Achieved Key Results of the Program of Izmirlian Foundation in 2025

The strategic objective of the Izmirlian Foundation is to enhance sustainable development of Armenia by implementing diverse initiatives in the areas of education; healthcare; economic development; social welfare; innovation; and preservation of Armenian cultural heritage, to achieve its mission of "helping to preserve a nation".

Projects implemented by the Izmirlian Foundation provide numerous short and long-term benefits to beneficiaries. These include improved health outcomes, strengthened knowledge and skills, enhanced healthcare management systems, expanded access to quality education and talent identification programs, and targeted support to vulnerable populations and children with special needs. The Foundation also supports Armenian entrepreneurs from Artsakh, nurtures future innovators in artificial intelligence, promotes the development of a digitized and technologically advanced Armenian language ecosystem, and strengthens learning, teaching, assessment, and evaluation of the Armenian language for non-Armenian speakers. In addition, the Foundation contributes to agricultural development, rural employment, and other priority sectors.

In total, several hundreds of thousands of persons in need have directly benefited from the projects implemented by the Izmirlian Foundation since launching its operations in Armenia. In 2025 alone, **4,307 persons** (126% of the target) directly benefitted (around 17,228 indirect beneficiaries) from 16 IF projects implemented in the regions of Armenia. The key results and achievements of IF-financed projects for 2025 in education, health, social welfare, and other areas include the following:

Health Sector

- The Izmirlian Foundation in collaboration with the Izmirlian Medical center provided health benefits to 23 Syrian/Lebanese/Iraqi displaced Armenians (993 cumulative, since the launch of the project) who refuged in Armenia because of crisis in their respective countries.
- 59 wounded soldiers and officers (559 cumulative, since the launch of the project) received free health care services.
- In addition, 24 displaced people from Artsakh (405 cumulative, since the launch of the project) received free health care services.
- Three children diagnosed with cancer (13 cumulative, since the launch of the project) from vulnerable families received appropriate treatment.
- A Healthcare Electronic Management system was installed in the IMC and 303 IMC staff benefited from training in the use of ICT tools and practices.

Education & Innovation

- Improved education among 625 students of bordering and remote communities of Armenia through educational projects in partnership with Teach for Armenia, along with five teacher-leaders supported.
- Access to quality education at Shirakatsy Lyceum for eight talented high school students from the remote bordering communities and Artsakh.
- Talent identification and improved access to quality education, with six students awarded scholarships to study at the Shirakatsy Lyceum and 2,561 students provided the opportunity to participate in academic Olympiads.
- Improved knowledge of artificial intelligence and advanced mathematics, with six high school students enrolled in a three-year study programme and four teachers benefiting from targeted capacity-building activities. The project also supported the development of the relevant curriculum, which was officially approved.
- Improved knowledge and skills among 391 professionals, graduates, and private sector representatives in agriculture. The Project is being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Armenia, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), German Corporation for International Cooperation, , Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz - Ecumenical Programme for Emergency Relief ((HEKS/EPER), Strategic Development Agency (SDA) and Vanand Agro CJSC. The project supported the creation of 245 employment opportunities.
- Support to the establishment of measurable Armenian language proficiency standards in cooperation with the Language Committee of the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports. Three policy-relevant knowledge products were developed in 2025:

    1. The guidelines for the description of oral and written language assessment tasks were revised and finalized.
    2. The development and editing of assessment tasks continued, resulting in the preparation of approximately 1,500 standardized tasks.
    3. The Armenian Readability Index (The Automated Readability Index)" was established and piloted on 23 textbooks intended for the 2025–2026 academic year. The development of the following readability metrics for Armenian was completed: Automated Readability Index, Flesch Reading Ease Scale – Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level, Gunning Fog Index, SMOG Index, and Fry Readability Graph.

    Furthermore, two new regulations were officially adopted: (i) the Armenian (Eastern Armenian) Language *Proficiency Levels for Non-Armenian Speakers*, approved by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports; and (ii) *the national standards defining proficiency levels A1–A2, B1–B2, and C1–C2*.

- Project-supported digital platforms that have been developed, launched, and are operational, providing structured access to knowledge, data, and digital services. These include: (i) an electronic Armenian language testing and assessment platform; (ii) a web-based platform for assessing the readability of Armenian texts and expanding its analytical functionalities within the initiative Armenian as a Viable and Vibrant Language in the High-Tech World; and (iii) a digital platform supporting Artsakh Armenian entrepreneurs and businesses operating in Armenia.
- Improved knowledge, skills, and employment opportunities among 30 displaced Artsakh Armenian entrepreneurs, supporting the establishment or strengthening of their business initiatives and facilitating market linkages within and outside Armenia. In addition, a mapping of 100 Artsakh Armenian businesses was conducted, accompanied by a comprehensive needs assessment to inform targeted support interventions.

Social welfare

- Over 231 children with special needs and disabilities benefited from small-grant initiatives implemented by the Izmirlian Foundation in collaboration with the Source Foundation, the Arabkir Foundation, and Step Forward NGO. These initiatives improved access to assistive and adaptive furniture and devices, strengthened life skills supporting independent living, and enhanced the quality of life of orphans residing at the Marie Izmirlian Orphanage. The initiatives also contributed to the creation of two new employment opportunities for a kinesiotherapist (adaptive sport and sensory integration specialist) and an occupational therapist at Guykadaran Yerevan. The outreach is expected to increase significantly by the year-end, as Guykadaran Yerevan was launched recently[1] registering limited outreach by the end of 2025.
- 32 parents/caregivers having children with disabilities benefited from training in the use of assistive and adaptive furniture and devices enabling childcare at home. The outreach is expected to increase significantly by the year-end, as Guykadaran Yerevan was launched recently, registering limited outreach by the end of 2025.
- In a landmark project, The Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and Mission Armenia NGO, is creating a program to provide “next steps” for orphans with disabilities to move into small group homes. Two community small group homes have constructed/rehabilitated within the framework of “Supporting Graduates of Population Social Protection Institutions Project”.
- Four policy-relevant knowledge products were completed, including standard operating procedures (SOPs), an SOP for facility operations, terms of reference (ToR) for standardized housing design with detailed technical specifications for furniture, and a needs assessment aimed at establishing eligibility criteria for residents of community small group homes.
- One new law (the revised draft law, "On Amending the Law on Social Assistance," which incorporates the amendments to Decision N1744-N) and one government decision (on standard internal regulation for community small group homes) were proposed to policy makers for approval.

[1] Guykadaran Yerevan Launched on December 3.