

ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY AND THE UNITED NATIONS





Founded in 1910, Armenian Relief Society, Inc. (ARS) is an independent, non-governmental and non-sectarian organization which serves the humanitarian needs of Armenians and non-Armenians alike. It mobilizes communities to advance the goals of all sectors of humanity and pioneers solutions to address the challenges that impact our society.

The ARS is a global humanitarian organization, with grassroots capacity, advocating for human rights, social justice and civil society, along with promoting education, health, and women's empowerment. Since 1970, the ARS has been active in the United Nations. Firmly committed to the humanitarian credo of its mission and the principles of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ARS, was admitted into the ranks of UN's Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) in 1998.

It continues to be receptive to the calls of the growing changes and diversity in the vital needs of society, remaining alert and steadfast with its volunteers. The ARS continues to advocate for human rights, social justice, self-determination, and civil society through the United Nations and through its various activities.

The ARS supports the rights of indigenous groups, striving for self-rule, to achieve the necessary security guaranteeing them their dignity as members of a free society, free of the threat of aggression and the use of force in resolving conflicts. Based on these principles, the ARS will continue its activities in the UN, alongside its humanitarian work.

The ARS has a worldwide presence in the UN with small teams who participate on a regular basis in various committee meetings or related functions at the UN Centers in Geneva, New York, and other locations. Through its involvement, it has formed partnerships with UN Agencies and other NGOs such as UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, the Working Group on Girls, the NGO Health Committee, NGO Committee on Education, the NGO Committee on Migration and has worked closely with several UN Agencies

The ARS is fully committed in galvanizing partners, mobilizing volunteers, and engaging communities in the pursuit of advancing all sectors of humanity. We are dedicating our expertise, ideas and ingenuity to catalyze efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals to profoundly improve the course of humanity through 2030 and beyond.



The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 and is currently made up of 193 Member States. The UN takes action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, and more.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



GOAL: To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

OUR COMMITMENT:

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being is important to building prosperous societies. Access to good health and well-being is a human right, and that is why the Sustainable Development Agenda offers a new chance to ensure that everyone can access the highest standards of health and health care.

Since its inception, the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) has been actively involved in promoting and protecting good health worldwide. We believe that health is at the heart of all human development—it enables children to thrive, women to succeed, communities to prosper and countries to rise from poverty. For more than a century, we have been guided by our founding principles, which compel us to put people first, and be good stewards of the natural resources we share. This began precisely during the Armenian Genocide when ARS alongside many international organizations, began their noble mission of humanitarian care for the homeless, starving, and ailing masses.

Today, throughout different parts of the world, ARS operates several social and health service centers and works towards improving the lives of community members. The organization also donates hospital equipment to disadvantaged hospital and continues to undertake projects that are aimed at the well-being of everyone. In 2018, we also installed solar panels at our ARS "Mother and Child" Health & Birthing Center in Akhourian (Armenia) to become more energy efficient (SDG 7).



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



GOAL: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

OUR COMMITMENT:

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to creating sustainable development. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help equip locals with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world's greatest problems.

Led by this unshakable conviction, the Armenian Relief Society, over its century of dedicated service, from its very inception has devoted its resources to our budding generations. Currently, ARS operates hundreds of daily and one-day schools throughout the world, comprised of kind, curious, and ambitious students as well as an engaged, supportive faculty and staff. Inside and outside of our classrooms, we offer countless opportunities to discover more about the world and we proudly celebrate the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and talents represented throughout our community, which fosters joyful collaboration and exploration.

The ARS also gives scholarships to students who excel in their studies and show active participation and contributions in the community. Through some community centers, we also host educational games and essay-contests in order to encourage creative and critical thinking.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



GOAL: To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

OUR COMMITMENT:

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. But, today gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress. Empowering women requires addressing structural issues such as unfair social norms and attitudes as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality between women and men.

The Armenian Relief Society works towards establishing gender equality by advocating for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and ensuring that women have access to their health rights through its social and health service centers.

Whether, we are providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, or representation in decision-making processes, the ARS is cultivating empowered women and girls and contributing to sustainable economies and benefitting societies and humanity at large.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



GOAL: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



GOAL: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

OUR COMMITMENT:

In order to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), and to achieve more sustainable communities (SDG 11), the ARS has established over 90 greenhouses in Armenia for women with the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to improve the quality of life of rural women by strengthening their capacity, promoting financial stability, creating stronger families, and stimulating sustainable communities. This inevitably also contributes to the achievement of gender equality and empowering women and girls (SDG 5).



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



GOAL: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

OUR COMMITMENT:

Many regions of the world continue to suffer untold horrors as a result of armed conflict or other forms of violence that occur within societies and at the domestic level. As a humanitarian organization, we continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those countries in need and continuously work on championing human rights.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



GOAL: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

OUR COMMITMENT:

By fueling innovative partnerships with NGOs, governments, foundations, social entrepreneurs and colleagues, we are seeking to catalyze creative approaches to accelerate progress, to improve the course of our humanity and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



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