

# Celebrating 30 Years of Armenian Caritas



Promoting personal development and strengthening  
communities with love and compassion

# Gagik Tarasyan

## A Year of Resilience and Compassion



I am incredibly proud of our progress this year, of how our team has remained unwavering in their commitment to those in the most desperate need.

It has not been easy. The refugee crisis from Nagorno-Karabakh created over 100,000 refugees including around 30,000 children, to whom Armenian Caritas has provided urgent humanitarian, psychological, and material support.

We continue to work within vulnerable communities providing much-needed social support services, especially to children and the elderly.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our social workers, psychologists, medical personnel, volunteers, and management team. They are inspirations, every one of them.

Together we strive to create an environment where no one is left behind, and no one is alone in their time of need. We continue to work toward a future where justice and love prevail.

Our work is only possible because of the faith and love of our community. Together we can continue supporting those in need.

Gagik Tarasyan  
*Executive Director*

# Anahit Gevorgyan

## Future Organisational Development



As Head of Organizational Development (OD) I ensure the proper organizational compliance to Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS).

CIMS helps us to identify and manage potential risks, ensuring the health and stability of our organisation.

Despite year-on-year revenue increases, our reliance on emergency funding poses a possible threat to our operational capacity, especially as we expand.

Having identified the issue, we undertook a review of the organisation's structure.

We reorganised our departments around our strategic priorities and used the opportunity to meet our need for a qualified managerial team.

Not only is our structure stronger, but better qualified staff allow us to adapt to crises and mobilise resources across the organisation with greater efficiency.

We are very grateful for the support of our partner organisations and funders who help us get to where we are today.

Anahit Gevorgyan  
*Head of Organisational Development*

# Armenian Caritas: Past and Future

Armenian Caritas was formed four years after Armenia declared independence. The first years of the Republic were hard. Economic collapse, blockade and war struck a country still reeling from the 1988 earthquake, which took over 25,000 lives and left half a million people homeless.

On May 9th, 1995, Zvart Najarian approached His Eminence, Fr. Nerses Archbishop Ter-Nersesyan in hope of establishing an Armenian Caritas organisation. Armenian Caritas was founded in Gyumri. At the time, large parts of the city still lay beneath rubble.

The first employees of Armenian Caritas, Gagik Tarasyan and Samvel Grigoryan, were sent to train in Beirut and Cairo, before settling into their office, a small backroom in the Armenian Catholic Prelacy in Gyumri.

The situation they returned to was dire. Armenia seriously lacked humanitarian infrastructure. Families and communities across the country lived with the barest of essentials.

Shortly after their return, and before Christmas, Gagik and Samvel witnessed families buying bread on credit. They visited every bakery in the city, asking for the names and addresses of indebted families.



They found 530 families, and with the support of their donors, were able to supply each family with 88 kilos of food and provided stationary and other necessary materials to 992 children.

Armenian Caritas has expanded. It now has over 300 employees and volunteers, with offices in 5 of Armenia's 11 regions, rolling out over 70 programs a year across the entire country.

A major challenge was the 2023 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which created over 100,000 refugees. We provided shelter, clothes, food and hygiene kits for displaced households throughout Armenia. We continue to provide integration courses, educational opportunities and material support to over 5,000 IDP.

Looking forward, a key project is the construction of temporary social housing for refugees. Initial construction will begin in the Artashat region, before expanding to the Shirak region in 2026.

We are also looking to expand our flagship social services projects, including our agricultural support programs, our Little Prince centres and elderly daycares.

Together we can help bring everyone in Armenia into a brighter future.





Statistics, that speak for themselves



This is the mission, that guides and inspires us in our commitments to promote personal multifold development and strengthening of communities with love and compassion, respecting the dignity of each individual.



# “Armenian Caritas” Benevolent Organization 2025

## Strategic activities in

Shirak

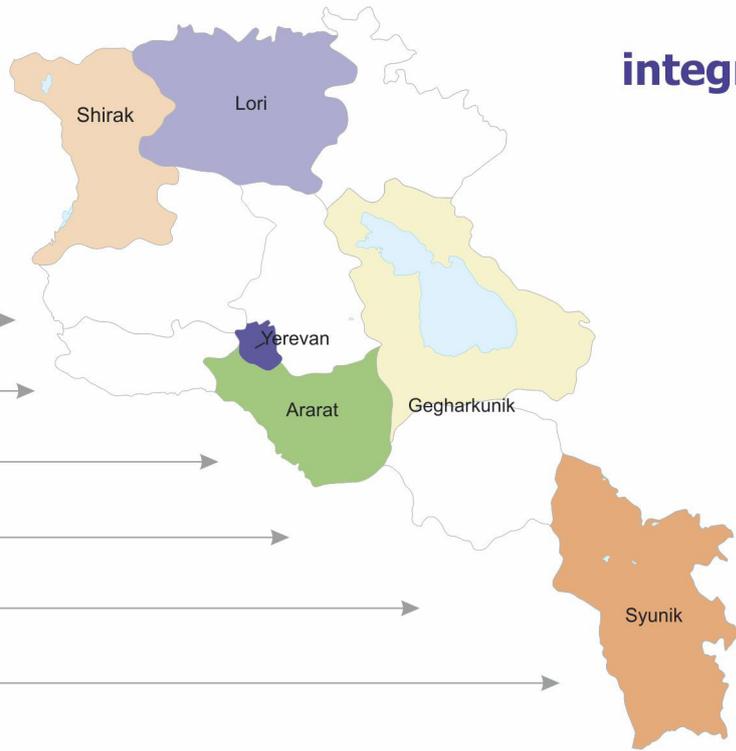
Lori

Gegharkunik

Ararat

Syunik

Yerevan



## Emergency and integration activities in

Aragatsotn

Ararat

Armavir

Gegharkunik

Kotayk

Lori

Shirak

Syunik

Tavush

Vayots Dzor

## Strategic Directions

01

**Social Protection**



02

**Migration and Integration**



**Strategic Direction**



**Proportionate Community Development**

03



**Resilience in Emergency Situations**

04

# Dislocation: Meet the Sultanian Family

Have you ever had to flee your home with nothing but your children in your arms?

That's been the reality for the Sultanian family, who've had to rebuild their lives over and over again.

I met them in March 2025. Zenetau Sultanian, born in 1979 in Baku, fled anti-Armenian violence as a child. In 1988, the Spitak earthquake left him with a permanent disability. He later settled in Nagorno-Karabakh's Kashatagh region, where he and his wife Tatiana raised seven children, living off their land and seasonal work.

Then came war. In 2020, and again in 2023, the family was forcibly displaced, losing their home, livelihood, and stability. Promised a return, they packed nothing. But there was no going back.

After years of renting and relocating, they finally bought a house in Hatsik village with government support—but it is barely habitable. The roof leaks, walls are bare stone, and they rely on a single stove burning wood and plastic to keep warm. Despite these conditions, Tatiana works tirelessly to provide for their children.

Armenian Caritas was one of the first to help—offering essentials like bedding and a washing machine. That support, Tatiana says, gave them hope.

The family's only income is a small disability pension. They buy food on credit. Still, they persevere. Zenetau is recovering from surgery and hopes to work again. They plan to invest in a cow. The children are in school—Zhanna, the eldest, studies makeup in Gyumri.

Meeting the Sultanians reminded me: sometimes, the smallest kindness can change the course of a life.

Haig Lucas,  
Volunteer With Armenian Caritas



*When it was time for the family photo, 5-year-old Gor refused—storming off in his too-big hoodie. I found him outside, determinedly shoveling dirt from the path to our car. Only after he'd cleared the way did he say, "I'm ready for the photo."*

# Meet one of our Volunteers, Irina Arakelyan

There are moments in a person's life that change their trajectory.

I, Irina Arakelyan, am a volunteer with Armenian Caritas, and in the future - a doctor.

I was always a quiet kid, more interested in books than people.

I never thought I would want to dedicate my life to others.

However, in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic and the 44-day war changed me.

Seeing the selfless service of doctors, I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to medicine, to helping others, and to easing pain.

I enrolled in the Yerevan State Medical University, which was not easy, and I started volunteering with Armenian Caritas.

I am not a doctor yet, but through Caritas, I can begin to give back.

I regularly meet with my beneficiary grandmother, listen to her stories, and try to make her life a little brighter.

Working with Caritas has shaped my belief that every young person can help change their community and country.

I want to be where there is a need for help, hope and support.

This is my mission, and I am ready to bring it to life.



# Thank you for Giving Generously

Your gift to Armenian Caritas helps people in crisis. We offer support in wars, displacements, natural disasters and severe economic distress.

Your financial donation enables Armenian Caritas to prepare, respond and help vulnerable communities recover from disasters and face their newest challenge.

Moreover, your gift has a lasting impact. Armenian Caritas is working to develop the infrastructure for community uplift that will continue to serve people twenty years from now.

Please donate, your kindness is more appreciated than you realise.

## For Donation in AMD:

**BENEFICIARY NAME:**  
"Armenian Caritas" Benevolent NGO

**Account number:**  
220063350429000

**Name of Beneficiary's bank:**  
ACBA-Credit Agricole Bank, Gyumri branch,  
Armenia

**Purpose of payment:**  
Donation, (please specify the program)

