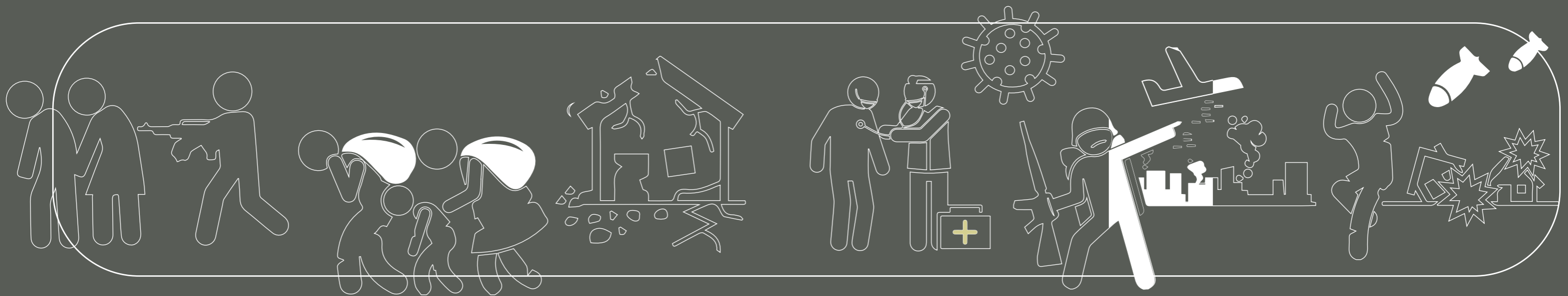




PEACE DIALOGUE ANNUAL REVIEW | 2019 - 2020



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ADDRESS: 40 AP. 12 MYASNIKYAN STR.,
2002, VANADZOR, ARMENIA; TEL: +374 (322) 21340;
MOB: +374 (55) 820 632; (93) 820 632

E-MAIL: EKHACHATRYAN@PEACEDIALOGUE.AM;
MAILBOX@PEACEDIALOGUE.AM

URL: [HTTPS://WWW.PEACEDIALOGUE.AM](https://www.peacedialogue.am)
[HTTP://WWW.SAFESOLDIERS.AM](http://www.safesoldiers.am)

EDITORIAL TEAM:

EDGAR KHACHATRYAN,
MARIANNA KHAZHAKYAN,
VAHAGN ANTONYAN,
ANI DERDZYAN

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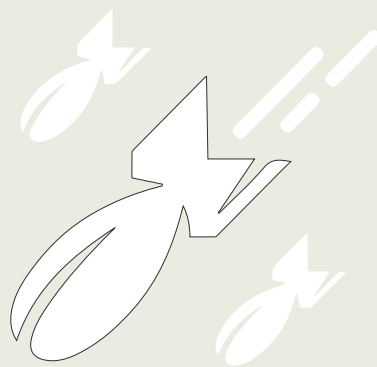
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OPENING REMARKS

LEARNING TO ADAPT, IMPROVISE, OVERCOME, RETHINK & REBUILD...



EDGAR KHACHATRYAN,
PEACE DIALOGUE NGO, PRESIDENT

Dear Partners and Friends, Beneficiaries and Supporters, 2020 has turned out to be the most difficult year yet in the twelve-year history of our organization.

Not long after the year started, the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) burst onto the international scene, and in the months since, the virus has dramatically remoulded the way we, our partners, and all of us see the world. As it upended established patterns, and forced lasting changes on the way of life and activities of peoples the world over, the pandemic also created daunting obstacles to the realization of the ambitious plans and projects that we at Peace Dialogue had envisioned so optimistically for 2020.

While humanity was absorbed with adapting to this menace, and as many countries were struggling to develop new strategies to overcome the social, political and economic impacts of the pandemic, full-scale war of an intensity not seen since 1994 erupted again in the South Caucasus in September. Forty-four days of bloody fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces over the breakaway territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjoining areas have left a toll of at least 143 civilians dead (including children), as well as thousands of soldiers killed or in-



jured, and hundreds more soldiers reported missing or captured. Half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population, about 75,000 people, have fled their homes. The Russia-brokered ceasefire that was signed November 10th leaves many open questions, especially as regards protection for, and assistance to, displaced persons, persons remaining in the territories that have been ceded to Azerbaijan, and persons remaining in, or returning to, Nagorno-Karabakh. Of these, the most vulnerable segment from among the persons displaced by the recent fighting are the Armenians who are unable to return to their homes in the Nagorno-Karabakh area, because these homes were on the territory that was surrendered. At the moment, these people have no status, and there are no provisions for their future.

The above challenges clearly expose the deficiencies of existing mechanisms for human rights protection, negotiation and conflict mediation in the international arena. The hopes that many citizens in the conflict zone had for a decisive intervention by the international community were not realized, and as a result, these international institutions have been almost completely discredited in the eyes of the populations of the Nagorno-Karabakh area.

The painstaking efforts by civil society actors to build networks and create alternative narratives, initiatives years in the making, have been badly compromised in a short space of time. The recent war undermined the image of human rights and peacebuilding organizations, and cast doubts on the efficiency and potential of solving conflict by peaceful means.

...We are now working hard to develop new concepts to help us foster human rights protection, advocate for victims of the conflict, and rebuild mutual trust and dialogue between citizens of the societies that have been divided by war...

These circumstances have formed the inescapable backdrop to all of Peace Dialogue's activities over the last year. To confront these challenges, we initially focused our energies on trying to adapt to the changes forced on us by the Coronavirus pandemic as we attempted to improvise and invent creative ways to continue our strategic activities. At the end of 2020, the post-war reality has forced us to dedicate our efforts to dealing with the consequences of the war, and the challenges to democracy that have arisen dramatically in this post-war context. As we consider our past mistakes and shortcomings, we are now working hard to develop new concepts to help us foster human rights protection, advocate for victims of the conflict, and rebuild mutual trust and dialogue between citizens of the societies that have been divided by war.

We remain hopeful that in the near future, with your support and cooperation, we will be able to bring at least some small but very necessary changes to the lives of conflict-affected communities, and also that we will help recreate an atmosphere of safety and security, and foster a commitment among our citizens towards peace, democracy and human rights.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

STRENGTHENING
RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRATIC
VALUES



PROMOTING
GLOBAL PEACE
MOVEMENT AND
PEACE CULTURE



INVOLVING AND
EMPOWERING
LOCAL COMMUNITIES

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT:

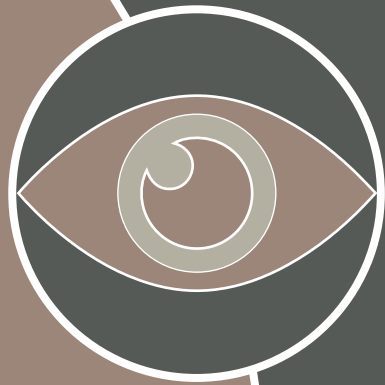
INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL

REGIONAL
LEVEL

LOCAL
LEVEL

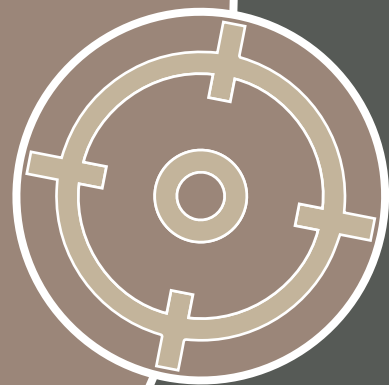
VISION:

JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW
FOR PEACEFUL AND
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES.



MISSION:

FOSTERING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
FORMING MULTI-LAYERED DIALOGUE
AND A CULTURE OF PEACE,
BUILDING DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND
POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES.



METHODS:

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING |
LEGAL AID | ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING |
POLICY DEVELOPMENT | MEDIA WORK |
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE | RESEARCH AND ANALYSES |
CAPACITY BUILDING | NETWORKING...

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2019 – 2020



**EMPOWERING
CIVIL SOCIETY
ACTORS IN
CONFLICT AND
POST-CONFLICT
SOCIETIES**



**PROTECTING
AND PROMOTING
HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS**



**FOSTERING
CIVIC
OVERSIGHT
OF STATE
INSTITUTIONS**



**PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EQUAL
PARTICIPATION OF
WOMEN AND MEN
IN POLITICAL AND
CIVIC PROCESSES**



**SUPPORTING
CIVIC
INITIATIVES**



**FORMING
MUTUAL
TRUST AND
DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE
REPRESENTATIVES
OF SOCIETIES
DIVIDED BY
CONFLICTS**



**REDUCING
MILITARISTIC,
NATIONALISTIC,
AND PATRIARCHAL
NOTIONS IN
SOCIETIES AND
DEVELOPING
ALTERNATIVE
IDEAS**



**ADVOCATING
FOR VICTIMS
OF VIOLENT
CONFLICTS**

PEACE DIALOGUE NGO'S PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020



STRENGTHENING THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMENIAN MILITARY FORCES



ENSURING THE RIGHT OF PROTECTION FROM TORTURE FOR PEOPLE BROUGHT TO THE MILITARY POLICE



CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC OVERSIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE ARMENIAN ARMY



DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY POTENTIAL FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMENIAN DEFENSE SECTOR



PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE MOVEMENT AND PEACE CULTURE



THE 'KARABAKH CONFLICT ARCHIVE'



"RETHINKING-COOPERATING-SHARING" YOUTH EXCHANGE



INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE: JOURNALISM WITHOUT BORDERS



CONTACT 2.0: EQUIPPING YOUTH FROM NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREA WITH SOCIAL-MEDIA SKILLS



INVOLVING AND EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



DEVELOPING CAPACITIES FOR WOMEN FOCUSED NETWORKS IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS



SERIES OF TRAININGS ON CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM LORI REGION



TRAINING NEXT-GENERATION CIVIC JOURNALISTS IN NORTHERN ARMENIA AS FUTURE DEMOCRACY WATCHDOGS

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020

STRENGTHENING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE ARMENIAN MILITARY FORCES



ENSURING THE RIGHT OF PROTECTION
FROM TORTURE FOR PEOPLE
BROUGHT TO THE MILITARY POLICE



CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT FOR
DEMOCRATIC OVERSIGHT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS
IN THE ARMENIAN ARMY

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY
POTENTIAL FOR THE EFFECTIVE
MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE ARMENIAN DEFENSE SECTOR

CASE STUDY: PROJECTS ON PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEFENSE SECTOR



Civil Society Participation in Protection of Human Rights in the Armenian Military Forces

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 1 YEAR (2018-2019)

BUDGET FOR 2019: 13.190.000,00 AMD (+/- 24.260,00 EUR)

DONOR: EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN ARMENIA
(WITH FINANCIAL MEANS OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE)

In September 2018, Peace Dialogue started the implementation of the initiative called **Civil Society Participation in the Protection of Human Rights in the Armenian Military Forces**. Within the scope of the project, the organization created a monitoring group consisting of representatives of NGOs, civil movements, and media organizations. The activities of the group were aimed at monitoring of the defence sector-related activities deriving from the Armenia's Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2019 (HRAP 2017-2019).

In November, 2019, Peace Dialogue presented the final report on the activities implemented by the Armenian Ministry of Defense (MoD) within the framework of the HRAP 2017-2019 (*The report is available on Peace Dialogue's website*). The monitoring group concluded that there were problems with the measurability of the impact of individual activities and operations. That is to say, it was difficult to measure the effectiveness of specific actions and the extent to which they promoted, or will promote, the protection of project beneficiaries' interests or individual legal rights. When presenting the report, Edgar Khachatryan, PD president noted that certain issues brought up are of a legal nature, while others pertain primar-

...It was difficult to measure the effectiveness of specific actions and the extent to which they promoted, or will promote, the protection of project beneficiaries' interests or individual legal rights...



Edgar Khachatryan, Peace Dialogue

ily to law enforcement practices. Despite having taken into consideration the specificities of the field, in many cases, the monitoring group was denied the opportunity to work with the project's primary target audience. Nonetheless, the group still managed to engage with **290 military conscripts** in order to study the law enforcement practices. Moreover, the monitoring group and experts provided consistent legal assistance to citizens (military conscripts) and representatives of their families on issues related to human rights violations in the Military Forces or issues related to military conscription or demobilization, etc. Over the 12 months of the implementation of the project, **38 citizens** have been provided with legal assistance. **5** of those cases are currently under the court investigation and

2 of the project's experts (on the basis of a power of attorney) are currently representing and protecting citizens in the court. Up to this stage, one of the conscripts who was conscripted to the army with health issues was demobilized from the military service as a result of project lawyers' activities. On the basis of the observations and conclusions of the monitoring group, a package of proposals was submitted to the MoD officials, lawmakers, and international organizations. The results were also presented to the broader public through to a number of media briefings, interviews and public discussions. The officials, taken part in one of the public discussions, emphasized the importance of civil society monitoring, and expressed their willingness to work together

in developing the next action plan for 2020-2022.

According to Artur Hovhannisyan, a representative of the Armenian Parliament's Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs, the National Assembly acknowledges that civil society is their reliable partner and, if necessary, they are ready to assist in monitoring actions deriving from the Government's Human Rights Strategy. **"The issues mentioned in the report do exist, and my colleagues will also confirm that there are such problems. However, we should understand whether these problems occur systematically or have a situational nature"**, he said.



Ensuring the Right of Protection from Torture for People Brought to the Military Police

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 9 MONTHS

BUDGET: 3.872.982,95 AMD (+/- 8.000,00 USD)

DONOR: OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS-ARMENIA

With the financial assistance provided within the scope of the program **A Positive Change through Civil Society Empowerment** developed by Open Society Foundations – Armenia, Peace Dialogue NGO has initiated a project directed to the prevention of cases of torture against persons involved in criminal proceedings at the Military Police Departments.

In order to achieve the stated goal, Peace Dialogue sought to identify gaps in existing domestic legislation regulating the field in terms of protecting citizens from torture. It also looked to identify inconsistencies of the legal acts with international documents ratified by the Republic of Armenia as well as with recommendations submitted by

international institutions (*European Council (CoE), European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), Committee Against Torture (CAT), etc.*). Based on the analysis of the cases known to the organization that involve torture of persons in criminal proceedings at Military Police Departments of the RA Armed Forces, with this project, PD made and attempt to identify existing problems, their causes, as well as provide suggestions for possible solutions and present them to responsible institutions in the field.

In the scope of the project the organization

- conducted an analysis of national legis-

- lation, international legal acts, and the norms regulating the field,
- carried out a systematic documentation of cases of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons involved in criminal proceedings at the Military Police Departments,
- developed and published brief newslet-

ters on the aforementioned cases. Moreover, a report has been written which describes the activities carried out in the course of the project. The goal of the report was to raise public awareness of the topic and to promote positive changes in law enforcement practice. The report is available on Peace Dialogue's website.



Civil Society Support for Democratic Oversight of Human Rights Conditions in the Armenian Army

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 8 MONTHS

BUDGET: 19.605.000,00 AMD (+/- 37.342,86 EUR)

DONOR: THE PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN ARMENIA WITH MEANS FROM THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

This project is a follow-up initiative deriving from the aforementioned project **Proactive Civil Society Participation in the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Armenian Military Forces**.

As has been mentioned above, in the scope of that project, Peace Dialogue established a civil society monitoring group consisting of representatives of various human rights NGOs, journalists, and lawyers thus seeking to foster constant monitoring of the Armenian Ministry of Defence's (MoD) actions in the scope of the Action Plan 2017-2019 deriving from the National Strategy on Protection of Human Rights. Throughout the project's whole duration, Peace Dialogue provided constant, consistent, technical, and methodological assistance to the monitoring group striving to sustain and institutionalize mechanisms for civil society's participation in oversight activities. However, effective oversight will be only achieved if constructive partnerships with relevant, official actors responsible for the constant supervision of the defence sector are successfully built. On 26 December 2019,

...After the Velvet Revolution in Armenia, we are not intimidated to speak openly about the issues we have in the security sector and we are trying to find efficient ways to solve them with the engagement of multiple stakeholders...

Andranik Kocharyan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Defence and Security of the Armenian National Assembly

by the decree N1978-L, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the new RA Action Plan 2020-2022 deriving from the National Strategy on Protection of Human Rights.

With the project **Civil Society Support in the Process of Democratic Oversight of Human Rights Conditions in the Armenian Army**, PD intended to support Armenian civil society organizations to take a step forward in es-

establishing a sustainable partnership between the monitoring group and the Armenian Parliament, the institution that holds official power for carrying out oversight of the defence sector, as well as other political oversight institutions.

In the scope of the project, the monitoring group continued collecting and documenting information on the implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan. Based on the developed methodology, with the involvement of experts, the monitoring group studied the informative and training materials developed in the scope of the HRAP 2020-2022, as well as the legal acts adopted for the implementation of the Action Plan and for the prevention of spread of COVID-19 in the Armed Forces.

In the course of the summer conscription, the project team, in collaboration with the monitoring group, studied the practical application of the above-mentioned legal acts through standardized interviews with conscripts. The monitors managed to fulfill **around 200 complete interviews** with the aforementioned stakeholders. It is noteworthy, that Peace Dialogue provided legal assistance to persons whose rights have been violated during their military service.

During the reporting period, **47 citizens** have received legal assistance. Besides, the lawyers have also been involved in **2 criminal cases** as the representative of the victim's successor in the frames of the project.

In the framework of the project, in June, 2020, Peace Dialogue held a discussion at the Parliament. Andranik Kocharyan, the Head of the Standing Committee on Defence and Security, Kristine Poghosyan from the same Committee, as well as Maria Karapetyan, Sargis Khandanyan, and Rustam Bakoyan from the Standing Committee on

Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs took part in the working meeting. The discussion was aimed at developing practical bases for further bilaterally beneficial collaboration between the monitoring group and the Standing Committees, as well as to design a plausible action plan for further activities. Accentuating the civil society's role in exercising democratic control over the defense sector, the Parliamentarians expressed their readiness to support the monitoring group established within the framework of the project. The Parliamentarians also pointed out that within the framework of this cooperation they expect to receive the monitoring group's impartial and unbiased analysis on possible causes of the issues identified during the monitoring, as well as concrete and realistic proposals for their solution.

It is worth mentioning that in 2019, Peace Dialogue joined the National Platform on democratic security sector oversight, initiated by OSCE. Under the lead of the National Assembly, the platform enhances democratic-civilian oversight of the security sector in Armenia as a pivotal tool in building public confidence towards security institutions.

“After the Velvet Revolution in Armenia, we are not intimidated to speak openly about the issues we have in the security sector and we are trying to find efficient ways to solve them with the engagement of multiple stakeholders,” said Andranik Kocharyan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Defence and Security of the Armenian National Assembly. **“By bringing together civil society, parliamentarians, and public service providers in one area, the platform will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of both civil and parliamentary oversight by providing comprehensive and demanded security reforms.”**



Development of Civil Society Potential for the Effective Monitoring of Human Rights in the Armenian Defense Sector

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 1 YEAR. (ONGOING)

BUDGET: 14.311.000,00 AMD (+/- 30.000,00 USD)

DONOR: OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS-ARMENIA

The project aims to contribute to human rights improvement in the armed forces through conducting monitoring of the rights included in the Human Rights Strategy and the Action Plan 2020-2022 and advocating for policy changes based on the monitoring findings. The project also helps to develop civil society representatives' monitoring and advocacy capacities.

It is notable, that this initiative is strongly connected to the aforementioned project **Civil Society Support for Democratic Oversight of Human Rights Conditions in the Armenian Army**. With the co-funding of the initiative by Open Society Foundations-Armenia (OSF-Armenia), it became possible to carry on the implementation of the project activities also in 2021 with new components in addition to the initiative.

The project consists of three main components:

- a) developing monitoring and advocacy capacities among civil society organizations (CSO's);
- b) conducting monitoring of the rights included in the Human Rights Strategy and Action plan for 2020-2022;
- c) advocating policy changes based on the monitoring findings.

In the scope of the project, in 2020, **17 new CSO representatives** were selected and trained to carry out monitoring of the ac-

tions of the defense sector institutions in the framework of the Action Plan for 2020-2022 deriving from the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection. With the involvement of an external expert, standards were developed for assessing compliance of the defense sector-related activities in the framework of the Action Plan for 2020-2022 with the requirements of international human rights legislation.

As has been mentioned above, within the framework of the monitoring, a survey was conducted with **around 200 conscripts**. In addition, **35 conscripts received legal counselling during the summer conscription**.

The Armenian Government has enacted Martial Law throughout the country, as a result of a large-scale military operation against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, launched by the Azerbaijani armed forces on September 27, 2020. Therefore, in the scope of the project, **12 citizens** also received legal counselling in the course of the military call-up during the state of Martial Law.

Meanwhile, it is noteworthy, that in 2020, Peace Dialogue NGO has been elected by the Coordination Council of the Action Plan 2020-2022 deriving from the RA National Strategy on Human Rights Protection as one of the CSOs that will be involved in the activities of the Council.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020

PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE MOVEMENT AND PEACE CULTURE



THE 'KARABAKH
CONFLICT ARCHIVE'



"RETHINKING-COOPERATING-
SHARING" YOUTH EXCHANGE



INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE:
JOURNALISM WITHOUT BORDERS

CONTACT 2.0: EQUIPPING YOUTH
FROM NAGORNO-KARABAKH
CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREA
WITH SOCIAL-MEDIA SKILLS

CASE STUDY: PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES



The 'Karabakh Conflict Archive'

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 9 MONTHS

BUDGET: 8.066.450,00 AMD (+/- 14.900,00 EUR)

PROJECT PARTNERS: INTERNEWS AZERBAIJAN, MEDIA INITIATIVES CENTER, PUBLIC UNION HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH, STEPANAKERT PRESS CLUB AND SWISSPEACE

DONOR: EUROPEAN UNION, CONCILIATION RESOURCES

The Karabakh Conflict Archive is a non-governmental initiative to create a collection of materials reflecting the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The project was implemented by civil society organizations interested in collecting a range of sources that help preserve the memory of how the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict evolved and what people lived through.

The project evolved as a result of four cross-conflict workshops focused on dealing with the past in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict context, between November 2016 and January 2019, supported by the Euro-

pean Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK).

The priority of this initiative was to create and preserve digital copies of unique materials from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict context that are in danger of being damaged or lost, thus providing access to diverse and more inclusive sources of information. The archival collation prioritised the years from 1988 to 1990, with a specific focus on the personal archives of missing persons' families. The archive includes documents, photo and audio-visual materials.



Rethinking-Cooperating-Sharing

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 3 YEARS

BUDGET: THE BUDGET OF THE PROJECT IS NOT AT THE DISPOSAL OF PEACE DIALOGUE NGO

PROJECT PARTNERS: OFAJ (FRANCE), ASSOCIATION "UNE TERRE CULTURELLE" (FRANCE), CENTRE FRANÇAIS DE BERLIN (GERMANY), AFS ISTANBUL (TURKEY)

DONOR: ERASMUS+ YOUTH AND SPORT CENTER, FRANCE AND THE FRENCH-GERMAN YOUTH OFFICE

The four-national exchange project launched in November, 2017 in Marseille, France with the involvement of 24 young people aged 18-25, representing France, Ger-

many, Turkey, and Armenia. The group met each other in 4 project countries with the aim of reconsidering their views on history and their perceptions of "others", cooperat-

ing, and creating a joint vision of future. In 2018, the group of young people met in Armenia where they were welcomed by Peace Dialogue NGO. The next meeting took place in Berlin. In 2019, the project participants met each other in Istanbul, Turkey.

“It seems that the situation is not going to improve in the near future. Actually, we live in a period when our societies tend to isolate and nationalistic thoughts and ideologies are spreading at a high speed,” said David Diancourt, one of the participants of the project during the visit to Armenia.

“This is predominantly why it was vital for young students and volunteers from the mentioned four countries to meet with the common objective of overcoming this de-

...It was vital for young students and volunteers from the mentioned four countries to meet with the common objective of overcoming this deplorable situation and establishing sound communication and cooperation between young people of these countries...

David Diancourt, a French participant of the project.

plorable situation and establishing sound communication and cooperation between young people of these countries”, he said.



Intercultural Exchange: Journalism Without Borders

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 3 MONTHS

BUDGET: THE BUDGET OF THE PROJECT IS NOT AT THE DISPOSAL OF PEACE DIALOGUE NGO

PROJECT PARTNERS: UNE TERRE CULTURELLE (FRANCE) ASSOCIATION AND GERMAN-FRENCH YOUTH OFFICE (GERMANY)

In July, 2020, Peace Dialogue NGO, in collaboration with its partners Une Terre Culturelle association and German-French Youth Office, launched an initiative entitled **Journalism without Borders** which was aimed at the promotion of youth participation in social-political decision-making process through applying democratic instruments.

In the scope of the project, three national groups consisting of 16-25 year old young people interested in journalism and representing Armenia, Germany, and France were formed. During the exchange project, the young participants gained knowledge about

...We need to maintain a healthy level of curiosity for what we read on our newsfeed, understand how social media platforms curate what we see, and use investigative practices more often...

Gor Muradyan, a participant of the project from Gyumri.

the development history of journalism, discussed various issues existing in the digital world, such as fake news and propaganda.

“Fake news on social media may be unavoidable. But we can help to stop the spread of fake news by thinking critically. We need to maintain a healthy level of curiosity for what we read on our newsfeed, understand how social media platforms curate what we see, and use investigative practices more often,” said Gor Muradyan, a participant of the project from Gyumri.

30 young participants of the project from Armenia, Germany, and France prepared photo and video materials and did a num-

ber of practical exercises as a future journalist. Afterwards, the national teams presented each other the work they have done and exchanged their materials and ideas.

The young people had also an opportunity to get acquainted with the cultures and cuisine of the three countries, learn new phrases in foreign languages through language animation and get-to-know-each-other games, as well as talk about their hobbies and various interesting facts about themselves and their surroundings.



CONTACT 2.0: Equipping Youth from Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Affected Area with Social-Media Skills

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 3 YEARS (ONGOING)

BUDGET FOR 2020: 21.726.356,00 AMD (+/- 38.238,39 EUR)

PROJECT PARTNER: PROJECT'S PARTNER – OWEN – MOBILE AKADEMIE FÜR GESCHLECHTERDEMOKRATIE UND FRIEDENSFÖRDERUNG E.V.

DONOR: ZIVIK (CIVIL CONFLICT RESOLUTION) PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS (IFA) WITH FINANCIAL MEANS OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

In September, 2020 Peace Dialogue NGO and its German partner, OWEN e.V. launched an initiative called **CONTACT 2.0: Equipping young people from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict-affected area with social media skills to reframe prospects for peace.** This is a three-year initiative aimed at contributing to conflict transformation efforts in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. The CONTACT 2.0 project intended to develop a safe platform for young people to start a dialogue on human rights-related challenges in their respective contexts including discrimination (gender-based and other forms), violence, identity, acceptance of diversity and tolerance towards “others”.

Moreover, the project intended to empower

young people and equip them with capacities and skills in using new social media tools for engaging their peers and fostering inter-societal dialogue on the impacts of war, radicalization, nationalism and militarism.

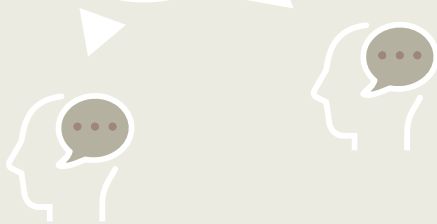
After the violent war in the region in September-October, 2020, the team has been actively making an effort to re-design the project activities in order to best fit the priorities and interests of vulnerable groups the most affected as a result of the conflict. In November-December period 4 focus group discussions were organized with the identified groups of people displaced from the NK during the war, aimed at studying the needs and concerns of their families.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020

INVOLVING AND EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



DEVELOPING CAPACITIES FOR
WOMEN FOCUSED NETWORKS
IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS



SERIES OF TRAININGS ON
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE FROM LORI REGION

TRAINING NEXT-GENERATION CIVIC
JOURNALISTS IN NORTHERN ARMENIA
AS FUTURE DEMOCRACY WATCHDOGS

CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



Developing Capacities for Women Focused Networks in the Southern Caucasus

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 21 MONTHS

BUDGET: THE BUDGET OF THE PROJECT IS NOT AT THE DISPOSAL OF PEACE DIALOGUE NGO

PROJECT PARTNERS: CRISP (GERMANY), IDP WOMEN ASSOCIATION "CONSENT" (GEORGIA), GANJA YOUTH CLUB (AZERBAIJAN)

DONOR: GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE, THE BLACK SEA TRUST FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (BISIT)

In 2019 Peace Dialogue became involved in an initiative of a Berlin-based partner NGO CRISP, called **Developing Capacities for Women Focused Networks in the Southern Caucasus**. One of the major objectives of the initiative was to empower women from rural communities in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan to use their voice to speak out about women's rights. In addition, the project intended to connect women from remote villages with representatives of civil society organizations and local administration. The longer-term aim was to strengthen women's public representation in aforementioned countries. The Armenian team of the project was represented by a group of women from the regions of Lori and Tavush. 3 regional capacity building workshops, followed by parallel sets of local activities have been implemented in the scope of the project in 2019.

The main directions of the initiative in 2020, were women's rights issues as well as awareness-raising on the provisions of the **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security**. Due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions worldwide, all project activities in 2020 were implemented at the local level. During

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Zaruhi Darbinyan, a participant of the project from Tavush region.

the capacity building activities in 2020, the participants discussed manifold women's rights issues existing in their communities as well as addressed the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on women and girls in the South Caucasus.

The women had active discussions on issues related to domestic violence, gender inequality, women's security in trans-border regions, various issues regarding provision of proper support as well as shelters to women and children during military actions, etc. One of the main elements of the trainings was **UN Security Council Resolution 1325** and the Armenian National Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned Resolution for the

years 2019-2021. Besides, the participants were introduced to a number of effective methods and tools for identifying women's issues and carrying out a root cause analysis in their respective communities.

It is noteworthy, that the evaluation of the project was held in December, 2020, not long after the 44-day war between Armenia

and Azerbaijan. Speaking about the UN Resolution 1325, one of the project participants mentioned, **“Now we realized that women are especially vulnerable to violence during the armed conflicts”**. **“Women who live in trans-border regions during the wartime do survive, often shouldering immense responsibilities. Our life was a ‘resisting war’ itself,”** she said.



Series of Trainings on Conflict Transformation for Young People from Lori Region

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 1 YEAR

BUDGET FOR 2019: 1.213.130,80 AMD (+/- 2.245,00 EUR)

PROJECT PARTNERS: CRISIS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (CMI), FINLAND

DONOR: EUROPEAN UNION

The project was implemented as a part of the **European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK) initiative**.

EPNK was an initiative supported by the European Union from 2010 to 2019 that aimed to positively impact the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process and contribute to lasting peace in the region. Peace Dialogue has been involved in the different phases of the EPNK initiative as a local partner. The organization's employees have been involved predominantly as experts and consultants to offer support in the initiatives organized by Conflict Management Initiative (one of the EPNK consortium

members) for the young generation who have grown up in isolated conditions within societies divided by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In the scope of the aforementioned EPNK initiative, during the period of June, 2018 to April, 2019, a series of capacity building events were organized by Peace Dialogue.

The project involved **21 young people** from Lori region of Armenia. Overall, in the scope of the project **8 film-screening discussions, five 5 trainings** and **3 public discussions** on Nagorno-Karabakh-related topics were organized by the project team.



Training Next-Generation Civic Journalists in Northern Armenia as Future Democracy Watchdogs

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 6 MONTHS

BUDGET: 8,823,528 AMD (+/- 24.655,00 CAD)

DONOR: CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

The project **Training Next-Generation Civic Journalists in Northern Armenia as Future Democracy Watchdogs** consisted of two civic journalism workshops involving 23 young people from the Armenian regions of Lori, Shirak and Tavush.

The first workshop took place in Gyumri in September, 2019 focusing on providing young participants of the project with skills in print journalism and photojournalism. The workshop was conducted by Armen Sargsyan, media manager, multimedia expert and producer of Armenian Public TV. The second workshop, dedicated to training in photo and video journalism, took place in Dilijan in December, 2019 with the involve-

ment of photojournalist David Pipia from JAM News Georgia as a trainer.

In the scope of both workshops, a mentor from Media Initiatives Center, Mane Papyan worked with participants helping them to plan and carry out their individual journalistic projects. She also managed online and phone consultation services to help youth participants as they did their local reporting fieldwork.

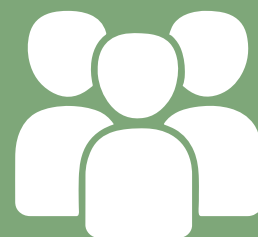
Overall, **8 articles, photo /video stories** were produced by the young participants during the course of the project. The materials were published in an online platform created by Peace Dialogue's team.

OUTCOMES OF PROJECTS IN 2019-2020

33
TRAININGS &
WORKSHOPS



178
PERSONS
PARTICIPATED
IN TRAININGS



14
PUBLIC
DISCUSSIONS
HELD



26
MEDIA
REPORTS
PUBLISHED



85
PERSONS
RECEIVED
LEGAL SUPPORT



5
COURT
APPEALS



5
RESEARCHES &
POLICY PAPERS
PUBLISHED



67
WAR
VICTIMS
REACHED



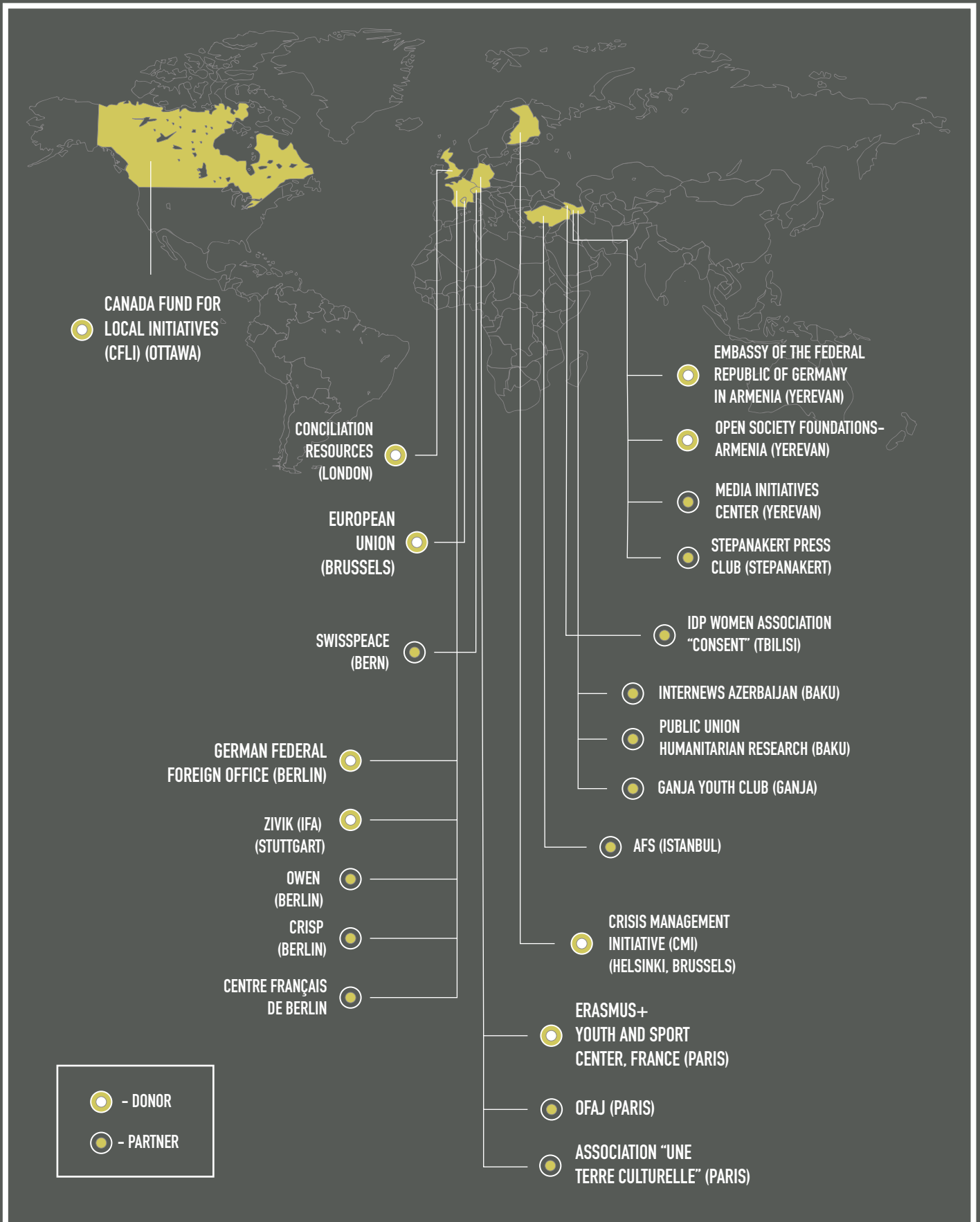
6
YOUTH
EXCHANGES



486
CONSCRIPTS
INTERVIEWED



PEACE DIALOGUE'S DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2019-2020



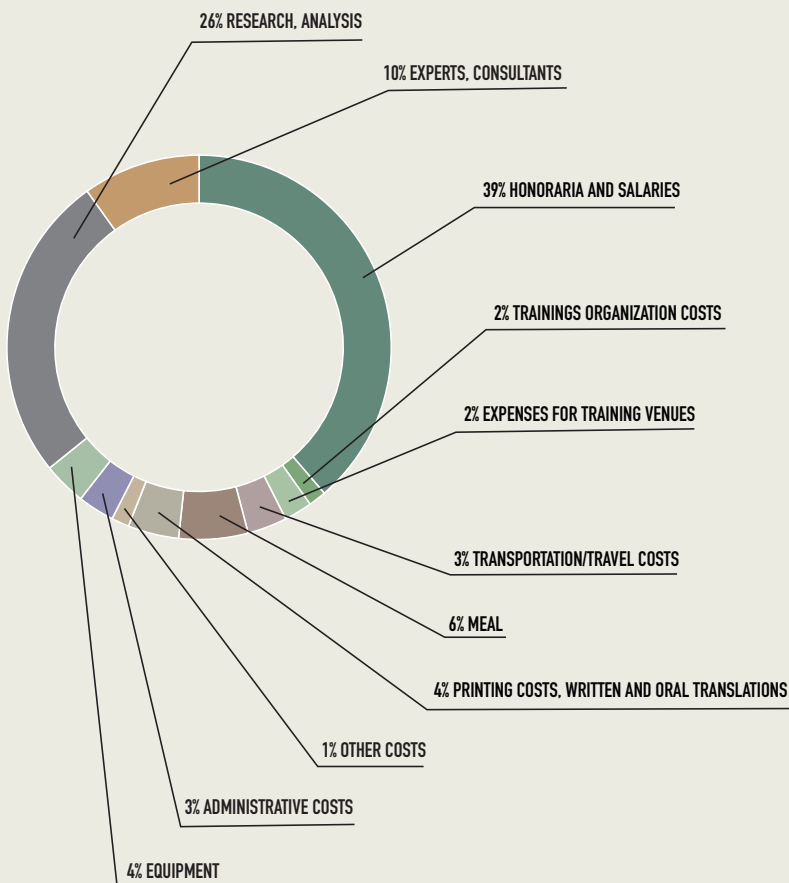
FINANCIAL REVIEW

FOR 2019-2020



PEACE DIALOGUE’S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2019

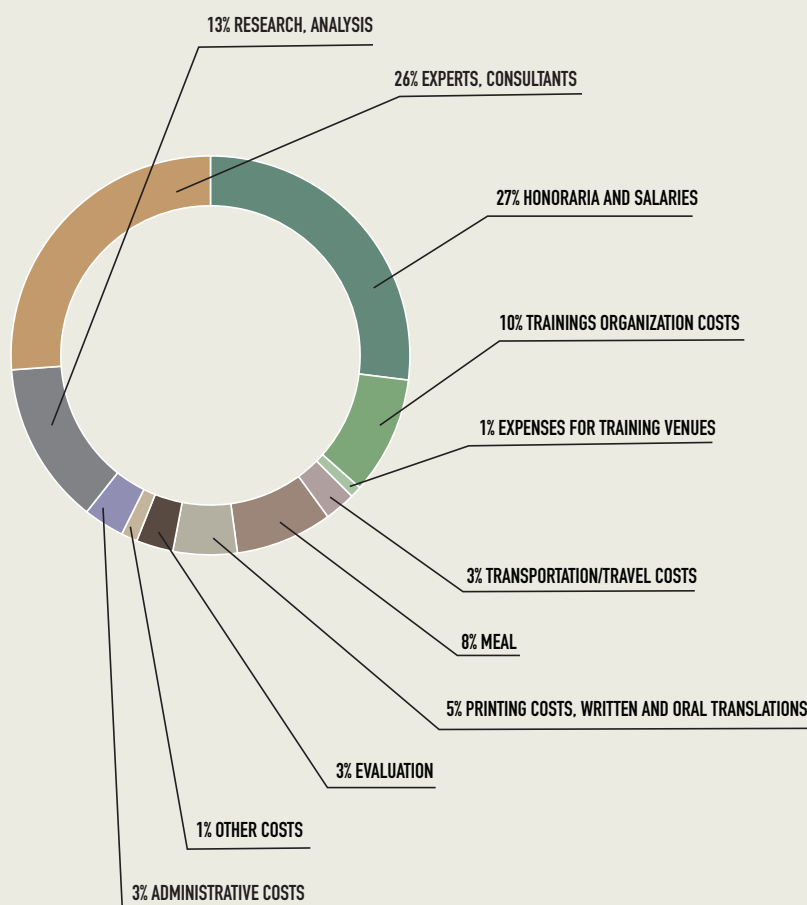
N	INCOME AND ACTUAL EXPENSES IN ARMENIAN DRAM (AMD)	TOTAL INCOME (AMD)	ACTUAL EXPENSES (AMD)	TOTAL BALANCE (AMD)
1	HONORARIA AND SALARIES*	11.914.037,45 AMD	11.886.107,73 AMD	27.929,72 AMD
2	TRAININGS ORGANIZATION COSTS	458.150,00 AMD	458.150,00 AMD	0,00 AMD
3	EXPENSES FOR TRAINING VENUES	726.000,00 AMD	736.998,41 AMD	-10.998,41 AMD
4	TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL COSTS	1.024.771,80 AMD	1.022.912,11 AMD	1.859,69 AMD
5	MEAL	1.791.400,00 AMD	1.791.670,00 AMD	-270,00 AMD
6	PRINTING COSTS, WRITTEN AND ORAL TRANSLATIONS	1.320.000,00 AMD	1.343.520,00 AMD	-23.520,00 AMD
7	EVALUATION	0,00 AMD	0,00 AMD	0,00 AMD
8	OTHER COSTS	455.944,50 AMD	480.920,00 AMD	-24.975,50 AMD
9	ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	949.348,00 AMD	949.348,00 AMD	0,00 AMD
10	EQUIPMENT	1.117.800,00 AMD	1.121.800,00 AMD	-4.000,00 AMD
11	RESEARCH, ANALYSIS	7.974.400,00 AMD	7.949.656,34 AMD	24.743,66 AMD
12	EXPERTS, CONSULTANTS	3.046.000,00 AMD	3.045.000,00 AMD	1.000,00 AMD
TOTAL:		30.777.851,75 AMD	30.786.082,58 AMD	-8.230,83 AMD



* THE BUDGET LINE “HONORARIA AND SALARIES” ALSO INCLUDES THE PAYMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL PROJECT STAFF AND TRAINERS INVITED FROM ABROAD.

PEACE DIALOGUE’S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2020

N	INCOME AND ACTUAL EXPENSES IN ARMENIAN DRAM (AMD)	TOTAL INCOME (AMD)	ACTUAL EXPENSES (AMD)	TOTAL BALANCE (AMD)
1	HONORARIA AND SALARIES*	16.195.909,00 AMD	13.975.759,00 AMD	2.220.150,00 AMD
2	TRAININGS ORGANIZATION COSTS	5.739.466,00 AMD	4.220.466,00 AMD	1.519.000,00 AMD
3	EXPENSES FOR TRAINING VENUES	560.000,00 AMD	667.000,00 AMD	-107.000,00 AMD
4	TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL COSTS	1.513.066,00 AMD	729.000,00 AMD	784.066,00 AMD
5	MEAL	4.707.400,00 AMD	3.540.000,00 AMD	1.167.400,00 AMD
6	PRINTING COSTS, WRITTEN AND ORAL TRANSLATIONS	3.117.181,00 AMD	1.289.180,00 AMD	1.828.001,00 AMD
7	EVALUATION	1.800.000,00 AMD	1.789.000,00 AMD	11.000,00 AMD
8	OTHER COSTS	789.500,00 AMD	417.500,00 AMD	372.000,00 AMD
9	ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1.987.802,00 AMD	1.440.968,00 AMD	546.834,00 AMD
10	EQUIPMENT	0,00 AMD	0,00 AMD	0,00 AMD
11	RESEARCH, ANALYSIS	7.920.000,00 AMD	3.959.050,00 AMD	3.960.950,00 AMD
12	EXPERTS, CONSULTANTS	15.700.272,00 AMD	15.640.000,00 AMD	60.272,00 AMD
TOTAL:		60.030.596,00 AMD	47.667.923,00 AMD	12.362.673,00 AMD



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PEACE DIALOGUE'S STAFF

2019-2020

The effective work of Peace Dialogue would not be possible without the experience and dedication of its team, consultants and volunteers. In 2019-2020, the organization's staff consisted of 8 people specialized in human rights monitoring, project management, conflict resolution, project monitoring

and evaluation. The organization's team has in-depth knowledge of current developments in the EaP area and the South Caucasus Region; experience involving creative means for carrying out peacebuilding work; as well as practical capacities for working in conflict-affected communities.



EDGAR KHACHATRYAN

PEACE DIALOGUE NGO
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



MARIANNA KHAZHAKYAN

PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE
PEACEBUILDING AND GENDER
DEPARTMENT



ANAHIT YEGORYAN

ACCOUNTANT



ARTUR SUKIASYAN

LAWYER



RUBEN MARTIROSYAN

MILITARY EXPERT AT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT



ANUSH HARUTYUNYAN

RESEARCH SPECIALIST



MANE GRIGORYAN

PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT



VAHAGN ANTONYAN

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY PROJ-
ECTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS