



USAID AND ARMENIA: PARTNERS SINCE 1992

USAID supports a variety of activities that work at the national and local levels in all ten marzes (regions). By supporting more inclusive and sustainable economic growth; participatory, effective, and accountable governance; and reforms to the social sector, USAID activities work towards a goal of a **more engaged, prosperous, and well-governed Armenian society.**

Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Armenia Business Enabling Environment

Partner: International Development Group

Active: July 2020- July 2022

Collaborates with the Government of Armenia, the private sector, and other stakeholders to promote the business enabling environment and support the development, adoption, and implementation of policy and legal and regulatory initiatives through strengthened public-private dialogue.

ENERGY

Market Liberalization and Electricity Trade Program

Partner: Tetra Tech

Active: June 2018- June 2023

Promotes electricity market liberalization reforms, supports electricity trade with Georgia, and improves power supply diversification, and transparency.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Economic Development-New Economic Opportunities (RED-NEO)

Partner: Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development Foundation (CARD)

Active: February 2019- February 2024

Promotes inclusive, sustainable economic security and growth by connecting producers and buyers, establishing networks to support economic development, and improving Small Medium Enterprises and farms to develop and grow. The project works in 60 communities throughout all 10 marzes in Armenia and focuses on the horticulture value chain and the hospitality sector.

“My Armenia” Cultural Tourism Program

Partner: Smithsonian Institution

Active: July 2015- December 2021

Bolsters the rural private sector to develop and offer a wider range of cultural tourism products, helping local economies benefit from this rapidly growing sector while preserving Armenia’s unique cultural heritage. The project works Vayots Dzor, Syunik, Lori, Tavush, and Shirak marzes.

Innovative Agriculture Training & Learning Camp (AGRI CAMP)

Partner: International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education Foundation (ICARE)

Active: May 2020- April 2023

Builds partnerships between the agriculture sector, university graduates and young professionals, and provides agribusiness training and skills building to build professional knowledge and bridge the gap between the labor market supply and demand.

WATER

Advanced Science and Partnerships for Integrated Resource Development (ASPIRED)

Partner: Mendez England and Associates

Active: September 2015- July 2021

Works with the Ministry of Environment and other water institutions, and the private sector to encourage investments for employing efficient water management systems in the Ararat Valley, support environmentally friendly fish-farming and water supply practices, inform evidence based decision making on water management through data and modelling, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and invest in clean energy options.

Participatory, Effective, and Accountable Governance

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Governance Reform Activity

Partner: Territorial Development Fund of Armenia

Active: August 2015- June 2022

Provides assistance to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure to implement the Territorial and Administrative Reform of Armenia and strengthen local governance through improved service delivery to constituents and provides matching grants for community development in 13 consolidated clusters.

Local Works

Partner: Multiple awards

Active: Ongoing

Promotes locally-led and community-centered development in consolidated communities through support for citizen-identified community priorities. The program encourages communities to become self-reliant so that they envision, own, and lead community development processes, and garner the support they need to enhance their resilience and reduce dependence on the central government.

Local Works: Research and Analysis Services

Partner: Prism

Active: April 2020- November 2020

Provides research and analysis services for rapid assessments in 10 consolidated communities of Armenia. The assessments will inform the selection of target/pilot communities for Armenia's Local Works activities.

Small Project Assistance (SPA)- Inter-Agency Partnership Agreement (PAPA)

Partner: Peace Corps

Active: Ongoing

Provides small grant assistance to Peace Corps Volunteers and their communities to pursue low-cost, grassroots sustainable development.

Civic Engagement in Local Governance (CELoG)

Partner: Communities Finance Officers Association

Active: September 2014- September 2021

Mobilizes citizens around targeted reform areas, including Territorial and Administrative Reform and improved local governance.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Strengthening of Inclusive Education System

Partner: Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport

Active: April 2016- April 2021

USAID works directly with the Ministry to strengthen Armenia's inclusive education system in order to implement national child welfare reforms. Through small-scale adjustments in selected schools and pedagogical-psychological centers, the project ensures that learning environments are physically adapted to be inclusive of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

Community Level Access to Social Services (CLASS)

Partner: World Vision

Active: September 2017- June 2021

Promotes the establishment of community-based social services in Armenia through the introduction of a community-based social worker position within local government and by enabling communities to identify, prevent, and address their social issues.

Leading for Independent Living

Partner: Mobility International USA

Active: September 2019- September 2022

Promotes independent living and the inclusion of persons with disabilities by facilitating accessible, affordable and sustainable community-based support and services in Lori and Shirak marzes.

ELECTIONS, LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING, AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

Strengthening Electoral Processes and Political Accountability

Partner: Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)- International Foundation of Election Systems (IFES), National Democratic Institute (NDI) & International Republican Institute (IRI)

Active: September 2018- September 2022

Leverages the political will and energy created by the government transition in Armenia to build government capacity to respond to strategic priorities, improve election administration and oversight, and strengthen institutions of political accountability for inclusive political competition.

Support for the Sustainability of the Center for Development of Legislation and Legal Studies

Partner: Ministry of Justice

Active: September 2019- March 2021

Supports the Ministry of Justice to enhance its institutional capacity and expertise in legislative drafting, review, and analysis through the establishment of the Center for Development of Legislation and Legal Studies.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA

Media for Informed Civic Engagement

Partner: Media Initiatives Center

Active: September 2014- May 2021

Improves citizens' access to independent and reliable sources of information. This media-for-development approach focuses on priority reform areas and strengthens the media's capacity to be independent and meet professional industry standards.

Data for Accountable and Transparent Action (DATA)

Partner: Eurasia Partnership Foundation

Active: June 2020- June 2021

Strengthens the institutional capacity of local Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and improves CSO capacity for evidence-based policy analysis, input and effective communication. DATA builds on USAID's previous Civil Society Organization Development Program in an effort to support them in becoming successful actors in building a more engaged, prosperous and well-governed Armenian society.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Promoting Transparency and Accountability through Advanced Civil Society Participation

Partner: Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center (TIAC)

Active: November 2014- May 2021

Supports locally led civil society consortia to mobilize citizens around the targeted reform areas of anti-corruption and improved transparency and accountability.

Technical Assistance to the Audit Chamber of Armenia

Partner: U.S. Government Accountability Office/Center of Audit Excellence

Active: June 2020- June 2023

Provides capacity building, training, and consultancy services to the Audit Chamber of Armenia in an effort to combat corruption and address recommendations identified by the U.S. Government Accountability Office during a needs assessment conducted at the Audit Chamber in Spring of 2019.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Promoting the Human Rights of LGBTI People in Armenia

Partner: Public Information and Need of Knowledge (PINK) NGO

Active: September 2019- September 2022

Advances human rights of LGBTI people and protects them from violence and discrimination, specifically focused on strengthening data collection and research, conducting behavior change communications, promoting legal inclusiveness, and providing emergency assistance in cases of violence.

Armenia Support Initiative

Partner: Management Systems International (MSI)

Active: August 2019- February 2022

Partners with the Armenian government to advance institutional reforms at the national level, and with leaders at local levels to maintain support for the democratic transition by mobilizing citizens in support of social projects.

COVID-19 Response

IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Preparedness and Response to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic

Partner: International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Active: April 2020- December 2020

Works to reduce the morbidity, mortality and social impacts of COVID-19 in Armenia, and prevent, slow or interrupt virus transmission throughout the country and beyond. The activity delivers essential food and hygiene supplies to vulnerable people, provides psychological support, and disseminates COVID-19 related information through printed materials, social media, and phone.

Preparedness and Response to Combat the Global Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

Partner: World Health Organization (WHO)

Active: April 2020- November 2020

Works to stop further transmission of the virus and reduce its impact by providing essential equipment, supplies, training and technical assistance to strengthen Armenia's laboratory capacity to manage large-scale testing for COVID-19. The activity also supports improved clinical care of those infected with COVID-19, including the most severe cases.

Preventing and Responding to the COVID-19 in At-Risk Countries

Partner: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Active: March 2020- June 2021

Works to reduce human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 and improve the quality and effectiveness of COVID-19 diagnosis. The activity is mitigating the impact of the outbreak through risk communication and community engagement, providing critical supplies, improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and data collection and analysis efforts.

USAID/Washington Funded Activities in Armenia

ENVIRONMENT

Toxic Sites Identification Project

Partner: PURE Earth

Active: 2018- 2021

Supports the identification and analysis of toxic waste in dumpsites throughout Armenia and builds the Government of Armenia's capacity to manage the threat these sites pose to human health and the environment. Recent analysis has identified 57 of 60 dumpsites as having high concentrations of heavy metals. PURE Earth collaborates with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures to address issues or close toxic sites and maintains a partnership with the Ministry of Environment to share data and methods of analysis.

ENERGY

Energy Technology and Governance (ETAG) Activity

Partner: United States Energy Association (USEA)

Active: September 2012 - September 2022

Armenia's electricity system operators participate in ETAG's regional working groups, covering utility cybersecurity, regional electricity market development, and electric transmission system planning. USEA is also identifying transmission system upgrades necessary for increasing cross-border electric transmission between Armenia and Georgia.

Enhancing Stability and Technical Expertise in Europe & Eurasia Energy Markets (ESTEEM) Activity

Partner: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)

Active: September 2016- September 2022

Armenia's energy regulatory body, the Public Services Regulatory Commission, participates in USAID's regional working groups, covering cybersecurity, regional electricity market development, and infrastructure investment.

Residential Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households (REELIH)

Partner: Habitat for Humanity

Active: September 2013- December 2020

Works to increase energy efficiency investments and facilitate renovations in residential buildings, improve formation/institutional development of homeowners associations and mitigate the impacts of rising energy prices on low-income households.

CYBERSECURITY

Information Safety and Capacity (ISC) Project

Partner: Counterpart International

Active: September 2019- September 2020

Works directly with civil society, media, democracy, human rights activists and groups vulnerable to online attacks, hacks, data seizures, and surveillance. ISC supports its beneficiaries with a sustained and ongoing mentoring approach that helps them develop and implement safe communication protocols, appropriate information security, and good digital hygiene. ISC is currently working with over 24 civil society and media organizations in Armenia.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)

Partner: American University of Armenia Corporation; Armenian American Cultural Association, Inc.

Active: Ongoing

With ASHA support, the American University of Armenia constructed and renovated its facilities making them highly effective, practical, modern, and in line with international standards. ASHA has also supported the Armenian-American Wellness Center to procure commodities to enable the expansion of diagnostic and surgical services in order to meet the ever increasing demand from returning and new patients seeking reliable healthcare services.

Strengthening Collection, Management and Use of Quality Routine Data for the Provision of Child Protection and Care in Armenia

Partner: Data for Impact (D4I), Palladium

Active: 2020- 2023

Works to improve processes, information systems and coordination of staff and resources to monitor Armenia's progress on care reform and the provision of child protection and social work services. Improves child protection and care by strengthening the Government of Armenia's ability to collect, manage and use data for effective case management. Supports ministries to further develop M&E processes, finalize an information system to capture data on alternative care, and formalize roles and responsibilities for data collection and reporting.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA

Civil Society Organization (CSO) Sustainability Index (SI)

Partner: Civic Development and Partnership Foundation

Active: Renews on annual bases

Assesses the capacity of civil society to serve as both a short-term partner in implementing development solutions and a long-term actor in ensuring that development outcomes are sustained. This SI allows local civil society to assess the environment in which they are operating and their capacity to advocate, operate sustainably and communicate with citizens. The SI assesses seven key components: legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, sectoral infrastructure and public image; it is a useful measure for local civil society organizations, governments, funders and academicians.

Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSII)

Partner: CIVICUS; Sub-Partner: Partnership and Teaching NGO

Active: TBC

Supports and empowers CSOs in Armenia to better respond to COVID-19 by being more constituent-driven and engaging citizens in oversight of governance processes. The activity also works to link Armenian CSOs with regional and global CSO networks to share knowledge and experience around advocacy, communication, and research.

Trusts to Unite Societies in Transatlantic Space (TRUSTS)

Partner: German Marshall Fund of the United States

Active: September 2017- September 2022

Provides small grants to local entities throughout the wider Europe and Eurasia Region. Works to advance democracy by strengthening civil society, and supporting freedom of speech; promote peace and security through people to people contacts and regional networks; and, raise awareness of the region.

Prague Civil Society Centre (PCSC)

Partner: Prague Civil Society Centre

Active: September 2016- September 2021

Works to empower civil society actors from Eastern Europe to Central Asia in their efforts to promote individual freedom, human rights and dignity, and the rule of law. Using both innovative and existing approaches, the Centre promotes cooperation, information sharing, and learning both within countries' civil society sectors and across borders. PCSC was founded in June 2015 with support from USAID, the Mott Foundation, the Oak Foundation and the Governments of Sweden and the Czech Republic, and incubated over a two year time period by the Czech-based NGO, People in Need. The Centre, independent as of November 2016, continues to explore innovative approaches to civil society empowerment across Europe and Eurasia.

Regional Investigative Journalism Network (RIJN)

Partner: International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)

Active: March 2011- March 2021

Links practicing investigative journalists across the Europe & Eurasia region with the goal of building citizen demand to reduce corruption, fraud, and other criminal activities through increased exposure to professionally produced, cross-border investigative journalism. The four program objectives are: 1) Investigative journalists and/or centers in three sub-regional geographic areas are virtually and actually linked to create collaborative, regionally significant content. 2) Use of secure, shared communications systems and digital technology applications is increased. 3) Investigative journalism is conducted according to high professional standards. 4) Collaboratively produced content is web-published for broad distribution and/or replication, and usage is tracked.

Vibrant Information Barometer

Partner: IREX

Active: September 2019- September 2024

Building on the Media Sustainability Index, IREX has developed the Vibrant Information Barometer (VIBE), which is designed to better capture and measure the way information is produced, spread, and used today. VIBE will be based on four principles: Content that Matters: examining how both professional and non-professional producers produce information (and what types of information exist); examining content quality, content diversity, and the economic resources available to produce content; Multiple Channels: examining how formal and informal channels yield the transmission or spread of information; looking at the legal framework for free speech, protection of journalists, and access to diverse channels and types of information; Dynamic Engagement: examining how users consume information; looks at freedom of expression, media and information literacy, digital privacy and security, the relevance of information to consumers, as well as public trust in media and information; and Transformative Action: examining how people use information and take action; looking at how government, corporations, and civil society use information to inform decisions and actions, whether information is spread across ideological lines, and whether individuals or groups feel empowered to use information to enact change.

POLITICAL PROCESSES AND LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING

House Democracy Partnership (HDP)

Partner: National Democratic Institute (NDI) and International Republican Institute (IRI)

Active: Ongoing

NDI and IRI help to support the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), a bipartisan commission of the U.S. House of Representatives that facilitates exchange programs and aims to strengthen democratic legislatures

in new or restored democracies. HDP uses peer-to-peer exchange programs, training seminars for members and staff, and targeted material assistance to build capacity in key areas such as legislative oversight, budget analysis, committee operations, constituent relations, and library and research services. Its singular focus on the legislative branch of government and its unique ability to bring together American legislators and their peers from around the world have made the commission a valuable forum for strengthening democratic institutions and deepening bilateral relations.