

# 2022 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

Armenia, March 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
ARMENIA

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# Foreword by the Resident Coordinator



**Niels Scott,**  
*UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Armenia*

This Report is an opportunity to reflect on our joint results, alongside national and international partners, to support Armenia in achieving its national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We acknowledge the challenges we faced and the lessons we learned along the way, and remain committed to continuing our work towards a better future for the people of Armenia.

In 2022, the United Nations (UN) in Armenia supported the Government and the people of Armenia to face diverse challenges including the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict. While external shocks continue to test our collective resilience and resolve, we are motivated to move forward with the projects and initiatives outlined in this report and to look at new ways of working for the future,

to help establish a strong normative framework for development, build capacity where it is most needed and, above all, achieve tangible impact in communities right across the country.

We are now approaching halfway in implementing the 5-year Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework established with the Government of Armenia in 2021. This Framework substantiates the UN development system reform launched by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. As we enter 2023, we look to increasingly transform the coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency the reform has delivered into tangible results for the people we serve. Many such results are captured in this report, as a testament to the hard work of our One UN team here in Armenia with and in support of every one of our national and international counterparts.

In 2023, we look forward to building on past successes by working closely with the Government and the people of Armenia, placing a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind in the development process. We will consolidate existing partnerships, forge new ones, and utilize joint analysis to shape sustainable development in Armenia.

I hope and believe this Report will testify to our enduring commitment to an ever stronger and deeper partnership with the Government and the people of Armenia to achieve progress with available resources and capacities and share bold, transformative, innovative approaches to catalyze Armenian’s development growth. The UN remains committed to supporting the continued positive changes in the life of every Armenian.

# United Nations Country Team in Armenia

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Armenia is comprised of all the UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Armenia; and is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations.

In June 2021, the Government of the Republic of Armenia (GoA) and the UNCT signed the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia. Twenty resident and non-resident UN entities joined the compact to contribute coherently and effectively to the achievement of the results set in 2021-2025 UNSDCF.

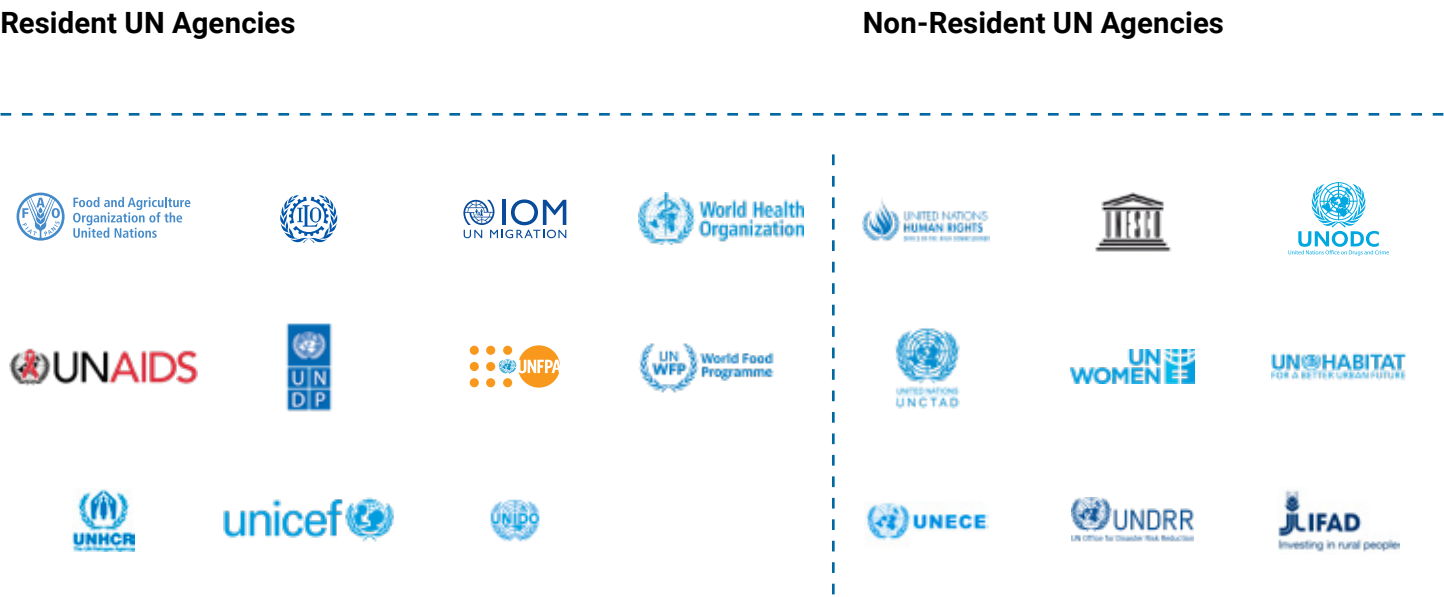


Figure 1. UNCT Team in Armenia

# Key Development Partners

Partnerships are key to UNCT Armenia’s success in implementing Agenda 2030. We work closely with the GoA, civil society organizations (CSO), international finance institutions, development partners, private sector, academia, and international non-governmental organizations.

In 2022, the European Union (EU) and the Russian Federation (RF) continued to rank as the top international development partners, with investments of USD 19.7 million and 15.5 million, respectively.

These investments were primarily channeled into flagship programs that aimed to enhance human security, promote gender equality, manage migration, safeguard human rights, and more. We appreciate the effective collaboration of all our partners.



## Linking Investments, Agencies and SDGs in Armenia

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

### Leveraging UN investments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals

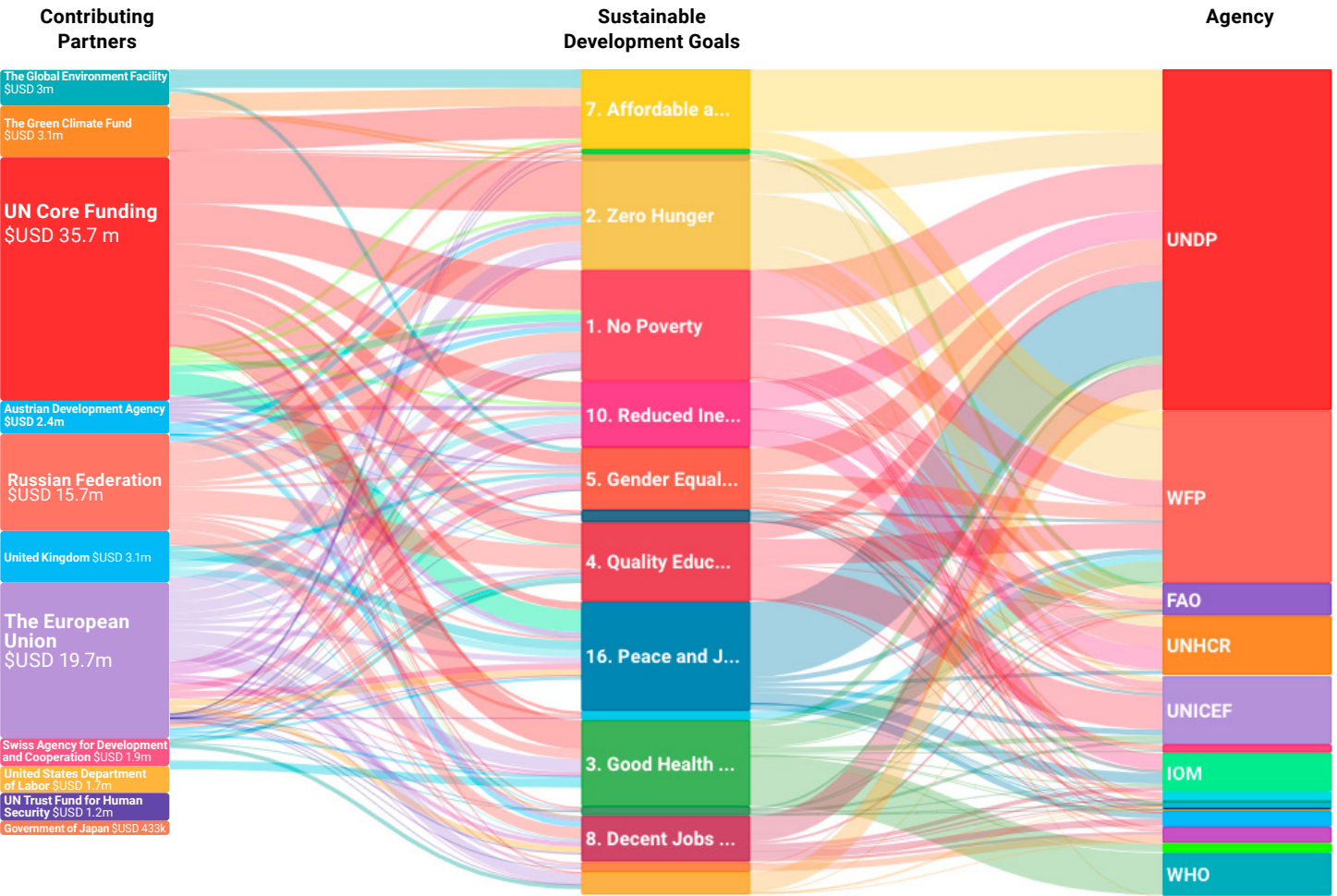


Figure 2. UN INFO Visual 1: Linking Investments, Agencies and SDGs in Armenia



# Chapter 1:

## Key Developments in the Country and the Regional Context

In 2022, Armenia's economy experienced an impressive annual growth rate of 14.8%, and the country ranked 58 out of 177 countries in world economic freedom. A major contributor to this growth has been the significant influx of immigrants, representing a 2.2% annual increase in the population and providing a boost to the external, macroeconomic, and fiscal performance of the country. This positive impact has been recognized by the international rating agency Fitch, which has revised its outlook on Armenia's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from stable to positive. The country's dynamic business environment has also proven attractive to entrepreneurs, as evidenced by the Agency for State Register of Legal Entities reporting the registration of 950 new businesses and 1800 individual entrepreneurship in the first few months of 2022 alone.

The year was also rich with social and cultural events like the Global Armenian Summit, Junior Eurovision Song Contest, Starmus global festival of science and art, and the FemInno first and only women's innovation conference in the region - all of which brought together diverse communities from around the world to celebrate progress and connection.

Nevertheless, the geopolitical challenges continued to weigh on Armenia's growth. 2022 witnessed numerous crises in the region, including the war in Ukraine, and massive anti-government protests in Iran. Events in Armenia were dominated by the political tension and growing insecurity from the unresolved Nagorno Karabakh conflict. In September 2022, fighting broke out along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan and inside Armenia, resulting in significant human toll, trauma, destruction of houses and civilian infrastructure in cities of Jermuk, Sotk, Vardenis, Kapan and Goris, economic and social costs, affecting primarily the most vulnerable communities and the poor. In the aftermath of hostilities, the increased proximity of foreign military forces to a number of communities in the Syunik region negatively affected their security, freedom of movement, as well as their social and economic rights.

The concluded ceasefire remained fragile, and the International Crisis Group included the conflict among 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2023.

Since December 12, 2022, the Lachin Corridor, the only road that links Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, remains impeded as a result of the action of a group of Azerbaijani protesters claiming to be environmental activists. On 22 February 2023, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the UN, delivered its Order, indicating that "the Republic of Azerbaijan shall take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions." Following the Court's decision, the UN SG issued another statement saying that he "takes note of the Orders" issued by the ICJ and expressed hope that the parties will implement them accordingly. However, on April 23, 2023 Azerbaijan installed a checkpoint in the Lachin corridor.

In October 2022, the EU deployed a 2-month civilian monitoring mission along the Armenian side of the international border with Azerbaijan, followed by the launch of a 2-year EU civilian mission in Armenia in February 2023. The mission aims to contribute to the stability in the border areas of Armenia, build confidence and human security in conflict affected areas, and ensure an environment conducive to the normalization efforts between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The internal political situation in Armenia remained stable but tense. Following over 6 months of boycotts, the two opposition factions returned to the Parliament. Armenia adopted its second 2022-2024 National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and embarked on a series of reforms by adopting the 2022-2026 Strategy and Action Plan for Judicial and Legal Reforms, the 2022-2024 Public Administration Reform Strategy and Roadmap, the 2022-2026 Strategy of Labor and Social Protection, and the 2030 Education Development Program.

## Armenia at a Glance

### POPULATION

- Maternal mortality: **43.7%** ↓
- Neonatal mortality: **4.9%** ↑
- Sex ratio: **108 boys per 100 girls** ↑
- Infertility: **18.2%** ↓
- Aging of 60+: **19.8** ↓

### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE:

- Voice and Accountability: **48.79%** ↑
- Control of Corruption: **59.62%** ↑
- Government Effectiveness: **41.83%** ↓
- Rule-of-Law Index: **50.48%** ↑
- Level of public trust in Parliament: **33%** ↑

### FREEDOM IN ARMENIA

- Global freedom score: **54/100** ↑
- Political rights: **23/40** ↑
- Civil liberties: **31/60** ↓

### ECONOMIC PROFILE

- Annual growth: **14.8%** ↑
- Poverty: **27%** ↑
- Inflation: **8.3%** ↓
- Unemployment: **15.4%** ↑
- Informal employment: **14.3%** ↑

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Food insecurity rate: **23%** ↑
- Adult population overweight: **48%** ↑
- Children under 5 overweight: **14%** ↓
- Adult population underweight: **6%** ↓
- Children under 5 stunted: **9%** ↑

### GENDER EQUALITY PROFILE:

- Gender Gap Rank: **89** ↑
- Seats held by women in national parliament: **35.5%** ↑
- Women in managerial positions: **32.4%** ↑
- [Reported] physical, sexual or psychological violence: **5.7%** ↑

### COUNTRY RISKS PER 2023 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

- Interstate conflict
- Rapid and/or sustained inflation
- Erosion of social cohesion
- Severe commodity price shocks
- Geoeconomics confrontation

\*upward arrows = positive trend, downward arrows = negative trend, against the baseline



# Chapter 2:

## UN Development System Results

### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The ongoing crises have inflicted significant harm on the human security of Armenia. This has led to a disruption in the pace, dynamics, and direction of the development agenda, causing a ripple effect on development programming.

In the spirit of the ‘humanitarian-development nexus,’ the UN effectively integrated emergency and development activities, continuously adjusting to address the shifting needs; while also advancing the longer-term development agenda, as captured by UNSDCF theory of change (TOC) diagram, illustrated below :

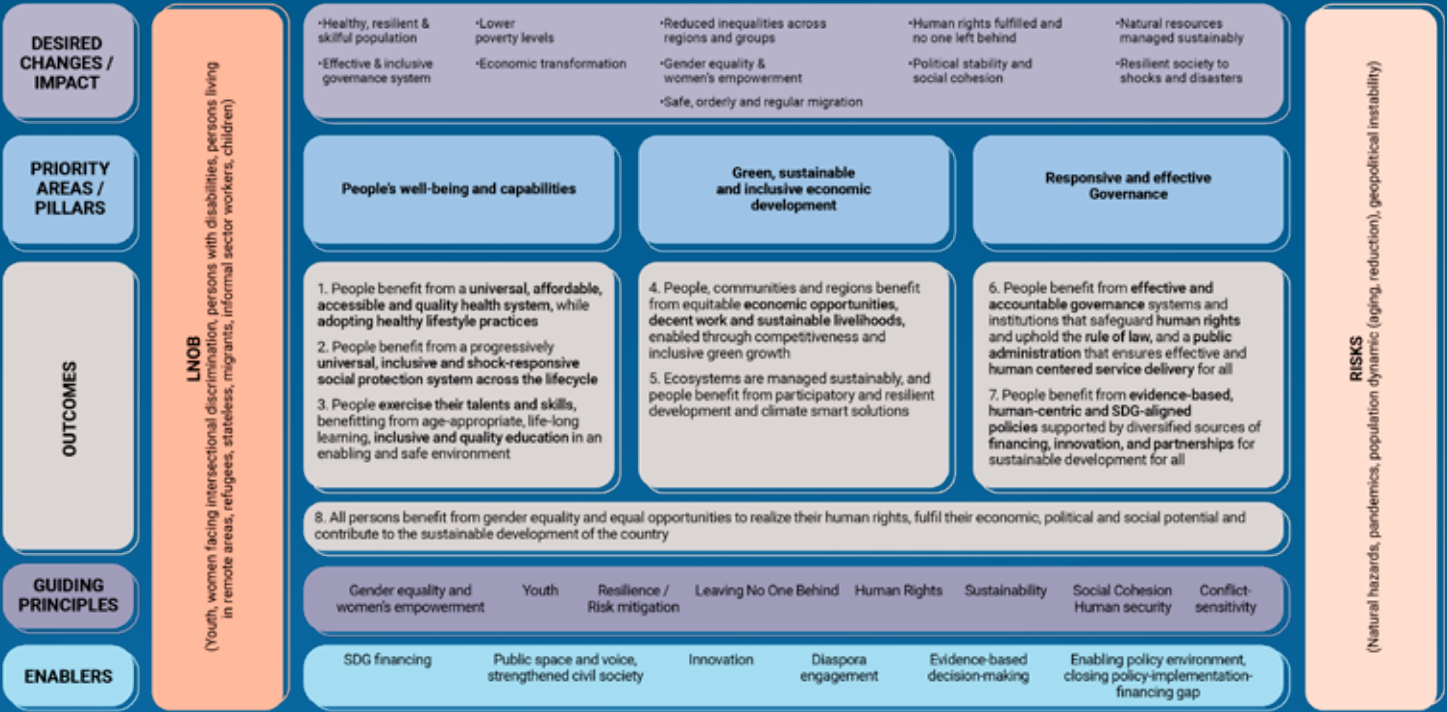


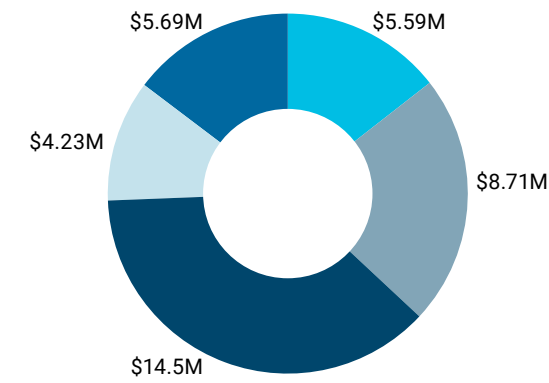
Figure 3. UNSDCF Theory of Change (TOC) Diagram

### UNSDCF 2022 Delivery at a Glance

➔ 2022 Available	➔ 2022 Required	➔ 2022 Expenditure	➔ 2021 Expenditure
52,588,908	65,621,840	38,740,652	36,115,475

#### Human Rights Marker

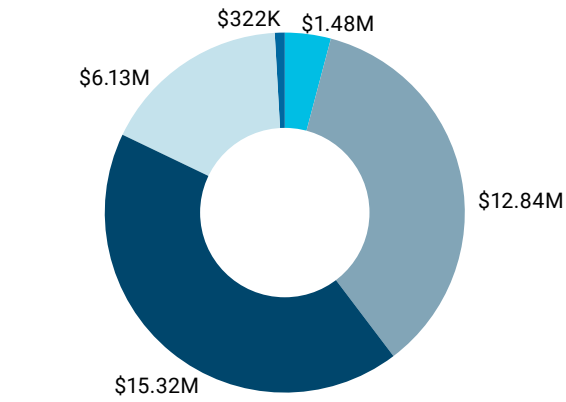
Allocated budget in 2022 (USD)



- No contribution
- Limited contribution
- Significant contribution
- Principal contribution
- Other (not marked)

#### Gender Equality Marker

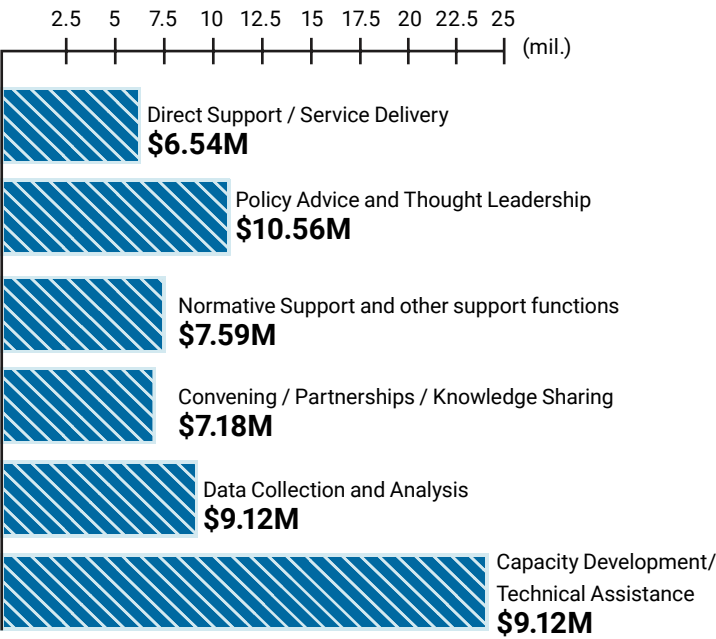
Allocated budget in 2022 (USD)



- No contribution
- Limited contribution
- Significant contribution
- Principal contribution
- Other (not marked)

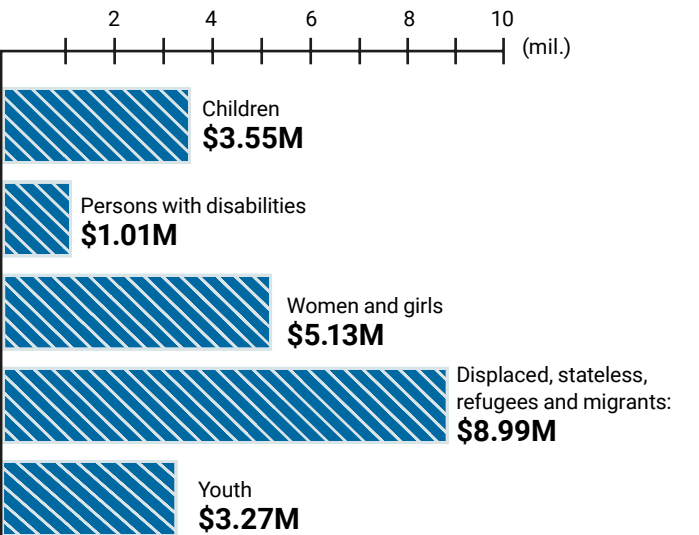
#### Type of UN Support in 2022 (QCPR function)

Allocated budget in 2022 (USD)<sup>1</sup>



#### Focus on beneficiaries

Allocated budget in 2022 (USD)








<sup>1</sup> Please note that one and the same UN intervention may belong to more than one type of support (QCPR function).



2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs







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

SDGs supported:     	UPR Recommendations: 153.38, 153.50, 153.132-156, 153.215	Linkages with National Development Priorities:  ATS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Educated and competent nation</li><li>Healthy and safe nation</li><li>Large and prosperous families</li></ul> Government Programme 2021-2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provisions 2.3, 4.1-4.9, 6.1-6.4, 6.6</li></ul>
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Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)

➔ 2022 Available	➔ 2022 Required	➔ 2022 Expenditure	➔ 2021 Expenditure
19,613,008	29,734,737	14,106,605	14,366,299

Key UNSDCF Indicators:

SDG 3.2.2. Neonatal mortality rate  baseline 5% <b>4.9%</b>	SDG 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio  baseline 21% <b>43.7%</b>	SDG 4.2.4: Enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (female)  baseline 24.3% <b>32.3%</b>
SDG 1.a.2: Proportion of government spending on		
Health:  baseline 5.5% <b>6.1%</b>	Social protection:  baseline 27.8% <b>26.5%</b>	Education:  baseline 7.9% <b>8.9%</b>

Key Contextual Challenges:

-  Significant psychological and mental stress caused by the political instability in the region and security situation in the country
-  Lack of comprehensive database and weak data systems in social sectors, especially evident in emergencies
-  Limited public financing for development agenda

\*upward arrows = positive trend, downward arrows = negative trend, against the baseline  
\*\*available: budget allocated at the JWP development stage (1st quarter of 2022)

Pillar 1

Co-Lead Agencies:



Contributing Agencies:





UNSDCF Outcome 1: Universal, affordable, accessible and quality health system

<50.000+	<30.000+	<600.000+	<100.000+
medical professionals trained	received healthcare services (HIV, hepatitis B/C, and syphilis counseling/testing)	educated on healthy lifestyle, reproductive health, self-care, and mental health	primary school children in 10 provinces receive daily nutritious meals.

The COVID-19 pandemic and security concerns have further elevated mental health risks. In response, the UN prioritized mental health and capacity-building, supporting the establishment of the Mental Health Coalition and the approval of the Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026, with a focus on promoting mental wellness from a young age. UN’s advocacy and policy work went in parallel with strengthening community-based services. **“Putting mental health as one of the priorities in healthcare agenda will improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities”** [remarked the EU Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin](#), at the launch of a joint EU-UN partnership to reduce psychosocial suffering and promote the wellbeing of communities, particularly those affected by the armed conflict.

Traveling from Goris to Vorotan in Armenia’s Syunik region used to take only 20-30 minutes before the 2020 escalation of hostilities. To help those in the most remote villages who are cut off from the main roads, the UN has set up mobile health teams that provide assistance. **“The visits of mobile professional teams are like a safety net for parents,”** [shared Sveta](#), a pediatric nurse from Vorotan, a hard-to-reach village, as she reflected on the mobile health teams which have helped over 10,000 children and women, including those displaced from Nagorno Karabakh. Armenia also hosted the UN’s emergency medical teams (EMT), as a platform for regional and global collaboration. The Minister of Health, [Anahit Avanesyan](#), further expressed: **“For us, EMTs are a critical extension of the wider health ecosystem.”**

In an effort to inspire a generation of informed and empowered youth, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport have established [Healthy Lifestyle clubs](#). The clubs

aim to equip the youth with knowledge they need to make informed choices about their lives, promoting healthier and happier lifestyles among them.

In 2022, the UN focused on strengthening neonatal and maternity health services. This led to the assignment of specialized staff for breastfeeding support and the integration of a child nutrition surveillance system into the MOHe-Health platform. The system will now gather data on child nutrition from health facilities, analyze and provide feedback to prevent child malnutrition. The UN also conducted a costing cost analysis of primary healthcare, resulting in the reform of neonatal health services, updated national guidelines, and training for primary healthcare providers. Healthcare providers also enhanced knowledge on reproductive health in emergency situations. **“The latest developments - the epidemic, the war, and also the earthquake, show the importance of this knowledge,”** [recognizes the value of UN intervention Nune](#), the Head of Primary Healthcare at Perinatology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology Institute.

In its ongoing efforts to improve school children’s access to nutritious and diverse meals, the UN achieved a significant milestone in 2022 by fully nationalizing the management of school feeding in 10 provinces of Armenia. This was done through the transformative school feeding programme, which has been coordinated under the UN’s leadership for years. The successful handover to the government also resulted in Armenia joining the global School Meals Coalition. **“School meals have had a transformational role in children’s wellbeing and have already helped in improving their dietary habits,”** [confirms Lusine](#), a school headmaster. The UN has successfully helped schools shift from “biscuits” to nutritious lunch meals by empowering them to produce fruits and vegetables, integrating modern technologies, and linking healthy

nutrition with community development. This has created a sustainable and healthy approach to school feeding.

With UN’s support, the Government’s new National Programme on HIV/AIDS Prevention 2022-2026 responds to communicable diseases, shares the priorities of global strategies and action plans on HIV/AIDS, TB and viral hepatitis, and aims to expand programs and services to address emerging challenges and scale up innovative approaches. In response

to the misuse of antibiotics fueled by COVID-19, a [recent survey by the UN and partners](#) will help develop interventions for responsible antibiotic use, as part of a new multisectoral strategy for the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance 2023–2027. Additionally, Armenia’s Ministry of Health now has [strengthened monitoring capacity and systems](#) to implement the new national tobacco control law.

Highlights from UN’s Work in Post-Covid World

Three years after Covid-19 hit the world, UN in Armenia continued socio-economic recovery interventions, allocating close to 10% of its total 2022 budget. The UN’s interventions have prioritized equipping communities with essential skills and knowledge to respond to crises effectively. Over 2000 people were trained in First Aid for health emergencies, and more than 1500 schools were provided with personal protective equipment. To prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in schools, the UN’s nationwide Safe Schooling campaign reached over 1500 schools and 2000 staff members, promoting healthy habits and tackling misinformation. **“The workshops provided a direct line to the experts and evidence-based knowledge, which was important to better understand the new COVID-19 reality,”** [shared Irina](#), a school nurse.

Beyond the immediate post-pandemic needs, the UN and USAID partnered together to boost Armenia’s vaccine storage capacity, which was crucial for maintaining efficacy and accelerating vaccine rollout. **“Empowering our regions with the necessary equipment to store vaccines is a critical step in continuing to increase COVID-19 vaccinations and reaching our routine immunization targets,”** [said Lena Nanushyan, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health](#). The UN’s [“Vaccination is Care”](#) campaign featured the importance of the COVID- vaccination of people over 65 and brought it closer to them through mobile vaccination groups.



@WHO

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Empowering children and teenagers with HIV @UNAIDS

Watch more

Building healthy dietary habits and improving learning abilities @WFP

Read more

“Vaccination is Care – reaching out to people 65+” campaign @WHO



UNSDCF Outcome 2: Inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system

<1000+

USS staff capacitated (social workers, employment specialists, practitioners, administrators, joint reception staff, and center heads)

<4.500+

people (including displaced and refugees) received direct social assistance.

**“Everything we had, we left at our home in Karabakh. We didn’t have time to collect any belongings to take with us, it was a matter of life or death,” recalls Tatiana.** Tatiana’s family fled from Hadrut, adjacent to Shushi, due to the conflict and for a few months relied on the state cash benefit program, supported by the UN. Prior to the conflict, Armenia had not yet formalized a wide range of financial assistance mechanisms for vulnerable families affected by crises. With the escalation and the consequent humanitarian situation, the UN working group on cash assistance worked closely with the Government and other partners to develop a range of social protection programmes.

Pursuing a more sustainable approach, the UN is now supporting Armenia develop the first-ever Labour and Social Protection Umbrella Strategy 2022-2026, that encompasses the entire life cycle, from childhood to old age. This strategy is part of a wave of national reforms across multiple social sectors, including amendments to the Family Code, and a new Law on Child Rights and Social Assistance. The UN and partners have ensured that these reforms are SDG-aligned, shock-responsive, gender and child-sensitive, costed, and interlinked with other aspects, such as food security. Additionally, UN’s [methodological notes](#) and [technical guidance](#) have contributed to better employment and social services by the newly established Unified Social Services centers.

The [4th Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment](#) in 2022 identified the most food-insecure regions and households in Armenia and the [Poverty and Food Security](#) analysis revealed the correlation between food insecurity and poverty in Armenia. To address the findings, the UN, in partnership with the Ministry

of Labour and Social Affairs, piloted the service of food cards as cash-based transfer tools of social assistance to aid those experiencing food insecurity. Critical evidence is being collected to potentially institutionalize this service as the first national social assistance tool targeting food insecurity as part of regular social protection work and shock response. **“USAID is proud to support the Government of Armenia in its efforts to respond to the needs of citizens, especially vulnerable populations, in the face of unforeseen challenges. We are pleased that at least 3,000 people will directly benefit from this program,”** said UN’s partner, USAID/Armenia Mission Director John Allelo.

In addition, the UN launched a country capacity strengthening operation to support Armenia better respond to shocks of any scale, by designing national anticipatory action and shock response protocols that can be activated prior to and during shocks. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is partnering with the UN to design and test the protocols as national policy instruments.

UN’s advocacy resulted in significant state financing increase for foster care and community-based day-care services for 2023, including a 2-fold increase for foster care and 5-fold increase for outsourcing services to local CSOs to ensure countrywide coverage. The number of children reunified with their families also increased. The Academy of Justice developed a new e-learning course on children’s rights in criminal procedure while HRDO’s capacities were strengthened in child rights, particularly in protection from bullying.

Highlights from UN’s Normative Work: Disability Inclusion

Armenia made considerable progress aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but the 2020 conflict and COVID-19 slowed down these efforts. Now, authorities face the challenge of addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in the post-conflict and post-pandemic period, concludes the UN’s [the Situation Analysis of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). By implementing standalone programs and mainstreaming disability inclusion in its programming, the UN is taking concrete actions to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind.

UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA are collaborating to implement [“Creating enabling environment and ecosystem for CRPD implementation and disability mainstreaming in Armenia”](#) project funded by the UNPRPD Fund. In 2022, the National Disability System was reformed through the development of the new E-Disability information system and adjusting Education Management Information System modules to CRPD for better data collection on children with disabilities. The UN, Government and OPDs collaborated for more inclusive strategic papers and projects for persons with disabilities. [Public awareness raising campaigns](#) challenged gender stereotypes and empowered women and girls with disabilities.

To complement these efforts, Tech2Life initiative, launched as part of UNDP and UNICEF’s [“Stronger Services for Equal Participation and Inclusive Development”](#) joint project with RF support aims to streamline the assistive technology (AT) ecosystem and bridge the gaps in the supply-demand value chain through 4 interconnected facilities: policy reform, infrastructure, education, and market linkages. Our rapid Assistive Technology Assessment, conducted by UNDP and WHO, provides valuable insights on assistive product needs and barriers, guiding policy reform in the area. We were also pleased to provide policy advice and support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in developing the Standard Operational Procedures for the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health reform, ensuring a more comprehensive framework for disability and health classification.

In parallel, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM are expanding the availability of assistive devices, including baby monitors, easy-hold silicone cuffs, pickup tools, and baby food dispensing bottles, through UN MPTF-funded [“COVID-19 and Resilience in Armenia”](#) revolving fund. **“Access to appropriate, quality assistive devices can mean the difference between enabling or denying women an independent and dignified life,”** [explains Nvard](#), UNICEF Gender Equality Officer.



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Strengthening integrated social protection and employment service delivery @ILO

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50 Women with Disabilities Who Changed the World @UNFPA

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Realizing dreams in Armenia’s rural communities @UNICEF



UNSDCF Outcome 3: Inclusive and quality education

<500+	<6.500+	<1.000+	<2.500+
schools supported	children and students impacted	teachers and teaching staff involved	people trained to provide healthy and nutritious meals to school children

In 2022, the adoption of the State Education Development Programme 2030 was a significant milestone towards quality education. Due to the efforts of the UN and other partners, the Programme is informed by comprehensive education sector assessments and broad consultations within and beyond the sector. The UN is currently preparing a costed action plan for financing of Programme implementation.

In 2022, Armenia achieved an 8% increase in preschool enrollment, yet rural areas still lack early learning services, leaving around 200 settlements without preschools. Expanding preschool networks is a government priority, with UN providing alternative centers, outdoor playgrounds, and sustainable solutions like solar energy systems. **“I am delighted that from now on children of ages 3-6 are able to attend kindergarten in their own community, without having to commute long distances. With small steps, we are creating a better environment for our children, an environment full of colors, where they can learn and thrive.”** noted [Irina Yolyan](#), Deputy Mayor of Goris at the opening of a pre-school.

The UN prioritized life-long learning in 2022 with [“Bridging the Gap Between Labor Market and Vocational Education and Training System”](#) research

influencing the revision of state education standards. UN also continued encouraging hundreds of young people, especially girls, to enter the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), through campaigns like “MATEMard” on the International Day of Mathematics. **“Mathematics is a science that opens door to many other sciences. Unfortunately, there are common stereotypes that boys have more STEM skills. The Ministry is here to promote the idea that mathematics is important equally for boys and girls and that girls should consider this field as well,”** said [Zhanna Andreasyan](#), Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, joining the campaign.

“Women are left out from history”, this conviction brought forth a daring innovation in the field of history teaching in response to gender bias in the school curriculum. [Present in the Past, Absent in History](#) resource pack for teachers of history was developed by the UN and its partners, highlighting the unknown examples from women’s history, such as women in Soviet Armenia, Armenian feminist discourse in 19th century and migration during the Ottoman empire.

Highlights from UN’s Normative Work: Youth Focus

How should we transform? Let’s hear from youth! It is in this spirit that UNCT continually supports investments in youth-led solutions and capacity development. Ahead of the Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General, the Government and UN consulted with hundreds of adolescents and young people to find solutions together. **“It is a great idea. No one knows the shortcomings and problems of the educational system better than we do. We are in it, we see what is good and bad and what can be done to make it better,”** stated [Zarine](#), a young participant of the consultations.

UPSHIFT is one of the UN’s initiatives to develop life skills and support youth to positively engage with their local communities as change-makers. **“This year, I have got so much inspiration – I have already met young people that understand climate change from A to Z, young people that managed to identify one of the community’s problems and contributed to improving life in their community,”** said [Malena](#), Junior Eurovision winner and UNICEF ambassador.

In 2022, UN published an [unprecedented study on knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviors on climate change](#), with the participation of over 1,500 adolescents. As future leaders and stakeholders, the young people expressed their perspectives and opinions on climate change which are crucial to shaping our collective response to this global crisis. The study revealed the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviors of residents from 52 consolidated communities in Armenia, but also their willingness to take action and engage in environmental activism.

“Virtual Reality (VR) Labs” is among the youth-led innovations supported by the UN. 4 Armenian high-school students set to leverage the power of VR to simulate chemistry experiments safely and economically. Their solution, which demonstrated the alternative use of technology for scientific experimentation, won the Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge. [MeDialog](#) is another a group of bright young minds who have made it to the finals of the Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge. Their board game and application aim to promote media literacy in Armenia. By playing their game, young people will learn to approach media more critically. But MeDialog doesn’t stop there! They plan to use virtual reality and create animated films and posters to educate young people on media literacy.



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New skills for a new chapter of life @UNFPA

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Celebrating the resilience of displaced children @UNHCR

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Youth-driven initiatives promoting media literacy in Armenia @UNICEF



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

Pillar 2

## Co-Lead Agencies:



## Contributing Agencies:



SDGs supported:	UPR Recommendations:	Linkages with National Development Priorities:
<div><div>1 NO POVERTY</div><div>2 ZERO HUNGER</div><div>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div><div>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div></div>	153.78-79, 153-218	ATS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mass-export of finished goods</li><li>Productive and responsible farming</li><li>Attractive for business Armenia</li></ul> Government Programme 2021-2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provisions 2.1-2.8, 3.3-3.4, 4.10, 6.6</li></ul>

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

➔ 2022 Available	➔ 2022 Required	➔ 2022 Expenditure	➔ 2021 Expenditure
22,916,108	24,990,643	17,520,264	11,836,847

## Key UNSDCF Indicators:

SDG 8.5. Unemployment rate	Women	Youth
<div>baseline 19%</div> <div>↑ 15.4%</div>	<div>baseline 20.4%</div> <div>↓ 15.2%</div>	<div>baseline 24.9%</div> <div>↑ 24.4%</div>
Rural	Monthly income growth of rural population (AMD)	SDG 7.1.2: Beneficiaries of clean energy technologies
<div>baseline 11.3%</div> <div>↑ 8.8%</div>	<div>baseline 55,216</div> <div>↑ 68,545</div>	<div>baseline 4000, Women 55%</div> <div>↑ 22,172 (Women 58%)</div>

## Key Contextual Challenges:

- 📍 Geopolitical tensions and market volatilities creating huge uncertainties
- 💵 Shrinking development funding, outmigration and thinning human resource in the countries
- 🏠 Investments in energy efficiency retrofitting not sufficient to meet the demand and release the full for reducing GHG emissions

\*upward arrows = positive trend, downward arrows = negative trend, against the baseline

\*\*available: budget allocated at the JWP development stage (1st quarter of 2022)



UNSDCF Outcome 4: Equitable economic opportunities, decent work and sustainable livelihoods

<30.000+	<13.000+	<14.000+	<3.000+	<4.500+
people accessed green technologies and energy products	people accessed irrigation water	people improved productivity and income	job created	people trained in modern and innovative agricultural technologies

According to the World Bank, Armenia’s economy has shown resilience to recent shocks thanks largely to prudent macroeconomic management and a sound financial sector. Despite impressive double-digit GDP growth and lower unemployment, poverty and remittance dependency remains high, and satisfaction with housing conditions and life in dignity indicators have worsened.

UN’s investment in green and sustainable interventions has promoted equitable economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. One successful example in the agribusiness sector is the collaboration with the private sector to provide credit to SMEs to install solar stations, resulting in a 30% reduction in energy costs. **“With the help of the solar station, I am now starting to produce a unique honey-water product in Armenia. This is a completely new approach that I would like to serve as an alternative for the non-healthy sugary drinks common in the local market,”** says Martin. Martin is now one of the over 10,000 individuals with access to the solar solutions.

To nudge communities towards taking ownership of their livelihoods, the “Revolving Funds” approach has been integrated that enhances decision-making, enables prioritization of community needs, and reinvests generated savings in community development. Additionally, the model promotes sustainability by allowing communities to generate additional savings through solar stations and circular models, reducing reliance on state funding.

Business and financial consulting, new market connections, and small grants were UN’s offer to youth-led micro and small enterprises (MSEs), as cornerstones of Armenia’s regional economic development. Ani, a

young entrepreneur from Armenia, runs the country’s first commercial aquaponic greenhouse. **“Aquaponics is about saving water resources. As an ecologist, I want to have sustainable production,”** says Ani, whose business now has a surplus of products and plans to expand services to more consumers. Promoting green agriculture and local added value, the UN and partners launched the first genetic centre in the South Caucasus for sheep breeding and artificial insemination. Silja Kasmann, Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation believes that the Centre will **“support Armenian farmers to achieve higher yields, diversify production, become more self-reliant and improve the sheep value chain.”**

From rural development to urban makeover - UN’s Mayor’s for Economic Growth program has used small-scale interventions to explore new trajectories of economic growth and make cities more attractive for people and investment. Ashtarak, a city in need of public transportation reform, was part of the experiment. Leveraging the 60,000 EUR seed-fund, the city designed a new transport network and ticket system, attracting additional resources of 150,000 EUR for scale-up through the national government’s 2023 subvention program.

Another exciting journey of urban transformation began in the small city of Stepanavan. Through urban foresight, citizens expressed their desire to revive the old, declined industry of aviation in their city. UN and partners were there to support, establishing the Aviation and IT Learning Center, where young people learn design and operations of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and use them in agriculture, forest protection and disaster risk reduction. The initiative garnered attention and attracted a Czech company to establish a small aviation assembly center that would generate additional jobs in the city.

In 2022, the UN continued transforming territorial development, institutionalizing tripartite partnership between civil society, public and private sectors in disadvantaged areas. As part of EU-funded Local Empowerment of Actors for Development programme Local Action Groups (LAGs) were established to develop and operationalize territorial development strategies, with representatives from all three sectors. Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Vache Terteryan believes that **“LAGs are creating stable**

**capital for the implementation of large-scale projects in the future.”**

In 2022, the fashion industry was a highlight of UN-supported economic development, with apparel companies signing long-term contracts with big regional store chains and delivering orders worth over 3,000,000 USD. The fashion industry has rapidly evolved in recent years, and the UN’s support has helped businesses capitalize on these changes and expand their markets.

UNCT Focus: Resilience and Recovery of Conflict Affected Communities

In late 2020, after the escalation of hostilities, many families had to relocate to remote and border regions of Armenia. The UN and partners coordinated efforts raising over \$40 million and helping over 70,000 displaced individuals. After the closure of Inter-Agency Response Plan (IARP), there was still a critical need for resilience building and recovery. The escalation of war in Ukraine disrupted logistics routes and hindered Armenia’s export and import potential, while the military escalations in September 2022 further created new hardships for border communities.

**“I witnessed the deepest sadness and suffering of men, women, youth, and children. I am deeply moved by their resilience and their call for their rights to live in peace and security in their country,”** said Lila Pieters Yahia, UN RC.a.i. in 2022, during the visit of UNCT to the affected communities. UN’s crisis response focused on psycho-social services, cash assistance, infrastructure rehabilitation, agricultural assets as well as longer-term economic recovery support, with over 26% of 2022 budget allocated to resilience building and recovery.

During UNCT meetings with Armenian civil society, non-governmental representatives strongly emphasized the importance of safety and women’s involvement in peace and security in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The adoption of Armenia’s second national action plan of UN Security Council Resolution № 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) was a significant achievement in this regard. **“Women and girls are often the primary targets of violence and abuse in conflict settings. We need full gender parity across election monitoring, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, and justice systems,”** noted Ms. Lila Pieters Yahia at the launch of the NAP, organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the UN. Vahe Gevorgyan, the Deputy Foreign Minister concluded the event, emphasizing that Armenia always considers the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the localization of its provisions as a priority.



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UNSDCF Outcome 5: Sustainable ecosystems and climate smart solutions

<60+	<3.500+	<150+
communities benefitting from renewable energy sources	households benefitting from energy efficiency measures	communities with disaster risk management/adaptation plans

As a landlocked country with complex mountainous territory and vulnerable agricultural regions, climate change poses a serious threat to Armenia’s communities and livelihoods. In the face of those challenges Armenia has launched an ambitious effort to adapt to climate change and cut domestic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Efforts in 2022 concluded with 40% GHG emissions reduction target-setting, conduct of the 2nd Environmental Performance Review, amendments to Water Code and Atmospheric Air Protection Law to comply with CEPA standards, establishment of an Interagency Climate Change Council, adoption of National Adaptation Plan, development of Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy, banning of plastic bags and approval of the Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy for 2022-2030.

Along with UN’s policy support to the above, our green investments last year resulted in 40-60% energy savings from building retrofits, over 7,000 tons of reduced GHG emissions from solar panels and energy-efficient streetlights, up to 40% more water saved in agriculture [through drip irrigation](#), and more than 500,000 EUR in financial savings for businesses accessing Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production services. In celebration of women’s leadership in climate change mitigation, the UN honored women’s contributions with the first ever [“Climate Change and Women in Armenia” Awards](#) inspiring new pathways for energy efficiency.

Many vulnerable smallholder farmers were also supported with high-quality wheat seeds, the most cultivated grain in Armenia, technical advisory support on improved wheat production, tons of fodder and combined feed, agricultural equipment, and were informed on best practices for green agricultural

productions and organic value chains. Edik, the food hero of 2022, transformed his small plot of land into a 10-hectare orchard with the help of anti-hail nets and a drip irrigation system from the UN. As a result, Edik is now exporting close to 60 tons of fruits, up from 15 tons 5 years ago. **“It is the biggest happiness on earth,” he says, “to enjoy the fruits of the hard work you put into your native land.”**

In the face of intensifying climate change, the UN and partners championed natural solutions for adaptation and resilience – they have proven cost-effective and sustainable to reduce climate-related hazards like spring-frost, hailstorms, winds, drought, and mudflow. For example, the Chambarak community worked with the UN to clean the mudflow channels and construct riverbank protection gabions using locally sourced stones. **“Every year, the mudflows used to come out of the concrete barriers and flood our gardens and damage our crops,” shared Susanna**, a teacher in the community. **“Now, we will be able to do gardening without fear.”** By embracing natural solutions, communities like Chambarak are taking important steps towards adapting to the changing climate, with positive impacts on community development inter alia. The UN also supported the introduction of environmentally resilient agricultural practices, piloting new agricultural technologies, including Integrated Pest Management plots for grapevines, in border areas such as Berd community.

As an integral part of risk governance, the [INFORM](#) Sub-national Risk Model and the Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analyzing Resilience (CLEAR) study conducted by the UN provide valuable data and insights for evidence-based policies and programming. On the policy front, UN supported the development of the Disaster Risk Management

National Strategy and the Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Law, which are now child-centric and gender-sensitive. UN has also made significant contributions to climate change education, integrating climate change teaching content into Public Administration Academy curricula and in school materials, as well as training teachers to implement climate change-related projects in their communities.

UN partnered with Ministries of Environment, Territorial Administration, Education, Science, Culture, and Sport to create age and disability-sensitive climate

education materials for schools, including [teaching](#) and [learning materials](#). Over 500 teachers were trained to lead climate projects in their communities, impacting 33 consolidated communities in Armenia and empowering the next generation with climate knowledge through project-based learning. In addition, [participatory climate risk assessments](#) were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction Foundation in 99 settlements across Syunik, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor regions, helping to enhance the preparedness of communities in the face of climate-related risks.

Highlights from UN’s Normative Work: UN Forest in Armenia

Armenia’s forests face significant challenges from the impacts of climate change, while rural communities often depend on them for fuelwood. In a move towards forest resilience and climate action, the UN marked its 77 years presence in the country with creation of UN Armenia Forest. In collaboration with “My Forest Armenia”, the UN team planted 18,000 new trees in the Lori region of Armenia. **“The group was fascinating” – Arpine from “My Forest Armenia” refers to UN Armenia team, “It is vital for a large organization like the UN to send a signal that afforestation is vital for our planet, our country.”** Going forward, the UN will leverage this initiative as a platform for broader environmental advocacy and community engagement.

The UN’s investment in Armenia’s forests is a clear and strategic choice. Our allocation of over 18 million USD in sustainable forest management is another demonstration of our commitment in the area. Our particular focus in 2022 has been on strengthening the country’s national capacities for forest monitoring and assessment which has led to the development of the National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) strategy.



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# Pillar 3














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

- 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

➔ 2022 Available	➔ 2022 Required	➔ 2022 Expenditure	➔ 2021 Expenditure
6,785,478	7,496,050	5,371,087	5,273,848

## Government Effectiveness

baseline 51.44%

**41.83%**

baseline 39%

**33%**

- Changing priorities under crises, including the delayed circulation of the anti-discrimination law, changing commitments and slow-down of reforms
- Frequent changes and staff turnover in partner institutions
- Lack of comprehensive and systematic data, including on displaced people, as well as underreporting on violence against children and women

\*\*available: budget allocated at the JWP development stage (1st quarter of 2022)



UNSDCF Outcome 6: Effective and accountable governance systems and institutions

<10.000+	<7.000+	<7.600+	<30+	<750+
individuals trained, including patrol officers, parents, and teachers	individuals received direct support, including migration psychosocial assistance	individuals reached regarding migration, migrant human rights, and community-based psychosocial support for displaced individuals	public sessions held by Parliament with UN support	individuals in mine-affected communities trained on mines/ explosive ordnance risks and safe behavior principles

In 2022, public administration reform with strong gender equality dimension entered into force. With the UN’s support, Gender Seal was applied within the RA Ministry of Justice, Police, and Yerevan Municipality. Additionally, gender budgeting was introduced to the law on State Budget 2022 for the first time 20 and participatory gender planning and budgeting was introduced in 7 more communities. The Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code were also reformed to better protect victims of violence. The changes removed harmful provisions, introduced an obligation to initiate investigations without direct reporting by the victim, and established consent-based criminalization of sexual violence.

UN made sure that nearly two dozen laws are reformed through inclusive and participatory process leading to 10% of amendments coming from non-governmental sources, a shift from previous government-only prerogative. The newly established Research and Training Centre already offers quality services the Parliament members. **“The activity has been fruitful in transformation of the parliament, the quality of the legislative initiatives, the digital solutions, the involvement of the youth. We cooperate for the development of capabilities, promoting the women’s participation in decision making, and serving it as an exemplary model in the entire government system,”** [shared Alen Simonyan](#), the president of the Parliament while reflecting on the cooperation with the UN.

In 2022 the Ministry of Interior was created, and the emphasis was placed on improving service delivery and

outreach to different groups, including the migrants, asylum seekers and displaced. In preparation to the new Migration and Citizenship Service under the Ministry, UN set to strengthen migration management capacities. **“Currently we have a decentralized migration management system, with multiple databases. A functional centralization will increase the efficiency of the institutional migration system. The project is also important in the context of staff training and digitalization,”** [said Armen Ghazaryan](#), Head of the Migration Service of Armenia, speaking about the UN’s offer of support to the country’s migration governance.

In 2022, we helped Armenia tackle landmine and explosive ordnance contamination. We conducted survey to reveal the contaminated territories; cleared over 11,000 sq. m. territory in Syunik region from mines and equipped community members with knowledge on explosive ordnance and mine risks. We also strengthened the capacities of the Centre of Humanitarian Demining and Expertise by upgrading their data management system and training their staff to use the new system.

Our support in migration governance reforms led to the launch of a modern and transparent electronic Work Permit Issuance system. The system, managed by the Migration and Citizenship Service, now has close to 11,000 active users and contributes to better control of employer-migrant worker relationships, protecting human rights and preventing labor exploitation and trafficking.

Highlights from UN’s Normative Work: Human Rights

2022 marked the launch of the Children and Youth Advisory Council, jointly established by the Human Rights Defender’s Office in Armenia and the UN. **“It is time for us, children and adolescents, to voice our rights and issues with more confidence and demand action and solutions from adults,”** [declared Malena](#), Junior Eurovision winner and UNICEF Ambassador, at the launch of the Council. The formation of the council was a crucial milestone towards the independent monitoring of the rights of children and youth.

The [“Accountable Institutions and Human Rights Protection in Armenia”](#) EU-funded project implemented jointly by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and OSCE is one of the UN interventions to enhance rights-based approach in public service delivery, security sector governance and constitutional reform. In 2022, the partners boosted technical abilities of the new Patrol Police. Ministry of Justice and Human Rights Defender’s Office with focus on human rights protection in closed institutions; facilitated multi-stakeholder discussions for the new Human Rights Action Plan 2023-2025; while human rights and gender equality were integrated into the revised Police Education Complex curriculum. **“The trainings were crucial to improve the public’s perception and confidence in law enforcement officers,”** confirms the Chief of the Patrol Police.



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UNSDCF Outcome 7: Evidence-based policies and innovative financing

Despite the ongoing geopolitical instability, Armenia is making significant progress in building a thriving innovation ecosystem. Pockets of innovation excellence in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, complemented by vibrant tourism, mining, and food processing industries, as well as an entrepreneurial business climate are a testament to Armenia’s successes - [this is the conclusion](#) from the UN’s Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) 2022. Building on the achievements, Armenia remains committed to further improving its innovation governance and the UN is a trusted partner here. Our innovative, data-driven solutions included:

Building on [behavioral insights](#), the UN redesigned and digitized 2 municipal services in Armenia, resulting in optimized processes and increased citizen satisfaction. The success prompted the municipality to digitize trade services, benefiting over 5000 businesses. The first Digital Readiness Assessment in Armenia and the region informed the rollout of the capital’s digital transformation roadmap and communication strategy, increasing the uptake of digitalized services increased by 4.4%.

Amidstrapidlychangingjobmarkets,vulnerablewomen face increased difficulty in entering the workforce. To boost women’s employability, [Accelerator #5: National Platform for Economic Empowerment of Women](#), was launched by the UN and Government. By using [behavioral insights](#) to understand entrepreneur decision-making, the programme is tailored to address barriers and leverage enablers for successful entrepreneurship practices by women.

In response to the priorities of the Ministry of Health, the UN’s [BarevBalik](#) serves as a one-stop shop all the parents and parents-to-be. Powered by evidence-based information and adjusted to the Armenian cultural realities, the application offers guidance on pregnancy and parenthood. “[This is the result of combining efforts for developing digital technologies and strengthening public health. An effective public-private partnership,](#)” [believes Kim Avanesyan](#), our business partner from Viva-MTS.

Good news for policymakers and community leaders! UN’s [Randomized Controlled Trial](#) found that official communication during elections can significantly increase citizen participation in local self-governance. By conducting an information campaign and making community web sources and event details easily accessible, the experiment saw a higher participation rate (8.5 vs 2.3 per 1000 households) in the target communities. These findings provide valuable insights to enhance citizen engagement in local governance.

With strong data partnerships, we supported the update of ArmStat’s TransMonEE platform with child protection indicators, review of migration information systems, assessment of the child rights program, enhancement of national capacities to incorporate nutrition indexes into national statistics on poverty, Global Survey on Gender Statistics 2022, and support with the census and modernization of Armenia’s official statistics production through the review of UNECE Generic Activity Model for Official Statistics.

UNCT Focus: Strengthening financing architecture for effective policy implementation

Public finance contributes 49.61% of total development finance in Armenia, with international public finance accounting for 28.15% of development finance resources. Private lending to the private sector is the primary financing flow at 34.5%; while domestic and external investment only account for 8% of development finance. This was assessed via the [Development Finance Assessment](#) (DFA), which is the first systemic map of development finance flows in Armenia, carried out as part of the Joint SDG Fund’s “[Making Finance work for transformative change in Armenia: UN-locking Finance for Armenia 2030.](#)” In order to attract private investment, a “[Feasibility Study on Innovative Finance Instruments](#)” provided valuable insights and recommendations on the most effective and suitable innovative finance instruments and mechanisms for the region.

Expanding on available evidence, UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP developed an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) roadmap to improve public expenditure efficiency and promote private investments in Armenia. With UN support, Armenia integrated detailed costing and funding projections from public and private resources into Labor and Social Protection, Food Security, and Education sector strategies, harmonized with the SDGs. The project also introduced a Climate Change Financial Framework (CCFF) to help the government mobilize, manage and target climate finance.



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

SDGs supported:	UPR Recommendations:	Linkages with National Development Priorities:
<div><div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div><div>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div><div>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div></div>	120.24, 120.47-120.74, 120.76, 120.100, 120.103-120.113, 120.115, 120.156-120.159	Government Programme 2021-2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provisions 4.1, 4.6, 4.7</li></ul>

Financial Delivery under Strategic Priority 1 (in USD)			
➔ 2022 Available	➔ 2022 Required	➔ 2022 Expenditure	➔ 2021 Expenditure
3,274,314	3,400,410	1,742,696	4,638,481

Key UNSDCF Indicators:		
SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women:		
In national parliament	In local government	In local government councils
<div>baseline 24%</div> <div>↑ 35.5%</div>	<div>baseline 10%</div> <div>↑ 24.7%</div>	<div>baseline 10%</div> <div>↑ 30%</div>
As ministers	Gender Gap Rank	Labour-force participation rate of women: 101
<div>baseline 8%</div> <div>↑ 16.7%</div>	<div>rank in 2021: 114, baseline 98</div> <div>↑ 89</div>	<div>baseline 112%</div> <div>↑ 101%</div>

Key Contextual Challenges:

De-prioritization of gender equality and women empowerment issues during crises, particularly in security-related situations

High withdrawal rate of women candidates during local elections

Increased political representation of women has not translated into pro-women agenda

\*upward arrows = positive trend, downward arrows = negative trend, against the baseline  
\*\*available: budget allocated at the JWP development stage (1st quarter of 2022)

Pillar 4

Co-Lead Agencies:

Contributing Agencies:



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

<260.000+	<15.000+	<40+	<1000+
people reached through gender equality campaigns	people sensitized on men’s caretaking responsibilities and gender equality	women-led start-ups initiated	new economic opportunities for women created

With robust advocacy of the UN and civil society organizations (CSO), Armenia made significant strides in increasing the share of women in senior positions as legislators, senior officials and managers. In 2022, national and local quotas for gender equality were applied for the second time, translating into increase of women representation in local government councils from 10% to 30% and as head of communities from 2% to 5.5%. Along with policy support, the UN continued pre-electoral and post-electoral support to women leaders. As a testimony of success, more than 24% of all elected women community council members were UN beneficiaries.

2022 was prominent in terms of establishment of councils, including the Public Council on Women’s Rights Adjunct to the Human Rights Defender Office (HRDO), and 15 Women and Youth Advisory Councils adjunct to the head of communities. The UN and partners capacitated those structures as independent platforms to factor in women’s agenda in governance processes.

In a bid to curb gender-based violence SafeYOU, a UN-supported Armenian app, has transformed into a global platform for protection, prevention, and prosecution of gender-based violence. With 60,000 women already using it in Armenia, Georgia, and Iraq, SafeYOU plans to expand to Africa and Arab states. **“The audio recording gathered by SafeYOU was accepted by the court as a pivotal piece of evidence,”** notes [Mariam](#), the founder of the application which now offers data to policy-makers and civil society to understand the trends and needs in the field. In 2022, out of 300 submissions, 61 countries, and 20 finalists, Safe YOU became a winner of the [Joint Innovation Challenge 2022](#).

Last year, UN continued to challenge gender stereotypes and harmful practices. In this respect, the [nation-wide research](#) conducted by the UN and partners on gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) offers current analysis on the prevalence and causes of son preference and selective abortions. To eliminate stereotypical portrayals of men and women, the UN led data-driven national communication campaigns, through initiative like [“Papa Schools,”](#) [“Caring for equality”](#) courses, [family corners](#).

Confronting the intersecting forms of discriminatory treatment, the UN published [“50 Women with Disabilities Who Changed the World](#), celebrating the achievements of women with disabilities in human history on the one hand and empowering them, on the other. Manushak, is among the women with disabilities, who has formed her business with UN support. **“After establishing a sewing production, I started to earn money and became more independent,”** [says Manushak](#).

UN’s women’s economic empowerment strategy also targeted displaced women through, for instance, improved qualification in [garment footwear design and modelling](#); rural women through [supporting their businesses](#) to ensure sufficient sales and profitability; and refugee women through handicraft skills development. **“The doll had no lips as the bride was supposed to be silent and shy,”** [says Rima](#), a participant of the traditional Armenian doll-making masterclass. **“But my doll is from Karabakh. She has a big mouth and it’s always open,”** Rima smiles.

Empowering women and girls through technology has been another winning strategy for the UN. Passionate

about artificial intelligence and inspired by an award granted by the UN’s [Accelerator #5](#) project, Ani, a 16-year-old girl, created her own startup – [GirloPolis](#), with the **“goal to unite, motivate and encourage girls to think about the ICT sphere. We will try to create a community where girls support each other.”**

These and other aspects of gender equality achievements and challenges were reflected in the concluding remarks of [the 7th periodic CEDAW Review of Armenia](#) to foster elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the country.



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2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2022, UNCT reinforced existing partnerships and forged new ones to further advance the SDGs. To pave the way for **new, innovative solutions**, partnerships were established at the international level with teams that are moving the frontiers in their industries, including [Lightcast](#), a world leader in labor market analysis through big data, [Deep Pavlov](#), the Neural Networks and Deep Learning Laboratory at Moscow Institute Physics and Technology, UK’s [Behavioral Insights Team](#), [SweRoad](#), Swedish National Road Consulting company, [Oslo Governance Center](#), [Global Data Barometer](#), [Istituto di Moda Burgo](#) and more.

2022 witnessed also the establishment of **partnerships with the private sector**, previously an underutilized source of funding for UN initiatives. The collaboration between the UN and the private sector has been increasingly prominent, including the examples below:

[Yeremyan Projects](#) has been our business partner in promoting healthy eating habits. Thanks to the public-private partnership, 350 schoolchildren receive free quality milk every day. We are observing changes in the children’s behavior, aiming to see a rise in milk consumption and healthier breakfast choices.

Together with the [Body Shop](#) franchise, we amplified the voices of young people in public life. This collaboration builds upon a partnership between the UN SG’s Envoy on Youth and The Body Shop, which aims to break down barriers preventing youth participation through the [“Be Seen Be Heard”](#) campaign.

AraratBank, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armenia-based company, along with Grant Thornton CJSC, that joined the special initiative of the UN SG on establishing Global Compact in 2022. **“We are committed to making the UN Global Compact and its principles part of the strategy, culture, and day-to-day operations of our company,”** [stated the Chairman of the Board](#), AraratBank, Mr. Grigor Hovhannissian. Ararat Bank’s collaboration with the UN for the “food cards” pilot program showcases their corporate social responsibility and agile partnership. By providing access to “food cards” and financial

services, the Bank is helping vulnerable households in need. UNCT continues to encourage more private sector companies to join the UN Global Compact in collaboration with exemplary local networks, such as UN Global Compact National Network in Georgia.

In a valuable display of **south-south cooperation**, the All-Armenia ‘Hayastan’ Fund in Argentina and the UN have joined forces to launch a 2-year program will offer a wide range of multidisciplinary services to children in difficult life circumstances, such as rehabilitation, case management, prevention of family separation, and mental health services. **“We are particularly happy to know we can support children in the region of Syunik and displaced families that have suffered from Nagorno Karabakh conflict,”** [says Alex Kalpakian](#), President of Hayastan All Armenian Fund in Argentina. Last year, UN Armenia also shared its experiences with Moldova on electoral administration, with Mongolia on Parliament’s engagement in the climate change agenda, and with Macedonia on oversight of government policy implementation.

Funded by South-South Triangular Cooperation Fund, the “Green Energy for Productive Farming” project uses an economically self-sustaining, climate-sensitive, and community-led approach to increase agricultural production for smallholder farmers. By providing farmers with access to solar stations, we make significant impact on agricultural development. The savings made by the farmers on electricity costs allow them to invest more in their farms, increasing their productivity and output.

**Data partnership** with UN Statistical Division triggered another South-South collaboration by supporting the Government of Colombia to mine social media data with AI. In this area, the UN also partnered with the Foundation for Armenian **Science and Technology** (FAST) around [Global Innovation Forum 2022](#), a leading-edge platform to explore AI’s latest findings across disciplines. In 2022, the forum attracted 3,500 participants and 170 outstanding scientists, innovators, and executives from 23 countries. As a result, the UN and FAST plan to collaborate on establishing biotech prototyping lab in 2023.

UN-STARMUS collaboration brought together 100 young people in Armenia to explore the intersection of science and art. Co-founded by astrophysicist Garik Israelyan and legendary Queen guitarist Brian May, STARMUS unites world-renowned scientists, Nobel

prize laureates, astronauts, and the brightest minds of science, art, and technology. **“STARMUS is here to inspire the new generation of Armenian technological giants and startups,”** [declared Garik Israelian](#).

2.4. UN Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

The 4 RGs under UNSDCF umbrella improved internal coordination and joint programming, with over 20% of the 2022 budget delivered jointly by 2 or more agencies. This approach has proven effective in accelerating coherent delivery and making better use of limited resources for the benefit of the people of Armenia. Examples include:

Fund	Joint Programme Name	UN Agencies	Total Funding (\$)	2022 Delivery (\$)
Covid-19 Response and Recovery fund	COVID-19 and Resilience in Armenia: Mitigating the Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable People and Communities	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM	1,000,000	80,000
	Accelerating women’s empowerment for economic resilience and renewal: the post COVID-19 reboot in Armenia	UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNIDO, UNDP	850,000	135,000
UNPRPD 4	“Creating enabling environment and ecosystem for CRPD implementation and disability mainstreaming in Armenia”	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA	400,000	166,000
European Union	Accountable Institutions and Human Rights Protection in Armenia	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OSCE	2,339, 314	940,834
	EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence	UN Women, UNFPA	504,000	400,000
	Future Today	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA	3,867,506	3,029,964 (cumulative)
European Commission - Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations	Strengthening Migration Management Capacities in Support of Government Reform Agenda in Line with CEPA	IOM, UNHCR	742,000	98,000
Joint SDG Fund	Making Finance Work for Transformative Change in Armenia: UN-locking Finance for Armenia 2030	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF	1,000,000	462,000
	Food value chains have improved resilience through investments that increase productive capacities to respond to increased market demand	WFP, FAO	\$250,000	\$230,000
UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)	Enhancing Human Security and Building a Resilient Society in the Disadvantaged Communities of Armenia	UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, FAO, UNIDO	1,999,596	325,000
UN Road Safety Fund	Re-framing Road Safety in Armenia: connecting data, people and policies on Armenian roads	UNDP, UNICEF, WHO	488,321	197,000

Figure 4. Interagency Cooperation in the Mobilization of Funds



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UN Armenia planted 18,000 trees for the UN Forest in Lori @UN Armenia

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Breaking Barriers: Supporting Armenian women in tech @UN Armenia

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UN Armenia and STARMUS cooperate to inspire Armenian youth to explore science @UN Armenia

UNO together with the UNCG communications group has been able to amplify its message and engage with diverse audiences around the world, by collaborating with global and local initiatives and campaigns, such as the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armenia-UN membership, [16 Days Campaign](#) marked under “UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls” and [Gender Bias](#) campaign, World AIDS Day, [Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge](#), [World Mental Health Day](#), Youth Day, Educations Week, [World Immunisation Week](#), [World Environment Day](#), [World Children’s Day](#), World Bicycle Day, [Armenia’s contribution to peacekeeping](#), #HealthyPlanetHealthyMe, “UN in Armenia. The future we want” [stamp presentation](#), 10+ field visits, exhibitions, [UN Armenia-STARMUS VI cooperation](#), and [UN Armenia Forest creation](#).

### 2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Prompted by the complex context and multiple crises in Armenia, the UN had to continuously adjust its programming approach, which led to valuable lessons learned along the way.

**Investment in emergency preparedness** is critical to effectively respond to future contingencies with agility and speed. Comprehensive emergency preparedness exercises that include measures such as staff capacity building, clear role definition, supply stockpiling, and contingency planning can significantly enhance our response capacity.

**Stronger presence in border areas:** Recognizing the importance of on-site presence in border areas, UNCT Armenia reinforced the strategic partnership with the office of the Syunik region Governor and [paid more frequent visits to the conflict-affected communities](#) of Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions of Armenia, including holding [a UN Country Team meeting in Syunik region](#) in July 2022 together with local partners. UNHCR,

UNICEF, and WFP also opened offices in Syunik region in 2022. The positive experience has highlighted the benefits of this move, such as increased capacity for constant situation monitoring, improved partnerships, and better comprehension of regional dynamics. The UN will continue securing resources to reinforce its position in the Syunik region.

#### UNSDCF Annual Performance Review for 2022 revealed additional need for

- a. better internal coordination and collaboration, both between and among agencies,
- b. enhanced role of the UN in the country’s development coordination landscape and
- c. maximizing the potential of joint programming and strengthening the resource mobilization, particularly that for UN Joint Funds, under RCO coordination.

### 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2021-2025 UNSDCF for Armenia expressed a total financial commitment of approximately \$250 million for five years, from 2021 to 2025. Currently, 60% of the funds have already been mobilized:

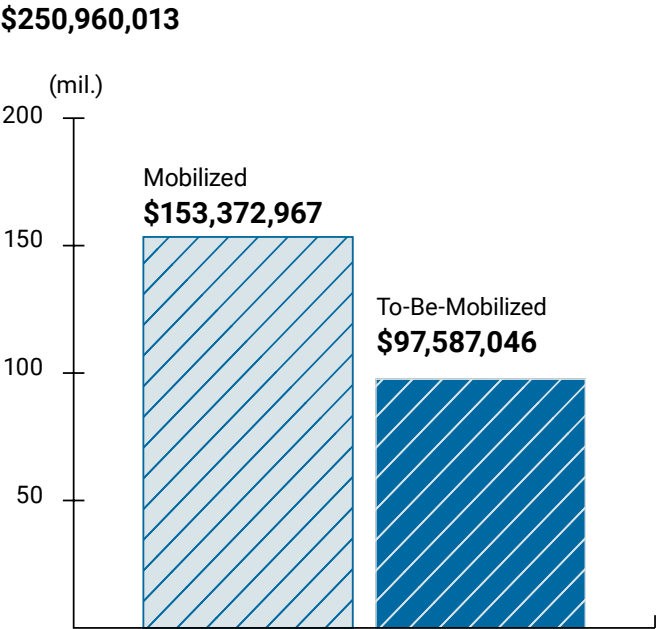


Figure 5. Overview of UNSDCF Required Funding

The top 3 funding sources for the UNSDCF have been a) programme specific funding, mobilized from multilateral or bilateral partners (59%), b) agency core funds (18%) and c) pooled and vertical funds (16%):

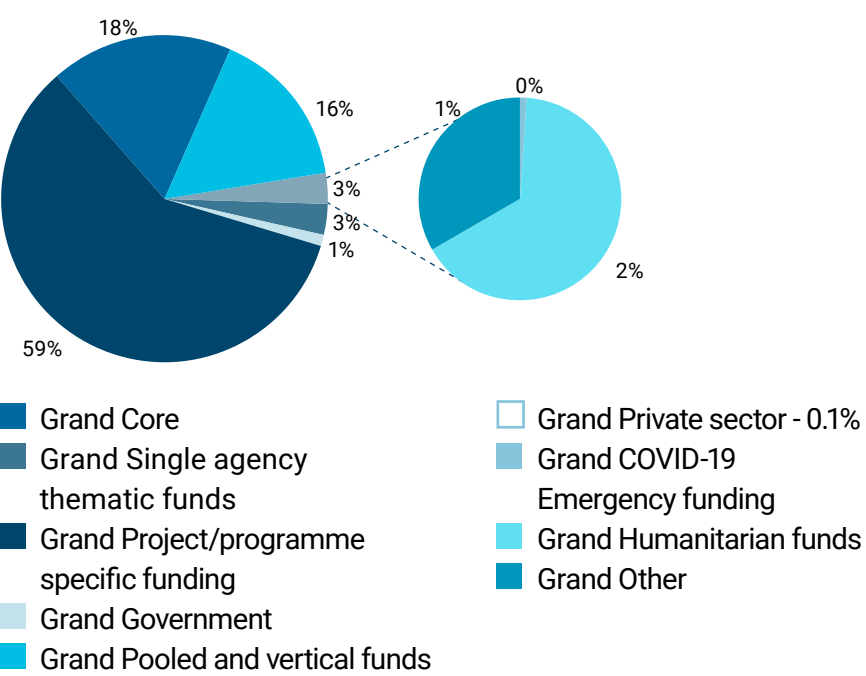


Figure 6. Available Resources Per Source of Funding



In 2022, we secured 79% coverage of required resources for the year, expressed in 38,740,652 million in actual expenditure. Delivery across UNSDCF result areas is demonstrated below:

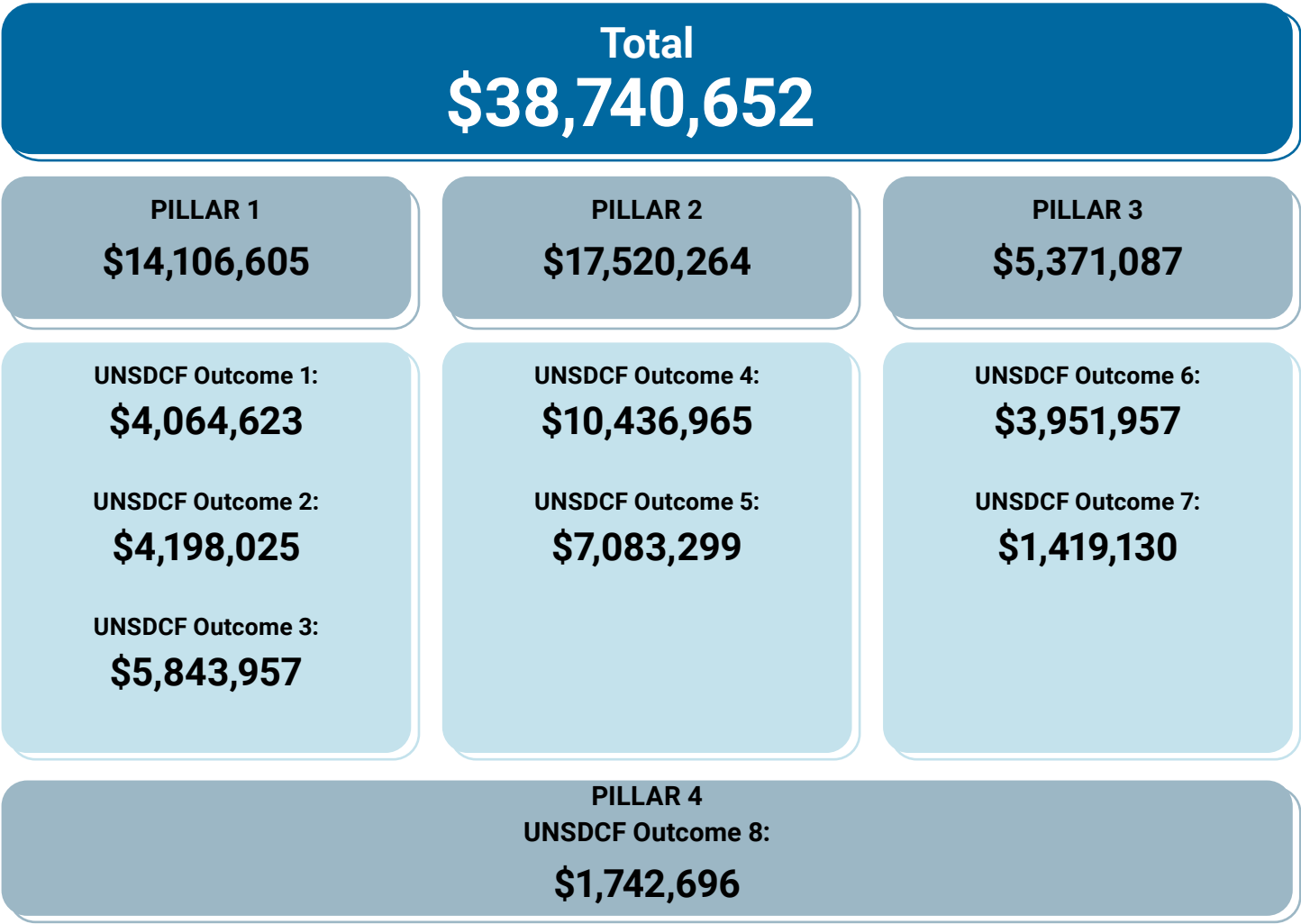


Figure 7. 2022 Expenditure Across UNSDCF Result Areas and Outcomes

Our top 3 contributions went to a) SDG 7, b) SDG 3 and c) SDG 16 (13,9%, 12,5% and 10,6% of total budget respectively). The below graphic illustrates resource allocations towards each SDG goal, based on the available resources in 2022.

UN INFO Visual 2: Where is the money going? The graphic illustrates resource allocations towards each SDG goal, based on 2022 available resources in UNSDCF.



Figure 8. UN INFO Visual 2: Where is the Money Going?



# Chapter 3:

## UNCT Key Focus for 2023

**UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC):** The JSC formation, that was delayed due to the crises, will be set up in 2023 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.

**Integrated National Financing Framework and Strategy for Armenia:** The UN will engage in financing dialogues with national stakeholders to support the design of the financing strategy for the country's priorities, building on the DFA and INFF Roadmap.

**Roll-out of the Development Assistance Database** will be supported, in partnership with the Government and the EU, to promote transparency and accountability in development aid.

**Tax for SDGs:** The UN will launch a new partnership with the Ministry of Finance and State Revenue Committee. While increasing tax revenues is at the core, Tax for SDGs Initiative will also focus on promoting greater alignment between tax and fiscal policies and the SDGs.

**Social protection system:** Actions will support the development of a unified social services framework, a new social protection strategy with life cycle approach, as well as a data platform of the national social ambulance program.

**Piloting of employment schemes and programs** will focus on assisting social protection beneficiaries to transition out of the system.

**Public sector reform** will include capacity building for state institutions, introduction of innovative instruments, and promoting public participation in reform discussions.

**Demographic strategy:** The UN will support the adoption of the strategy and its monitoring framework, an urgent task for the Government, taking into account the demographic challenges of the country.

**National systems for food and social security:** The UN is committed to boosting national food and social security systems, by supporting the Ministry of Economy's Food security system development strategy and action plan for 2023-2026. This partnership will aid the government in making sustainable decisions for the development of national food systems.

**Preparedness:** Drawing from past experiences, the UN is set to bolster preparedness efforts to ensure timely assistance in times of crisis.





Acronyms

AMD	Armenian Dram	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
AT	Assistive Technology	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
ATS	Armenia Transformation Strategy	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
CBA	Central Bank of Armenia	PSS	Psychosocial Support
CCA	Common Country Analysis	RC	UN Resident Coordinator
CCFF	Climate Change Financing Framework	RCO	UN Resident Coordinator Office
CEC	Central Electoral Commission	RG	Results Groups
CF	Cooperation Framework	RH	Reproductive Health
CPD	Country Programme Document	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
CSO	Civil Society Organization	SG	Secretary-General
CwD	Children with Disabilities	SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
DFA	Development Finance Assessment	SSW	Social Service Workforce
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	TOC	Theory of Change
EE	Energy Efficiency	TUS	Time Use Survey
EU	European Union	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
GBSS	Gender-Biased Sex Selection	UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
GoA	Government of Armenia	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
IARP	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Plan	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IDR	Long-Term Local-Currency Issuer Default Rating	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IFI	International Finance Institutions	UNO	United Nations Information Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
INFF	Integrated National Financial Framework	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
JWP	Joint Work Plans (JWP)	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
MoH	Ministry of Health	USD	United States Dollar
MoE	Ministry of Economy	WFP	World Food Programme
MoESCS	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports	WG	Working Group
MOJ	Ministry of Justice	WHO	World Health Organization
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund		
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises		
NMFA	National Forest Monitoring and Assessment		
NGO	Non-governmental Organization		
NK	Nagorno-Karabakh		
ODHIR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights		

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