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Global IDP DATABASE 12/11-04

PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ARMENIA

Compilation of the information available in the Global IDP Database of the Norwegian Refugee Council

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PROFILE SUMMARY

The Government of Armenia estimates that around 72,000 people are internally displaced as a result of the war with Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh (1992-1994). This figure includes an undetermined number of refugees from Azerbaijan who were initially settled inside Armenia and then became displaced again due to military operations in the border areas (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras 9, 11).

National authorities and international agencies confirm that many of the internally displaced have returned to their homes since the ceasefire in May 1994 – an estimated 28,000 persons according to the Government (Green 1998). Based on this information, USCR estimates that 50,000 persons remain internally displaced in the country as of end of 2001 (USCR 2003, Armenia).

There is however a general lack of knowledge on the scope and situation of persons internally displaced as a result of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Originating from areas which are not under foreign occupation, the issue of internal displacement in Armenia has remained outside the political debate. Following his visit to Armenia in May 2000, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on IDPs, Dr. Francis Deng, concluded that internally displaced due to the conflict still had particular vulnerabilities which had not been addressed, especially with regard to shelter, safe access to land, opportunities for self-sufficiency and access to health care and education (UNHCHR 6 November 2000).

Causes and Background of displacement:

Secession of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic from Azerbaijan triggered a war between Azerbaijan and Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh (1992-1994). An estimated 20,000 persons were killed during the war, including many civilians. Between 1988 and 1993, 300,000 to 350,000 Armenians fled Azerbaijan and some 150,000 Azerbaijanis left Armenia.

A cease fire was concluded in 1994, with the Armenian forces left in control of most of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh within the Soviet administrative boundaries, as well as the whole of six Azerbaijani regions and part of two others. Since then, the cease-fire has held despite sporadic clashes along the front line. The Azeri and Turkish blockade against Armenia has been maintained since then (COE Political Affairs Committee, 23 May 2000).

Several international efforts have been made to resolve the conflict. The UN Security Council adopted four resolutions in 1993, calling for the withdrawal of occupying forces from territories taken from Azerbaijan. In 1992, the OSCE /Minsk Group (comprising the United States, France and Russia) was created to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The international negotiations in the framework of the OSCE/Minsk Group have continued with ups and downs, including intensified face-to-face meetings between the two Presidents, but have so far failed to bring a peace agreement (EU 2002, 3.1).

Population profile and figures

According to the return programme released by the government in 2000, 28,000 internally displaced persons have already returned while the government plans to provide assistance for the return of another 39,000 persons. Assuming that "not all displaced people are necessarily enrolled in [the government's return programme]", the US Committee for Refugees estimates that the total figure for the population still displaced by the conflict in Armenia may be 50,000 as of end of 2001 (USCR 2002, Armenia).

Virtually all who were internally displaced by the conflict were ethnic Armenian farmers and villagers from the marzes or districts along the border with Azerbaijan, namely Tavoush, Sjounik, Vajots Dzor, Ararat and

Gegharkounik (UNHCHR 6 November 2000). Women make up 56 percent of the refugee and IDP population, while 21 per cent are children up to 16 years of age, and 30 percent are people over 60. Few of the refugees and displaced person are highly skilled workers, as only 5% have completed higher education (Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group 1999).

The northern region of Tavoush was particularly hard hit by conflict-induced displacement due to its location along 350 kilometres of border with Azerbaijan. Affected also by natural disasters, about 28,000 persons were reported to be internally displaced in this region, of whom 16,000 had already returned home as of November 2000 (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 18).

Patterns of displacement

During the conflict, 50 to 60 per cent of the population, mainly women, children and the elderly, left the villages for the summer pasture lands where they lived in temporary dwellings. The tendency was to move from the border villages incrementally, first leaving for the summer pasture lands, then to safer locations within the marz. Later, those who could - usually the wealthier among them - moved on into the central parts of Armenia and even, ultimately, emigrated. Separation of families was common, with many displaced households counting only one or two persons. (IOM 1999, pp. 28-29)

The Armenian internally displaced have not congregated in large camp, but are dispersed throughout the country in small temporary settlements or with relatives or friends. The low visibility of the population displaced as a result of the conflict also explains the lack of attention given to their problems, compared to other Armenians affected by humanitarian disasters. (Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group 1999, UNHCHR 6 November 2000)

Return and reintegration

The process of integration of the displaced in return or resettlement areas has been constrained by unfavourable socio-economic conditions. The economy was disastrously affected by the devastating earthquake in north-western Armenia in 1988 which killed 25,000 persons and left 500,000 persons homeless, of which 100,000 persons are still displaced as of today (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para 9). The influx of 300,000 ethnic Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan has also put a heavy burden on the country.

Regions bordering an Azerbaijan have been particularly affected by the consequences of the conflict. They suffered a high level of destruction especially in housing and infrastructure. Reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts have been largely insufficient to address the damages. It is estimated that 75 percent of the displaced in the border areas live in temporary dwellings and 18 percent with relatives (DMR 2000). Local authorities in border area villages stress, above all, the need for shelter reconstruction, maintaining that if houses were rebuilt, more people would return (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para 23).

Landmines remain a serious threat in return areas and hampers farming of previously agricultural land. Insecurity resulting from occasional clashes between the Azerbaijani and Armenian forces also hinders the durable return of the displaced, the access to cultivable lands and the implementation of reconstruction projects (UNHCHR 6 November 2000; International Campaign to Ban Landmines August 2000, UNDP 2000, 2.4).

The transition to a market economy, the disruption of traditional trade and financial links with the former Soviet Union and the blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey have furthered degraded living conditions of the whole population - displaced and residents alike. A survey by the World Bank in 1996 showed that 55 percent of the population lives under the poverty line and according to independent estimates, over 34 per cent of the population is unemployed (UNDP 2001, pp 11, 15). Reportedly, only 20 percent of the internally displaced persons in the border areas were employed as of 1999 (IOM 1999, p.15). A severe drought during the summer of 2000 has also seriously affected subsistence farmers in the northern

part of the country. It is estimated that more than 900,000 persons left the country between 1991 and 2000, which further constrains its development capacity (UNDP 200).

National and international response

The closure of the OCHA field unit at the beginning of 2000 signaled that the displacement situation in Armenia was no longer considered a humanitarian emergency. Although the needs for humanitarian assistance remain very high, international humanitarian aid has decreased since 1995, progressively replaced with support to development programmes (Darbinyan September 1999).

As stated by the Special Representative on IDPs, neither the Government nor the international community in Armenia have focused on the particular problems of persons internally displaced by the conflict.

Their needs were assumed indirectly addressed by the government through general poverty alleviation programmes targeting vulnerable groups. A unified social benefit system ("Family Benefit System") was created in January 1999. In order to ensure that only the most vulnerable receive help, the system uses a vulnerability index (i.e. the PAROS index) based on the family composition, income level and place and conditions of residence. Internal displacement itself does not receive any specific consideration within the index and their particular vulnerabilities are therefore not considered when the beneficiaries are chosen (UNHCHR 6 November 2000).

Similarly, international agencies have included internally displaced among the vulnerable population without making specific reference to them, although internally displaced are included among the beneficiaries in some cases (WFP 5 April 2001). A June 2002 report for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also highlighted the lack of attention given by the Armenian Diaspora to the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (COE 4 June 2002).

In 2000, the Department for Refugees and Migration, which has been functioning as an independent department reporting to the Prime Minister since 1999, prepared a project proposal to support the return and the reintegration of some 67,000 internally displaced in border areas (DMR 2000). This project proposal has been followed up by a proposal for mapping of the IDP population as recommended by the Special Representative during his visit. The mapping exercise will be implemented during the second half of 2002 in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council. The main purpose of the mapping exercise is to gain an accurate picture of current needs and intention of the internally displaced as a basis for designing a solid national policy towards durable solutions and assessing rehabilitation needs in return areas.

In October 2001, as part of a comprehensive review of compliance of national legislation in the south Caucasus to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, a roundtable on "Compliance of legislation of the Republic of Armenia with the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement" was held in Yerevan. The event was attended by representatives of the Department for Migration and Refugees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Assembly, OSCE, NRC, UNDP, IOM and UNHCR (OSCE 2001). A report from the meeting and the review has been prepared, but has not yet been made public.

As a follow-up to the roundtable, the OSCE Office and the Norwegian Refugee Council co-organized a roundtable on IDP Situation Assessment and Durable Solutions in Armenia in March 2002. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the IDP definition and criteria for durable solutions as provided in the Guiding Principles and to continue the dialogue with the Government of Armenia regarding the IDP mapping survey (UNDP May 2002).

(Updated August 2002)

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

The conflict with Azerbaijan

The conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh forced civilian population to leave areas bordering Azerbaijan (1992-1994)

- Secession of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic from Azerbaijan triggered a war between Azerbaijan and Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh (1992-1994)
- A cease-fire agreement signed in May 1994 more or less observed since this date
- Primary cause of internal displacement has been the shelling of border villages during the conflict

Background

"Situated at the intersection of the Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires, the Nagorno-Karabakh region has seen very many changes over the centuries, in terms of both its legal status and the make-up of its population.

Nagorno-Karabakh was ceded by the Persian Empire to Russia under the Treaty of Golestan in [1813], when it became part of the 'Guberniya' (an administrative unit, or province, of the Russian Empire) of Yelizavetopol. In 1923 the Soviet Union conferred on Nagorno-Karabakh the status of an autonomous republic within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan.

According to the 1989 census, Nagorno-Karabakh had a population of 188 000, of whom 145 000 were Armenians, 40 000 Azerbaijanis and 3 000 Russians. It had a total area of 4 400 km². The current population is estimated at between 100 000 and 160 000, all of whom are Armenian (with minimal exceptions).

The current conflict began in February 1988 when the Regional Soviet (Assembly) of Nagorno-Karabakh submitted an official request to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for incorporation into Armenia. This request, which was rejected by the Soviet of Azerbaijan but supported by the Soviet of Armenia, was turned down by the Supreme Soviet in accordance with the principle that the territory of a republic cannot be modified without its consent.

In December 1989, citing many violations of the rights of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Soviet of Armenia adopted a resolution requesting the reunification of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan declared independence on 30 August 1991, and four days later the Soviet of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the independence of the 'Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh', confirmed by referendum in December 1991. Subsequently, in January 1992, it organised 'parliamentary elections' and requested international recognition.

In the ensuing war from 1992 to 1994 between Azerbaijan and the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, some 20 000 persons were killed, including many civilians. Between 1988 and 1993, 300 000 to 350 000 Armenians fled Azerbaijan and some 150 000 Azerbaijanis left Armenia.

After the fighting the Armenian forces were left in control of most of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh within the Soviet administrative boundaries, as well as the whole of six Azerbaijani regions and part of two others.

A cease-fire agreement was concluded in May 1994. The cease-fire has held ever since, despite the sporadic clashes along the front line. The Azeri-Armenian and Turco-Armenian borders are closed." (COE Political Affairs Committee, 23 May 2000, paras. 45-52)

"The primary cause of internal displacement has been shelling of border villages in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A lasting cease-fire or peace agreement is a prerequisite for displaced persons to return home but the conclusion of such an agreement depends on the political will of both Armenia and Azerbaijan and on the skills of the main mediators (OSCE and the Russian Federation). Current measures undertaken by humanitarian agencies, including State agencies, may contribute to alleviate the burden of displacement, but cannot solve the problem at its roots." (UNHCR August 1995)

Continuing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan (1998-1999)

- The border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the front line between Karabakh Armenian and Azeri troops are heavily militarized
- Reports of clashes between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces (1999)

"The border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the well-entrenched front line between Karabakh Armenian and Azeri troops in occupied areas around Karabakh, is heavily militarized. There are regular exchanges of small arms fire and, on occasion, artillery. Front line areas are depopulated but farmers continue to suffer mine injuries in nearby grazing areas and fields." (Hansen 1998, p. 13)

Reports of recent clashes
AFP, "Clashes on Azeri-Armenian border: Azerbaijani officials", 26 August 1999 [Internet]

AFP, "Azerbaijan reports more clashes with Armenian forces", 17 June 1999 [Internet]

Efforts to resolve the conflict (1993-2002)

- UN Security Council adopted four resolutions in 1993, calling for the withdrawal of occupying forces from territories taken from Azerbaijan
- The efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement are currently being conducted by the co-presidents of the OSCE 'Minsk Group' (comprising the United States, France and Russia) set up in 1992
- Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have initiated a more regular dialogue in 2001

"The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh has been debated several times by the United Nations Security Council, which in 1993 adopted Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 on this subject. These resolutions reaffirm the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the other States in the region, demand the withdrawal of occupying forces from territories 'recently occupied' in Azerbaijan and appeal to Armenia to use its influence to ensure that the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh comply with these resolutions.

The efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement of this conflict are currently being conducted by the co-presidents of the OSCE 'Minsk Group' (comprising the United States, France and Russia) set up in 1992.

Armenia has accepted the latest plan to resolve the conflict drawn up by the Minsk Group, based on the concept of a 'common State' shared by Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh as a basis for talks. Azerbaijan has so far rejected this proposal.

Nevertheless, it must be remembered that it was Armenia which rejected the previous stage-by-stage settlement plan, accepted by the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan at the second Council of Europe Summit in October 1997. As a consequence of this rejection, Mr Ter Petrossian resigned. Similarly, Armenia rejected the principles proposed around the same time by the then President of OSCE, Mr Flavio Cotti, Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, as a basis for settling the conflict. These principles had been approved by the participants at the OSCE Summit in Lisbon in December 1996.

The Presidents of the two countries have been meeting more and more regularly (they have met six times this year, including once at the Azeri-Armenian border). The Final Declaration of the Istanbul Summit held in November 1999 welcomed these contacts as opportunities for securing a lasting, comprehensive solution to the conflict and encouraging dialogue. The Declaration also confirmed that OSCE and the Minsk Group provided the optimum framework in which to settle the conflict." (COE Political Affairs Committee 23 May 2000, paras. 53-57)

"The continued territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unsolved despite the intensive diplomacy of the Organizatioon for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and its Minsk Group in recent years. The Armenian and Azeri presidents held three rounds of peace talks in 2001 – in Paris in January and March and at Key West (USA) in April. These talks were held under the auspices of the Minsk Group which is co-chaired by Russia, France and the United States. The talks have so far failed to produce sufficient common ground even though the framework for an agreement is slowly emerging." (IFRC 2001, p. 29)

"Over the reporting months [1 January – 30 June 2002], no substantive progress towards reaching an agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno Karabakh was made, mainly owing to domestic hostility to concession in both countries. Both President Aliyev and President Kocharian issued uncompromising statements to this effect in recent months. The appointment by both presidents of special envoys to represent them in the talks with the OSCE Minsk Group followed by their first meeting in Prague on 15 April 2002 did no result in any significant progress." (IFRC 21 August 2002, p. 1)

Latest meeting in August 2002

"Armenian President Robert Kocharian and President Heidar Aliev of Azerbaijan are no strangers, having met with one another more than with any other foreign leaders n recent years. The two men smiled and appeared in positive moods after four hours of one-on-one talks August 14 at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

It was the 18th Armenian-Azerbaijani summit since 1999, and the first face-to-face contact between Aliev and Kocharian since November 2001. It was also their longest single encounter.
[...]
An yet there was nothing in the two presidents' words that would give commentators reason to expect a peace deal on Nagorno-Karabakh before presidential elections in Armenia and Azerbaijan scheduled for February and October 2003, respectively." (RFE/RL 15 August 2002)

See also from RFE/RL:

"Has the focus of the Karabakh talks shifted?", 26 August 2002 [Internet]
"Corridors of opportunity", 1 July 2002 [Internet]
"Will secondary issues derail the Karabakh peace process?", 28 June 2001 [Internet]

Natural disasters

Earthquake prone zone

- December 1988: powerful earthquake in northwestern Armenia destroyed one sixth of the country's housing and killed 25,000 people
- 100,000 persons remain displaced as the result of the 1988 earthquake according to the government

"Armenia is situated on earthquake-prone geological formations which have recently caused several disastrous earthquakes. Historical accounts describe the complete destruction, due to earthquakes, of the ancient cities Erznka, Erzroom, Basen where thousands perished. A huge earthquake destroyed Dvin and ruined the temples of Garni and Zvartnots.

On December 7, 1988 a powerful earthquake again shook Armenia. Within a few seconds, the cities of Giumri, Vanadzor, Spitak and a number of villages were destroyed, leaving over half a million people homeless. Seventy percent of residential houses, many large industrial enterprises, cultural, scientific and educational institutions and schools were ruined. Armenia was the focus of international attention.

One hundred and eleven countries and many international organizations, as well as Soviet republics sent humanitarian aid to Armenia. Over 45 thousand people were removed from under the rubble, 25 thousand of whom had not survived." (UNDP 1995, box 2.9)

"The 1988 earthquake destroyed one sixth of the country's housing and 40 percent of its production capacity." (WFP 21 September 1999, para. 2)

The government indicates that approximately 100,000 persons are still internally displaced as a result of the earthquake in 1988. Around 20,000 persons are internally displaced because of other natural disasters, according to the government. (UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative 7 June 2000)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Global figures

Government estimate of 72,000 internally displaced as a result of the conflict questioned by international agencies (2000-2002)

- According to the government, an estimated 72,000 persons were displaced as a result of military operations in areas bordering Azerbaijan
- Independent estimates vary between 50,000 and 65,000 persons displaced because of the conflict
- Most of the displaced are considered to have returned or integrated locally
- The government's figure may include refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh who were initially settled in the border areas inside Armenia and then became displaced again

"According to government figures, there are 192,000 internally displaced persons in Armenia. This figure covers displacement due to a variety of causes. An estimated 72,000 persons were displaced as a result of military operations in areas bordering Azerbaijan due to the decade-old conflict regarding Nagorno-Karabakh. Though a 1994 ceasefire remains in effect, the conflict remains without a political solution and there have been recurrent skirmishes and instances of shelling in border areas. The remainder of the internally displaced were uprooted as a result of natural or human-made disasters: an estimated 100,000 persons continue to be displaced as a result of the devastating earthquake of 1988 which resulted in the death of over 25,000 people and rendered some 500,000 persons homeless; 10,000 persons have been displaced as a result of more recent natural disasters, in particular mudslides; and a further 10,000 persons have been internally displaced as a result of human-made disasters.
[...]
It should be noted that independent estimates of the number of internally displaced persons are lower than the figure of 72,000 cited by the Government. The U.S. Committee for Refugees, for instance, cites a figure of roughly 60,000.[2] The discrepancy in figures can, at least in part, be explained by the fact that the figure of 72,000 conflict-induced internally displaced persons cited by the Government includes several thousand persons displaced into Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh who would thus be refugees, rather than internally displaced persons. Indeed, the Government acknowledged that among the 72,000 conflict-induced internally displaced 'a great number' are refugees who came to the Republic during 1988-1992, who were initially settled in the border areas inside Armenia and then became displaced again, within Armenia, due to insecurity in those areas.

Moreover, in the aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet Union, its legacy continues to complicate drawing a clear description of patterns of displacement as a result of the complex patchwork of political borders in the Caucasus region that has been inherited by the successor States. In the case of Armenia, its territory includes the small exclave of Artzvashen located a few kilometres from the border in north-western Azerbaijan [...]. As a result of the conflict, the population of this area fled into Armenia proper. Though in doing so they were required, owing to the peculiar geographical arrangement created by the exclave, to cross an internationally recognized border - twice, as citizens of Armenia fleeing from one part of the country to another, they arguably ought to be considered as internally displaced."

[Endnote 2: U.S. Committee for Refugees, World Refugee Survey 2000 (Washington, D.C.: Immigration and Refugee Services of America, 2000), p. 210.] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 9-12)

US Committee for Refugees

"Although the Armenian government estimates that about 72,000 persons are internally displaced because of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh - which is located in Azerbaijan, but controlled by Armenia . USCE believes that number to be closer to 50,000." (USCR 2002, Armenia)

"Some 60,000 Armenians displaced from villages bordering Azerbaijan since 1993 had integrated locally and were not receiving UNHCR or government assistance at year's end." (USCR 2001, p. 196)

IOM

"Of the refugees and displaced persons, 55.9 per cent are women, 21 per cent are children up to 16 years of age, 29.5 percent are people over 60, and 3.9 per cent are disabled. Few of them are highly skilled workers (only 5% have completed higher education). The majority has already acquired permanent housing but about one in seven remain in temporary accommodation and only one in five are employed. About one half have received benefits and other financial assistance and UNHCR has provided some form of assistance to 150,000 refugees." (IOM 1999, pp. 28-29)

"Displacement within Armenia is relatively small. Armenia has an IDP population of approximately 72,000, according to government of Armenia sources, and somewhat fewer according to UNHCR, which believes that many of the IDPs have returned to their homes. The figure of 72,000 was first used in 1992. Sixty-five thousand is probably a closer estimate of the number of IDPs. The IDPs in Armenia were evacuated from villages adjacent to the border with Azerbaijan. They are from the mountainous area northwest of Kelbajar, the part of Azerbaijan to the west of Nagorno-Karabakh taken by Armenian forces in the spring of 1993. The border villages have been subjected to intermittent rocket and artillery barrages by Azerbaijani forces, in spite of the cease-fire." (Greene 1998, p. 271)

Geographical distribution

The border region of Tavoush has been disproportionately affected by internal displacement as a result of the conflict (2000)

"Focusing on the conflict-induced internally displaced, the mission undertook a field visit to the region of Tavoush, where considerable displacement occurred as a result of insecurity stemming from the conflict. This region constitutes roughly 10 per cent of the territory of Armenia but, given its location along 350 kilometres of border with Azerbaijan, it has been disproportionately affected by the problem of conflict-induced displacement. At the same time, it has also suffered internal displacement due to natural disasters, in particular mudslides. The Governor of Tavoush informed the Representative that there were 28,000 internally displaced persons in the region, of whom 16,000 had already returned to their homes." (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 18)

See also "The internally displaced moved from their villages incrementally (2000)" [Internal link]

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Low visibility of internal displacement in Armenia has resulted in a low level of attention given to the problem (2000)

- Shared ethnic identity explains a certain solidarity between the displaced and the authorities
- However, no political attention has been given to the plight of the internally displaced in particular because of lack of territorial claims connected to them

"Part of understanding the situation of internal displacement in Armenia involved placing it in its subregional context, a second objective of the mission. As in other cases in the region, a shared ethnic identity between the displaced and the authorities helps to explain why, in a situation of ethnic conflict, the internally displaced are not associated by the authorities with the 'enemy' and denied national protection and assistance on that basis. However, the situation of internal displacement in Armenia differs from that in other countries in the region in a number of ways. To begin with, the number of persons uprooted is comparatively small. The nature of the displacement crisis also is different in that the affected areas were on the sidelines rather than in the centre of the area of conflict (which has been concentrated outside of the territory of Armenia) and are not under occupation. There are no camps or other large and visible concentrations of internally displaced persons, who instead have largely been taken in by relatives or friends or settled in small groups in temporary accommodation. Indeed, as noted earlier, government officials and international personnel have not mapped out where the internally displaced are located. Also, a defining characteristic of the Government's response to internal displacement in Armenia, which contrasts with other cases in the region, is that the plight of the internally displaced has not been highlighted and promoted for political purposes, in particular for the regain of territory. In fact, the Government has paid little attention to the issue of internal displacement as such. Moreover, its approach has been reflected in the international community's response, which has also not focused attention and resources on the plight of the internally displaced in Armenia as it has in other countries. On account of the difficult economic situation of the country as a whole, the Government clearly is lacking the capacity to meet the needs of its internally displaced single-handedly. International support to reinforce Armenia's efforts is required. Just as the problems of internal displacement must be viewed in their regional perspective, so too must international efforts to find solutions to them." (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 46)

The internally displaced moved from their villages incrementally (1991-1994)

- Internally displaced persons left the villages for the summer pasture land where they lived in temporary dwellings
- Separation of families was common
- Most the displaced then moved to safer location in the province (or "marz")
- Those who could - usually the wealthier among them - then moved on into the central parts of Armenia and even, ultimately, emigrated
- Consequently the internally displaced have not settled as compact, easily identifiable groups

- One major exception, to this settlement pattern is the population displaced from the exclave of Artzvashen

"Within Armenia proper, internal displacement as a result of the conflict was concentrated in the marzes or districts along the border with Azerbaijan, namely Tavoush, Sjounik, Vajots Dzor, Ararat and Gegharkounik. A comprehensive survey in these regions undertaken in 1998 by the Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group provides important information about the characteristics of the displacement crisis.[3] Initially, 50-60 per cent of the population, mainly women, children and the elderly, left the villages for the summer pasture lands, where they lived in temporary dwellings. Though in some cases, usually during continuous military actions, residents moved as complete family units, the separation of families was common: half of the displaced households in Tavoush, Vajots Dzor and Gegharkounik marzes constitute families of only one or two members. The other half consists mostly of young families which have remained intact but have been separated from relatives.

Though some of the displaced remained in the pasture lands for almost two years, for the most part, the displaced were regularly on the move. They tended to move from the border villages incrementally, first leaving for the summer pasture lands, then to safer locations within the marz. Later, those who could - usually the wealthier among them - moved on into the central parts of Armenia and even, ultimately, emigrated. Consequently, the internally displaced are dispersed throughout the country rather than settled as compact, easily identifiable groups. Indeed, both the Government and the international agencies working in the country reported having difficulties in knowing precisely where the internally displaced were located.

One major exception to this settlement pattern is the population displaced from Artzvashen. Persons displaced from this exclave largely settled as communities in the predominantly ethnically Azeri towns located between the border and the northern shore of Lake Sevan which were abandoned by ethnic Azeri refugees who fled from Armenia to Azerbaijan. In some cases, they are occupying the homes abandoned by the Azeri refugees."

[Endnote 3: Refugees and Displaced Persons Work Group/Capacity Building Migration Management Programme/IOM, Migration Trends Among Internally Displaced Persons in Border Regions of the Republic of Armenia (January 1999), p. 16] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 13-15)

Displaced farmers return during the day to cultivate their land and retreat to nearby towns at night (1998)

"The Armenian IDPs are a homogeneous lot. Virtually all of them are ethnic Armenian farmers and villagers from the frontier area. Some have returned home to cultivate their orchards and vineyards, while others have been unable to return to the frontier area because of the shelling. The IDPs are for the most part lodged with friends and relatives in nearby towns and in public buildings. Many of the border villages are populated by day by Armenian farmers, who retreat to nearby towns and cities at night. The governor of Taush in northeastern Armenia, one of the districts where there has been some displacement, has talked with the mayor of Kazakh in nearby Azerbaijan in an effort to get on with life in the border area." (Greene 1998, p. 271)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Physical safety

Landmines: serious threat to life in areas of return (2000-2001)

- 900 kilometer-long ceasefire line separating Armenian and Azeri forces is replete with landmines
- Agricultural and woodlands where warfare was conducted are also regarded as mine contaminated
- In the Sjounik region, landmines were a major cause of accidental death and injuries
- In the Tavoush region, close proximity to the border and mined land are a serious hindrance for the villagers to engage in farming

"Landmines were used by all sides throughout the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The 900 kilometer-long border line is replete with landmines; territories along the contact line are regarded as contaminated. Site visits along the border area begun last year by Landmine Monitor researchers were continued for this report in the Synik, Vayots Dzor, and Tavush provinces. The previously reported data that 16.69 square kilometers of farmland and 14.48 square kilometers of non-privatized lands were still mined in Synik province were confirmed during the new study, as well as an additional three square kilometers of woodlands and territories adjoining ten kilometers of roads.

Because the situation remains tense in the border villages of Synik province, Defense Ministry specialists have cleared only the administrative territories of Srashen and Nerkin Hand villages of mines. In the municipality of Kapan and its adjoining suburbs, which is the administrative center of Synik province, civilians encounter UXO and mines.[426] Local residents also report that there are mined areas in the districts of Meghri and Sissian of the Synik province that adjoin the border with Azerbaijan. However, officials so far have not conducted surveys or assessments of the landmine risk.

In the course of the visits it was discovered that in Tavush province about 100 square kilometers of arable lands were officially put into disuse. Also in disuse is the Joegas reservoir (with 45 million cubic meter of water) in the village of Berkaber, located 300 meters from the border, because the pumping stations are still mined. Some 11.7 square kilometers of mined land cannot be cultivated.

Site visits by Landmine Monitor researchers also revealed that territories in a number of villages (such as Voskepar and Koti in former Noyemberian district, Paravakar and Aygepar Vazashen in former Shamshadin district, and Vazashen in former Ijevan district) in Tavush province have not been used for a long time because of mines. The study in that region will be continued and an agreement to that effect was reached with the community heads.

Sometime in late 2000-early 2001, the Armenian government began collecting information about mined lands from local governments in provinces next to the border, including data about the structural breakdown of affected lands (arable lands, orchards, woodlands, pasture lands, etc.) in order to establish a database to determine the need in financial and other terms for developing a coherent strategy for removal of mines from the lands not immediately adjacent to the borderlines.

The reconstruction of the border regions of Armenia was discussed at a Cabinet meeting on 14 December 2000. Programs for the border areas were developed by the Department of Migration and Refugees; an estimated US$83 million is needed for the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the border regions affected by the war. The Department has recently submitted a plan for a detailed assessment in 170

borderline communities to the UN Development Program for an estimated cost of US$37,000. At the initiative of the Department on Migration & Refugees, the Armenian National Committee of the ICBL is designing a questionnaire on the landmine situation in order to conduct a survey of the residents in 132 most dangerous communities in Syunik, Tavush, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor.

In April 2001, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General described the outcome of his visit to Armenia on 18-19 May 2000. Focusing on the conflict-induced internally displaced, the Special Representative visited Tavush. He reported that at present agricultural activities are severely curtailed: about 25% of cultivable land and about 40% of irrigated land is not being utilized, primarily due to the lack of agricultural equipment and seeds, damage to irrigation systems, lack of agricultural labor and the significant presence of landmines." (International Campaign to Ban Landmines August 2001, pp. 850-851)

"During the year [2001], there were a few deaths as a result of landmines, although reliable statistics are difficult to obtain. [...] During 2000 1 person was killed and 12 wounded. According to the Procurator General's office there were 2 deaths in the military as a result of landmines." (U.S. DOS 4 March 2002, sect. 1a)

Persisting insecurity along the border with Azerbaijan (2000)

"While security incidents in the border regions were reported to have decreased significantly, particularly in recent months with progress in the peace process, in the absence of a lasting settlement of the conflict security risks persist, especially in the villages located in close proximity to the border. As an indication that such dangers remain very real, when visiting one village located only a kilometre from the border [in region of Tavush], the mission delegation was instructed to disembark from the cars and leave these concealed behind trees as to minimize the risk of 'being shot at'. Another village visited was 700 metres from the border, with trench lines clearly visible." (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 24)

See also "Continuing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan (1998-1999)" [Internal link]

Freedom of movement

No legal restriction to internal movement (2001)

- The change of residence remains a difficult process only as a result of bureaucracy and corruption

"The Constitution provides for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation; however, the Government places restrictions on some of these rights.

The Government does not restrict internal movement, and citizens have the right to change their residence or workplace freely. However, citizens must negotiate with a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy to register these changes. In addition registration of residence is difficult, because in order to be registered at a particular residence, a person must be either the property owner or an immediate family member of the owner. Special written permission from the owner of the property, signed by a lawyer, is required to make a temporary or permanent registration of a non-immediate family member." (U.S. DOS 4 March 2002, sect. 2d)

Vulnerable groups

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women invites government to provide adequate support to displaced women victims of violence (1997)

"The Committee [on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women] further recommended that the Government give due attention to the subject of violence against women, by encouraging a public discussion of its various forms, initiating appropriate legislation, training law enforcement officers, judges and health professionals, including adequate numbers of female personnel, to identify, manage and eliminate the manifestations of violence against women, and by guaranteeing that the necessary psycho-social and health services are available to victims of violence, with particular attention to internally displaced and refugee women." (CEDAW July 1997, para. 64)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

Nutrition

Vulnerable groups in Armenia cannot secure their basic food requirements (2000)

- Approximately 55 percent of the population cannot meet their basic food needs
- Extreme poverty is even increasing in rural areas, in particular as an effect of the drought during summer 2000
- Negative trends in food consumption patterns are translating into high rates of malnutrition among children
- Factors associated with malnutrition include unemployment, female head of household, refugee status, lack of access to land, pensioner status and the lack of support from abroad

"Approximately 55 percent of the population cannot meet their basic food needs. The poorest segments of the population allocate 73 percent of their income to buying food. Approximately 70 percent of the population rely on agricultural production for survival. Agriculture has become less effective as a safety net, as evidenced by the fact that extreme poverty is higher in rural areas. The average land plot is 1.2–1.5 ha per household. Available arable land comprises 66 percent of the country but only between 30 and 40 percent is under cultivation owing to lack of access to irrigation, agricultural inputs and expertise, and efficient equipment. With the added effects of the drought that decimated crops and affected livestock production last summer [2000], living conditions have become precarious for a large number of the rural population. Having lost most of their produce, subsistence rural households have little to sell or barter and are therefore faced with serious food shortages. The available coping mechanisms such as out-migration or the consumption of seeds and livestock will add to the adverse consequences of the drought in the coming years. In addition, information from the meteorological service and from WFP monitoring reports in the drought-affected areas shows that rain and snowfall in areas sown with winter crops was below normal in autumn and winter. This factor indicates a continuing drought situation affecting the coming harvest. To follow developments in the current drought situation, WFP will support the fielding of a joint FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission in spring 2001.

A nationwide nutrition and food security survey of 3,900 households conducted in September 2000 by WFP, and co-funded by UNICEF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), revealed low levels of consumption in low-income households and a substantially unbalanced diet, consisting mainly of bread, potatoes, tea and cabbage. Almost 61 percent of households had sold household assets to meet their food needs. About 56 percent of households reported changing their food consumption patterns and were eating cheaper food, while another 10 percent were eating smaller meals and/or reducing the number of meals eaten. A seven-day food frequency count showed that while 98 percent of households had consumed bread on a daily basis, many had not consumed any additional food items that would have ensured nutrient adequacy. Fewer than one in four households consumed meat, an important source of iron. This is likely to contribute to an increase in the already high rate of anaemia. A 1998 nutrition survey showed an anaemia incidence of 26 percent in children under 5 and of 15 percent in women. Dairy products, important food items and good sources of calcium, are not consumed by 32 percent of the population. Those who did consume dairy products did not do so often enough or in sufficient enough quantities. Fresh vegetables are another important food source for vitamins and minerals, but a large proportion of the test population admitted to not eating them regularly.

These negative trends in food consumption patterns are translating into high rates of malnutrition among children. Whereas in 1998 chronic malnutrition ranged from 6.2 percent to 44 percent, with an average of 13 percent, the 2000 survey found rates ranging from 14 percent to 31 percent, with a higher average of 22 percent. Particularly high levels of chronic malnutrition were found in Gegharkunik and Syunik. Using the criterion of mid-upper-arm circumference, the 2000 survey also found 7.8 percent of the elderly population to be malnourished.

Households that had chronically malnourished children persistently had lower frequency counts on all food items than did households with no malnourished children. The incidence of chronic malnutrition was dependent on how many household members were able to find employment. About 27 percent of children from households with no stable employment were chronically malnourished, compared with 18 percent in households that had at least one member working. Of households eating only one meal per day, those with no member working (13.8 percent) were twice as many as those with one member working (6.5 percent) and three times as many as those with two members working (3.8 percent).

Of households consuming only one meal a day, 16.1 percent were households headed by women, twice as many as those headed by men (8.4 percent). Single elderly households had the highest proportion, at 23.4 percent. The refugee population had the lowest frequency counts on all food items except for bread, pasta and potatoes, compared with non-refugee households. Factors associated with low food intake and malnutrition include the absence of a working member in the household, female head of household, refugee status, lack of access to land, pensioner status and the lack of any support from relatives abroad." (WFP 5 April 2001, paras. 8-12)

See the full text of the Food Security and Nutritional Status Survey, Armenia September 2000 [Internal link]

See also map "Distribution of households according to vulnerability" WFP. 21 September 2000 [map section]

Health

Health care system directly hit by the economic crisis (1999)

- Insufficient access to health care facilities in border areas affected by the conflict

"The economic collapse and deterioration of the financial situation in Armenia over the last 10 years have deprived the medical system of the resources, necessary to provide medical support to the population. The introduction of market forces in the sphere of medical services, the increase in the number of unemployed and displaced persons, the growth of poverty rate, as well as the augmentation of various medical service tariffs has brought about an increase in the rate of some chronic diseases and disability.

It is evident that reduction of health care funding will affect not only the population's health, but will also deteriorate their economic situation. For some very impoverished social groups it may become fatal!

Deterioration of such parameters of medical assistance as access, quality and subsidised medical costs has affected mainly the poorest members of the population.

Medical offices mainly provide first aid and insufficient concern is given to overall health improvement and disease prevention.

Only 60% of the researched frontier villages have medical offices and these have only 20% of the required personnel resulting in a quality of medical examination and treatment that is well below standard." [Survey conducted in 54 villages in 5 provinces (or Marzes) bordering Azerbaijan, August-December 1998] (Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group January 1999, p. 27)

For background information on the Armenian health care system, see "State and Health Care System" in Human Development Report Armenia 1998, chapter 5, "The Dynamics of Change in Various Areas of Social Branches" [Internet]

Shelter

Shelter needs in border areas: many displaced continue to live in temporary structures (2000)

- 75 percent of the persons displaced as a result of the conflict live in pasture huts or other temporary dwelling, according to a 1998 survey
- Needs of reconstruction and rehabilitation aid remain high
- Temporary shelters provided by the authorities to the displaced are no longer adequate

"In the border regions, the Survey [undertaken in 1998 by the Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group] found that an estimated 75 per cent of the displaced were living in pasture huts and other temporary dwellings, 18 per cent residing with relatives, 3 per cent were accommodated in hostels and rest homes and only 4 per cent had been able to purchase homes of their own.[7]

According to government estimates, more than 12,300 houses in the border regions were damaged, with 40 per cent of these having been ruined.[8] In the region of Tavoush, it was estimated that some 250 houses had been completely destroyed, 935 had been seriously damaged and more than 7,000 had suffered some damage. The Governor reported that the houses of only a small number of returnees had been reconstructed. Usually, this has been the result of the returnees' own efforts, though it was noted that the local government had provided some reconstruction assistance in 1994 immediately after the introduction of the ceasefire when some people began to return, and especially to women heads of household.

Indeed, in the villages visited, damage to shelter was evident, with the extent of damage varying from one shelter to another. The mission met with one elderly woman whose house had been completely destroyed and who was compelled to live in a stable. It also visited returnees living adjacent to their destroyed homes in temporary shelter consisting of an iron container which had initially been used by persons who had lost their homes as a result of the earthquake of 1988. By 'temporary', it was explained that these structures were designed for use of a period of two years. Now in use for 12 years, these structures are showing signs of serious wear, including leaks and water damage. Moreover, the Representative was informed that many of the shelters reportedly were not even in habitable condition when they were first provided to the conflict-induced internally displaced: the Minister for Regional Administration and Urban Planning (whose responsibilities include securing shelter for internally displaced persons) spoke candidly about the inadequate condition of the temporary shelter provided by the Government, noting that they had been 'falling to pieces' when they were transported to the internally displaced several years ago. Lacking insulation, the shelters were reported to be very cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

Local authorities in the villages in the border areas stressed, above all, the need for shelter reconstruction, maintaining that if houses were rebuilt, more people would return."

[Endnote 7: Refugees and Displaced Persons Work Group/Capacity Building Migration Management Programme/IOM, Migration Trends Among Internally Displaced Persons in Border Regions of the Republic of Armenia (January 1999), p. 15]

[Endnote 8: Project: Post-conflict Rehabilitation of Bordering Territories, p. 4] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 20-23)

Infrastructure in border areas ruined by the military operations (1998-1999)

- Roads, buildings and water supply and irrigation system suffer heavy destruction
- Displaced families have no resource to repair their damaged house
- It is estimated that 75% of the displaced in the border areas live in temporary dwellings and 18% with relatives

"Researches have shown that many Marzes [provinces] have extremely poor infrastructures, which greatly hinders the return of residents to these settlements.

The military actions have ruined 60% of the roads in the researched areas, 40% of housing, large parts of administrative buildings, 50% of the water supply and irrigation system.
[...]
The frontier settlements in Noyemberian and Tavoush regions of Tavoush Marz [province] are in a disastrous situation. Almost 70% of them have no water supply or irrigation systems 65% of the roads interconnecting these settlements are in a very bad state. Due to military actions 1292 of 5045 homes have been ruined. Having no means to renovate these damaged houses people have wither gone in living in them in their ruined state or they have left their homes and found refuge with relatives resulting in often several families living in one house." [Survey conducted in 54 villages in 5 provinces (or Marzes) bordering Azerbaijan: Tavoush, Sjounik, Vajots Dzor, Ararat, Gegharkounik (August-December 1998)] (Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group January 1999, p. 24-26)

"The Department of Migration and Refugees at the Government of the RoA (hereafter the DMR) based on the existing materials and researches done, had made an estimation of the damages to the people, infrastructures in bordering Marzes [or provinces] in the result of war. The survey carried among the displaced show that 75% of them live in temporary dwellings, and 18% at relatives." (Department of Migration and Refugees 2000, p. 4)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Access to education in border areas devastating impact of the conflict (1999-2000)

- Severe shortage and bad conditions of school buildings in the border areas
- Lack of qualified teachers, textbooks and school supplies
- Poor condition of roads also hamper access to school on rainy days

"Educational opportunities also have been severely curtailed. Some border villages have no functioning schools. Where school facilities do exist, 60 per cent require urgent renovation and 12 per cent of the buildings require basic renovation to make them usable at all. School buildings are considered to be in particularly poor condition in Tavoush and Sjunik marzes. Throughout the region, functioning nursery schools are very rare [12]. Aside from the damage to or destruction of physical infrastructure, a number of other problems impede access to education. Qualified teachers are required for most of the schools; however, given the poor housing conditions in the area, few teachers are willing to live in the region. Pupils suffer from a lack of textbooks and other school supplies [13]. Moreover, when it rains heavily, a number of the (dirt) roads are washed out and become impassable, making transportation very difficult. Under such conditions, which prevailed on the day of the Representative's visit, children are unable to attend school - as indeed was the case that day. The impact of the conflict on education has been devastating. The mayor of one village, lamenting that 'children are lost in such conditions', explained that in the 10 years since the war, not a single child from the village had gone on to higher education, whereas 8-10 children routinely had done so during the pre-war (and Soviet) period."

[Endnote 12: Refugees and displaced Persons Work Group/Capacity Building Migration Management Programme/IOM, Migration Trends Among Internally Displaced Persons in Border Regions of the Republic of Armenia (January 1999), pp. 28-29]
[Endnote 13: Ibid., p. 29] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 29)

For background information on the Armenian education system, see "State and Education" in the 1998 Human Development Report for Armenia, chapter 5, "The Dynamics of Change in Various Areas of Social Branches" [Internet]

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Self-reliance

Economic indicators show acute poverty (2001)

- Earthquake zone, borderline regions and urban population are particularly affected
- Employment is not a guarantee against poverty

"After a decade of economic reforms, one of the most challenging issues is the widespread poverty with 55% of the population living under the poverty line. Comparative analysis of data available over the years have revealed positive shifts in the depth and severity of poverty as well as extreme poverty have decreased from 27.7% to 22.9%. However, general poverty yet does not show any indication of being reduced. Poverty is especially severe in the earthquake zone, the rural areas where there is no possibility to cultivate land, borderline regions and the urban population. Among the peculiarities of poverty in Armenia (typical of the CIS countries) should be mentioned that employment and education do not always help people get out of poverty" (UNDP 2001, p. 11)

"Analyses of the labor market of Armenia from 1994 to 2001 reveal that its situation is still extremely tense, with growing disparity between labor supply and demand. During the last years, Armenia's labor market has demonstrated an increasing tendency in hidden unemployment and hidden employment.

The official registered unemployment level in 2000 stood at 11.7%, and in 1999 – at 11.2% (34.4% according to independent evaluations). Unemployment is especially acute in the disaster zone and in urban areas. Women will constitute a majority among the unemployed. There is an increasing ratio of the unemployed is the 31-50 age group. On the other hand, employment is not a guarantee against poverty – of the employed 17% is considered extremely poor." (UNDP 2001, p. 15)

Difficult economic context seriously affects agriculture in border areas (2000)

- The process of economic transformation has placed a particularly heavy burden on the socially vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons
- Vulnerability to poverty continues to be high with an unemployment rate of 25 percent
- Large segments of the population have been forced to rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood
- There has been a growing trend towards a feminization of poverty
- The recent economic crises in Russia resulted in a substantial decrease in remittances received from abroad
- The drought in 2000 resulted in significant reduction of agricultural production, especially in the northern part of the country
- Agricultural production is also affected by the lack of agricultural equipment and seeds, damage to irrigation systems, lack of agricultural labour and landmines

"[I]t must be noted that the internal displacement crisis occurred in the context of a difficult period of post-Soviet transition, involving not only a sudden change of political system but an abrupt transition towards a

competitive market economy which led to a sharp decline in living standards. The economic blockade by Azerbaijan and, subsequently, Turkey as a consequence of the conflict has further exacerbated the economic difficulties of the country. Among the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Armenia is reported to have the highest rate of official unemployment and one of the lowest levels of nominal salary - approximately US$ 25 per month.[4] More than half of the population lives below the poverty line and almost 28 per cent of the population is very poor and unable to secure minimum nutritional requirements.[5] While these difficult economic conditions have affected the population as a whole, the United Nations reports that the process of economic transformation has placed a particularly heavy burden on the socially vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, 'whose situation grows worse as prices increase and pensions and salaries are eroded'.[6] At the same time, the economic difficulties also constrain the capacity of the Government to address their plight."
[Endnote 4: 1999 Annual Report of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia, p. 8]
[Endnote 5: United Nations Development Programme, Common Country Assessment: Armenia (Yerevan: United Nations, 2000), p. 51]
[Endnote 6: 1999 Annual Report of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia, p. 13] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 17)

"In the 1980s, Armenia was primarily an industrial country; in 1985, the share of industry in its gross domestic product (GDP) was 73.9 percent. The break-up of the Soviet Union and the dispute over Nagorno-Karabagh resulted in a severe energy crisis and economic blockade, which led to the collapse of the majority of the country's industrial capacity. The 1998 Russian financial crisis caused a further decline in Armenia's economy. In 1998, Armenia's GDP was only 41 percent that of 1989. By 1999, its GDP composition had changed dramatically, with industry constituting only 20.4 percent, agriculture 29.8 percent, services 41.3 percent, and other areas 10 percent. Today, agriculture is the largest source of employment, accounting for approximately 40 percent of the workforce.

By the end of 1996, 55 percent of the population was in absolute poverty. The continuing decline of socio-economic conditions has led to an immense inequality in the distribution of the national income, evidenced by the high Gini coefficient of 0.690 in 1998/99. [The Gini coefficient is derived from the cumulative distribution of earnings across the population, ranked by capital incomes] According to the World Bank Report of June 1999, 'Improving Social Assistance in Armenia', vulnerability to poverty continues to be high, with many households constantly moving in and out of poverty, and an unemployment rate of 25 percent.

Widespread unemployment has forced a large percentage of the population to rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood, though these people barely contribute to Armenia's food market. The proportion of imported food products remains high. Furthermore, the drought in 2000 resulted in a 27-percent reduction in the wheat and barley harvests and a 40-percent loss in the potato harvest.

There has been a growing trend towards a feminization of poverty. Women have suffered the most severe consequences from unemployment and out-migration. Households headed by women are among the most disadvantaged, both economically and socially. About 82 percent of women with four or more children do not work. Sixty-seven percent of single mothers are unemployed. Most households with many children (51 percent) and single mothers (63 percent) rely solely on family remittances and other assistance for survival. In the past, even US$100 sent from an emigrant to his poverty-stricken family was enough to help that family survive for a few months. The recent economic crises in Russia, however, have given Armenian workers there limited opportunities to earn enough money to send back to their families, so there has been a substantial decrease in remittances received." (WFP 5 April 2001, paras. 1-4)

"The population most affected by the drought will be subsistence farmers in the northern part of the country (marzes of Shirak, Lori, Tavush, Geharkunik, Aragatzotn and Kotayk). Already struggling to survive at a minimum level of existence, these farmers have few resources or coping mechanisms left to offset the negative effects of this drought." (WFP November 2000, para. 12)

"In the border areas, agriculture and stock-breeding constituted the main means of food for subsistence as well as income-generating activity, either directly through the sale of commodities or through employment in processing plants. At present, however, agricultural activities are severely curtailed: about 25 per cent of cultivable land and about 40 per cent of irrigated land is not being utilized, primarily due to the lack of agricultural equipment and seeds, damage to irrigation systems, lack of agricultural labour and the significant presence of landmines. In one village visited by the Representative, it was reported that 254 out of 390 plots cannot be cultivated owing to the presence of mines. At the same time, residents informed the Representative that despite the lack of access to their land, they are compelled to pay taxes on land which they cannot cultivate - a requirement which appears inherently unjust and should be relaxed by the Government until such time that demining occurs and enables safe access to the land. Decreasing the profitability of the agricultural production which does occur are the problems of transportation to market caused by damage to roads and the fact that plants for the processing of agricultural goods also have been destroyed or damaged. Reportedly, only one in five internally displaced persons in the border areas is employed. [9]"

[Endnote 9: Refugees and Displaced Persons Work Group/Capacity Building Migration Management Programme/IOM, Migration Trends Among Internally Displaced Persons in Border Regions of the Republic of Armenia (January 1999), p. 4] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 26)

Family income in war-affected border areas deteriorates as a result of declining economical and agricultural activities (1998-1999)

- At least 25% of cultivable land is not used because of lack of equipment, seeds and irrigation system and the threat of landmines
- 50% of industrial enterprises do not function
- Households comprised of 1-3 members are especially vulnerable, given their difficulty to efficiently cultivate land

"About 25% of cultivable land and about 40% of irrigated land are not utilised. 50% of industrial enterprises do not function and livestock has decreased more than 50% since the beginning of the transition period.

Cultivable land is largely under-utilised in the researched areas because of numerous reasons. The primary problems cover - no agricultural equipment, land mines, absence of irrigation system and no seeds.

Only 79% of the total 19226 hectares of land is cultivated. In the researched villages of Tavoush Marz 33% of agricultural land is used.

Stockbreeding is also insufficient and there are a number of more technical problems concerned here.

As a result we see a marked tendency of decrease in the main family income.

A limited number of persons get fixed salaries in the villages: the council officials, plus school and medical workers. These are paid in cash, as are the payments to pensioners and other beneficiaries.

There are a large number of single people and families consisting of only two or three members in the frontier villages - in fact half of the researched families. Naturally, it is difficult for these families to cultivate land and vegetable gardens. Because of no exemptions the standard of life of all families continues to deteriorate, and the residents of frontier regions are in unequal conditions in comparison with the residents of non-frontier regions." [Survey conducted in 54 villages in 5 provinces (or Marzes)

bordering Azerbaijan: Tavoush, Sjounik, Vajots Dzor, Ararat, Gegharkounik (August-December 1998)] (Refugees and Displaced Persons Working Group January 1999, pp. 23-24)

Armenian working age population decreases due to large-scale emigration (1999)

- Population of Armenia lost 720,000 persons between 1991 and 1998 as a result of emigration
- Transfers and remittances, mainly from Russia, contribute to the livelihood of the population in Armenia
- As a result of the economic crisis in the Russian Federation, many Armenian workers in Russia have returned adding to the number of unemployed

"Demographic Situation. In 10 years the reproductive potential of Armenia's population has dropped by 30-35%. The actual population number has decreased by 18% from 1988-1998. Official data indicate that 3,820,000 people currently reside in Armenia, however, numerous surveys of families and households attest that the population amounts only to 3,100,000 people.

In fact, the Ministry of Statistics (MS) presents the estimated number of the population, without taking into account rather intensive migration processes, which are hard to reflect statistically. From 1991-1998 approximately 1,100,000 persons left Armenia, 380,000 came back, i.e., the net result of the migration amounts to 720,000 persons in favor of emigrants (18% of the RA citizens). Even in Nazi Germany, which lost the war on two fronts in 1939-1945 World War II, the total loss of its population amounted to about 12%.

The net factor of the population's reproduction decreased by 9%, dropping from 1,024 to 0,936 i.e., if in the past, generation-wise (25 years later), 1000 mothers would yield 1024 mothers, then at present, 1000 mothers would yield only 936. The population of the working-age decreased by 7%, amounting to 51% of the total population. This could be explained by the fact that 82% of people who emigrated from Armenia were of working age." (UNDP 1999, chapter 2)

"The financial crisis in Russia in the third quarter of 1998 had a severe impact on the Armenian economy, as almost one quarter of all foreign trade was with the Russian Federation. Many Armenian workers in Russia have returned and many more continue to do so, adding to the number of unemployed. Their remittances, a major source of income for their families, have dropped to 10 percent of their previous level. Overall remittances from Russia were estimated at an average of US$3–5 million per month before 17 August 1998. As a result of the crisis, a downturn in GDP growth is predicted for 1999." (WFP 21 September 1999, para. 7)

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

Properties in border areas still under the threat of attack (1997)

"The population of regions bordering on Azerbaijan constantly faces the danger of war; many houses, destroyed from bombing, have not been reconstructed. Worries about physical security protecting property from attack add to the material and psychological hardships of living in those areas." (UNDP 1997, p. 49)

See also "Continuing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan (1998-1999)" [Internal link]

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Reports of return movements and integration (1998-1999)

"Since the 1994 cease-fire has been relatively well-observed, it is believed that many of [displaced as a result of the war] have returned to their homes, for there is evidence of repopulation and agriculture activity." (Hayden 1998, p. 165)

USCR: "Some 60,000 Armenians displaced from villages bordering Azerbaijan since 1993 are believed to have integrated locally and were not receiving UNHCR or government assistance at year's end. (USCR 2000)

See also "Government estimate of 72,000 internally displaced as a result of the conflict questioned by international agencies" and "Displaced farmers return by day to cultivate their land and retreat to nearby towns at night (1998)" [Internal links]

An undetermined number of internally displaced persons have left the country (2000)

- The phenomenon of mass emigration exacerbates the challenges of reconstruction in the war-affected areas

"Though some of the displaced remained in the pasture lands for almost two years, for the most part, the displaced were regularly on the move. They tended to move from the border villages incrementally, first leaving for the summer pasture lands, then to safer locations within the marz. Later those who could - usually the wealthier among them - moved on into the central parts of Armenia, and even, ultimately, emigrated. [...]

As noted above, in the ultimate step in this pattern of incremental population movement, a sizeable but undetermined number of internally displaced persons have left the country. This has occurred as part of the larger trend of out-migration of several hundreds of thousands of Armenians in search of better economic opportunities. Internally displaced persons as well as refugees make up a disproportionately high number of the persons leaving the country: it was suggested as a possible explanation that because these persons are already mobile they are more inclined to leave, especially given the absence, within the country, of durable solutions to their plight. As the Government noted with great concern, the phenomenon of mass out-migration exacerbates the challenges of reconstruction in the areas affected by the war as well as the socio-economic development of the country as a whole." (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 14-16)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Human rights organisations can operate freely throughout the country (2000)

- Non-governmental human rights organisations often report funding difficulties
- The prosecutor general has created an office to communicate with international human rights observers
- There have been no reports of impediments to the work of election observation missions

"There are several human rights NGO's organizations that are active and operate openly, criticize abuses publicly, and publish their findings on government human rights violations. In general public access to information on human rights cases usually is adequate, with extensive media coverage of significant court cases, but there was less openness after the October 1999 shootings by civilian and military prosecutors. However, nongovernmental human rights organizations often report funding difficulties, and at least one, the well-respected Helsinki Association, had to close its offices for part of the year due to lack of funds. The Helsinki Committee continued to operate and did receive permission to have access to detention facilities, and has made several visits.

As part of the commitments it made in advance of joining the Council of Europe (COE), the Government permitted monitoring of its human rights practices by the COE and reaffirmed this right for the ICRC, which retains full access to civilian detention facilities.

An office created by the prosecutor general in July 1997 to communicate with international observers was responsive to requests for information, although information about criminal cases stemming from elections remained relatively general and incomplete.

Current electoral law allows local and international observer organizations to monitor all elections, and such organizations reported no impediments to being allowed to observe the 1999 elections and this year's by-elections." (U.S. DOS February 2001, sect. 4)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National response

Department for Refugees and Migration created in 1991 (1998-1999)

- The mandate of the Department is to develop and coordinate implementation of policy relating to internal displacement
- The Ministry of Economics and the Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Aid also deal with the internally displaced population
- Development and assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons is implemented by City and Regional Councils

"Armenia established the State Department for Refugees on November 5, 1991, shortly after gaining independence but nearly three years after refugees had started arriving in large numbers from Azerbaijan. The Department of Refugees had basic responsibility for registration of refugees and IDPs and cooperated with all governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with refugees. It prepared identity cards for refugees and IDPs, including a special card for people form Nagorno-Karabakh. In September 1995 the Department for Refugees was combined with other offices and integrated into the Ministry of Social Security, Labor, Migration, and Refugee Issues." (Greene 1998, p. 280)

"Within the Government, the focal point for the issue of internal displacement is the Department for Migration and Refugees (DMR). Formerly part of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the DMR was established in 1999 as an independent department, reporting to the Prime Minister. Its mandate is to develop and coordinate implementation of a unified national policy of migration, including with respect to internally displaced persons. Valuable assistance in developing national policy, harmonizing migration-related legislation and undertaking certain operational programmes is being provided to the DMR by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through its Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme. As part of this programme, working groups comprised of government officials from the relevant ministries and academics, supported by IOM, have been established to formulate recommendations for government review in the areas of policy and management; legislation; refugees and internally displaced persons; and border management and information systems." (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, para. 30)

Other relevant institutions
"The ministry [for Labour and Social Security] works closely with many international organizations, particularly UNHCR, in assisting all vulnerable people. Two other departments that frequently deal with IDPs (as well as refugees and the needy) are the Ministry of Economics and the office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Aid and Development- assistance for refugees and IDPs is implemented by city and regional councils." (Green 1998, p. 280)

General lack of attention given to people displaced as a result of the conflict (2000)

- Observers in Armenia agree that refugees and internally displaced persons have been given almost no specific attention by the State or the international community

- Humanitarian action benefited primarily to the victims of the 1988 earthquake and the refugees from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- It has not been assessed whether the needs of the internally displaced have been taken into account by general poverty alleviation programmes
- The PAROS vulnerability index used to determine eligibility for payment of state Family benefits does not include displacement as a factor of vulnerability

Report by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General for internally displaced persons:
"Internally displaced persons from the border areas, the 1999 report of the Working Group on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons found, 'have been given almost no attention by the State, because of too many and complicated refugee and ecological migrant problems, as well as the overloaded State budget'.[14] Broad consensus on this point was found to exist among the variety of actors with whom the Representative met during the mission - the Government, United Nations agencies, international NGOs, civil society and donors. They acknowledged that the plight of the conflict-induced internally displaced had not received any particular focus at either the national or international level and that there was little awareness of the problem of internal displacement or the needs of the internally displaced and few programmes specifically designed to address their plight.

Practical as well as substantive reasons were offered to explain this. First, it was noted that humanitarian action had been focused on addressing the needs of the earthquake victims and then, added to this, some 340,000 refugees from the conflict. Each of these groups of beneficiaries was larger in terms of numbers than the internally displaced and their needs overwhelming: indeed, as reported above, 12 years after the earthquake some 100,000 persons uprooted by it continue to be in need of assistance. Those persons displaced by the earthquake as well as those who fled to Armenia as part of the refugee influx from Azerbaijan also were considered to be more easily identifiable populations in need than the internally displaced, who had fled in small groups, in most cases to the homes of relatives, and thus became dispersed. Indeed, as noted earlier, the Government and the international community have not precisely mapped out the location and needs of the internally displaced population of the country.

Second, and more substantively, it has been assumed that the needs of the internally displaced would be addressed through general programmes for vulnerable groups and for poverty alleviation. More focused attention, international agencies in particular observed, would risk privileging the internally displaced compared with the rest of the population. At the same time, however, it was acknowledged that general programmes may not adequately take into account the particular needs of internally displaced persons; indeed, there was a lack of clarity about the extent to which existing programmes in fact do so.

Take, for instance, the system of food distribution three times a year by the World Food Programme (WFP) to 110,000 vulnerable persons, identified according to lists provided by the Government-run vulnerability assessment system known as PAROS (Armenian for "beacon"). Though food assistance initially was focused on refugees, internally displaced persons and earthquake victims, in order to take into account that part of the general population also suffering food insecurity, in 1994 a targeting mechanism was put into place with the PAROS system to ensure that food distribution reached those most in need. PAROS assesses household or family vulnerability by taking into account a number of factors: (i) family composition, including the presence of household members belonging to socially vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities; (ii) household income level including assets; and (iii) location and conditions of residence. A numerical weighting is assigned to each variable and, on this basis, a vulnerability index calculated for each household. Though both WFP and the PAROS Director could state with certainty that the 110,000 beneficiaries of WFP assistance included internally displaced persons, their precise number was not known. That is because internally displaced persons are not specifically identified, but have their vulnerability assessed on the same basis as the population at large. To be sure, a special coefficient in the calculation of vulnerability is assigned in the case of persons in the conflict border areas (as in the earthquake zones) as well as for persons in temporary housing. However, unlike for refugees, there is no specific weighting given to the displacement itself and the particular vulnerabilities that arise from being

displaced. And yet, the report of the Working Group on Refugees and Displaced Persons stressed that the internally displaced persons compelled to leave their homes as result of military action in the border areas are one of the most vulnerable social groups in Armenia"
[Endnote 14: Refugees and Displaced Persons Work Group/Capacity Building Migration Management Programme/IOM, Migration Trends Among Internally Displaced Persons in Border Regions of the Republic of Armenia (January 1999), p. 11]
[Endnote 15: Ibid.] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 31-34)

Rehabilitation plan for border territories: project's status needs clarification (2000)

- A project proposal to support the return of IDPs through the rehabilitation of the border areas has been formulated by the Department for Migration and Refugees
- The project addresses issues of shelter rehabilitation and reconstruction, social infrastructure, humanitarian assistance and demining activities
- The project is only a proposal and still required approval within the Government
- The project proposal also was unknown among UN agencies, international as well as local NGOs and the donor community
- With the active involvement of the UN Resident Representative, a three-step plan of action for moving forward with the project proposal was worked out with government officials

"In an effort to begin to address the needs of Armenia's conflict-induced internally displaced population, the DMR has formulated, on the basis of the Working Group's survey of the border regions, a project proposal to support the return of conflict-induced internally displaced persons through the rehabilitation of the border areas from where they originated.[16] The project is designed to support the return both of the 28,000 who already have returned as well as of the 39,000 additional displaced persons who are expected to want to do so, while also improving the conditions of the non-displaced local population. This comprehensive, community-based approach taking into account the different groups of affected populations in the border areas and seeking to respond to their needs in an integrated manner is a particularly welcome aspect of the project.

The project has four principal areas of activity. First, shelter conditions are to be restored to minimum standards through the repair or reconstruction of homes. Support for home repair is to be provided to returnees and the non-displaced alike. In the case of homes that have been totally destroyed, one-room houses with 25 square metres of living space are to be constructed, at a cost of under US$ 4,000 each.

Secondly, social infrastructure is to be rehabilitated through a series of projects to rebuild educational and health care facilities, water systems, electricity, transport and communications. The participation of internally displaced persons in these projects is to be ensured so as to create income-generating opportunities for them.

As a third component, to facilitate their reintegration, returnees are to receive food assistance for the initial six months, after which point it is expected that with the support of agricultural implements and micro-credit the resumption of agricultural work and other income-generating activities will enable self-sufficiency. For those displaced persons whose land is in mined areas, new plots of land are to be allocated until such time that demining occurs.

The fourth component of the project is a demining programme. Although some demining of the border areas has begun, a comprehensive demining programme is still required.

The project is to be implemented under the coordination of the DMR, in collaboration with local and national authorities, and involving international and local non-governmental organizations as well. The

estimated total cost of the project is US$ 81 million, to be spent over a period of three years. The Government is prepared to 'finance the project each year in the limits of its possibilities' and will seek assistance from the international community for the remainder. Officials in the DMR suggested that the Government would be able to contribute to the project something on the order of US$ 15 million of the $ 81 million required. Several government officials spoke of the significant amount of international attention and assistance devoted to the plight of internally displaced persons in other countries in the region, suggesting the need for greater parity in the international approach.

Clarification of the status of the project is an essential prerequisite for its implementation. Early into the Representative's brief mission, it became apparent that the project, which had been presented to him by the DMR, was only a proposal and still required approval within the Government. Indeed, several government officials with whom the Representative met were unaware of the project. Nor was there much awareness and understanding among them of the problem of internal displacement in Armenia that the project seeks to address. The United Nations Resident Representative shared this impression, noting that in UNDP's discussions with the Government (which were ongoing at the time of the mission) concerning its priorities, budgetary planning and needs for assistance from the international community, no reference had been made to the issue of internal displacement or the project. There was thus a clear disconnection between the plans of the DMR and the priorities of the Government as a whole. Following a comment to this effect by the Representative, awareness among government officials of the nature of the problem of internal displacement as well as the project (though not necessarily the details of its contents) became noticeably greater over the course of the mission.

The project proposal also was unknown among United Nations agencies, international as well as local non-governmental organizations and representatives of the donor community. Some agencies and donors indicated that they might in principle be ready to consider supporting a programme to support return and reconstruction in the border areas but raised concerns regarding the cost of the project proposal being promoted by the DMR, which they had yet to see. Moreover, a number of international agencies and donors indicated that they did not have the sense that internal displacement was a priority issue for the Government as it had theretofore never been mentioned.

Detailed discussion of the substance of the project inevitably was sidetracked by these problems of process, both within the Government and in relation to the international community, which surfaced during the mission. In bringing these problems to the fore, however, the mission nonetheless provided an opportunity to address them. Indeed, doing so became a main focus of the Representative's mission.

With the active involvement of the United Nations Resident Representative, the following three-step plan of action for moving forward with the project proposal was worked out with government officials. First, it would be necessary to consolidate government support for the project. Government officials suggested that initially this should occur by means of a trilateral meeting between officials of the DMR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Other relevant ministries, especially those of Regional Administration and Urban Planning, and Social Security and Health, would then also need to be engaged. The project would need to be formally adopted by the Government and incorporated into the national budget and policy framework. Doing so would give a clear signal that the project's aim, to address the needs of the internally displaced, is a priority for the Government. This, in turn, would enable better coordination with the international community and create the basis for the mobilization of international resources. Second, the project would be officially presented to the United Nations and international community for consideration. But even before all of this, an assessment of internally displaced persons in the country would need to be undertaken to establish their whereabouts, needs and, in particular, their intention to return to their home areas and under what conditions. For those who do not intend to return, projects supporting resettlement will need to be formulated."
[Endnote 16: Project: Post Conflict Rehabilitation of Bordering Territories.] (UNHCHR 6 November 2000, paras. 35-44)

Government poverty alleviation programme: The Family Benefit System (FBS)(1999)

- Unified social benefit system created in January 1999 based on a vulnerability index
- Vulnerability index includes situation of dwellers in temporary shelter
- Because of insufficient financial resources, FBS covers only 230,000 most vulnerable households out of 430,000 households considered eligible for welfare assistance

"The most tangible state activity aimed at poverty alleviation was the replacement of all Government allowances by a Family Benefit System (FBS) in January 1999 based on the *Paros* (Armenian for 'beacon') vulnerability index. [Footnote 1]

To establish the FBS, a number of refinements to the *Paros* index were carried out, including singling out elderly pensioners (over 75 years) as a separate social group and increasing the housing coefficient in the vulnerability scores of dwellers in temporary shelters.

Since any targeting system includes some percentage of less vulnerable households, not entitled to assistance, such households were identified through a verification exercise with the registers of cars and private entrepreneurs, as well as with electricity suppliers. Another important measure was the involvement of social workers in the identification of better-off households through home visits. These complex activities, conducted from September to December 1998, resulted in the exclusion of 90,000 households from the lists of prospective beneficiaries.

Because of insufficient financial resources, FBS covers only 230,000 most vulnerable households (around 27 percent of the Republic's families) out of 430,000 households considered eligible for welfare assistance; 200,000 households are not covered by the FBS. The monthly average family benefit is equivalent to US$14, not enough to fill the gap between the disposable income and subsistence.

Following an increase in electricity tariffs, the Government allocated a monthly compensation of 1,450 drams (less than US$3) for energy consumption to an additional 70,000 families. Thus, 300,000 households are benefiting from Government assistance in 1999.

Footnote 1: *Paros* is Government-operated poverty assessment system, which was put in place through support from the United States Agency for International Development in 1995. It is an open system for continuous registration of vulnerable households. Under *Paros*, household or family vulnerability assessment is based on: i) family composition, including the presence of household members belonging to socially vulnerable groups; ii) income level of the household in money and/or assets; and iii) place and conditions of residence. Numerical values are assigned to each variable and a vulnerability index is calculated for each household; the higher the index, the more vulnerable the family. The predominant groups identified by the *Paros* system are pensioners (the majority of whom are women, as their life expectancy is higher), and households headed by women." (WFP 21 September 1999, paras. 15-18)

The crucial role of the diaspora in the alleviation of the social crisis (1999)

- Considerable humanitarian assistance provided by the Armenian diaspora following the 1988 earthquake
- The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund supports a large number of reconstruction projects in Armenia, especially in the border areas
- More tangible participation of the diaspora hindered by the lack of laws promoting the financial and economic activities of the diaspora, and the rejection of dual citizenship

"Immediately after the disastrous earthquake of 1988, all of the diaspora communities rushed to help the people of Armenia. The diaspora helped mainly with humanitarian assistance. During those difficult days of national tragedy, the patriotism of the diaspora Armenians was the best guarantee of the hoped-for national accord and cohesion. After Armenia gained independence and the country tumbled into crisis, the assistance of the diaspora became more directed. First and foremost, the assistance had to be used for Armenia's social-economic development, but the aid also had to take into consideration that with the development of market relations, many Armenians were being left vulnerable and miserable. In Homeland-Diaspora relations the leading role was given to traditional organizations, especially to pan-diaspora ones. For such large and massive charitable organizations as the Armenian General Benevolent Union and Armenian Relief Society, with histories going back decades, it was relatively easy to organize assistance, though even for them the help required was unprecedented in scale and duration.

The Armenian Diaspora organizations that assist in the reconstruction and development of Armenia differ in their capacity and projects; not all of them lived very long, but new ones appeared in their place.

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has a unique place among charitable organizations. The Fund has been designed to secure lasting sources of financing for the development of Armenia, within the country and in the diaspora. Its local committees now function in over 20 countries. Today the Fund supports a large number of projects in Armenia; first and foremost it is the construction of roads and bridges in the border areas. The projects implemented by the Hayastan Fund during the past five years are worth around $ 53mln. Also of enormous importance have been the large donations from individuals, especially wealthy Armenians of the diaspora.

All these organizations and individuals helped the Armenian people endure the difficult dislocations and hardships that accompany the transition from a command economy to a market one. The people not only benefited directly from the construction of the roads, hospitals, schools and other enterprises; in addition, the construction and operation of these facilities created new jobs. In this transition period when the state is not able to guarantee basic living standards for its people, the projects carried out by the diaspora alleviate social tension. The constant assistance from individuals of the diaspora, including those who have migrated from Armenia in recent years, to their relatives in Armenia is crucial. The aid, according to experts, amounts to some $200mln per year. For many Armenians, existence depends on this help.

A growing number of diaspora businessmen and women have started businesses in the country, either independently or jointly with local Armenians." (UNDP 1997, pp. 69-71)

"In the 20th century the Armenian people, split into two parts for more than 70 years, have lived apart: in Armenia, and as Diaspora. (Since 1915, when, as the result of the genocide, Armenians in Western Armenia and Cilicia, then part of the Ottoman Empire, escaped or were deported). They have lived in mutually exclusive social systems, and have developed distorted ideas about each other and have exaggerated expectations of one another. These attitudes became manifest immediately after Armenia became independent. The national parties, banned during Soviet rule, began to engage in domestic politics. The political claims of the Dashnak and Ramkavar parties met with an intolerant stance on the part of the ruling party towards its opposition, and this resulted in a tough confrontation.[...].

At the same time, in an attempt to keep the Diaspora under control, the authorities attempted to invalidate the basic structures of the Diaspora. Such relations between Armenia and the Diaspora not only failed to promote the anticipated unification of the two parts of the Armenian people, but also, considering the number of supporters of the returned parties in Armenia, aggravated the social fragmentation. This had a negative impact on the participation of Diasporan Armenians in the economic development of this country. After the 1988 earthquake the Diaspora provided sizeable aid to the victims; later, the Diaspora started development programs at a time when the country suffered from a total crisis. These programs were implemented either by existing organizations, or by organizations specially designed for this purpose. The social and industrial facilities and jobs created as a result of these programs, and the individual financial support to relatives (amounting annually to more than $200 million) to a certain extent has helped cushion

social frictions. However, the lack of laws promoting the financial and economic activities of the Diasporan Armenians, the rejection of dual citizenship, and other obstacles have hindered a more tangible participation of the Diaspora in the reconstruction of the country and thus, the establishment of social accord.

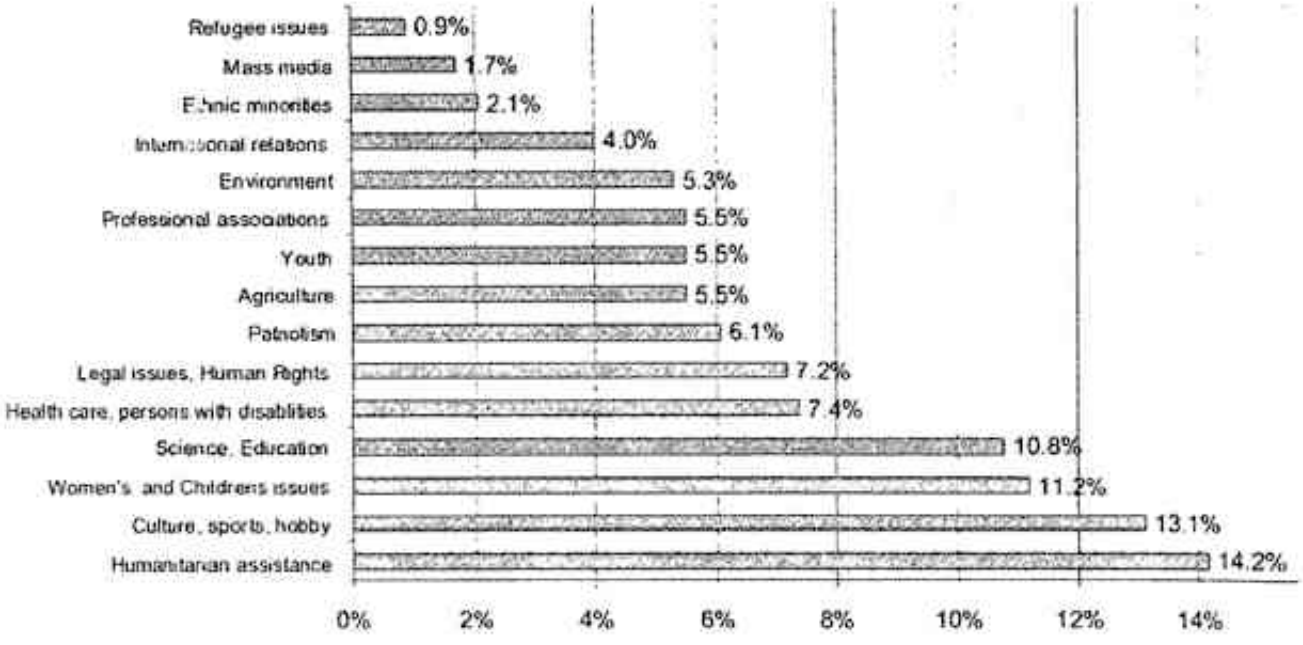
After the change of power in 1998, certain prerequisites have been created for mutually beneficial Armenia-Diaspora relations, which, however, will materialize only if there are appropriate long-term programs and implementation mechanisms." (UNDP 1999, box 3.4)

See also websites of the All-Armenian Fund, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Relief Society [Internet].

Armenian NGO sector remains dependent on international funding (1998)

- 14% of the 627 NGOs registered with the NGO Center of Armenia are involved in humanitarian assistance
- Foreign organisations mostly finance NGOs with global profiles, such as commitments to human rights, civic development and environmental protection
- Insufficient level of cooperation between local NGOs and public authorities

There are 627 organizations registered with the NGO Center of Armenia. Out of these NGOs, 527 operate in Yerevan, 99 work in Gyumri, and one is in Vanadzor. The breakdown of NGOs operating in Yerevan by their main mission is as follows:



(UNDP 1998, box 2.2)

"In cities other than Yerevan and Gyumri, the number of NGOs is insignificant. The number of nation-wide organizations is over 20. These are the organizations that function not just on paper, but in reality.
[...]

As a rule, NGOs are not financially viable and therefore they either do not function at all or depend, to a large extent, on donor support, for which they have to compete.

That diminishes the capacity of social oversight by the NGOs, since they have to adapt their needs and objectives to the interest of the donors. Some NGOs are non-governmental by technical definition only, since they were founded by representatives of government circles. The NGO movement is under some control by law.

Foreign organisations mostly finance NGOs with global profiles, such as commitments to human rights, civic development and environmental protection. Domestic sources mostly finance NGOs characteristic of Armenia, i.e. those interested in preserving national culture and heritage." (UNDP 1997, box 5.3)

"Local non-governmental organisations can play an important role, particularly in the implementation phase of humanitarian assistance programmes. However, the unsatisfactory level of cooperation between NGOs and public authorities, the latter not perceiving the former as serious partners in implementing humanitarian programmes, hampers the efficient utilisation of their capacity. 600 non-government organisations and associations out of 1,200 currently registered, received institutional and other types of aid from the NGO Training and Resource Centre financed through USAID. By now they have accumulated rather extensive experience in carrying out various projects. Close cooperation between these organisations and social, employment and health care public services will considerably foster the efficiency of programme implementation, especially if we take into consideration that low wages in the civil sector do not stimulate timely and high quality services for the needy." (Darbinyan 1999, p. 20)

The Armenian government improves coordination of international assistance by the Government (1999-2000)

- Department on Coordination and Monitoring of Loans, Grants and Humanitarian Assistance formed
- Government plans the creation of a UNDP-supported "International Assistance Database for Armenia" to facilitate the coordination of assistance programmes

"The Government of Armenia in its efforts to regularise the issue of coordination of international assistance provided to the country, as well as to facilitate the work of the international organisations, established Principal Department on Coordination and Monitoring of Loans, Grants and Humanitarian Assistance under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. Government decrees related to the responsibility and procedures of the Department have been issued during the last months. The Department is headed by the Chairman of the Humanitarian Assistance Commission, who is also a member of the newly created Governmental Committee of Coordination of International Assistance Programmes headed by the Prime Minister. The Department acts as the working group of the Governmental Committee. A meeting with the Head of the Department was convened by the UN Resident Coordinator on 21 January [2000]. Present were representatives of the international community operating in Armenia. The Head of the Department presented the International Assistance Coordination Framework, which includes institutional, regulatory and structural measures, information framework, procedures of receiving international assistance, and functions of the Ministry of Economy, the Department and the Governmental Committee.
[...]
UN Development Programme (UNDP) Project Appraisal Committee meeting on a project document 'International Assistance Database for Armenia' was held on 20 January. The project is elaborated by the Principal Department on Coordination and Monitoring of Loans, Grants and Humanitarian Assistance with support of UNDP. The project aims to support the Government of Armenia in its coordination efforts by strengthening the capacities of the Department through the development and introduction of an International Assistance Database. The proposed database will serve not only as a tool for sistemising and storing information but also will facilitate the implementation of assistance programmes, improve their

efficiency. It will be a basis for planning future development objectives. The establishment of such a database will promote the efficient coordination of international assistance which should be based on correct and timely collection of information on ongoing, already compiled and foreseen assistance programmes." (UN OCHA 1 February 2000)

International organizations

United Nations Representative for IDPs visits Armenia (May 2000)

- The objectives of the visit were to document internal displacement in Armenia and to understand the reasons for the little attention paid to the issue
- The Representative highlighted the need to recognize internal displacement as a factor of vulnerability

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Representative undertook a mission to Armenia from 18 to 19 May 2000.

"The mission to Georgia was followed immediately by one to Armenia, where the problem of internal displacement is considerably smaller in magnitude and much less prominent. The objectives of the mission were to study and document the problem of internal displacement, to seek to understand why it has received so little attention to date, to determine through solutions-oriented dialogue with the Government and representatives of the international community and civil society appropriate solutions for responding to the current needs of the internally displaced, and to understand the problem of internal displacement in Armenia in its subregional context. The findings of the mission regarding these four objectives, along with recommendations to the Government and the international community, are set out in Addendum 3 [Internet]. Of particular importance is the need for the Government and the international community in Armenia to recognize internal displacement as a factor of vulnerability - something which has not been done in the past and which explains the lack of specific attention to the particular needs of the internally displaced in Armenia." (UNCHR 17 January 2001, para. 92)

See full text of the mission's report in: Profiles in displacement: Armenia, Report to the UN Commission on Human Rights, 6 November 2000 [Internet]

IFRC helps Armenian Red Cross to address needs of vulnerable persons (2002)

- Areas of intervention includes disaster response and preparedness, and healthcare

"Priority programmes for Federation assistance
The overall objective of the Federation assistance to Armenia in 2002-2003 is to help the national society achieve operational and financial independence by the end of 2003. To this end, the Federation will focus on:
Disaster response: expanding and strengthening the national society's capacity to deliver needed material, home care and social assistance to the most vulnerable;
Disaster preparedness: reducing the impact of and vulnerability to disasters in Armenia by building up the disaster preparedness capacity of the national society;
Health and care: reducing the incidence of common diseases and providing easy and affordable access to basic health care;

Humanitarian values: influencing the behavior of Red Cross staff and volunteers, authorities and the community through dissemination activities;
Organizational development: expanding and enhancing the ability of the ARCS to provide more assistance of higher quality, with greater impact and relevance, to more vulnerable people in each of the communities it serves;
Regional co-operation: expanding and enhancing the ability of three national societies in the southern Caucasus to serve the most vulnerable by sharing their capacity building experience in specific programme areas, skills and techniques;
Co-ordination and management: phasing out its co-ordination of programme implementation and handing over management responsibility to a strengthened national society." (IFRC 2002, p. 29)

See also IFRC Programme Update: Armenia, Azerbaijan, 21 August 2002 [Internet]

OSCE conducts legal review of legal framework applying to internally displaced persons (2000-2002)

- The aim of the project is to review the adherence of national legislation with Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- The study found that IDPs were not clearly defined in the Armenian legislation

Review of Compliance of National Legislation to Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (funded by OSCE/ODIHR)
"The aim of the project is to review the adherence of the national legislation with Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement with a view of producing recommendations to relevant governments. The project is a follow-up to the regional workshop on Internal Displacement organized in 2000 in collaboration with the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement, during which the situation in this field in all three states was reviewed and specific needs of IDPs identified. The objective is to promote application of international standards and principles and to stimulate the development of institutional and legal frameworks for addressing internal displacement.

Timeframe: 2000-2001"
(OSCE Office in Yerevan 2001, "Projects")

"As a follow-up to the Southern Caucasus Regional Workshop on Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, conducted in May 2000 in Tbilisi, the ODIHR, jointly with the Brookings Institution and the City University of New York, has initiated a project to study the legal situation of IDPs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for legislation that ensures that IDPs are not discriminated against.

A first study analysing the legal status of IDPs in Armenia was prepared by two local lawyers supervised by Prof. Walter Kaelin of University of Berne, a leading international expert on IDPs. The results of the study, which found that IDPs were not clearly defined in the Armenian legislation, were discussed at a round table with local NGOs, government officials, international experts and NGOs, organized with assistance of the OSCE Centre in Yerevan. The controversial question of whether such a definition should be introduced was discussed. There was general agreement that while simply introducing a legal status for IDPs in itself was not sufficient, such a step could help in focusing protective measures and assistance programmes. International organizations and their Armenian counterparts agreed to continue the dialogue, including on conducting a mapping of the needs of IDPs on the ground." (OSCE December 2001, Freedom of Movement/Migration)

See also "Roundtable on Internal Displacement", in UNDP Bulletin on External Assistance, May 2002 [Internet]

WFP assistance to vulnerable groups remains crucial (2000-2001)

- WFP provides food rations to vulnerable groups, including pensioners without family support
- Single headed families and women with large families are given access to Food-for-Training programmes
- Food-for-Work activities for the repair of shelters and houing and sanitation facilities are also planned for people living in temporary dwellings
- WFP also provides targeted emergency food assistance to severely drought-affected regions in the northern parts of the country

Protracted Relief and Recovery operations (PRRO) 10053.0 (former 6120.02)
Relief and Recovery Assistance for Vulnerable Groups
Duration: Two-years (1 July 2001-30 July 2003
Total commitment: 60,795 tonnes
Planned beneficiairies: 140,000 per year
Total cost to WFP: 30,462,846

"This operation targets 140,000 chronically hungry beneficiaries a year, most of them women and children. It is a relief operation. If non-food item support can be provided by partners or directly by WFP under this operation, tens of thousands of beneficiaries will have the chance to build self-reliance through activities such as the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure and food for training." (WFP 5 April 2001, p. 3)

"Assistance to Vulnerable Groups
WFP will provide relief food rations to single pensioners who are without family support and who rely solely on state pensions. Armenia's monthly state pensions amount to US$5.5, far below the World Bank's minimum food basket, calculated at US$38 per month, and its consumption basket of US$60. Furthermore, they do not arrive regularly.

Visiting care workers will deliver the food rations and at the same time provide basic social services to these single, lonely and elderly people, including elderly refugees in collective centres. A FFT activity, executed in cooperation with the Armenian Red Cross (ARC) and Mission Armenia, will train women from single-headed households or women with large families to perform that care worker role as a FFW activity. Through these two activities, the identified women will be provided with an income opportunity and the elderly will receive assistance.

Refugees and people living in temporary dwellings remain among the most vulnerable groups in Armenia. WFP will use FFW activities for the repair of shelters and housing and the rehabilitation of sanitation facilities. The country office will cooperate with UNHCR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) regarding technical expertise. Material inputs and other components will be sought from other partners. In economically destitute areas of Shirak, FFW activities will focus on the essential repair of water supply and sewage lines." (WFP 5 April 2001, paras. 31-33)

Emergency Operations (EMOP) 6310.00
Food Assistance to Drought Victims
Duration: 8 months (1 November 2000 - 30 June 2001)
Total commitment: 22,480 tonnes
Planned beneficiaries: 297,000

"WFP plans to provide targeted emergency food assistance to severely drought-affected regions in the northern parts of the country. Within this target area, WFP will supply an estimated 297,000 subsistence farmers and other vulnerable households with 22,480 tons of iron-fortified wheat, vegetable oil and pulses from 1 November 2000 until 30 June 2001. This will help to ensure the survival of this food-insecure population until the next harvest in mid 2001." (WFP 30 November 2000, Abstract)

"As a result of delays in food delivery and subsequent postponement of planned operations WFP extended the Assistance to Drought Victims EMOP until the end of the year. The operation was initially scheduled to end on 30 June. WFP has started to implement the second phase of the EMOP, by distributing 4,767 tons of oil and pulses to 78,550 drought-affected subsistence farmers. WFP implements the food distributions directly, except in Shirak and Lori regions where this is done in collaboration with Caritas.

After having screened FFW project proposals submitted by local communities, WFP and Ministry of Social Welfare approved 352 projects, which will require 2,948 tons of food. Food-for-Training was organised in 535 villages of six-drought-affected regions and benefited 13,360 small landholders with 766 tons of food and agricultural knowledge.

The drought that began last summer is likely to persist, significantly affecting agricultural production and food security, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government has requested a Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission. Having limited food stocks, many subsistence farmers have eaten their seeds and the level of water in the reservoirs is very low. Releasing larger amounts of water from Lake Sevan for irrigation would lead to an ecological disaster." (WFP 29 June 2001)

For other humanitarian programmes in support of the population affected by the drought, see also "Humanitarian aid in Georgia and Armenia: the Commission grants Euro 1.95 million", press release of the European Commission, 29 March 2001 [Internet]

UNPD supports rehabilitation projects in areas affected by the conflict (1997-2002)

- Regions targeted are Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Syunik
- Activities include capacity building, rehabilitation of schools and healthcare structures, support to agricultural activities

"Programme Area: Poverty
Project # ARM/98/007
Title: Integrated Support to Sustainable Human Development
Execution: UN Office for Project Services Government Counterpart Ministry of Territorial Administration
Start Date 12/03/1998
Completion Date 30/09/2002
Total Budget $3,700,000
Brief Description
The project aims to establish an umbrella for formulation and implementation of sustainable human development strategies in the regions damaged by earthquake and conflict through building capacities for governance, restoring social services in education and health, agricultural development, forestry rehabilitation, and disaster preparedness.

Objectives
- Enhancement of Governance capacities in 4 selected regions most affected by earthquake and military conflict
- Rehabilitation and sustainable operation of 20 health posts and medical and diagnostics facilities
- Rehabilitation and sustainable operation of 10 schools
- Introduction of economies of scale and farmer associations

Enhancement of disaster awareness and preparedness at primary education institutions of the target regions

Achievements
- Training on Management and Leadership for 224 staff of 4 Governors' offices, 17 municipalities, NGO representatives and pedadogues was completed
- Training on taxation, community budgeting and management for village mayors of Shirak and Lori regions was completed, 120 mayors were certified, the course was evaluated
- Rehabilitation of 10 schools and 20 health facilities in Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Syunik regions was completed
- Rehabilitation of medical equipment at 30 health institutions was completed and respective staff trained
- Agricultural inputs and technical assistance was provided to regional agricultural enterprise and 300 farmers,
- Farmers' Association "Spitak" is established
- Two training programmes in Dairy Technologies and Poultry Development with the support of the Government of Israel
- Two sub-projects financed by the Government of Netherlands: on School Gardening for Margahovit and Aygepar schools and Computer Center for Margahovit school were completed
- Sub-project on income jeneration for 1,500 poor families in Lori region funded by ECHO was completed
- 3 FAO TELEFOOD projects were implemented
- 3 tree nurseries in Lori region were established, 140 ha reforested" (UNDP 2002)

More than 35 international NGOs present in Armenia (1998)

- NGOs target the vulnerable population without singling out the internally displaced as such

"International organizations and NGOs are present in large numbers in Armenia. Save the Children/US was the umbrella organization for many USAID-funded NGO programs until April 1998, when it was replaced by Mercy Corps International. UNHCR, DHA, WFP, and several other international organizations have programs that assist several categories of needy people, including IDPs. By 1996 most of the organizations furnishing assistance to several categories of Armenians, recognizing that there was no longer an emergency, began providing assistance to the vulnerable and elderly and developing income generation and capital formation projects.
[...]
NGOs. More than thirty-five expatriate NGOs are currently working in Armenia. They do not single out IDPs as such, but their programs are of direct assistance to them and to other needy people. The Armenian Assembly of America has encouraged the establishment of dozens of Armenian NGOs that deal with all aspects of assistance there." (Greene 1998, pp. 280-281)

See also "The crucial role of the diaspora in the alleviation of the social crisis (1999)" [Internal link]

IOM: Capacity building in migration management (1999)

- IOM is facilitating efforts to define and delineate the functions of the state entity in charge of migration and refugee issues
- This is done through working groups comprised of academics and government officials with relevant portfolios, and local NGO representatives
- The working groups focus on: Policy and Management; Legislation; Refugees and IDPs; Labour Migration; and Border Management and Information Systems

"Since 1996, IOM and the Government of Armenia have been working together in the framework of IOM's Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme (CBMMP) to establish a unified system and the operational capacity for the management of migration processes in Armenia. In the absence of an identified state migration entity, the CBMMP provided a rudder for guiding the development of the migration management structure by facilitating the decision-making process, preparing and gathering support documents for Government review, drafting laws, and training staff on migration related issues. With the decision, in the Spring of 1999, by the Government of Armenia to create a state migration and refugee entity, IOM is facilitating efforts to define and delineate the functions of this new entity.

The CBMMP has laid much of the groundwork to establish a unified system and corresponding operational capacity for the management of migration processes and migratory flows in the Republic of Armenia that includes:

- Establishing an initial overall migration policy of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
- Establishing the administrative structures necessary for the effective implementation of migration policies
- Strengthening the legislative basis for the management of migration processes in the Republic of Armenia

Programme Results Through mid-1999

The implementation of the CBMMP in Armenia has been facilitated by IOM through working groups on: Policy and Management; Legislation; Refugees and IDPs; Labour Migration; and Border Management and Information Systems. The working groups are comprised of academics and government officials with relevant portfolios, and local NGO representatives. The products of these working groups are provided to the appropriate governmental entities." (IOM 31 January 2000)

Donors' policy: from humanitarian assistance to development programmes (2001)

- European Commission's Food Security Programme was reoriented to include an explicit poverty alleviation element (2000)
- ECHO's withdrawal from post-emergency programmes started in 1996
- Other donors include the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and USAID

"Food Security Programme (FSP)
Over the period 1996-1999, a total of Euro 41 million was allocated to Armenia under the EU FSP. In 2000 the EU approved a proposal for a new FSP amounting to Euro 20 million, which will cover the country until 2003.

During the course of 2000, the programme was re-oriented to include an explicit poverty alleviation element. The programme is now securing about 10% of the Family Poverty Benefit payments designed in collaboration with the WB [...]. It is also supporting food and running cost items for a group of children's care homes under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Security. Disbursements under the FSP are conditional upon evidence that the Government makes progress in a number of areas, including: food security and poverty reduction; land reform; market reform and information systems; social sector; agricultural reform and post-privatisation; public finance.

Humanitarian Assistance (ECHO)
ECHO has been present in the NIS region since the early 1990s, in accordance with its core mandate (humanitarian assistance in response to natural or man-made disasters). From 1993 to 1999, ECHO's

operational funding in the southern Caucasus has been considerable, with Euro 64.255 million of humanitarian aid going to Armenia, Euro 83.34 million to Georgia and Euro 82.96 million to Azerbaijan

ECHO's withdrawal from post-emergency programmes in southern Caucasus started in 1996 and was completed in 2000 with a last allocation of Euro 3.855 million for the three countries.

In 2000 and 2001 ECHO provided a total Euro 1.5 million as contribution to alleviating the consequences of the drought in Armenia." (EU 27 December 2001, p. 12)

"In 2001 a new 3-year IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (total some Euro 100 million) and a new WB Structural Adjustment Credit (total some Euro 58 million) have been_been approved.

The World Bank has been active, mainly through loans, in all sectors covered also by EU cooperation instruments. In fiscal years 2002 to 2004, the WB's assistance strategy for Armenia will focus on: creating jobs through private sector development; improving governance and the public sector; human development (primary and secondary education, and health). The WB's lending programme for the period varies from some Euro 75 million (low-case scenario) to a high-case lending scenario of some Euro 175 million.

By the end of 2000 EBRD had signed 7 investments in Armenia for a total of some Euro 126.4 million, focussed on energy (including privatisation of the electricity distribution system and completion of Hrazdan gas-fired power station), private and financial sectors development.

USAID annual assistance to Armenia has amounted to an average of some Euro 126.4 million over the period 1998-2001. This includes humanitarian aid (15%), mainly fuel and wheat shipments. Current and planned assistance focus on: development of the private sector and SMEs; energy; improving the investment climate; fostering the social sector safety net; exchanges, education and training mainly for Armenians in the US and expansion of Internet use in schools; interventions in the earthquake zone.

Germany has announced a new development strategy which envisages an allocation of some Euro 50 million for the three Caucasus countries in 2001-2002.

Donor coordination takes place mainly on the spot in Yerevan, including at the initiative of the Armenian Government (Minister of Economy and Finance, who is also the Tacis National Coordinator). EU Member States and major donors have been consulted in the course of the elaboration of this CSP." (EU 27 December 2001, p. 13)

See also:

USAID Programme Overview for Armenia [Internet]
World Bank, Armenia [Internet]
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Armenia [Internet]
Armenia Residual Humanitarian Needs, Independent Report sponsored by the UN Resident Coordinator's System in Armenia, Armenak Darbinyan September 1999 [Internal link]

Council of Europe reviews the situation of IDPs (1995-2002)

- Parliamentary Assembly highlights need to support self-reliance capacity of the displaced

Recommendation 1570 (2002) – Situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia [Internet]

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe urges the Armenian authorities

"a. to facilitate access to land for IDPs and refugees, but not in occupied territories;

b. to include displacement as a factor of vulnerability in the government-run vulnerability assessment system (Paros) used to determine eligibility for the payment of state family benefits;

c. to solicit international assistance, and to draw the attention of the Armenian diaspora to the alarming living conditions of refugees and IDPs;

d. to seek international assistance for the establishment of a special fund which would provide refugees and IDPs with basic health care and medicines;" (COE 27 June 2002)

See also:

Report – Situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, 4 June 2002 [Internet]
Resolution 1059 (1995)1 on the humanitarian situation of the refugees and displaced persons in Armenia and Azerbaijan [Internet]
Recommendation 1263 (1995)1 on the humanitarian situation of the refugees and displaced persons in Armenia and Azerbaijan [Internet]

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Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

None

Other References to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

None

Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages

The Guiding Principles have been translated into the Armenian language with the sponsorship of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia. The United Nations published a booklet containing both the English and the Armenian version of the Guiding Principles.
Date: 1998
Documents: • GP in Armenian [Internet]•

Training on the Guiding Principles

None

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AET	Armenia Economic Trend
AFP	Agence France-Presse
ARCS	Armenian Red Cross Society
AUA	American University of Armenia
CBMMP	Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COE	Council of Europe
DHA	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
DMR	Department of Migration and Refugees
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBS	Family Benefit System
FFW	Food for Work
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPTRC	International Post Trauma Rehabilitation Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LIFDC	Low-income, food-deficit country
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Ministry of Statistics
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PRC	Public Research Centre
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USCR	U.S. Committee for Refugees
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	Unided Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WFP	World Food Programme

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