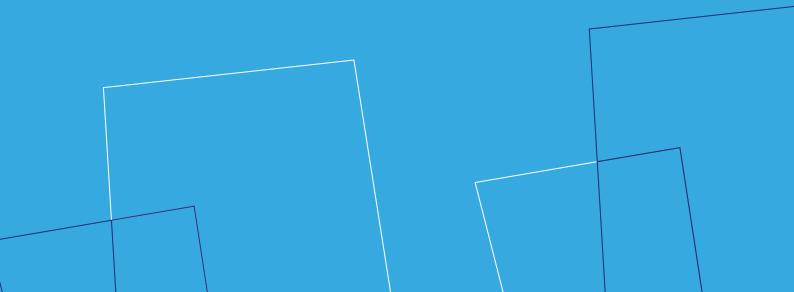# ARMENIA 2024 COUNTRY REPORT

## Executive Summary

In 2024, the civil society portfolio of EU interventions in Armenia was comprised of 37 grant projects ongoing during the year, of which eight were newly contracted in 2024, for a total EU contribution of EUR 50.08 million. In total, the ongoing projects planned a Financial Support to Third Parties scheme for a total of EUR 15.23 million to be allocated to grassroots organisations and other local beneficiaries. A total of 668 subgrants with an EU contribution of EUR 7.6 million were awarded through bilateral grants, while an additional 234 subgrants were funded by regional grants with an EU contribution of EUR 4,42 million.

In 2024, a total of 6 civil society grant projects were monitored, with 17 monitoring missions conducted by the national monitoring expert based on a sample of subgrants.

Overall, the 2024 projects demonstrated a commitment to inclusivity, responsiveness, and participatory decision-making, ensuring that beneficiaries were actively involved in shaping project goals and implementation. At the same time, increased demand for social services, driven by rising poverty and displacement, often exceeded available resources, while the short duration of projects affected their final reach. The projects demonstrated a good flexibility, adjusting strategies to meet evolving beneficiary needs, improve resource management, and foster collaboration.

The projects demonstrated promising steps toward long-term sustainability, with increased state support, formal accreditation, and infrastructure investments securing a stronger foundation for essential services. The diversification of funding models, including social enterprises and revenue-generating activities, has enabled some organisations to reduce dependency on external grants and establish financially independent operations. However, those organisations engaged in advocacy activities continue to rely on donor funding and advocacy-driven efforts struggled to maintain momentum beyond project timelines.

Innovative approaches to ensure outreach and communication were put in place, however most of the vulnerable groups remained unaware of the EU funding behind the services they received.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EUD:

### COORDINATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
Strengthen coordination among EU-funded projects to facilitate knowledge-sharing, joint learning, and collaborative opportunities.

### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FLEXIBLE FUNDING
Allocate adequate budgetary support for Financial Support to Third Parties, ensuring that sufficient resources are available for human resources, operational costs, and visibility efforts and promote social enterprise and income-generating models.

### MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING
Promote digital and real-time monitoring systems and standardised measurement tools.

### EU VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS
Enhance EU visibility and public awareness by encouraging media engagement, digital storytelling, and public events while implementing tailored outreach strategies, including in-person engagement, localized information sessions, and beneficiary testimonials.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO LEAD IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

### SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL COOPERATION
Support sub-grantees in building partnerships with local governments, private sector actors, community organizations and facilitate formal agreements with municipalities.

### FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT
Support sub-grantees in improving their resource planning by conducting realistic financial and staffing assessments to align funding with actual demand. Guide sub-grantees in developing long-term sustainability plans.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND POST-TRAINING SUSTAINABILITY
Focus on ensuring infrastructure sustainability by prioritizing full-scale renovations, utility improvements, and long-term maintenance. Promote post-training support such as mentorship, job placement assistance, and access to financial resources.

### MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING
Further assist sub-grantees in adopting simplified logframes, ensuring a clear distinction between outcomes, outputs, and activities for better impact tracking and ensure coherence in interlocked logframes between mother grants and subgrants.

### ADVOCACY
Strengthen advocacy and stakeholder engagement by integrating advocacy strategies from the outset, ensuring consistent engagement with policymakers, and building partnerships with government agencies, Civil Society Organisations, and local authorities.

### CROSS-CUTTING THEMES
Ensure that projects integrate gender-responsive approaches by addressing discriminatory social norms and promoting women's participation in leadership and business innovation and ensure equitable access to opportunities and resources.