



UNITED NATIONS  
ARMENIA  
.....



DECADE  
OF  
ACTION

# 2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

ARMENIA

March 2022



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# Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

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On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Armenia, I am pleased to present our Country Annual Results Report for 2021. One year on from the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the renewed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia in 2021 was still exposed to the multidimensional consequences of the unprecedented dual crises, that significantly affected the poor and most vulnerable populations.

Working with our partners in Government, civil society, the private sector, and the international development community, the UN in Armenia responded to both crises rapidly, linking the coordination of humanitarian responses with more durable solutions and longer-term development programming.

In total, we brought together 38 partner organizations as part of the Inter-Agency Response Plan (IARP), mobilizing more than 46 million USD to serve the 90,000 people displaced from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area in the aftermath of military hostilities. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN's Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) partners leveraged together over 33 million USD to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in Armenia.

In 2021, the launch of our first post-UN reform Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) was signed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia (GoA) and UNCT in Armenia as the central framework for planning and implementation of development activities in the country. Nationally owned and anchored in national development priorities, this compact determines the collective offer of 20 resident and non-resident UN entities to the country, with a total financial commitment of 230 million USD for the benefit of the people of Armenia.

Furthermore, this Cooperation Framework represents a major new milestone for the already deep partnership between the Republic of Armenia and the United Nations. We will continue striving together to improve the well-being and capabilities of the people of Armenia; fostering economic “green” transformation, strengthening responsive and effective governance systems, and enhancing gender equality, with a central promise of leaving no one behind.

**Lila Pieters Yahia,**  
**UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Armenia**



# United Nations Country Team in Armenia

## Resident UN Agencies



## Non-Resident UN Agencies



Figure 1. UNCT Team in Armenia

In June 2021, the Government of the Republic of Armenia (GoA) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) signed the 2021-2025 UNSDCF for Armenia.

Following the joint signature of the UNSDCF, the UNCT undertook a configuration exercise to assess UN capacities and the resources required to deliver UNSDCF results, aimed at establishing a UNCT fit for purpose.

As a result, twenty resident and non-resident UN entities joined the compact to contribute coherently and effectively to the achievement of the results set in the 2021-2025 UNSDCF.



# Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in Armenia

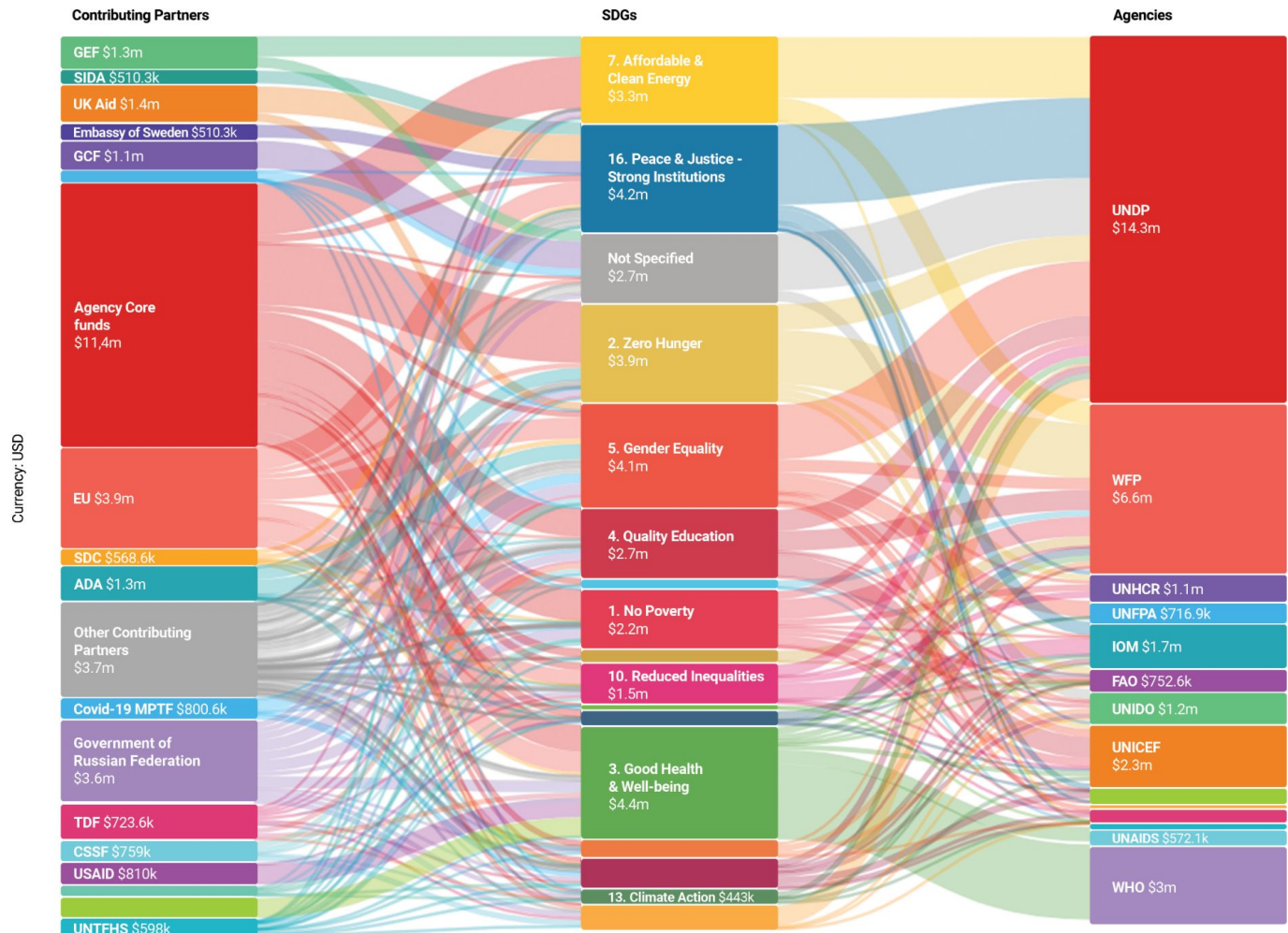


Figure 2. Linking Investments, Partners and SDGs in Armenia (navigate more in [UN INFO](#))

This graphic shows how investments are contributing to the work of different agencies and partners to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The width of the lines represents the relative amount of resources being contributed.

In the spirit of SDG 17, the UNCT in Armenia relies on strong partnerships and cooperation. Partnership with the GoA, specifically with the offices of the two Deputy Prime Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all line ministries, and local governments are instrumental in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Armenia. Key national partners also include civil society organizations (CSO), international finance

institutions (IFI), development partners, private sector, academia, and international non-governmental organizations (INGO). Following the UN global reform, more coherent UN funding mechanisms have played an increasingly strategic role, which enabled the pooling of resources and bringing together of both development and humanitarian financing.

Watch more



SDGs through  
Children's Eyes  
@UN Armenia

# Chapter 1: Key Developments in the Country and the Regional Context



Children living through the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have not given up on their dreams and futures. It is our collective responsibility to respond. Caption: @UNICEF, Photo: @UNHCR/Areg Balayan

**2021 saw the consequences of the unprecedented dual crises Armenia faced over the previous year, the global COVID-19 pandemic and the renewed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh (NK). These overlapping crises together exposed the entire population to a range of traumas, from significant loss of life to extensive economic and social costs, especially affecting the poor and most vulnerable communities.**

On January 11, 2021, an agreement was signed by Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, announcing their decision to build infrastructure, transportation, and trade networks that would extend from Iran to Russia on the north-south line and from Azerbaijan to Turkey on the east-west line. The country entered into a phase

of internal turmoil in the face of protests demanding Government resignation, snap parliamentary elections, opposition declaring national resistance against the election results, cease-fire violations, normalization attempts with Turkey, and negotiations with Azerbaijan. Responses to the humanitarian and displacement crisis, border delimitation and demarcation between Armenia and Azerbaijan and return of Armenian prisoners of war became top priorities for the country.

The victory of the ruling Civil Contract party in the snap parliamentary elections held in June 2021 endowed the government with renewed legitimacy.

In 2021, the Freedom in the World score on political rights and civil liberties in Armenia increased to 55/100, classifying Armenia as partly free; while the Freedom on the Net score increased to 71/100, classifying the country as free. The elections also resulted in an unprecedented increase of women's representation in the Parliament from 24% to 34%. Following the electoral victory, the GoA presented a five-year program, outlining the priorities for 2021-2026. The political and security context, however, continued to affect the

progress of Armenia's reform agenda. Finalization of the community consolidation reform and local government elections in the fall-winter of 2021 were other highlights of the year, affecting the overall political context.

Despite the lingering geopolitical tensions and humanitarian concerns, 2021 was still a period of slow recovery in the country. The economy, which significantly declined during the pandemic period, started to show signs of recovery in the second half of 2021.

#### Key Macroeconomic Indicators from UN Common Country Analysis (CCA):

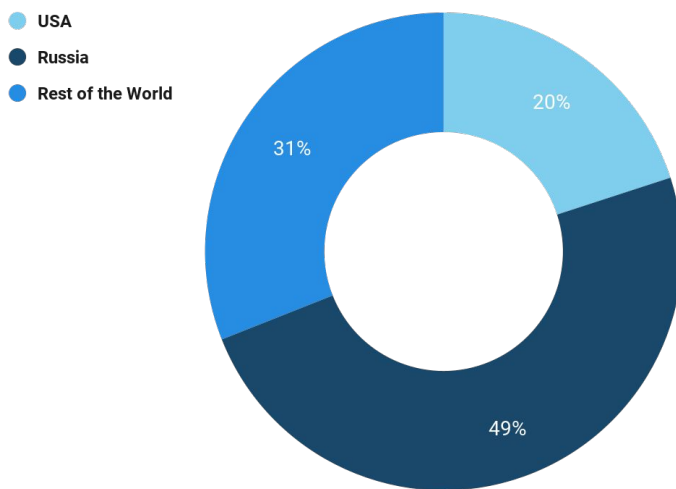


Figure 3. Individual Money Transfers from Abroad – 2021

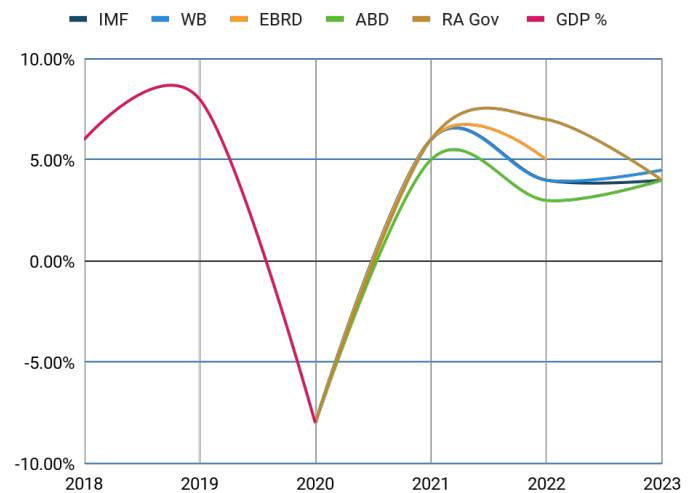


Figure 4. IFI GDP Growth Forecasts

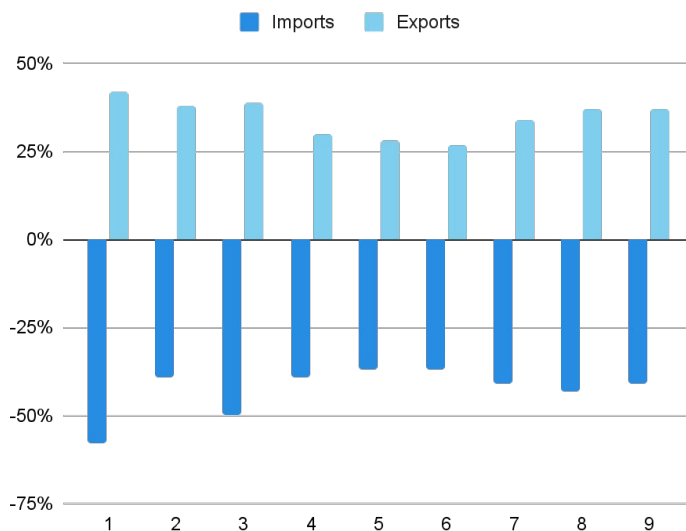


Figure 5. Foreign Trade as a Proportion of GDP

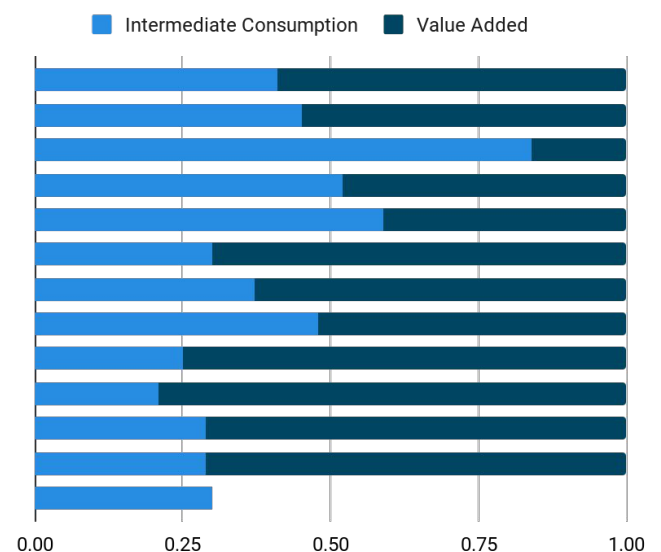


Figure 6. Sector-Level Productivity – 2021

# Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities

## 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The dual crises of 2020-2021 had dramatic impacts on human security vulnerabilities in Armenia, affecting the pace, dynamics and direction of the development agenda. Social protection and education priorities saw a shift from long-term transformation to immediate social relief activities, including provision of life-saving and basic support to the displaced population. Economic development interventions focused on early recovery efforts; while disaster risk management (DRM) capacities and resilience-building gained renewed prominence.

The shift in the context and national needs naturally affected the UN's strategic prioritization and planning processes,

resulting in a delayed approval of the 2021-2025 UNSDCF until June 2021. On the positive side, the delay allowed the UN and GoA to adopt a more adaptive and conflict-sensitive approach, repositioning UNSDCF commitments in light of COVID-19 and post-war reality. Large and rapidly emerging vulnerable groups, including war veterans, women and girls with intersecting vulnerabilities, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, stateless persons and persons living in bordering areas, were placed in the center of our focus. UNSDCF development priorities were captured by the theory of change (TOC) diagram, illustrated below:

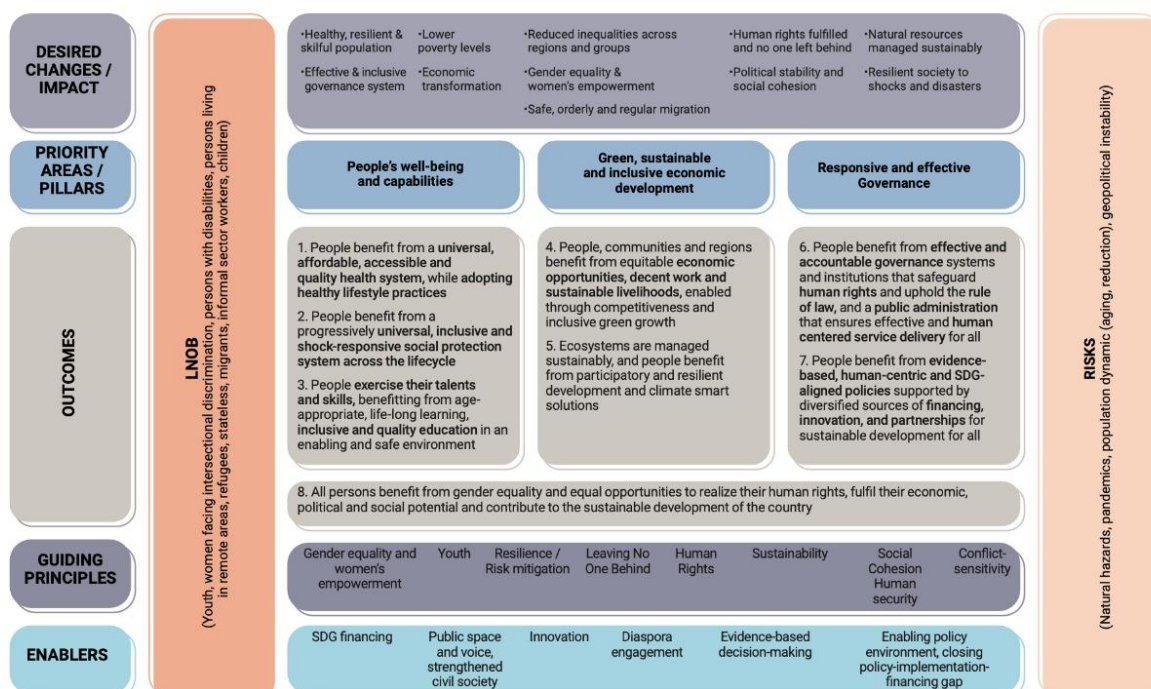


Figure 7. UNSDCF Theory of Change (TOC)



## 2.1.1. UNSDCF 2021 Joint Work Plans (JWP) Delivery: Key Highlights

### TOTAL FINANCIAL DELIVERY IN 2021 (USD)



**2021 Available**  
\$33,424,898

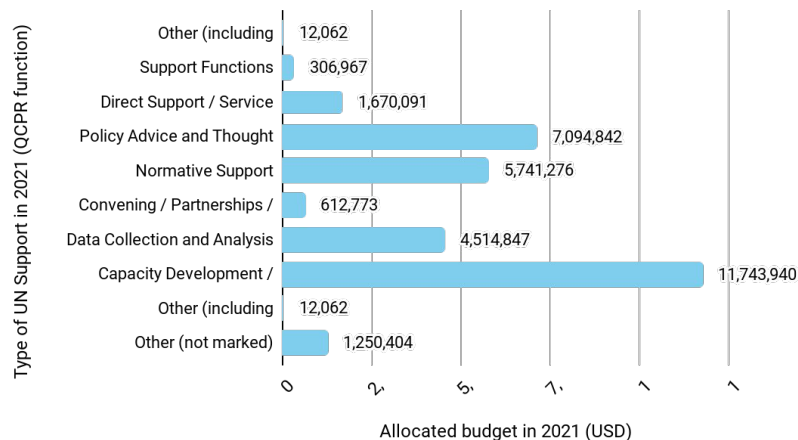


**2021 Required**  
\$39,983,482

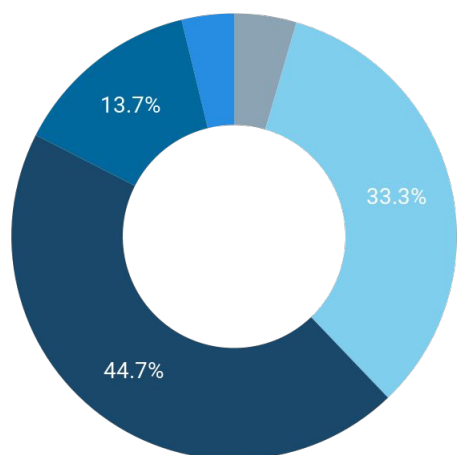


**2021 Expenditure**  
\$32,947,202

### ALLOCATED BUDGET IN 2021 (USD) vs. TYPE OF UN SUPPORT IN 2021 (QCPR function)

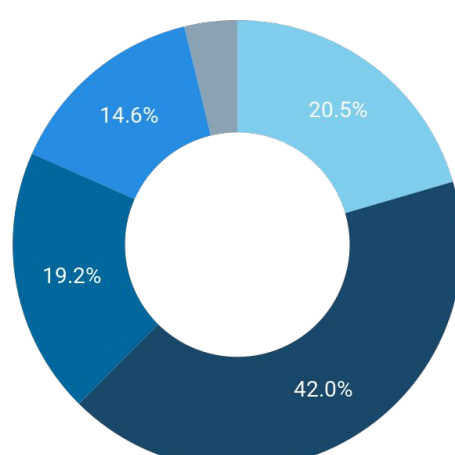


### GENDER EQUALITY MARKER vs ALLOCATED BUDGET IN 2021 (USD)



No contribution 1,489,319    Limited contribution 10,983,313  
 Significant contribution 14,713,421  
 Principal contribution 4,510,745    Other (not marked) 1,250,404

### HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER vs ALLOCATED BUDGET IN 2021 (USD)



No contribution 6,747,151    Limited contribution 13,826,992  
 Significant contribution 6,325,477    Principal contribution 4,797,178  
 Other (not marked) 1,250,404

Figure 8. Key Highlights from UNSDCF JWPs – 2021

Watch more



International Girl  
Child Day in  
Khachik ©UNFPA

Supporting Armenia with successfully submitting its updated national climate pledge under the Paris Agreement - also known as **“Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDC) setting an ambitious 40% CO2 emissions target for 2030.**

A Development Finance Assessment and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) roadmap designed in 2021.

Technical support to the Food Systems Summit National Dialogues hosted by Ministry of Economy (MoE), which culminated in the celebration of **World Food Safety Day in 2021.**

Continued support to the multi-sectoral Council on Justice for Children led by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), resulting in the adoption of a statement on Armenia’s priorities as a pathfinding country within the **Global Partnership for Ending Violence Against Children.**

Armenia taking a leading role in drafting the **Regional Roadmap for Sendai Framework Implementation 2021-2030**, covering a total of 55 countries in Europe and Central Asia.

**Climate action campaigns**, calling for [green challenges](#), [zero waste living](#), [waste sorting](#), [eco-friendly future](#), and culminating in the celebrations of Earth Day in June 2021.

**The 2022-2024 National Action Plan for implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.**

UN-supported discussions around national action planning for the implementation of **UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security** resulting in agreement to develop Armenia's first National Action Plan on UNSC 2250 Resolution.

### 2.1.3. [Inter-Agency Response Plan](#) (IARP) Delivery in 2021

With the beginning of the conflict in and around NK, the UN system in Armenia immediately established a flexible and scalable coordination structure under the leadership of Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), UNHCR, and technical working groups led by WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and UNDP.

The multi-agency comprehensive response strategy consolidated the financial requirements of humanitarian partners supporting GoA to provide assistance and protection services to the 90,000 refugee-like individuals who fled NK in fall 2020.

Read more



UN Armenia's NK  
Crisis Response

**Humanitarian funding mobilized under RCO and UNCHR leadership resulted in:**

#### Partners and Beneficiary Population:

- 38 partner organisations
- 90,000 refugee-like population
- 7,500 people from host communities

#### Funding Overview:

\$46,071,770 Received	\$49,289,038 Requested	93% Funding Coverage
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Figure 10. Overview of IARP Beneficiary Population and Funding

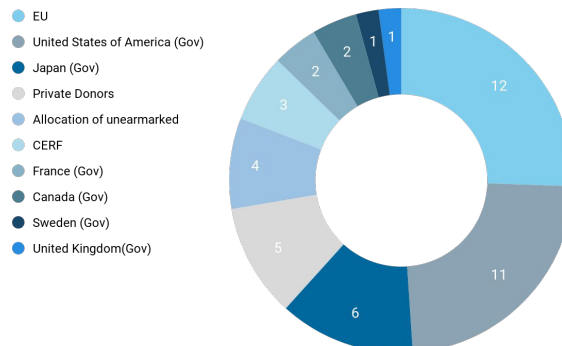


Figure 11. Funding per Donor (Millions USD)

## 2.1.4. COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) Delivery in 2021

The COVID-19 Multi-Sector Response Plan was activated by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) immediately after the initial COVID-19 outbreak in Armenia.

With a financial commitment of over 33 million USD, the work of six sectoral working groups, co-led by WHO, UNICEF, WFP, FAO and UNDP, delivered the following results in 2021:



**6,017**

people accessing essential (non-COVID-19-related) health services.



**368**

health facilities receiving support to maintain essential immunization services.



**11,200**

community health workers receiving support to maintain essential services.



**3,500**

children supported with distance/home-based learning.



**53,874**

primary school children receiving meals or take-home rations.



**71,306**

beneficiaries of social protection schemes and COVID-19-related services.



**5,483**

private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported.



**349**

direct beneficiaries of food supply protection regimes.



**63**

organizations benefiting from institutional capacity building.



Watch more



COVID-19: Care  
Tips by ©WHO

COVID-19 exposed the profound structural fragilities of our institutions, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and deepening vulnerabilities. Photo:@WHO

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

### 2.2.1. Strategic Priority 1: People's Well-Being and Capabilities

Table 1. Strategic Priority 1 Highlights

#### Co-Lead Agencies:



#### Contributing Agencies:



#### Contributing Partners:



#### SDGs Supported:



#### UPR Recommendations:

153.38, 153.50, 153.132-156, 153.215

#### Linkages with National Development Priorities:

##### ATS:

- Educated and competent nation
- Healthy and safe nation
- Large and prosperous families

##### Government Programme 2021-2026:

- Provisions 2.3, 4.1-4.9, 6.1-6.4, 6.6

#### Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)

	<b>2021 Available</b> 12,553,457		<b>2021 Required</b> 15,632,943
	<b>2021 Expenditure</b> 14,151,299		

**UNSDCF Outcome 1: People benefit from a universal, affordable, accessible and quality health system, while adopting healthy lifestyle practices.**

#### Contextual challenges

- Limited public financing for emergencies; limited health financial coverage and increased burden on the health system due to the COVID-19 response.
- Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation around the pandemic.
- Significant psychological and mental stress caused by the conflict.

The spread of COVID-19 put the health emergency preparedness and the need to

invest in the health system high on the government's agenda. The pandemic also highlighted the challenge the underfunded health sector at large and financing for emergencies specifically. Health-related emergency prevention and control continued to be at the focus of UN in 2021. Importantly, the UN set to respond to the loss, pain, and disruption caused by the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. Primary health care, including mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), were offered to more than 20,000 displaced people of all ages. Anahit was among those whose lives were touched by this programme. Her [friend recalls](#) how Anahit began to open up after she received UN's help.



**< 50,000**

persons capacitated, including caregivers, schoolteachers, labor migrants, displaced and conflict-affected populations

**< 75,000**

children and teenagers capacitated

**< 15,000**

healthcare workers capacitated

**< 100**

oxygen concentrators, **< 8000** oxygen and venturi masks,

nasal oxygen cannula, **< 100** ventilators, stationary X-ray machines,

refrigerators and freezers, **< 1000** anaphylactic kits donated to MoH

Figure 12. UNSDCF Outcome 1 Highlights

**"Anahit did not talk to us and her family members. After the couple of sessions with the psychologists she started greeting us, drinking coffee with us, and recently joined us to gather herbs in the nearby forest."**

According to the [Review of School-Aged Children Nutrition in Central Europe and Asia](#), one in four adolescents aged 10-24 in Armenia are overweight or obese. Not surprisingly, promotion of healthy lifestyle, with focus on sound nutrition for young children, remained among the UN's top priorities in 2021. After the [UN's Healthy Buddy](#) session, a program designed to bring about behavioral change in food consumption patterns, [Lia, aged 11, shared](#) **"I like sweets very much. But today, when I visually saw how many spoons I consume a day, it made me sick. Now I have to review my diet and at least reduce sweets a little, do some sports."**

A Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment carried out by the UN guided our interventions in this area, mapping food and nutrition security levels, pointing to key drivers of food insecurity and suggesting ways to improve the food and nutrition security situation in the country. **"One of the most essential components in upbringing and health of our children is balanced nutrition. I am happy to witness the development of the School Feeding Programme in Armenia,"** said [Ruslan Kandaurov](#), General Consul of the Russian Federation in Gyumri, speaking of the UN's programme. In 2021, the management of the school feeding programme in Gegharkunik and Lori provinces was transferred to GoA, marking another milestone towards creating national ownership and programmes for accessible and sustainable school feeding in Armenia. [In the words](#) of the Minister of Education Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS), Vahram Dumanyan, the agreement between the UN and GoA opened a new phase in relations, with **"introduction of additional**

**component, which is Transformative School Feeding."**

In response to the concerns expressed by CCA over the limited access to sexual and reproductive health (RH) services and high HIV-infection rates, the UN worked particularly with rural women, women with disabilities, and women from ethnic minorities and adolescent girls. **"The testing became available for me since I can get it in my polyclinic. It took only a few minutes to find anonymously my status,"** says a migrant who received free HIV-testing in a mobile clinic in her village.

At the national level, the UN continued partnership with the GoA to enhance the implementation of public health policies. Policy advice and technical assistance was directed towards the development of: a National Reproductive Health Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026; a new National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2022-2026 that tackles inequality and introduces new approaches to improve access of vulnerable and at risk groups to HIV services; the new National Strategy for Tuberculosis control; the new National Tobacco Control Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2025, as well as nationwide assessments of rehabilitation services to inform the strengthening of community rehabilitation services.

Risk communication and community engagement campaigns were delivered in support of the National Vaccination Program in Armenia, building on behavioral insight studies, such as the qualitative study on obstacles and barriers to vaccination and survey with 2000 participants to reveal public knowledge, risk perception, and level of trust towards COVID-19 vaccination. To mitigate the impact of the epidemic on the vaccination process, the methodological guideline for the implementation of immunosuppressive measures during COVID-19 epidemic was developed and approved.

Watch more



Scaling up Effective  
Hepatitis B, C, HIV,  
Syphilis Treatment  
©UNAIDS

< 70,000

persons benefiting from social protection schemes

< 60,000

parents and caregivers reached by parenting programmes

< 15,000

children benefiting from community-based services, including MHPSS

< 1,500,000

persons reached with MHPSS content

Figure 13. UNSDCF Outcome 2 Highlights

The implementation of the measures helped to curb and, to certain extent, reduce the trend towards declining vaccine rates. The introduction of hexavalent vaccines with non-cellular component of whooping cough in the country also contributed to the improvement of vaccination rates, with total enrollment of 1-year-olds increasing to 91%, that of 2-year-olds increasing to 90.4%, and that of 6-year-olds to 92.4%. As a result of continuous implementation of the measures envisaged by the National Immunization Program, the Republic of Armenia ensures the reduction of morbidity with controllable infectious diseases, the prevention of deaths as a result of them, and ensuring population's intolerance to infectious diseases.

Watch more



#IBELONG  
Campaign  
©UNHCR

**UNSDCF Outcome 2: People benefit from a progressively universal, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection system across the lifecycle.**

#### Key Contextual Challenges

- Dual crisis impacting the pace of social protection reform and government priorities.
- Multiple ongoing systemic reforms, such as the community consolidation reform, lacking synchronization.
- Contained social spending in the aftermath of the dual crisis.

To enhance Armenia's social protection system, we have identified two main pathways. The first is related to the coverage, adequacy, quality, and effectiveness of rights-based and universal social protection programmes and community-based services. The second pathway aims to develop the enabling environment for the social protection system to flourish and become shock-responsive. In 2021, the UN continued efforts to enable community-based care and support services, offering safe spaces and protection and psychosocial wellbeing.

This has created an environment where children, especially those displaced, with disabilities or other vulnerabilities, feel safe and protected and have the opportunities to thrive. **"The [rehabilitation] sessions with professionals are essential for children's development,"** says [the mother of Tigran](#), a curly 6-year old boy who is always cheerful after his physiotherapy sessions to strengthen muscles and counseling to develop cognitive skills. Broadly, the purpose of UN actions is to support the resilience and wellbeing of children and young people through community organized services, be a bridge to early recovery and long-term support for vulnerable children, but also to have an effect on economic empowerment, offering flexible working and childcare arrangements for parents.

UN was also the main GoA partner in implementing the deinstitutionalization agenda, expanding community-based services, and strengthening alternative family-type care for children deprived of parental care. Thanks to this partnership, the number of institutionalized children did not increase despite the dual crisis. Moreover, the number of placements for children without parental care in foster families increased with an unprecedented number of 86 children in foster families, including 9 children with disabilities. Cash and non-cash assistance to cover urgent social needs of vulnerable persons of concern (PoC), including refugees, asylum-seekers, persons in refugee-like situations as well as people displaced by the conflict were prioritized as part of the response to strengthen the resilience of the affected populations.

At the request of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the UN supported the design and operation of shock-responsive national social protection system.

For example, the upgrading of the key hotline of MoLSA resulted in automation and efficiency of the system, [increasing the answered calls from a daily 36% to 76%](#). UN also supported MoLSA in conducting a comprehensive needs assessment targeting 29,110 households affected by COVID-19, military hostilities in and around NK, and poverty to inform the shock-responsiveness and resilience of social protection programmes. Additionally, the recommendations of the UN's scoping mission fed directly into the set-up of a social protection unit which, among others, was tasked to strengthen risk management and shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) system and national emergency preparedness.

On the policy environment line, UN continued supporting large-scale policy and legal reforms in partnership with MoLSA. An important highlight here was the development of Armenia's first ever comprehensive Labor and Social Protection Strategy. It was also the first time that social protection actors prioritized the systemic goal of ensuring the proactiveness, effectiveness and resilience of the social protection system including its ability to respond to shocks. Adviser to the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Viktoria Aydinyan, [notes](#) that this strategy is unprecedented: **"By its mandate, the Ministry covers a wide range of areas, among which, social protection, social security, labor and employment, gender, demography, and so on. Which means that we are uniquely positioned to service citizens from birth to even post-mortem. The human being will be at the core of this strategy."**

The policy making process was underpinned by extensive capacity building of MoLSA and social partners to incorporate international labour and social security standards into national policies and legislation. A total of 162 public servants from MoLSA, the Integrated

Social Service (ISS), and representatives of workers and employers' organizations, participated in series of webinars concluded that the Labour and Social Protection Strategy needs to address all nine core social security guarantees and stressing the need for a systemic social dialogue. Anticipating the need to build ISS capacity to deliver employment and social protection programmes jointly as mandated by new regulations, assessment, and trainings for integrated service delivery was conducted with directors and heads of departments of 49 territorial units of ISS: **"Strengthening links between education, social protection benefits and services and access to labour market and decent jobs is one of key prerequisites for human capital development,"** stressed deputy minister Ruben Sargsyan.

In 2021, other key elements in support of evidence-based policy making included the review of vulnerability assessment system to inform the poverty-targeted benefits packages for families and children living in poverty and deprivation, assessment of social protection policies and programmes for families with many children and assessment of ISS as well as drafting of the new Family Code and the Law on the Rights of the Child. In April 2021, the reform on the integrated social services culminated in the establishment of a Unified Social Service, with due focus on emerging vulnerable groups and alignment with ongoing reforms and international standards. The National Social Protection Floor was assessed from gender equality perspective calling for gender responsive financing of labour and social protection programmes and investment in care enabling equitable sharing of family responsibilities.

**Outcome 3: People exercise their talents and skills, benefitting from age-appropriate, lifelong learning, inclusive, and quality education in an enabling and safe environment.**

< 12,000

students, including CwD and children in refugee-like situations capacitated

< 100,000

primary school children capacitated

< 2500

adolescents and VET faculty members capacitated

< 10,000

persons reached, including those looking for self-employment and remote labor market opportunities

Figure 14. UNSDCF Outcome 3 Highlights

### Contextual challenges

- Dual crisis hindering access of children to education, especially in border communities.
- Set-up of Educational Management Information System (EMIS) module on out of school children delayed due to the late adoption of the related Government decree.
- EMIS data on enrollment of children with disabilities (CwD) classified by “medical” model of disability.

The theory of change (TOC) underpinning this outcome stems from the CCA, indicating that Armenia’s education system would benefit from improved school structures, provision of quality education, including pre-primary education, and improved inclusivity, especially with regards to adolescents and youth with disabilities. To contribute to better quality and inclusive education, the UN prioritized supporting schools to be safe, respond to children’s needs, including academic standards, physical conditions and psychosocial wellbeing as well as the inclusion and integration of vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities and persons from bordering areas.

The common thread was to create adequate learning opportunities for groups left behind or at risk of being left behind, including CwD, girls and boys in remote areas, people from poorer households, migrants and refugees, and young unemployed people.

The development of 21st century skills was under UN’s specific focus to facilitate a stronger link between employment and education. Today, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education has become even more important. In an environment where boys are more likely to be encouraged to take STEM classes and pursue a career in that field, UN particularly targeted

adolescent girls and young women to broaden their entrepreneurial skills, create startups, and explore entry-points in the ICT industry. “...but I am very stubborn, you see, I was able to convince my friends that there are no separate professions for boys and girls. To all girls of my age, I would advise to not be afraid to challenge opposing opinions,” [says Yeva Stepanyan](#), 7, a participant of the UN’s Accelerator#5 programme. The programme encompassed over 300 girls and young women from across Armenia, 10 new startup ideas, 30 weeks of training in programming, business, marketing and business English, and 3 kickstarting Armenian startups. Alongside this, agricultural infrastructure was introduced to 41 schools across Armenia, acting as an important STEM learning aid for 3,818 children and members of school communities, breaking down barriers of challenges identified by the Ministry of Economy (MoE) and the National Agrarian University of Armenia.

On the education policy planning front, the UN worked in close partnership with GoA counterparts to shape the broader educational reform, informing, among others, the development of:

- State Youth Policy for 2021-2026
- Healthy Lifestyle curriculum
- Regulation on “Identification and Referral of Children Out of Compulsory Schooling” adopted in 2021
- Revision of early identification of developmental delays/disabilities and intervention policy framework
- Action plan for transition to fully inclusive preschool education system adopted in 2021.
- Draft preschool education standards
- Amendments to the Law on General Education to address quality and equity gaps in education



Thanks to UN Armenia joint negotiations and advocacy, the Armenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS) received a grant of 550,000 USD from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). [GPE grant](#) aims to develop data-driven sector-wide education policy in partnership with the UN and more than 40 members of the Local Education Group (LEG), including development partners, representatives from CSOs, private sector and teachers'

associations. As a result of UN's advocacy, the 2021-2026 Government Programme includes a target of 500 kindergartens and preschools to be established or renovated by 2026 and a state budget was allocated towards the establishment of alternative preschool services in rural communities. Comprehensive evidence-generation is ongoing to inform the education sector plan development in collaboration with the LEG.

## 2.2.2. Strategic Priority 2: Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development

**Table 2. Strategic Priority 2 Highlights**

### Co-Lead Agencies:



### Contributing Agencies:



### Contributing Partners:



### SDGs supported:



### UPR Recommendations:

153.78-79, 153-218

### Linkages with National Development Priorities:

#### ATS:

- Mass-export of finished goods
- Productive and responsible farming
- Attractive for business Armenia

#### Government Programme 2021-2026:

- Provisions 2.1-2.8, 3.3-3.4, 4.10, 6.6

### Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)

	<b>2021 Available</b> 13,220,326		<b>2021 Required</b> 15,251,509
	<b>2021 Expenditure</b> 10,304,743		

**< 40,000**

persons capacitated across Armenia, including displaced persons, labor migrants, women and youth with vulnerabilities

**< 20,000**

persons capacitated in bordering regions

**< 600**

smallholder farmers, more than 40 small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

**< 8**

farms and 26 micro businesses supported across the country

Figure 15. UNSDCF Outcome 4 Highlights

**UNSDCF Outcome 4: People, communities, and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth.**

**Key Contextual Challenges**

- Redirection of resources to immediate emergency relief and early recovery priorities.
- Reduced economic mobility due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, affecting the demand and supply of labour markets both domestically and globally.
- Reduced remittance flows, particularly affecting the labor migrants and their families.

The pathway towards more equitable opportunities for all inevitably goes through the promotion of inclusive green growth. In 2021, the UN continued investing in green and sustainable interventions to increase women's and men's capacities for sustainable livelihoods and enhance opportunities for decent job creations across the country. Many interventions under this outcome were driven also by post-COVID 19 recovery effort, targeting specific vulnerable groups.

One specific focus of activities was advancing opportunities for female entrepreneurship. Margarita Muradyan was among the UN partners who emerged as an innovator. She turned her house in Kalavan into a small rural restaurant, combining technological solutions and the concept of permaculture. With maximum exposure and use of sunlight now possible, Margarita aims to collect 85-90% of products from the area and grow her own resources in a way to reduce the damage to the nature. **"I feel responsible for my consumption and my lifestyle and the small**

**business I aim to build is based on this responsible consumption," says Anahit.**

UN's strategic interventions were also geared towards developing new capacities and creating jobs and opportunities for these skills to be employed. One such example is the promotion of re/up-skilling in culture and creative industry, supporting Anush Zeinalian's idea to start local production of woolen blankets in collaboration with Armenian designers. **"The grant helped us create our production and develop our website and social networks," says Anush,** who has attracted modern artists in creation of Amasia Wool Factory products as part of the UN funding.

In this context, the UN Joint Programme funded by UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), "Accelerating women's empowerment for economic resilience and renewal: the post COVID-19 reboot in Armenia", has been instrumental in tackling the inequalities faced by women entrepreneurs and women-led businesses. In 2021, the project supported 170 female informal sector workers, 15 women led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), 300 women, girls and kids, and established 9 startups and created 2 partnerships with private and public sectors. UN contributions included a pilot study of Time Use Survey and the initiation of a gender assessment of National Statistics System

UNTFHS-funded "Enhancing Human Security and Building a Resilient Society in the Disadvantaged Communities of Armenia" was another UN joint programme that responded to the economic insecurity, offering alternative means of livelihoods to those who suffered the most from the COVID-19 outbreak.

For example, the residents of Akner, a small village in Armenia, saw installation of water irrigation system and are now cultivating their own land, becoming self-sufficient. Vardan, previously a labour migrant to the Russian Federation [recalls](#): “After these great improvements, my friend and I returned to our families and are engaged in agricultural activities.”

Given the vulnerabilities and needs of conflict-affected populations, socio-economic reintegration of war veterans was under UN’s particular concern, requiring enabling opportunities for decent employment. Socio-economic profiling of beneficiaries and professional orientation sessions became part of the pilot model on socio-economic reintegration of conflict-affected population to inform national policymaking. “I am proud that the UK is actively supporting Armenia’s post-conflict recovery...I am particularly pleased that this project will provide vocational training and practical support for vulnerable people, including veterans, to gain new skills. This will help enable the conflict-affected population to find and benefit from opportunities for decent, valued employment,” [said John Gallagher](#), British Ambassador to Armenia at the opening of the Career Guidance and Professional Orientation Camp for the veterans of war.

UN also directed its support to improve rural livelihoods, income diversification and competitive agriculture. One such example is the introduction and testing of four new varieties of certified seeds offering alternative food sources on the one hand and revitalizing local varieties on the other. “These quinoa varieties will be tested to adapt to the agroecological zones of the country, for their incorporation as a production alternative within the strategy of adaptation to climate change and contribute to the improvement

of food security of family farmers due to the high nutritious value of quinoa,” said [Davit Babayan](#), director of the “Seeds Agency”, a state non-commercial organization of the Ministry of Economy (MoE), reflecting on UN’s intervention that strengthens national capacity for proper seed supply and quality control.

UN efforts towards green and inclusive economic policy capacities also included support to MoE with industrial analysis and policy development; survey with 1,000 enterprises to inform policymaking in the area of skills development and strengthening of labor market institutions; evidence generation around market functionality, upstream supply chains, and feasibility of investment in a variety of food value chains; support to drafting of the Law on Agriculture. Additionally, there was the strengthening of COVID-19 resilience within the National Customs Systems of Armenia to interconnect with eTIR International System and ensure contactless, paperless and seamless border crossing.

**UNSDCF Outcome 5: Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate smart solutions.**

#### Contextual challenges

- Increasing frequency and scale of shocks, intensifying the climate crisis.
- Drastically decreased proportion of state support to energy efficiency activities.

“The European Union aims to be the first continent worldwide to become climate neutral in 2050...The green transition will change the way food is produced and consumed, the way people travel and move, and much more. To get there, everyone will need to do their bit,” [said Andrea Wiktorin](#),

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Eco-Friendly Future  
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**<1.6 million**

reached and 70,500 engagements recorded by the climate action campaign

**<40,000**

residents benefitting from agro-ecological and solar energy use systems

**<50**

host communities served

**6**

green technology education centers established

**27**

automatic weather stations installed

Figure 16. UNSDCF Outcome 5 Highlights

EU Ambassador to Armenia, at the UN-held youth contest award ceremony dedicated to World Environment Day.

On the pathway to “green” economy, UN continued supporting the adoption of alternative energy solutions and saw savings in local budgets thanks to the application of energy-efficient, green solutions. One such example was installation of photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters and LED streetlights with view of generating savings for municipalities and redirecting community funds to other needs. In Aznavdзор village, for instance, an early spring morning in 2021 started with the vibrant sounds of young men installing solar water heaters on the roof of the local school building. Now they have more energy, and have already started saving on their energy bills and reducing use of firewood. **“Our expenditures have decreased by four times,”** [says Gohar Sargsyan](#), a displaced woman who has benefitted from the programme. More broadly, 10 communities hosting about 12,000 spontaneous arrivals saved over 43,000 USD in energy costs through solar thermal and photovoltaic systems provided by the UN.

UN energy efficiency efforts attracted the interest of the GoA to the extent that the Government Decree regulating the state subvention program was amended to make energy efficient residential buildings’ retrofits eligible for state funding. With UN’s continuous support, Armenia set an ambitious 40% CO2 emissions NDC target for 2030. **“Armenia’s NDC 2021-2030 demonstrates not only our increased climate ambitions, but also sets the country’s approach of rethinking economic development patterns and accelerating actions towards the transition to a more sustainable, resilient and low-carbon economy. This transition is at the core of country’s energy independence, energy**

**security and green growth.”** [said Romanos Petrosyan](#), the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Armenia. Looking forward, the UN designed the Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFF), a comprehensive methodology for an efficient institutional and financing infrastructure in climate change that will inform related policy thinking in 2022.

The pandemic, coupled with the ongoing climate and ecological crises, and the impacts of inequality, renewed the call to boost people’s and ecosystems’ resilience to climate change impacts and natural and technological disasters. UN efforts in this context included:

- Review of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) national strategy and development of the draft Law on DRM and Civil Protection in partnership with the DRR National Platform and the Ministry of Emergency Situations; as well as risk assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities at national and sub-national levels in partnership with the Statistical Committee of RA.
- Local level risk assessment conducted in 21 settlements informing DRM community plans.
- Installation of 6 Automatic Weather Stations strengthening Weather forecast and observation network of Armenian Hydrometeorological Service.
- 39 schools equipped with DRM plans and tools.
- 123 teachers and 18 school administrators from 49 schools benefited from interactive teaching and learning seminars on DRM.
- Members of 36 school clubs with 234 students (39.3% boys, 60.7% girls) from target schools participated in learning-by-doing exercises on DRM and school safety.

Watch more

Renewable Energy  
for Micro  
Enterprises ©WFP



- Software solution for recording and valuation of disaster damage and loss developed in accordance with the SENDAI framework.
- Additional early warning systems installed in most vulnerable bordering villages, increasing community preparedness against disasters and shocks.
- Customization of the Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment for Armenia.

Thanks to the above efforts, among others, Armenia adopted the first ever National Adaptation Plan; setting the strategic framework and national coordination system for mid- and long-term climate risk informed policymaking. The Interagency Coordination Council for the Implementation of the Requirements and Provisions of the Paris Agreement on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement was created on July 6, 2021 by the Decision N 719-A of RA Prime Minister.

## 2.2.3. Strategic Priority 3: Responsive and Effective Governance

**Table 3. Strategic Priority 3 Highlights**

### Lead Agency:



### Contributing Agencies:



### Contributing Partners:



### SDGs supported:



### UPR Recommendations:

153.35-36, 153.40-41, 153.43, 153.52-55, 153.57-58, 163.60.72, 153.73-74, 153.84-93, 153.108, 153.110-113, 153.114-128, 153.236, 153.241-246

### Linkages with National Development Priorities:

#### ATS:

- Efficient and Accountable Governance
- Rule of Law in Armenia

#### Government Programme 2021-2026:

- Provisions 2.1-2.8, 3.3-3.4, 4.10, 6.6

### Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)

	<b>2021 Available</b> 4,976,002		<b>2021 Required</b> 6,085,917
	<b>2021 Expenditure</b> 5,103,998		

< 1000

young persons from local authorities

< 4000

women, youth, adolescents and vulnerable migrants

< 700

new patrol police officers

Figure 17. UNSDCF Outcome 6 Highlights

**UNSDCF Outcome 6: People benefit from effective and accountable governance systems and institutions that safeguard human rights and uphold the rule of law; and a public administration that ensures effective and human-centred service delivery for all.**

**Key Contextual Challenges**

- Poor donor coordination, with consequential overlaps in programming and lack of synergies.
- High turnover of civil servants and limited institutional memory in restructured or newly established institutions.

The change pathway towards democratic governance underpinning UNSDCF is through strengthening people's trust in the governance systems on one side and enhancing policymaking and people-centered service delivery capacity on the other.

To support inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance in Armenia, UN's interventions continued targeting electoral and parliamentary processes as well as public administrations institution-strengthening. In 2021, UN was called in for electoral assistance by GoA and contributed to the conduct of snap parliamentary elections that were [assessed by OSCE ODIHR](#) as competitive and well-managed within a short time frame. UN support focused on modernization modalities and high-tech solutions, including e-Voting options, based on UN's "Feasibility Study on Innovative Technologies for the Electoral Process in Armenia." With UN's support, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) established the modern and user-friendly website, including the interactive map of polling stations.

Under horizontal workstream, UN made sure that the nationwide voter education campaign and trainings reach out to the most underrepresented groups while the [interactive map published](#) on the CEC now provides persons with different types of disabilities comprehensive information on the accessibility of the polling stations. UN also helped to enhance women's political participation and mainstream gender equality considerations into various aspects of CEC work, which is more thoroughly discussed under the achievements of UNSDCF standalone outcome on gender equality.

On the people's side, UN's efforts were directed at civic participation and nationwide education campaigns, which among others, strengthened the dialogue and participatory policymaking. For example, the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Functionality Assessment of the Person were adopted in 2021 building on the participatory platforms offered by the UN.

Additionally, Parliament's Standing Committees mobile sessions were supported with organization of several consultative pre-legislative and post-legislative sessions that led to critical legislative amendments. Thus, for example, the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes adopted in 2021 integrated strengthened provisions on child-friendly justice and alternative sanctions for children in conflict with the law. UN also continued to support the multi-sectoral Council on Justice for Children, led by MoJ, including discussions and events with children to facilitate national policy dialogue to end violence against children.

UN was GoA's partner of choice also in other governance sectors, with contributions to:

- Functional review of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and development of anti-corruption e-platform.
- Policy advice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) systems driven by the Baseline assessment on "Improving access to judicial and non-judicial remedies related to labour laws and standards".
- Conceptual Framework for the Migration Management in Armenia and Study data sources, methodologies and dissemination tools with the aim of identifying how to improve the quality of migration statistics in Armenia.
- Modernization of Work Permit Issuance System (WPIS) and steps towards setup of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) system from Armenia towards enhanced resilience and mobility of migrants.
- Launch of the new patrol police system building, among others, on UN's functional review of the police educational system.
- Modernization and modification of training and educational programs for Border Guard (BG) Troops of the National Security Service of Armenia in line with international border management standards.

**UNSDCF Outcome 7: People benefit from evidence-based, human-centric, and SDG-aligned policies supported by diversified sources of financing, innovation, and partnerships for sustainable development for all.**

### **Key Contextual Challenges:**

- Dual crisis shifting the focus from data collection efforts about the situation of children towards administrative data systems strengthening.
- Incompliance between different data systems belonging to different national counterparts.

[According to Asia and the Pacific Progress Report 2022](#), Armenia is among the top five countries in the Asia-Pacific region along with the Philippines, Thailand, Georgia and Indonesia, where approximately 75 percent of SDG indicators have data. The integrated ecosystem for SDG data and analysis; availability of sound evidence for policymaking and mobilization of finances and partnerships for SDGs have been prioritized by the UN to help fast-track development progress.

In quest of innovative, impact-oriented, and data-driven solutions for policymaking our data science projects included:

[Edu2Work](#), a UN-run project, that uses a cutting-edge machine learning technology to offer a real-time snapshot of the labour market to feed into policies and suggest investment opportunities in various industries.

**[“Our labor market is transforming rapidly... It is paramount to have a tool like Edu2work in these challenging times to get a real-time overview of the labor market trends and make evidence-based decisions in regards the workforce re-skilling opportunities and economy recovery and development,” says Mesrop Arakelyan](#)**, RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in 2020 - April 2021.

[Travelinsights](#) is the first-ever AI-powered real-time data analytics tool in the tourism sector in Armenia. To this date, the platform has generated more than 500,000 negative and positive insights based on the analysis of 175,000 online reviews.

[SDG Monitor](#): AI-powered, open-access interactive online data analytics tool for real-time SDG progress monitoring in Armenia, focusing on SDG 16.

[AI4Mulberry](#) designed to increase the efficiency of GoA internal electronic document management system, Mulberry, and improve citizen-government correspondence. As a result, 99.7% of the time needed to read and categorize digital correspondence was saved for public servants.

[SDG Investor Map](#): Launch of a new market intelligence product to attract foreign investment by offering public and private investors actionable knowledge across the SDG spectrum.

[“Big Data” mining](#), including analysis of public databases, to map the skills and profile the Armenian diaspora in the United States and France, reveal emigration patterns of skilled diaspora.

[MigApp](#): a multilingual global online platform, which serves to provide useful information to migrants about countries they plan to visit or reside in.

Application of behavioral science to policy making is another approach UN is taking to better understand human nature and improve the lives of Armenians, including:

[Behavioral experiment aimed at decreasing plastic bag consumption](#) at the supermarkets, with the most successful incentive – financial incentive letter - decreasing plastic bag consumption by 40% and confirming that both [financial bonus and environmental nudges serve as effective policy instruments](#) to reduce disposable plastic bag purchase.

[Doughnut economics](#): A new model developed in partnership with Yerevan Municipality to support more inclusive and green recovery of Yerevan from the COVID -19 crisis. Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia, embarked on this challenging journey of “meeting the Doughnut”, being one of the pioneers, in fact, the first city in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to pilot the downscaling of the Doughnut economics model on the city level.

Social Behaviour Change Pilot Campaign (SBCC) in five schools and with 680 children to increase the uptake of healthy breakfasts among children and parents. The campaign evaluation found increase in the uptake of healthy breakfast among parents (from 52% to 87%) and children (from 62% to 95%).

[Behavioral experiment](#) aimed at increasing take-up rate of the national cervical cancer screening program. **“RA Government is putting the emphasis on preventive healthcare to increase the well-being of its citizens and decrease fatalities. The behaviorally informed intervention resulted in unprecedented impact - a six-fold increase in visits. In light of this success, it is expected that the methodology of this intervention, in addition to awareness campaigns, will be scaled up not only on national level but also for promoting other screening and immunization programs,”** said Lena Nanushyan, First Deputy Minister of Health.



In 2021, UN contributions to national data production, analysis and evidence-based policymaking also included:

**Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and INFF roadmap:** Delivered as part of the UN's Joint SDG Funded "Making Finance Work for Transformative Change in Armenia: UN-locking Finance for Armenia 2030" project. DFA assessment covers the overall financial landscape of Armenia, including public and private finance flows to inform dialogue with the Government and ultimately SDG financing strategy for the country.

**Review of vulnerability assessment system for poverty-targeted benefits,** aiming to include human-rights based approaches, promote inclusive solutions and access to decent work for those most left behind.

#### **Nationwide Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment**

Two rounds of **food security monitoring conducted among displaced population from NK** to inform about the food security level and design the targeting criteria for response.

#### **Comprehensive Situation Analysis of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Support in the review of **administrative data system architecture for child rights and child protection** and development of disaggregated data on different aspects of child wellbeing reported in the TransMonEE database.

Support to **design of Unified Information System (UIS)** of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and mapping of family social needs, including for rapid response

**Comprehensive multi-year assessment of market functionality and supply chain dynamics** in Armenia complemented by feasibility studies and policy briefs on various food value chains to inform food security investments.

Support in the analysis of **Integrated Living Condition Survey, data cleaning and management,** poverty measurement and social snapshot publication.

Strengthening national capacities (the Statistical Committee, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Emergency Situations) to collect, process, analyze and disseminate **data on disaster damage and loss in agriculture.**

#### **Time Use Survey (TUS) joint pilot with ARMSTAT**

Initiation of **gender assessment of the National Statistics System (NSS)** in Armenia as part of global flagship programme on gender statistics "Making Every Woman and Girl Count".

#### **Assessment of the social protection floors**

**Exploratory research on the Protection of Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women from Harmful and Hazardous Work in Armenia.**

#### **Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) survey**

## 2.2.4. Strategic Priority 4: Standalone Outcome on Gender Equality

**Table 4. Strategic Priority 4 Highlights**

### Co-Lead Agencies:



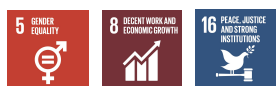
### Contributing Agencies:



### Contributing Partners:



### SDGs supported:



### UPR Recommendations:

120.24, 120.47-120.74, 120.76, 120.100, 120.103-120.113, 120.115, 120.156-120.159

### Linkages with National Development Priorities:

#### Government Programme 2021-2026:

→ Provisions 4.1, 4.6, 4.7

#### National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights and the 2020-2022 Action Plan

### Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)

	<b>2021 Available</b> 2,675,113		<b>2021 Required</b> 3,013,113
	<b>2021 Expenditure</b> 3,387,162		

**Outcome 8:** All persons benefit from gender equality and equal opportunities to realize their human rights, fulfill their economic, political, and social potential and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

### Key Contextual Challenges:

- Compound crisis, increasing women's unpaid care workload and cases of gender-based violence and affecting specifically the political participation of women.
- Postponed/stalled ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (DV) (withdrawal of Turkey from the convention harming the already challenging process).

"Today, girls break stereotypes, overcome many problems, acting as leaders and innovators. Yes, each of us, in our turn, must create even more opportunities for the voice of girls to be more than audible in the decision-making process, using their participation in various spheres of public life - culture, sports, economy, as well as politics," [Narek Mkrtchyan](#), RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

Although in recent years Armenia has made progress regarding gender equality, especially in the area of education, the full realization of gender equality in the country is prevented by prevailing gender norms and subsequent gender stereotypes. As indicated in the CCA, women and girls are being left behind, especially those facing intersecting forms of discriminations.

Watch more



Ensuring Gender Equality ©UNFPA

Watch more



Dads Matter  
©UNFPA

The UNSDCF for Armenia 2021-2025, includes a standalone outcome on gender equality. In the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, both the CCA and the UNSDCF have been assessed to exceed the minimum requirements. In the annual progress assessment reports for both 2020 and 2021, the collaboration and engagement between the UNCT and women's/gender equality CSOs has also been assessed to have exceeded the minimum requirements.

The UN continued to challenge perceptions about women's and men's roles in the family and in society and aimed to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV). The opening of family corners; campaigns like "Dads Matter"; "My father and I" exhibitions and competitions; interactive theater plays; TV programs and TEDx videos were all part of the broader work to draw attention to responsible parenting and tackle harmful stereotypes and perceptions about women's and men's roles in society. Participation of prominent fathers and influencers, in particular healthcare providers, social workers and priests, showcased positive examples of fatherhood. **"The idea of a whole family, where everything is built on love, is essential," says Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan,** the Primate of the Tavush Diocese, a participant of the campaign.

With a current reach of over 19,000 users, the [Safe YOU](#) application is the offer of the UN and its partners to report cases of GBV on the one hand and to inform decision-makers, on the other. Amidst the pandemic that spiked GBV incidents, the app was a timely resolve, [reports the Forbes](#), telling the story of a 26-year-old mother, receiving death threats from her former husband: **"...when he hit her in the face, she pressed Safe YOU app's SOS button... the police arrived and apprehended him at the crime scene."** Developed in Armenia, the platform is already available in

Georgia and is being prepared to be launched in other countries.

In 2021, the UN continued advancing women's socio-economic opportunities and promoting equal engagement of women and men at the community level. Interventions under this area addressed some of the barriers related to other outcome areas, for instance, women's lower labour force participation (UNSDCF Outcome 4). An example was the formation of an agricultural cooperative that helped to increase the national growth of healthy crops, to ensure profitable agricultural growth in the province and, inter alia, increase the participation of women as decision-makers of the cooperative. **"Before the program, I did not imagine that lentils could grow on our land. Now we grow lentils in hectares... Before we worked by hand, now everything is replaced by agricultural machinery," says a woman smallholder farmer** and an active cooperative member. To see how the UN programmes accompany young leaders in their exciting journeys, [watch the story of Amalya Harutyunyan](#), a 20-year-old girl with visual impairment and a participant of the UN's "I AM the community" youth camp.

A large number of UPR recommendations to Armenia include gender equality broadly but call for equal participation of women in public, and political life specifically. Key UN achievements in this area include:

**Election administration:** UN supported mainstreaming gender equality considerations into various aspects of CEC's work, including gender-disaggregated data collection. Following UN's long-term advocacy, 30% gender national and local quota was applied for the first time, bringing 10% increase of women representation in the Parliament [34% vs 24%], and ensuring 31% women's representation in 45 communities.

Watch more



Modern Parliament  
for Modern Armenia  
©UNDP

< 3 million

people, including 200,000 adolescents, reached through TV series

< 16,000

persons reached through social media campaign

< 60,000

persons capacitated, including community members, teachers and education workers

< 2,000

vulnerable women employed

<1,400

women capacitated, out of which 40% were elected to office

2

female-led bakeries opened

Figure 18. UNSDCF Outcome 8 Highlights

Importantly, women elected or running for elections enhanced their leadership potential. As a result, 40% out of overall 317 elected women were UN's former beneficiaries. Moreover, they continue spreading the leadership spirit. Alvard Avetikyan, participant of the UN's Women leadership School who was elected a member of the community council [says](#), "Our women are very smart, they are active, they are more imaginative... they know what children need, what the community needs," and encourages other women not to be afraid and become part of the decision-making.

**Parliamentary support:** Close partnership with the Parliament, particularly with the Standing Committee on Budget and Financial Affairs, resulted in the reflection of gender responsive budgeting - for the first time - in the Law on the Annual State Budget for 2022.

**Evidence generation:** In 2021, Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) was completed along with support to MoLSA to institutionalize the PGA recommendations.

First ever Gender Impact Assessment on employability was piloted with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. [Baseline study on gender norms and stereotypes in the countries of the Eastern Partnership](#) was developed.

**Public administration (PA):** UN's expert support to the Prime Minister's Office informed the drafting of gender-responsive Public Administration Reform (PAR) Strategy. Also, a gender dimension of the PA system was under the focus of: (i) Countrywide survey on public attitudes and perceptions regarding women and men engagement in PA at national and regional levels; (ii) Survey on students' aspiration to join public service; (iii) Screening of legal acts regulating civil service system in Armenia through gender prism.

UNDP signature Gender Equality Seal Award Methodology for Public Institutions was applied by the Civil Service Office (CSO) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Watch more



Prominent  
Armenian Women  
for Women's Rights  
©UNFPA

## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2021 UNCT reinforced existing and forged new partnerships to advance the SDGs.

**Examples of innovative partnerships included:**

- 11 Armenian private companies signed a joint statement of CEOs and became full members of UN Women/Global Compact Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) network. The signatory private companies will act as change agents promoting WEPs practices among business community and public at large: "...[joining the WEPs triggered new discoveries and we came up with actions towards practical empowerment of women...](#)"

[while the law entitles women to continue receiving their usual salary for a limited period of maternity leave, we came up with a scheme allowing women to continue receiving their usual salary beyond that period, by working from home,"](#) said Irina Chaltikyan, Deputy CEO of McCann, speaking at the UN ThinkEQUAL signature discussions. UNDP also teamed up with the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) around joint behavioral experiment on financial literacy among women local leaders. The partnership will result in e-learning platform for raising financial literacy levels within different groups of population.



- WFP came up with inclusive finance mechanism to make solar stations available to small businesses in partnership with the private sector. The solution aims to bring together the financial sector, the private sector and the public sector to reach 3,000 individuals from 750 households by investing in 250 small businesses.
- In 2021, the SDG Lab grew its wide range of partnerships with Innovation Hubs, leading organizations in digital space. New partnerships were established at the international level with teams that are moving the frontiers in their industries, including Behavioral Insights Team, Burning Glass Technologies, SweRoad, Oslo Governance Center, Global Data Barometer, and DeepPavlov.
- UNDP energy efficiency programming requirements attracted state co-funding, affecting, the GoA subvention scheme in communities to allow for state funding of energy efficient buildings, retrofits. Now the retrofiting is partially covered by the state budget, while local communities themselves benefit from the 10% bonus from GoA for implementing energy-efficient retrofit projects.

**Examples of north-south, south-south and/or triangular partnerships include:**

- [From Armenia to Tanzania:](#) UNDP ImpactAim AgriTech Accelerator, designed to support science and technology-backed ventures,

offers Agrosoko, a Tanzanian start-up, solutions to tackle challenges in the agricultural sector and bridge the gap between African farmers and large offtake buyers.

- Knowledge transfer between Belarus and Armenia experts on new methods for conducting population and housing censuses and improve the quality of migration statistics, facilitated by UNECE.

- From Armenia to Georgia, Iraq and beyond. **[“We are in the right place at the right time. We have a solution to the problem of violence that is increasing. We need to move quickly to make sure that it is available in as many countries as possible,” says social entrepreneur Mariam Torosyan,](#)** who developed the “Safe YOU” mobile solution shielding women against domestic violence. The application is already saving lives in Georgia, with over 5000 active users. With UNFPA’s support, the application is being translated into Arabic and Kurdish to prepare it for the launch in Iraq; while negotiations are underway between Safe YOU and several governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa.

UNCT in Armenia has also been strengthening interagency cooperation, mobilizing funds increasingly under overall RCO coordination, including:



From Armenia to Tanzania: solutions tackling challenges of the agricultural sector worldwide. Photo: @UNDP

**Table 5. Interagency Cooperation in the Mobilization of Funds**

Fund	Joint Programme Name	Contributing Partners	Funding
<b>Covid-19 Response and Recovery fund</b>	COVID-19 and Resilience in Armenia: Mitigating the Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable People and Communities	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM	\$1,000,000
	Accelerating women's empowerment for economic resilience and renewal: the post COVID-19 reboot in Armenia	UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNIDO, UNDP	\$850,000
<b>Joint SDG Fund</b>	Making Finance Work for Transformative Change in Armenia: UN-locking Finance for Armenia 2030	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF	\$1,000,000
<b>UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF</b>	Funding is provided for setting-up the necessary enabling environment and ecosystem with mechanisms and platforms allowing systemic approach to CRPD implementation and disability mainstreaming	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA	\$100,000
<b>UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)</b>	Enhancing Human Security and Building a Resilient Society in the Disadvantaged Communities of Armenia	UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, FAO, UNIDO	\$1,999,596 (With the overall project funding being \$6,063,170)
<b>UN Road Safety Fund</b>	Re-framing Road Safety in Armenia: connecting data, people and policies on Armenian roads	UNDP, UNICEF, WHO	\$488,321

## 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In the third year of UN reform, UNCT continued to steadily adopt 'new generation' approaches:

**UNSDCF design benefitting from multi-stakeholder consultations:** UNSDCF design was informed not only by conventional stakeholders, such as resident and non-resident UN agencies, GoA and development partners, but also UN75 survey was localized and generated the views of 6,148 people living in Armenia. Importantly, the perspectives of people left behind were generated through in-depth discussions with more than 50 CSOs, representing people faced with different forms of deprivation, disadvantage and discrimination.

**Tailored UNCT configuration:** As part of UNCT configuration exercise, 8 more UN agencies that were not signatories to 2016-2020 UNDAF, signed the 2021-2025 UNSDCF. As such, 20 resident and non-resident UN entities committed to achievement of UNSDCF results ensuring UN's needs-based, tailored presence in the country.

**Derivation of UN entity programmes from UNSDCF:** UN entities' country programming instruments were developed in line with the strategic approach, priorities and interventions of the UNSDCF. UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA Country Programme Documents (CPDs) outcomes reflect the UNSDCF outcomes verbatim and there is an agreement

among other UNCT entities to also directly derive their agency-specific country programme instruments from the UNSDCF results.

**Use of Joint Work Plans (JWP) and Results Groups (RG):** In parallel to UNSDCF formulation, Results Groups (RGs) were established for each of the four UNSDCF pillars, with the UN Internal Gender Theme Group (IGTG) assuming the RG role for the standalone outcome on gender equality. 2021 was the first year for UNSDCF implementation and efficiency gains of increased collaboration and coherence remain to be seen. Still, UNCT has already sensed the benefits of joint RG-level work planning as well as annual review discussions and joint reflections.

**UNCT Armenia onboarding UN INFO:** In 2021, UNCT initiated the transition to UN INFO, the UN's global and digital platform to plan, monitor and report on UNSDCF implementation. In response to longstanding requests from UN member states, UN INFO serves as a single house hosting real-time information of all UN agencies' work, both collectively and agency specific. In 2021, RCO 'digitized' UNSDCF along with its JWPs and coordinated UNCT annual online reporting directly through UN INFO. Not yet fully operational, UN INFO has already replaced UN Armenia's previously manual, excel-based reporting allowing for more accurate and consistent data management.

**Joint programming on the rise:** Joint programming has enabled to increasingly integrate UNSDCF guiding principles (such as gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), resilience and risk mitigation, LNOB, human rights and conflict sensitivity). Inter-agency coordination mechanisms, in many instances, have proved effective in accelerating coherent delivery and making better use of limited resources for greater impact. In monetary terms, joint resource mobilization under RCO coordination alone has attracted over USD 33 million as part of SERRP, over USD 46 million as part of IARP and around USD 6 million for joint delivery of development projects.



"Dads Matter": promoting responsible fatherhood culture in Armenia. Photo: @UNFPA

## 2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Development is never linear as the operational environment and risks are in constant flux. In 2021, UN Inter-Agency M&E Group developed costed multi-year Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL Plan) to support UNSDCF's adaptive programming. The MEL plan outlines monitoring, performance review, results reporting, evaluation and learning activities, along with related budget and funding sources, to ensure delivery on UNSDCF commitments.

As part of overall MEL activities, UNCT engaged in UNSDCF annual performance review - a good moment to reflect on UN performance, emerging learning and evolving country context. The review revealed distinct improvement areas, calling for:

**Strengthened governance arrangements:** This includes establishment of the UN-Armenia Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and better engagement of national partners in the work of UNSDCF RGs.

**Improved internal coordination and more regular RG-level interactions,** including inter-agency dialogue at the inception phase of programmes. There is room for better coordination to seize opportunities for collaboration and synergies; share views on implementation challenges; ensure consistency and coherence across UNSDCF JWPs; and take full stock of achievements and lessons learned.

**Improved coordination and collaboration between UN agencies and other development partners:** The 'emergency mode' and activation of sectoral response groups has proved the added value of the coordination architecture to effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian response. A lesson which should be transferred to the regular development programming.

**Better engagement of all non-resident agencies, signatory to UNSDCF:** While 9 UN non-resident agencies signed up for UNSDCF, not all were equally engaged in contributing to UNSDCF results and subsequent reporting.

**Joint programming and resource mobilization:** Joint programming needs a learning curve - there are inter-agency differences in working approaches, tools and practices; 'speaking with one voice' is not always achieved and there is space for leveraging more SDG financing under RCO coordination.

**Improved functionalities of UN INFO:** Smoother transition to the system would require improved functionalities of the platform in terms of its data inputting, analysis, and visualization potential. Furthermore, interoperability between UN INFO, UN agency-specific and national data management systems is required to reduce the reporting burden on agencies.







# 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

Based on the configuration exercise of UNCT capacities and resources, 2021-2025 UNSDCF for Armenia expressed a total financial commitment of 230 million USD, of which 146 million USD are the core and non-core resources available, and additional USD 84

million are to be mobilised to deliver UNSDCF results. In the first year of UNSDCF implementation, UNCT secured 82.4% coverage of required resources for the year, expressed in 32,947,202 million in actual expenditure.

**This visual represents the funding gap of the UN's contribution in country, based on agreements with national partners. It does not represent the total funding gap for the achievement of each SDG.**

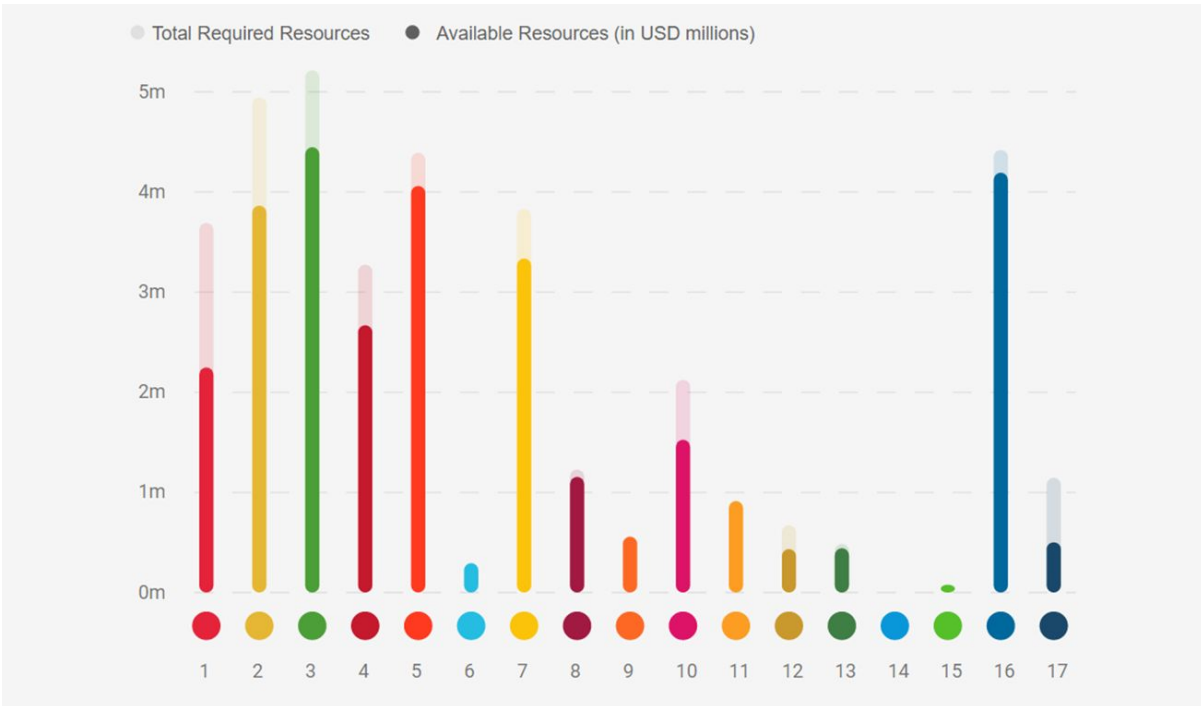


Figure 19. The UN Funding Gap by SDG in Armenia (navigate more in [UN INFO](#)):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. No Poverty</b><br/>60.9% coverage</p> <p><b>2. Zero Hunger</b><br/>78.2% coverage</p> <p><b>3. Good Health and Well-being</b><br/>85.3% coverage</p> <p><b>4. Quality Education</b><br/>81.5% coverage</p> <p><b>5. Gender Equality</b><br/>92.5% coverage</p> <p><b>6. Clean Water and Sanitation</b><br/>100% coverage</p> <p><b>7. Affordable and Clean Energy</b><br/>87.1% coverage</p> <p><b>8. Decent Jobs and Economic Growth</b><br/>94% coverage</p> <p><b>9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b><br/>99.1% coverage</p> | <p><b>10. Reduced Inequalities</b><br/>71.8% coverage</p> <p><b>11. Sustainable Cities and Communities</b><br/>99.1% coverage</p> <p><b>12. Responsible Consumption and Production</b><br/>64.8% coverage</p> <p><b>13. Climate Action</b><br/>91.1% coverage</p> <p><b>14. Life Below Water</b><br/>0% coverage</p> <p><b>15. Life on Land</b><br/>100% coverage</p> <p><b>16. Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions</b><br/>94.8% coverage</p> <p><b>17. Partnerships for the Goals</b><br/>43.9% coverage</p> |
|---|--|

# Chapter 3: UNCT key focus for 2022

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Photo: @UN Armenia

**Establishing JSC:** The JSC formation, that was delayed due to the compound crisis, will be set up in 2022 as the highest governing body of UNSDCF, co-chaired by UN RC and Deputy Prime Minister. JSC will ensure strategic direction and oversight of UNSDCF as well as alignment with national, regional and international development processes.

**Launching UN INFO:** In 2022, UNCT in Armenia will fully get onboard UN INFO as part of its efforts to improve transparency, accountability as well as coherence and coordination. Integration of UN INFO and UN Armenia official website will allow every stakeholder, including government, media, civil society and development partners but also people living in Armenia, get information on UN work in real time manner and within a few clicks.

**Folding Covid-19 and IARP-related activities into UNSDCF:** All pandemic and humanitarian response activities will be reflected in UNSDCF 2022 JWPs, demonstrating UN's full, collective offer to the country.

**Supporting the development of Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).** Built on DFA and INFF Roadmap, UN will continue supporting the government in defining and catalyzing financing mechanisms to reach SDGs in Armenia.

**Developing financing Frameworks in three priority areas,** climate change, human capital and food security, is another transformative result to be achieved in 2022.

# Acronyms

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<b>ADA</b>	Austrian Development Agency	<b>GPE</b>	Global Partnership for Education
<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution	<b>HA</b>	Hectares
<b>AMD</b>	Armenian Dram	<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>ATS</b>	Armenia Transformation Strategy	<b>IARP</b>	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>AVRR</b>	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration system	<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technologies
<b>BG</b>	Border Guard	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>CBA</b>	Central Bank of Armenia	<b>IFI</b>	International Finance Institutions
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis	<b>IGTG</b>	Internal Gender Theme Group
<b>CCFF</b>	Climate Change Financing Framework	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>CEC</b>	Central Electoral Commission	<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financial Framework
<b>CF</b>	Cooperation Framework	<b>INGO</b>	International Non-governmental Organization
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>CPD</b>	Country Programme Document	<b>ISO</b>	International Organization for Standardization
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>ISS</b>	Integrated Social Service
<b>CSSF</b>	Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier	<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<b>CwD</b>	Children with Disabilities	<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plans (JWP)
<b>DFA</b>	Development Finance Assessment	<b>LEG</b>	Local Education Group
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
<b>EE</b>	Energy Efficiency	<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>EMIS</b>	Educational Management Information System	<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Economy
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>MoESCS</b>	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>MOJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>GBSS</b>	Gender-Biased Sex Selection	<b>MoLSA</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund	<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>GoA</b>	Government of Armenia	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
		<b>NK</b>	Nagorno-Karabakh
		<b>NSS</b>	National Statistics System
		<b>ODHIR</b>	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	<b>UIS</b>	United Information System
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>PA</b>	Public Administration	<b>UN HABITAT</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>PAR</b>	Public Administration Reform	<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
<b>PGA</b>	Participatory Gender Audit	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>PoC</b>	Persons of Concern	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>PSS</b>	Psychosocial Support	<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>PSV</b>	Peer Support Volunteer	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>RC</b>	UN Resident Coordinator	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>RCO</b>	UN Resident Coordinator Office	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>RG</b>	Results Groups	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>RH</b>	Reproductive Health	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals	<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>SERRP</b>	Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan	<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistics Division
<b>SEN</b>	Special Education Needs	<b>UNSDCF</b>	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	<b>UNTFHS</b>	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
<b>SSW</b>	Social Service Workforce	<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>TFD</b>	Trust Fund for Development	<b>VET</b>	Vocational Education and Training
<b>TOC</b>	Theory of Change	<b>WEP</b>	Women Empowerment Principles
<b>TUS</b>	Time Use Survey	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
		<b>WG</b>	Working Group
		<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
		<b>WPIS</b>	Work Permit Issuance System

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# 2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

ARMENIA



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