collected CRRC-Armenia introduced weights and (ii) developed a coding scheme for open-ended questions (if any);
5. Data cleaning proceeded 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: To protect the rights of young people and strengthen the capacities of students and student organizations and empower them to engage in public affairs.

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 training, camps, initiatives, study trips and conducted studies.



Youth Health and Integration Assessment

Funder: Youth Initiative Center Gyumri

Budget: \$24,608

Objective: The research was carried out within the framework of the UN Population Fund's "Promotion of Youth Health and Participation" program implemented jointly with the UN Youth Initiatives Center in Gyumri.

Since the declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency (March 2020), the importance of young people's mental health issues and the need for fact-based interventions became more apparent.

It was taken into account that since the outbreak of Covid-19 young people were facing a number of difficulties:

- State of emergency; consequent organization of the day; life changes;
- Transition to distance education;
- Restriction of social ties;
- Threat of infection to oneself, relatives and friends.

In order to reduce the damage to mental health, as well as to respond to that damage, it was necessary to study the on-going situation which is why 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. Including 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. Provision of a copy of the final databases to the customer.



Public Opinion Poll on the Public Perceptions Regarding the Current Situation

Funder: Management Systems International

Budget: \$22,042

Objective: The research was to conduct a representative CATI survey with citizens in Armenia, to better understand their attitudes and perceptions at challenging times. This data informed the MSI, a Tetra Tech Company 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.

FUNDS

In US Dollars

Year Ended December 31, 2019 | Year Ended December 31, 2020

• Income from grants	180,971	212,698
• Income from rendering of services	156,392	219,929
• Finance income	14,725	15,626
• Other income	3786	-
• Total income	419,411	440,597
• Employee benefits	200,675	273,452
• Trip expenses	15,474	4853
• Depreciation and amortization	5089	4505
• Insurance expenses	2904	3060
• Office expenses	4457	3988
• Representation expenses	15,291	1881
• Impairment losses on financial assets	-	549
• Loss from exchange differences	4633	-
• Other expenses	22,517	11,102
• Total expenses	351,622	295,591
• Result before income tax	67,789	145,006
• Income tax expense	15,693	17,537

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Result and comprehensive income	52,096	127,469
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PARTNERS

