



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Armenia

Enhancing Human Security and Building a Resilient Society in the Disadvantaged Communities of Armenia

Background information

While Armenia has made positive gains in terms of economic development, it faces the critical challenge of ensuring sustainable and equitable growth without leaving behind its most vulnerable rural communities. Migration in search of better livelihoods is common and around 102,000 individuals left Armenia in 2012-2017 moving mainly to the Russian Federation. This is especially prevalent in the northern provinces of Shirak, Lori, and Tavush, where poverty remains high and the emigration rate above 15%.

The vulnerability of these communities disproportionately affects women and children with almost 80% of rural children considered deprived. The current Armenian Government is pushing for structural reforms and linking the SDGs with its National Development Strategy where equity and addressing vulnerabilities are at its heart. This programme actively responds to this need by comprehensively addressing the interrelated insecurities in order to achieve sustainable development and resilience.

Goals and objectives

The programme aims to support Armenia's efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda by building resilience, strengthening social protection, and improving economic and food security through the creation of sustainable economic opportunities in three northern provinces. The programme also aims to enhance the performance of local self-governing bodies and the improvement of transparency and accountability among local authorities. Furthermore, the programme will target potential migrants as key beneficiary groups in order to equip them with better information and access to services as a means to prevent their exploitation.



DURATION

October 2018 — April 2022



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, FAO, UNIDO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Situations



BENEFICIARIES

47,272



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 5,636,578.18

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The identification of beneficiaries was made based on a needs assessment with UN implementing partners as well as the involvement of ministries. Direct beneficiaries are estimated to be around 5,705 and indirect beneficiaries at 41,567 across both rural and urban settlements. Community based organizations, local authorities, service providers, and other partners will also benefit from improved capacities.

Applying the Human Security approach

This programme responds to the needs of vulnerable rural communities in Armenia's north as well as the Government's initiative for reform and more inclusive development. The models for targeted and comprehensive community development can be replicated and scaled-up not only in other parts of Armenia, but also in similar countries that are striving to leave no one behind in their economic development. Through a unified needs assessment methodology, the programme also achieves a greater degree of evidence-based action and can be shared across various UN agencies and national implementing partners.

In addition, the participatory nature of the programme is demonstrated by the focus on community-development plans and strategies where beneficiaries are given a voice and in equal partnership with donors, the private sector, and implementing partners. The cross-sectoral cooperation among social service providers to reduce the personal insecurity of target communities including migrants and build resilience among vulnerable segments of the population. The programme also brings in infrastructure rehabilitation, sustainable income generation, and access to primary healthcare services for women and children. A strategic approach is also being developed to scale-up the use of innovative technology and practices in the agricultural sector and for SMEs.

As such, through an integrated partnership between the UN, the Government, the private sector and members of the community, the programme provides a path towards greater resilience through targeted, effective, collaborative and complementary measures to address the multiple insecurities faced by Armenia's rural poor and achieve equitable and sustainable development.

Achievements

- The programme strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mechanisms by organizing training sessions on disaster preparedness and gender mainstreaming in DRR for 130 community representatives and local authorities, thereby enhancing their understanding of gender issues in DRR. Multi-risk assessments were conducted to inform Geographic Information System-based "city scenarios" that provide data on disaster-prone buildings, potential traffic jams, disaster risks, and recommendations for response and early recovery planning. Furthermore, the installation of 32 early warning systems across 24 settlements benefited 57,000 people.
- The programme also enhanced sustainable community engagement in DRR processes. Community Disaster Risk Management plans were developed based on a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of public hearings, before being adopted by local authorities. Concurrently, Community Resilience Teams were established to support emergency preparedness and response. Sustainable DRR initiatives included installing solar energy systems in schools, providing interactive training for educators and students, and introducing a Safer Schools programme. Additionally, a manual on youth participation in community resilience was developed to educate teachers and students on DRR and emergency preparedness.
- Significant progress was also made in empowering vulnerable communities through inclusive capacity-building. Economic security was enhanced by supporting inclusive business projects, modern agricultural practices, and entrepreneurial skills development. Concurrently, food security was bolstered by improving nutritionally rich food value chains, promoting safety standards, and enhancing access to nutritious food.



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