

Country Programme Performance Summary

A. Country Information

Country name: Armenia

The third UNFPA Country Programme was implemented in close partnership with the Government of Armenia. The country programme covered four thematic areas: (i) reproductive health and rights; (ii) adolescents and youth; (iii) gender equality; and (iv) population and development. The country programme was formulated to achieve the strategic results stipulated in UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017 (then realigned to Strategic Plan 2018-2021), UN Partnership Framework for Development for Armenia (2016-2020), and key national development programmes.

Programme sustainability and performance were facilitated by a combination of government leadership and availability of successful replicable models adaptable to the national context. UNFPA's ability to bring effective operational models and approaches appropriate for national context was highly valued by the national government institutions and contributed to national ownership. UNFPA financial contribution was crucial to ensure continuous operation of the country programme. At the same time, partnership with the government significantly increased the effect and scale of UNFPA financial and technical inputs.

UNFPA took a proactive role in the planning and implementation of joint UN activities (including the successful development of joint funding proposals), as well as UN Thematic Groups (such as Gender Theme Group) to coordinate agency efforts.

Within the framework of the Country Programme, UNFPA was able to advance the partnership with the government to a more strategic level and reinforced its commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ICPD25 following the "leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first" principles.

Category per decision:
Pink Country

Current programme period:
2016-2020

Cycle of assistance:
Third

B. Country Programme Outputs Achievement

Output 1: Increased capacity of national institutions to develop evidence-based policies and implementation mechanisms for high-quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services for women, adolescents and youth, with a focus on vulnerable groups, including in humanitarian settings.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Number of evidence based policies, guidelines and protocols to enhance universal access of reproductive health, including vulnerable groups adopted	7	15	22
Number of regions that have capacity to implement MISP at the onset of a crisis	0	5	5
Family planning logistics system is established by end 2017	no	yes	yes
Number of new users of modern contraceptive methods among socially vulnerable population	0	15%	11%

Key Achievements

- A large-scale community outreach campaign on family planning through community meetings/trainings, TV and radio programs in Yerevan and marzes were conducted. According to the pre- and posttest results there was an increase of the positive attitude towards new methods of contraception and an increase in the number of new users that was registered in LMIS.
- The public inquiry report on SRHR was published and launched during the three-day “Human Rights and Healthcare” international conference, which was held for the first time in Armenia.
- National Reproductive Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2016-2020 and the Regulation on Provision of Obstetrical-gynecological Services in Outpatient Facilities have been developed with UNFPA support and adopted by the government.
- Owing to UNFPA advocacy, the Ministry of Health for the first time started procurement of contraceptives for socially vulnerable population. The procurement was organized via UNFPA Procurement Branch Service using AccessRH portal. The UNFPA team provided technical assistance in organizing the procurement process.
- UNFPA CO supported MoH in development and implementation of the antenatal care component of the National e-Health system.
- UNFPA ensured MISP readiness of 5 regions of Armenia, by strengthening the capacity of local institutions to improve policies and implementation mechanisms for integrated high-quality sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian settings.
- UNFPA provided support to the Ministry of Health in the development and implementation of 26 evidence-based guidelines on reproductive health to improve the existing maternal care system in Armenia.
- Computerized Decision Support System as a powerful guideline implementation mechanism was developed to make clinical guidelines more accessible to the Ob&Gyn community.
- More than 240 obstetrician-gynecologists and residents were trained on modern comprehensive approaches in obstetrics.
- The MoH with UNFPA support conducted the testing of 450 obstetrician-gynecologists of Armenia based on newly developed and introduced guidelines.
- In collaboration with MoE, MoH and AUA, the compliance of the current midwifery education system in Armenia with the global (ICM) international standards was assessed and presented to representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and midwifery colleges.
- At the beginning of COVID19 pandemic crisis UNFPA was among the first organizations to respond to healthcare system needs, and provided support to all maternities.

Output 2. Strengthened national laws, policies and programmes for incorporating adolescent and youth rights and needs through evidence-based policy advocacy.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Number of guidelines, protocols and standards for health care workers for the delivery of quality sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth	0	3	8
Teaching content and methodology of healthy lifestyle education is revised in line with international standards	No	Yes	Yes
Number of participatory platforms that advocate for increased investments in marginalized adolescents and youth	2	4	3

Key Achievements

- UNFPA CO supported the Government to strengthen capacity of national institutions and health care providers to provide quality sexual and reproductive healthcare services for adolescents and youth by development and introduction of 8 evidence-based clinical guidelines on management of different reproductive health conditions among adolescents
- UNFPA supported MoH in building skills of youth council to ensure that young people have adequate capacity and information to express their views to decision-makers and contribute to strengthening of national laws, policies and programmes in the area of healthcare.
- UNFPA created an opportunity for about 100 adolescents (including those living in remote regions, with disabilities, with different chronic conditions etc.) to meet with the Minister of Health to provide their feedback and expectations on healthcare services provided to them. [The meetings](#) were followed by a theatre-based game aimed to sensitize the adolescents about the importance of maintaining their own health, and to promote healthy lifestyle and healthy choices among them.
- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education in improving the delivery of school-based sexuality education programme by developing an e-learning module on reproductive health and rights for school children. The e-learning program retains the content of the current school-based program while adopting the in-class activities to an interactive e-learning format.
- UNFPA supported data and evidence generation regarding adolescents and youth health by supporting conduction of National Health Behavior Survey in School-aged Children of Armenia 2017-2018, conduction of Assessment of adolescent-friendly services in primary healthcare facilities in 2019 and Survey on COVID-19 impact on Mental Health in 2020.
- Various youth initiatives were supported and promoted (IYD [Gyumri 2017](#), [Ijevan 2018](#), IYD [Gyumri 2018](#) [Hartak festival 2018](#), IYD [Vanadzor 2019](#), [SDG sessions](#), SRHR ToTs, etc) and the capacity of Y-Peer national network was built to strengthen youth leadership and participation.
- UNFPA created an opportunity for the empowerment of young girls living in bordering communities to gain access to productive employment and decent work. In 2019, as a result of [a five-month training and mentorship programme](#) 15 teens from Tavush region acquired tech and business skills and developed projects by examining their community problems.
- Initiatives were taken to reach adolescents and youth with disabilities. In particular, support was provided to "Step Forward" NGO to establish "Inclusive Gym Hand in Hand" to provide free of charge sport classes for adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and different behavioral impairments.

CP Output 3: Strengthened capacity of national institutions on policy development and implementation to promote gender equality and prevent harmful practices.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Number of analytical studies to establish evidence on effects of gender inequality and gender based violence conducted to guide policy	1	3	3
Number of new policies addressing gender inequality, gender-based violence and gender-biased sex selection are developed	1	3	9
Number of public campaigns addressing gender equality, nondiscrimination and gender-based violence and gender-biased sex selection, including through	10	15	16

engagement of men and boys			
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Key Achievements

- UNFPA supported the Government to create a legal and institutional base for prevention of domestic violence and gender based violence and protection of victims.
- UNFPA Armenia CO supported the research and analysis of the situation of gender based violence and domestic violence in Armenia, especially regarding prevalence and perceptions.
- UNFPA supported the adoption of the Law on “Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of Victims and Restoration of Peace in the Family”, including through work with non traditional partners, such as FBOs.
- UNFPA supported the adoption of more than 10 bylaws by the Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Police.
- UNFPA supported the capacity building of different stakeholders, such as police, social workers, support centre staff, staff of the Human Rights Defender, etc,
- UNFPA supported the implementation of awareness raising activities and behavior changing initiatives to tackle stereotypes and stigma in the area by using modern technologies and targeting young people and groups that are left behind. All materials produced during campaigns are accessible for persons with disabilities. As a result of such a campaign regarding awareness about Human Rights Defenders functions in the area of domestic violence prevention, the complaints addressed to the HRD have increased more than twice.
- UNFPA also supported and initiated activities in regards to tackling gender bias sex selection via behaviour changing campaigns including via applied theatres. As a result sex ratio at birth decreased from 114 boys to 100 girls in 2014 to 111 boys to 100 girls in 2019.
- With support of UNFPA MoD conducted a series of seminars and roundtables on the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, peace, security”. The purpose was to emphasize the role of women in the defence sector.
- With support from UNFPA and based on the UN Resolution N1325 and other resolutions related to it, training courses were organized for the personnel of peacekeeping missions on the protection of women that suffered from acts of war and the rights of women involved in the armed forces.
- With support from UNFPA a book entitled “The woman and the army: issues, challenges, and opportunities” was published. In addition, there was a survey conducted on “Perspective of expanding opportunities of women’s representation and participation in the defence sector” with publication of a book with the same title.
- As a result of cooperation with UNFPA the first group of female peacekeepers (4 servicemembers) is successfully carrying out their mission in Kosovo (KFOR) since 2018 within Armenian contingent. Moreover, in 2019 Armenian female peacekeepers will also be deployed to UNIFIL and Resolute Support (RS) missions in Lebanon and Afghanistan, respectively.
- UNFPA has achieved close collaboration with non traditional partners such as the Ministry of Defense, Faith Based Organisations. This allows for discussions and policy level involvement about very sensitive topics and areas of mandate of UNFPA.

CP Output 4: Increased availability of evidence for formulation of rights-based policies on emerging population issues (low fertility, ageing, migration) and their linkages to sustainable development

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Number of analytical reports and secondary data analysis addressing population dynamics taking into account	17	29	29

population trends and projections for setting development agenda			
Number of databases with population-based data accessible by users through web-based platforms that facilitate mapping of socio-economic and demographic inequalities.	1	4	4
The national authorities have institutional capacity to analyze and use disaggregated data on a) adolescents and youth and b) gender-based violence	a) No, b) no	a) Yes, b) Yes	a) Yes, b) Yes

Key Achievements

- In cooperation with ARMSTAT, UNFPA established a national online reporting platform on SDG indicators, based on a UK/US model. Previously there was no national platform for SDG monitoring in Armenia. The platform includes metadata and indicator definitions, as well as the methodology, for both global SDGs and adapted national indicators. UNFPA supported the procurement of an appropriate server and provision of IT experts who helped to establish the platform.
- A major achievement has been the establishment of a Commission on Demography under the Prime-Minister's Office. After the establishment of the new Government in 2018, UNFPA presented it with evidence on Armenia's challenging demographic situation relating to ageing and depopulation. As a result, the Prime-Minister decided to establish a National Commission on Demography with the involvement of all relevant line ministries and agencies as well as UNFPA itself. The Commission is responsible for examining demographic data and evidence, and developing solutions to address the situation. UNFPA also brought international experts to the Commission to present the lessons learnt and success stories of other countries with similar and/or comparable demographic challenges and to discuss possible scenarios.
- UNFPA policy advocacy and capacity building support has resulted in an increased understanding of PD issues. Several relevant papers and policies, including the country's Demographic Policy Strategy, have been developed with UNFPA support.
- UNFPA has also supported training and experience exchanges, including the involvement of relevant Government representatives in South-South cooperation schemes, to build Government's capacity in data analysis. Noteworthy among these documents are the Policy on Aging and Demographic Policy, as well as Guidelines for the Care of Elderly People.
- Together with Government and non-government partners, UNFPA also organised the first and second International Congresses on Geriatrics in Armenia, with almost 300 participants from within and outside the country.
- UNFPA also successfully advocated for the opening of two divisions on demography, within the MLSA and the National Institute of Labour and Social Research (NILSR), respectively.
- Jointly with MLSA of RA, UNFPA initiated the creation of a network on aging with the involvement of Government, international and local organisations. The network coordinates the efforts directed at the elderly to avoid duplications and leverage resources.
- Within this component the successful efforts have been made to leverage additional resources to conduct the Population Census in Armenia.

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C. National Progress on Strategic Plan Outcomes ¹	Start value	Year	End value	Year	Comments
Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access					
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate among the poorest quintile women of reproductive age	21%	2015	25%	2020	
Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied	79	2015	82	2020	

Summary of National Progress

In 2018, the total fertility rate was 1.6 children per woman⁷⁷ (compared to 1.31 in 2000). In 2017, there was barely any difference in fertility between women in urban areas (1.62 children) and women in rural areas (1.46 children). There is no clear relationship between fertility and household wealth. The proportion of married women aged 15-49 who use any contraceptive method has increased from 27% in 2010 to 57% in 2015/16, according to the 2016 Armenia Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS); 28% use a modern method, while 29% use a traditional method. Women who want to delay or stop childbearing are said to have a demand for family planning (FP); hence, the total demand for FP is 70%. Unmet need for FP is defined as the proportion of married women who want to delay or stop childbearing but are not using FP; 13% of married women have an unmet need for FP. All women aged 15-49 receive antenatal care (ANC) from a skilled provider (doctor, nurse or midwife/feldsher). The timing and quality of ANC is also important; nearly all (96%) women made four or more ANC feldsher visits, while 94% of women had their first ANC visit in the first trimester. 99% of births are delivered in a health facility, the vast majority in public sector facilities. More than 99% of births are delivered by a skilled provider: 96% by doctors and 3% by nurses or midwives. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the ideal proportion of Caesarean deliveries is 10% to 15%. In Armenia, 32% of births are delivered by C-section. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Armenia is low, risk factors and vulnerabilities exist that could negatively impact on the prevalence rate. Moreover, 57% of all newly reported HIV infections are among migrant men.

UNFPA's Contributions

Through the programme cycle UNFPA supported the Government to create a legal and institutional base for providing high quality, accessible, rights base SRH services. By 2020, quality basic RH health services are accessible to all, including especially vulnerable groups. Reproductive and maternal health is among the five priorities highlighted in the 2013-2018 Election Programme of the Armenian President as well as in the 2014-2017 GOA Programme. National Reproductive Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2016-2020 and the Regulation on Provision of Obstetrical-gynecological Services in Outpatient Facilities have been developed with UNFPA support and adopted by the government. Owing to UNFPA advocacy, the Ministry of Health for the first time started procurement of contraceptives for socially vulnerable population. The procurement was organized via UNFPA Procurement Branch Service using AccessRH portal. The UNFPA team provided technical assistance in organizing the procurement process. UNFPA CO supported MoH in development and implementation of the antenatal care

¹ The format is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, 2014-2017.

component of the National e-Health system. Efforts on improvement of the Midwifery education system were done through the programme cycle.

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health

Number of policies and programmes in place addressing sexual and reproductive health needs of youth and adolescents, including marginalized youth	2	2015	4	2020	
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Summary of National Progress

In 2018, Armenia underwent a significant political upheaval, a peaceful uprising known as the Velvet Revolution. Young people were the catalysts and leaders in the peaceful protests and demonstrated a high level of self-organization. Many of the young protesters became political leaders in the new government and parliament. At the same time the Government restructuring and instability has had an impact on development of the new National Youth Strategy. In 2019, because of Government restructuring the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has been merged with the Ministry of Education and Science. Currently, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports has the responsibility for the Youth Policy development and includes a Department for Youth Policy. The latest three-year Youth Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and adopted for 2015-2017. Current Youth strategy and Action plan that was planned to be adopted in 2018 is still under review and discussion.

Country has developed a National Strategy on Child and Adolescent Health and Development and Action plan for 2016-2020. In 2019 Armenia increased state funding to ensure free inpatient treatment for all children and adolescents under the age of 18. Previously, the coverage of those under 18 was sporadic. Children aged 0-7 received free inpatient treatment, along with specific groups aged 8-18, such as orphaned children and children with disabled parents. But currently all adolescents under 18 are entitled for free inpatient services. With UNFPA support, the Ministry of Health introduced clinical guidelines on adolescent reproductive health.

The Prime Minister’s office of Armenia is also developing programmes aimed at addressing the education, employability, housing and other issues of youth.

UNFPA’s Contributions

Through the programme cycle UNFPA supported the Government to improve delivery of school-based sexuality education as well as to improve reproductive health services for adolescent girls and ensure youth engagement in health policy development and implementation. In particular:

- UNFPA strengthened capacity pediatric gynecologists to provide quality sexual and reproductive healthcare services for adolescents and youth by development and introduction of 8 evidence-based clinical guidelines on management of different reproductive health conditions among adolescents
- UNFPA supported MoH in building skills of youth council to ensure that young people have adequate capacity and information to express their views to decision-makers and contribute to strengthening of national laws, policies and programmes in the area of healthcare.

- UNFPA created an opportunity for about 100 adolescents (including those living in remote regions, with disabilities, with different chronic conditions etc.) to meet with the Minister of Health to provide their feedback and expectations on healthcare services provided to them.
- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in improving the delivery of school-based sexuality education programme by developing an e-learning module on reproductive health and rights for school children. The e-learning program retains the content of the current school-based program while adopting the in-class activities to an interactive e-learning format.
- UNFPA supported country data and evidence generation regarding adolescents and youth health by supporting conduction of National Health Behavior Survey in School-aged Children of Armenia 2017-2018, conduction of Assessment of adolescent-friendly services in primary healthcare facilities in 2019 and Survey on COVID-19 impact on Mental Health in 2020.

Outcome 3: Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings.

Percentage of Universal Periodic Review recommendations, issued in the second report, implemented, compared to the first report.	0%	2015	50%	2020	
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Summary of National Progress

Increase of the role of women in the legislative body has been noted, gender sensitive quotas were prescribed by the Electoral Code of Armenia adopted on 25 May 2016 (entered into legal force from 1 June 2016). The quota has increased at 10% as compared to the previous Code and was aimed at expanding the representation of women in the legislature. A requirement of 25% for the involvement of women in the electoral lists of political parties and alliances running in the parliamentary elections has been prescribed, which is envisaged to reach 30% as of 2021. The 464 out of a total number of candidates in the elections of the National Assembly of 9 December 2018 or 32% were women, as a result of which the 32 out of 132 Deputies of the National Assembly or 24% are women. Armenia attaches importance to the involvement of women in the peace and security. On 28 February 2019, Armenia adopted the first National Action Plan on implementation of the provisions of the UN SC Resolution 1325, which was developed by the Inter-Agency Commission. Activities aimed at implementing the provisions of the NAP are being carried out in close co-operation with NGOs and international organisations.

In 2017, the Law "On prevention of domestic violence, protection of persons subjected to domestic violence and restoration of solidarity in family" was adopted. In September 2019, the Government approved the Strategy on the gender policy implementation for 2019-2023, whereby five priorities were defined: equal participation of women and men in administration and decision making, overcoming gender discrimination in the social and economic sectors, expansion of the full and effective participation of and opportunities for women and men in education, science and healthcare, prevention of gender discrimination.

UNFPA's Contributions

Through the programme cycle UNFPA supported the Government to create a legal and institutional base for prevention of domestic violence and gender based violence and protection of victims. UNFPA Armenia CO supported the;

- research and analysis of the situation of gender based violence and domestic violence in Armenia, especially regarding prevalence and perceptions,
- adoption of the Law on “prevention of domestic violence, protection of victims and restoration of peace in the family”,
- adoption of more than 10 bylaws by the Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Police,
- capacity building of different stakeholders, such as police, social workers, support centre staff, staff of the Human Rights Defender, etc,

UNFPA supported the implementation of awareness raising activities and behavior changing initiatives to tackle stereotypes and stigma in the area by using modern technologies and targeting young people and groups that are left behind. All materials produced during campaigns are accessible for persons with disabilities. As a result of such a campaign regarding awareness about Human Rights Defenders functions in the area of domestic violence prevention, the complaints addressed to the HRD have increased more than twice.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

Number of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets.	3	2015	5	2020	
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Summary of National Progress

The country’s population is aging and shrinking. The total population has declined from around 3.5 million people in 1990 to just under three million in 2018. The elderly comprises a rising share of the population, posing a growing need for social services catering to this population group. Labour migration, both temporary and permanent, continues to be a means of coping with poverty and unemployment. Relevant, effective and timely collection of sex, gender and diversity-disaggregated data is critical for analysis, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and for evidence-based policy adjustments. In April/May 2018, the new Government proclaimed the launch of wide-ranging fundamental reforms. The enhancement of democracy, efficient and effective governance, increased levels of transparency and accountability in public governance, fight against corruption, free economic competition, protection of investors’ rights, rule of law and human rights have been prioritised by the new Government.

UNFPA’s Contribution

Through the programme cycle UNFPA supported the Government to collect, analyse and disseminate reliable and updated statistical data for their further use in development of evidence-based and human-centric social and demographic policies. At the same time with support UNFPA studies, surveys and systematic assessments have been carried out to fill the existing data gap. The establishment of the National SDG Statistical Platform was a crucial support to Armenia and an effective solution to the data challenges.

D. Country Programme Resources			
SP Outcome	Regular Resource	Others	Total

	(Planned and Final Expenditure)		(Planned and Final Expenditure)		(Planned and Final Expenditure)	
Outcome 1: Every woman, adolescent and youth everywhere, especially those furthest behind, has utilized integrated sexual and reproductive health services and exercised reproductive rights, free of coercion, discrimination and violence	938.7	917.5	0	0	938.7	917.5
Outcome 2: Every adolescent and youth, in particular adolescent girls, is empowered to have access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in all contexts	337.5	336.8	0	0	337.5	336.8
Outcome 3: The empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings	471.3	450.4	888.9	888.9	1.360.2	1.338.9
Outcome 4. Number of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets.	622.8	694.8	0	0	622.8	694.8
Total	2.370.3	2.399.5	888.9	888.9	3.259.2	3.288.0