



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

# TRIENNIAL REPORT

June 2019 - October 2022





**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**







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# Foreword from the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, ZAREH SINANYAN



Dear compatriots,

The Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs is now 3 years old and despite the historically difficult circumstances of the past years, we have remained committed to the future and prosperity of Armenians living in Armenia and in the Diaspora, the preservation of Armenian identity, and the maximal integration of these two inseparable parts of the Armenian nation. In pursuit of our mission, we are grateful to our Diaspora partners who stand firmly with their homeland during one of the most trying periods in our nation's history.

This Triennial report summarizes the main directions of work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs since its inception. Our policies and programs are based on the undeniable fact that Armenia will thrive only with maximal involvement of the Diaspora and that without a strong Armenian statehood, the Diaspora's future is in peril. To this end, we have embarked on building strong bridges of collaboration with Armenian communities around the world, which, in turn, has paved the way for new avenues of cooperation and partnership.

Through collaboration and the active participation and commitment of our Diaspora compatriots, we can overcome the significant challenges that our people face, we can create the Armenia of the future, and in doing so strengthen and empower the Diaspora.

Sincerely,

ZAREH SINANYAN

High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs

The Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs was established on June 11, 2019, by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

The Office is responsible for developing and implementing strategies, policies, and programs to strengthen Armenia-Diaspora relations.

The Office's strategic focus areas include the following 9 directions:

1. Encouraging state-centered identity formation in the Diaspora
2. Cultivating strong Diaspora ties with the homeland through partnerships, programs, and events
3. Supporting youth leadership and community organizing in the Diaspora
4. Consolidating and engaging Pan-Armenian organizations in Armenia's development
5. Galvanizing the Diaspora's professional potential to strengthen institutions in Armenia
6. Promoting repatriation and ensuring a smooth integration process for repatriates
7. Assisting Diaspora investors and philanthropists with their projects in Armenia
8. Mapping the Diaspora's professional potential
9. Keeping the Diaspora informed about current events in Armenia and in Diaspora communities

Our Office is made up of a diverse team of professionals many of whom represent Diaspora communities from around the world.



### iGorts: Diaspora Professionals in Government

In 2020, our Office was proud to launch “iGorts” - an unprecedented program that invites Diaspora Armenian professionals to work in Armenia’s state institutions. Within the framework of the program, Diaspora Armenian professionals are placed in state agencies in need of their expertise and have the opportunity to lend their experience and knowledge toward improving and developing the state institution, its policies, and programs.

The program was launched in March 2020. To date, 1450 professionals from more than 30 countries have applied to the program. 150 specialists were employed in more than 25 state institutions in Armenia and Artsakh.



70 percent of the participants from the previous year repatriated and now live in Armenia. 16 specialists were given the opportunity to continue working in state institutions with generous financing from the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation.

Several participants were appointed to high-ranking positions, including the Deputy Minister of Economy, the Chair of the Tourism Committee, and the director of the National Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Participants are graduates from universities such as Harvard, UCLA, MIT, McGill, Sorbonne, and others.



Mikael Khanbekyan



Hayk Margarian



Tatevik Zuerker

Mikael Khanbekyan is a physicist from Greifswald, Germany who moved abroad to pursue a career as a scientist. Michael received his master's degree from Boston University, USA, and his doctorate from Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany. He conducted research at leading German centers such as the Otto-von-Gerichke University of Magdeburg, the Technical University of Berlin, and the University of Rostock. Within the framework of the "iGorts" program, he worked in the RA Science Committee, where he initiated and implemented various programs aimed at the development of science in Armenia.

Hayk graduated from Far Eastern National University as a Specialist in Economics, and is currently working towards his PhD in Economics from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. His work experience ranges in organizational management, project management and economics. Within five months of taking on his role with the Ministry of Economy and moving to Armenia with his wife and two children, he was offered a permanent job to lead the National Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (an organization within the Ministry of Economy) which focuses on bridging innovation and business. He enjoys working alongside his colleagues, comprised of both native and Diaspora professionals.

Tatevik has an MA in Sustainable Resource Management from Technical University Munich. Prior to her repatriation and work with the Ministry of Environment, Tatevik spent close to a decade living abroad, including 3 years in Thailand. Although she often visited Armenia, she always hoped to move permanently with her husband (who is from Germany) to help bring him closer to the Armenian culture. iGorts and her work with the government has been life-changing, where she feels a stronger sense of responsibility toward Armenia. Currently, she resides in Yerevan with her husband and daughter, who already attends school and loves living in Armenia.

"When we launched iGorts in 2019, we could count on our fingers the number of Diaspora Armenians working in Armenia's public sector. Since the launch of the program, there are over 150 Diaspora professionals from across the globe working in the government."

ZAREH SINANYAN  
High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs

## Repatriation and Integration Center



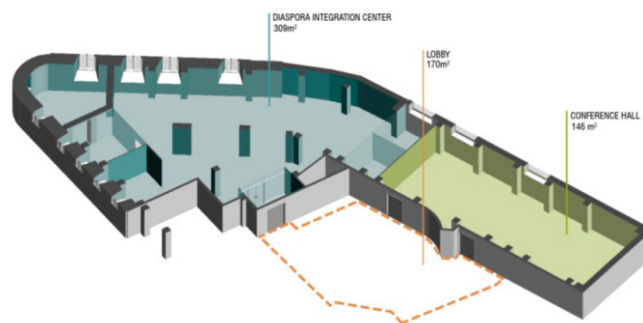
Perhaps one of the most challenging aspects of repatriating to Armenia is navigating the bureaucracy and legal requirements involved. From moving one's belongings to applying for residency or citizenship to enrolling children in school - the whole process often seems overwhelming and unnecessarily complicated.

To simplify and ease the process of repatriation, our Office will be opening the First Repatriation and Integration center in the history of the Republic of Armenia. The center will be a physical space located in the center of Yerevan where repatriates will be greeted by customer-service-oriented professionals who will be able to assist with all of their repatriation and integration needs.

Assistance will include supporting repatriates with filling out the necessary paperwork and navigating the various government offices, finding housing and suitable employment, enrolling children in school, advising on health care options, and many other services.

The goal of this “one-stop shop” Repatriation & Integration center is to ease the process of repatriation and ensure a smoother integration process for Diaspora Armenian Families moving to the homeland.

Construction works will soon start in the very center of Yerevan. All this would not have been possible without the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation's generous support.



Although the center is not ready yet, we've launched Armenian language courses for repatriates. By December 2022, 225 repatriates will complete the courses and receive certificates.



## Assistance to Repatriates and Future Repatriates



Repatriation and ensuring our Diaspora compatriots are fully integrated into Armenian life once they transition to the homeland is a top priority for us.

Our Office houses its own Repatriation Department, staffed with knowledgeable professionals committed to assisting with repatriates' questions and needs.

We strive to serve as a vessel through which our Diaspora compatriots can communicate with all levels of Armenia's state system. In this regard, our Office is the main resource for repatriates and future repatriates to ensure a smooth transition to the homeland.

In addition, we have made an effort to build a user-friendly website that includes information in three languages on all aspects of the repatriation process, including citizenship and residency, military service, healthcare, business, education, employment, and more.

Our office also conducts a series of online and in-person info sessions for repatriates and potential repatriates, organizes meetings with various state and non-state institutions that are engaged in the repatriation process, conducts research, and collects data on the issues related to repatriation and integration.

Of particular importance is the development of legislative reforms aimed at simplifying existing regulations and procedures, removing legislative barriers, and introducing reforms in government processes that would streamline and ease the process of repatriation.

The quantitative growth of various requests for repatriation and integration in Armenia is reflected in the number of applications for obtaining Armenian citizenship and residency status.

## Assistance to Repatriates and Future Repatriates



Number of ethnic Armenians From Foreign nations who have applied for Armenian citizenship, permanent or special residency From 2019 to 2021.

Year	Citizenship	Permanent Residency	Special Residency
2019	13.427	1.219	540
2020	9.598	1.500	401
2021	7.272	1.686	386
Total	30.297	4.405	1.327

The vast majority of applications for Armenian citizenship and residency status from our Diaspora compatriots have been granted. Of course this does not mean that all who apply have permanently moved to the Republic of Armenia, but it is a fact that repatriation is a multi-stage process, in which the acquisition of citizenship or residency status is a first step to eventually relocating to the Homeland.

It is noteworthy that applications were received from 50 countries around the world, even from compatriots living in countries without an organized Armenian community.

Within the months of January to June this year (2022) we have received over 10,000 citizenship applications.



## Assistance to Repatriates and Future Repatriates

In the months of January-September 2022, we received more than 7,000 inquiries for Armenian citizenship, residency, and integration through phone calls, letters, and visits, as well as through various social platforms, from 30 countries - Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, USA, UK, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Australia, Norway, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Poland, Macedonia, Slovakia, Latvia, etc. Most of the requests are from Russia.

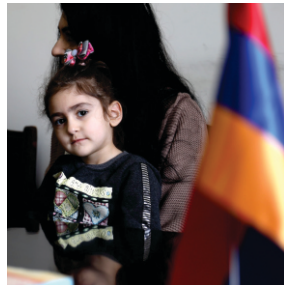
In 2019-2022, through our mediation, more than 300 Syrian Armenians were provided with healthcare support (surgeries, medical examinations, etc.), from this group 150 had repatriated during 2021 and 2022.

Throughout 2019 to 2022, with the support of AGBU and the Gulbenkian Foundation, we were able to subsidize the tuition of fees of Syrian Armenian repatriates. With the support of various charities, we were also able to subsidize the tuition fees for 10 Lebanese Armenian repatriates.

Throughout 2019 to 2022 we assist hundreds of families with registering their children in schools and kindergartens. The draft law "On Repatriation" was circulated with various state entities in September 2022.

In December 2021, we hosted Repatriation Week, a series of online and offline events for repatriates or those interested in repatriating, which attracted hundreds of participants.

Throughout 2022, we held repatriation awareness events with the participants of our Diaspora Youth Ambassador program in France, Sweden, Spain, Belarus, Russia, Uzbekistan, and other communities.



# Assistance to Repatriates and Future Repatriates

## Support For Ukrainian Armenians

For many Armenian living in regions facing aggravated geopolitical issues, military confrontations, and economic crises, Armenia serves as a lifeline, a place willing and open to welcoming them, no matter the crisis or issue they are facing.

At the start of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, our Office shifted gears to support the Armenian community in Ukraine who were being displaced.

Our Office maintained contact with the Armenian community organizations in Ukraine, published and distributed a list of 25 border checkpoints and the directions that our compatriots needed to take to leave Ukraine. We maintained contact with the Armenian community members and various NGOs in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania who were ready to host Ukrainian Armenians, provide accommodation and food, arrange their documents, and provide translation and legal services. Armenians across EU countries helped transport their compatriots from the border checkpoints by car or airplane, some even covering the cost of airfare.

For Ukraine Armenians who moved to Armenia, our Office in collaboration with the Armenian Missionary Association of America implemented a support program, through which 334 families received health care, financial assistance, and housing support.

In cooperating with the "Syunik-development" NGO and other organizations and individuals, we are providing computers and smartphones to support the education of students from families who moved from Ukraine to Armenia, as well as organizing youth camps and training courses in the Vayots Dzor region.

## Influx of Armenians From Russia



In response to the influx of Armenians from Russia, our Office has organized various online and offline informative events which attract hundreds of repatriates, discussing topics such as how to apply for and obtain citizenship and residency status, find employment, and open a business in Armenia, etc.

The office has received and continues to receive many inquiries from our compatriots in Russia, some of whom are already in Armenia, while the others are in the process of repatriating.



## Support For Diaspora Investors and Philanthropists



The global Armenian Diaspora has been undertaking investment and philanthropy projects in Armenia since before independence. Many of Armenia's shining examples of investment and philanthropy projects are Diaspora-led.

Throughout the past three years, our Office has supported countless Diaspora investors and philanthropists to start, implement, and/or solve challenges related to projects at various stages of development.

### Our work in this area has included

1. Presenting new opportunities for investment and philanthropy to the Diaspora
2. Connecting Diaspora investors and philanthropists with each other to foster collaborative projects
3. Supporting investors and philanthropists to overcome bureaucratic hurdles, namely navigating customs/tax laws and regulatory requirements
4. Moving projects forward through applicable government agencies
5. Proposing changes in laws/regulations which pose barriers to ease of investing and philanthropic activities



## Youth and Young Adult Programs



### Step Toward Home: Developing and Preserving National Identity Among Diaspora Youth

Step Toward Home is an educational 2-week long camp-style summer program for Diaspora teens 13–18 years of age. The goal of the program is to develop and preserve a connection to the homeland as well as state-centered identity formation among Diaspora youth.

Step Toward Home involves an intensive agenda including daily Armenian language courses, song and dance lessons, excursions to Armenia's different regions and historical sights, and meetings with public figures.

Since the program's launch, the Republic of Armenia has welcomed thousands of Diaspora youth and created an important starting point for Diaspora youth to establish a bond with their homeland.

The Republic of Armenia covers all in-country program costs throughout the two weeks. Participants only cover their travel costs to and from Armenia.





### Diaspora Youth Ambassador Program

In 2021, our Office launched the “Diaspora Youth Ambassador Program” which is a global young ambassadors program for Diaspora Armenians.

The program is intended for youth ages 22 to 35 who have lived in the Diaspora for at least 5 years, are active members of Diaspora Armenian communities, speak Armenian, have a strong desire to contribute to the strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora relations, and acquire new knowledge and skills to effectively carry out community organizing.

### The program aims to

1. Enable Diaspora Armenian youth to expand their views on Armenia’s and Artsakh’s political, social, and economic realities
2. To support their greater engagement in community life and advocacy through the transfer of new knowledge and skills, by participating in a series of lectures, workshops, and meetings
3. To contribute to the establishment of connections between different Diaspora communities, as well as the youth from Armenia and Artsakh.

The year-long program has theoretical and practical components and consists of two stages. The first stage is carried out in Armenia during the months of September and October. During the second stage, participants return to their Diaspora communities and begin to conduct various activities, including community meetings, inter-community experience exchange activities, publications, and informative activities related to the Office and other Armenian programs on social and traditional media platforms.

In 2021 and 2022, 40 young ambassadors participated in the program.

## Diaspora and Tech Programs



### NerUzh: Diaspora Tech Startup Program

The NerUzh Diaspora Tech Startup Program aims to attract Diaspora tech and business talent to the homeland. Simultaneously, the program aims to leverage the Diaspora's vast transcontinental networks in order to position Armenia as a gateway for deploying and scaling impactful technologies to global markets.

“Neruzh” (meaning “potential” in Armenian) seeks to promote an inflow of innovative, scalable tech potential from the Diaspora into Armenia.

### Impact in numbers

In 2019, 80 Diaspora Armenians, representing 47 startups, from 17 countries participated in the boot camp and pitch competition in Armenia. Six winners were chosen and invited to repatriate and establish their startups in Armenia.

The program was not implemented in 2020 due to limitations on travel imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022, the program is being implemented by the Republic of Armenia Ministry of High-Tech Industry in cooperation with the “My Step” Foundation.

### “GovTech Launchpad”: Tech Startup Solutions For Repatriation & Beyond

In collaboration with Impact Hub and GIZ, in 2021 our Office launched the GovTech Launchpad program to engage tech solutions related to repatriation and bridging Armenia and Diaspora. GovTech Launchpad welcomed innovative solutions to support Diaspora Armenians on their repatriation journey and/or repatriates currently living in Armenia.

10 startups participated in workshops, panel discussions, and mentoring sessions, after which they presented their pitch decks to jury members. The winning participants underwent a two-month acceleration program, during which they had training and individual mentoring courses to improve and develop their technological solutions.

The ArmeniaConnect matching platform was chosen by the jury as the winning solution, offering a platform and app focused on connecting Diaspora Armenians with Armenia, specifically to find work, volunteering, educational, and business opportunities, to expand their network in Armenia, and to access a network of repatriates.



## Mapping the Diaspora's Professional Potential

Though there has been a lot of discussion surrounding the professional, scientific, financial, and human potential of the Diaspora, it has yet to be clearly identified and mapped properly in a complete and holistic manner. Specifically, the kind of potential that exists, where it is located, and how it can be leveraged through Diaspora-Homeland partnerships needs to be ascertained.

To this end, our Office has earmarked a portion of our annual budget towards “mapping” the Diaspora - aiming to bridge the gap in Armenia-Diaspora cooperation. Recognized as a strategic imperative, the program will be ongoing and constantly updated. All data acquired during the process will be protected through a secure, specially designed-platform.

The mapping program will enable the engagement of Diaspora potential in the development of the Republic of Armenia, the public life of Armenia, the implementation of joint programs, and the strengthening of pan-Armenian professional networks.



## Diaspora Connected

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the High Commissioner was obliged to cancel physical visits to Armenian Diaspora communities. However, maintaining a connection and working with the Diaspora remains at the top of the High Commissioner's agenda. To this end, the Office launched “Diaspora Connected” a program that connected representatives from Diaspora communities from around the world to our office through online video conferences - aimed at maintaining connections, identifying and addressing problems, and deepening cooperation.

While the world was in lockdown, our Office continued building bridges with communities in Russia, Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia.





## Travels in Diaspora



Alongside holding onsite meetings, the High Commissioner and staff periodically take international working trips to meet with Diaspora Armenian communities and develop symbiotic relationships between Armenia and Diaspora.

Oftentimes, these meetings involve visits to Diaspora cultural sites and churches, meetings with community leaders and organizations, media interviews and post-trip follow-ups to establish sustainable partnerships.





Since the beginning of the spread of COVID-19 in Armenia, our Office has been at the forefront of providing support and assistance to Armenia's citizens and healthcare sector through organizing our Diaspora resources.

### This assistance included:

1. Bringing in essential PPEs and equipment through our Diaspora network
2. Creating a robust platform for healthcare knowledge exchange between Armenia and Diaspora doctors and nurses
3. Organizing medical missions for COVID-19 teams to Armenia



### Bringing in essential PPEs and equipment through our Diaspora network

As borders were being shut down across the globe and supplies and equipment were becoming scarce, our Office, the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Health, Hayastan and USA Armenia Funds, Chevy Chase Surgery Center, and the Armenian Relief Society joined forces and quickly assembled and shipped one ton of relevant medical supplies, PPEs, and equipment from the U.S. to Armenia.

Our Office, together with the United Nations World Food Program in Armenia (UNWFP), and the Republic of Armenia Commandant's Office, with the support of the Chinese Government, quickly organized a plane loaded with a large amount of COVID-19 treatment and prevention supplies that arrived in Armenia from China.

This shipment was made possible as a result of the fundraising effort initiated by our Office. Over half a million dollars was raised by our Office through our generous Diaspora partners including Argentinean-Armenian philanthropist and businessman Eduardo Eurnekian's Companies, the Izmirlian Foundation, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust, and the Armenian General Benevolent Union. Donations were also made by the UN World Food Program, the My Step Foundation, Chinese benefactors, and others.

The shipment included more than 87,000 medical gowns, 20,000 KN95 masks, 24,000 medical masks, over 100 non-contact thermometers, biochemical raw materials for coronavirus diagnostic tests, and other medical instruments.



### Creating a robust platform for healthcare knowledge exchange between Armenia and Diaspora doctors and nurses

During the intense first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Office spearheaded the launch of a series of medical webinars and telemedicine sessions, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Health, the Armenian International Medical Committee, and Armenian Fund. We held over 40 webinars on various topics surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, with the active participation of more than 1,000 Armenian doctors and health workers from all over the world.

### Organizing Covid19 medical missions to Armenia

Our Office assisted in the first Covid19 related international medical mission to Armenia. In response to the request by the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Health, French and French Armenian doctors arrived in Armenia on two medical missions. The first group's arrival was made possible through the support of USAID. Ten doctors and nurses arrived in Yerevan on a chartered Marseilles-Yerevan flight and hit the ground running with work at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center, the Traumatology and Orthopedics Research Center and the Department for Infectious Diseases of the "Surb Astvatsamayr" Medical Center.

A few months later, a second group of French Armenian doctors arrived in Armenia. This mission was organized in cooperation with the RA Ministry of Health and the French Embassy in Armenia. The group was led by Professor Laurent Papazian, a leading medical scientist, and the head of the Resuscitation Department at the Medical Center of Marseille-North, who was humbled to be arriving in his ancestral homeland for the first time.

### Diaspora Professionals Lead on Vaccine Rollout

Our iGorts Diaspora Professional Araz Chiloyan, a Public Health specialist from the U.S. who is serving at the Ministry of Health, has been at the forefront of the vaccine procurement process as well as leading the vaccine rollout strategy in Armenia.

Araz Chiloyan led the COVID-19 Risk Communication Working Group for nearly 2 years. This specialized group of more than 10 national and international stakeholders laid the foundation for the creation of a model for organizing and coordinating inter-agency work during other emergencies for more effective communication with the public and private stakeholders.



Throughout the economic downturn and the explosion in Lebanon, our Office has been actively supporting and engaging with our Lebanese Armenian compatriots.

Over the last 3 years, our work with the Lebanese Armenian community has included humanitarian assistance, repatriation support for those thinking about moving, and integration support related to employment, housing, health care, education, moving of belonging, etc. For Lebanese Armenians who have chosen to settle in Armenia.

In the months following the Beirut explosion, Armenia welcomed thousands of Lebanese Armenian repatriates. Our Office staff greeted 20 arriving flights from Lebanon at the airport and provided on-the-spot support and information.

We held several gatherings and discussions, and information sessions with hundreds of repatriates from Lebanon to discuss integration issues.



### Employment Support Program: Offering Career Support to Lebanese Armenian Repatriates

Together with RepatArmenia, our Office established the Employment Support Program for Lebanese Armenians, who have repatriated or are looking to make the move and work in Armenia. The Employment Support Program is an access point between our compatriots and the job market and supports them in finding meaningful careers and job opportunities in Armenia. It plays an important role in job matching, enhancing employability, addressing skill mismatches, and linking support directly to employers and workers through the provision of various mentorship and networking opportunities.

## Second Artsakh War and Post-War Period



From the first day of the conflict, the Diaspora stood steadfastly next to the homeland.

During the war, our Office's main directions of work included:

- Managing and coordinating the logistics of massive amounts of humanitarian aid and equipment which arrived via air and land from Diaspora communities around the world into Armenia, and disbursement of this aid to the Ministries of Health, Defense, and Emergency Situations
- Coordinating Diaspora volunteers who arrived to Armenia and Artsakh to provide military, medical and humanitarian assistance
- Raising funds together with Armenia Fund to address the countless humanitarian needs
- Organizing Diaspora groups to assist with international media coverage and to fight the information war which was critical in keeping global communities informed and counteracting Azerbaijani and Turkish misinformation
- Facilitated political, lobbying and information campaigns among Diaspora communities, including civil disobedience actions, protests, tweetathons and social media campaigns





In the post-war period, our Office has been working to address both the humanitarian needs as well as the reconstruction and redevelopment needs in Artsakh by actively engaging our Diaspora compatriots, both philanthropists and investors, to target and coordinate their efforts.

High Commissioner Sinanyan traveled to Artsakh and met with the President and other government officials to discuss critical issues and to identify how the Diaspora can play a role in supporting Artsakh now. After the work visit, we coordinated a meeting between the Artsakh Government and over 30 Diaspora nonprofit organizations to coordinate humanitarian and rebuilding efforts on the ground.

### Our Office's main directions of work in the post-war period:

- Coordinating Diaspora philanthropy and investment projects in Artsakh
- Coordinate Diaspora-led online training webinars to train local professionals on psychological services for soldiers and their families suffering from acute stress, PTSD and other war-related trauma
- Coordinated and made possible the arrival of Diaspora physical therapists to Armenia to work with wounded soldiers on their rehabilitation
- Engaged Diaspora prosthesis experts to advise and train the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the processes and latest technologies for the proper use of prosthetics for wounded soldiers
- Hired a Full-time Diaspora philanthropy coordinator to work with Diaspora organizations and individual philanthropists focused on the reconstruction and redevelopment of Artsakh
- Expanded the iGorts program into Artsakh to offer Diaspora professionals the opportunity to work within the Artsakh government



### Impact in Numbers:

- 7 Diaspora mental health specialists hosted webinars for approximately 240 local psychologists focused on treating acute stress disorders, post traumatic stress disorder and other war-related trauma
- 14 Diaspora physiotherapists travelled to Armenia to work with wounded soldiers
- 4 diaspora prosthesis specialists trained the interdisciplinary team created by Ministry of Social welfare in Armenia focused on working with amputees

## Looking ahead

Among the many hurdles we have faced as a nation since independence, the COVID-19 pandemic and especially the Second Artsakh War have left devastating scars not only on our State institutions but also on our collective identity. As we continue to navigate the aftermath of both, we remain hopeful and determined to keep moving forward.

And as we reflect on the trauma we have experienced as a nation and begin to heal from it, we remain steadfast in our belief that it is only through the collaborative effort of the global Armenian people that we will rebuild, recover, and thrive again.

The Office of the High Commissioner For Diaspora Affairs will continue to work towards harnessing the vast potential of the Armenian Diaspora, and engaging Diaspora Armenians around the world in the process of nationbuilding, while at the same time supporting Armenian communities to sustain and cultivate their Armenian identity.

We will always remain open to working with all organizations and individuals which continue to build the Armenia of the future, and continue to strengthen Armenian communities across the globe ... because after all, it is the courage to continue that counts.

**In service,  
The Staff at the Office of the High Commissioner For Diaspora Affairs**





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