



*UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
FRAMEWORK FOR ARMENIA
2021-2025*

Joint Statement and Signature Page

The Government of the Republic of Armenia (GoA) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Armenia are pleased to present the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia 2021-2025. The Cooperation Framework is the United Nations' central framework for planning and implementation of development activities at the country level. As such, it articulates the UN collective offer to support Armenia in achieving key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and national development priorities.

The Cooperation Framework is a compact between the UN and the GoA to work together, and in partnership with the broader society (civil society, academia, parliament, the private sector, and other development partners) towards a more resilient Armenia. An Armenia where the well-being of people, an inclusive green economy, people-centred governance systems are advanced, and people enjoy equal rights and opportunities in life. At the core of our strategy is our collective promise to leave no one behind and to be responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable in the Armenian society.

By signing hereunder, the members of the United Nations Country Team and the Government of Armenia endorse the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 and underscore their joint commitment to the UNSDCF strategic priorities and outcomes.

On behalf of the Government of Armenia

On behalf of the United Nations in Armenia

H.E. Mr. Mher Grigoryan

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

Mr. Shombi Sharp

UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia

AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Armenia for the period of 2021-2025 in May 2021 in Yerevan, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.

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List of Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ARCS	Armenian Red Cross
ATS	Armenia's Transformation Strategy
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CBO	Community-Based Organisations
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CD	Communicable Diseases
CEPA	Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement
CF	Cooperation Framework
COAF	Children of Armenia Fund
CPD	Country Programme Documentation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GIZ	German International Development Agency
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HR	Human Rights
IARP	Inter-Agency humanitarian response plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFI	International Financial Institution
IGTG	Internal Gender Theme Group
ILCS	Integrated Living Conditions Survey
ILO	International Labor Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoES	Ministry of Emergency Situations
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MIS	Monitoring Information System
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEc	Ministry of Economy
MoESCS	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

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MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoTAE	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise
NAP	National Action Plan
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRA	Non-Resident Agency
OMT	Operations Management Team
OSC	Out of School Children
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RA	Republic of Armenia
RC	Resident Coordinator
RG	Results Group
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SERRP	Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Framework
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SP	Social Protection
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
ToC	Theory of Change
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VET	Vocational Education Training
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Executive Summary

The UN global reform has elevated the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to be “the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities” in the country. It outlines the UN development system’s contributions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an integrated manner, with a commitment to leave no one behind, human rights, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE), and other international standards and obligations.

The UNSDCF (hereafter CF) is first and foremost a partnership with the Government of Armenia. Nationally owned and anchored in national development priorities, this compact determines the UN’s collective offer to the country and seals the development objectives to be reached jointly in the next five years (2021-2025).

The priorities of the CF are directly derived from the analysis of country needs and opportunities, as expressed in the UN’s Common Country Analysis (CCA). The elaboration of the CF content has also remained sensitive to the evolution of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050, sectoral strategies, and other national planning instruments, as the framing of UN contributions to Armenia has progressed in parallel to the development of the national strategic framework.

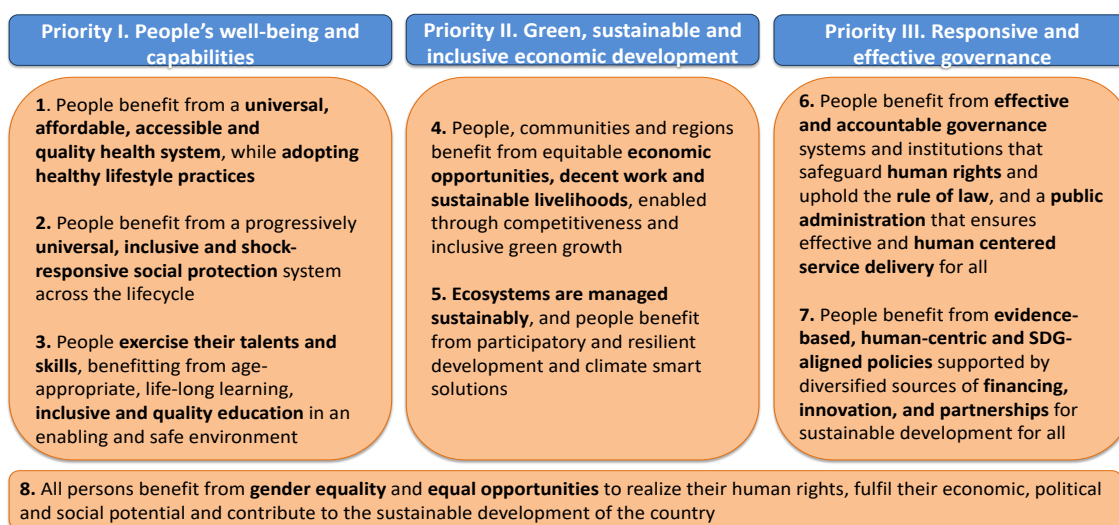
The CF design process has pursued and benefitted from consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, mostly held virtually due to the limitations posed by the COVID-19 containment measures. This has included thematic strategic planning workshops with resident and non-resident UN agencies; consultations with the GoA; line ministries and other national partners, including civil society organizations; international finance institutions; development partners; private sector; academia and international NGOs, as well as feedback from people living in Armenia directly generated through the UN75 Global Survey.

Underpinned by a strong analytical foundation and inclusive dialogue, the UN has prioritized eight development outcomes aiming to improve people’s well-being and capabilities; to foster economic “green” transformation; to strengthen responsive and effective governance systems; as well as to increase GEWE. The UN, thus, stands ready to support Armenia in its path towards sustainable development ensuring:

- a **healthy, skilful, and resilient population** with three specific outcomes focusing on health systems, educational attainments, and social protection coverage;
- a **green, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth**, covering economic opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and sustainable management of ecosystems;
- **responsive and effective governance**, focusing on human rights and human-centred governance systems, rule of law and broader support to the SDGs through enhanced data capacities, financing, and partnerships; and
- **gender equality**, with a standalone outcome and cross-pillar integration aimed at enhancing equal opportunities across the economic, political, and social spheres.

The following figure summarises the agreed priority areas and development outcomes which will frame the UN system’s contributions to the achievement of sustainable development in Armenia in the coming five years:

2021-2025 UN ARMENIA COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES



The UN is committed to contribute to the achievement of these outcomes by leveraging specific ‘enablers’ in line with the country context and the added value of the UN system. Whenever relevant in its programmatic interventions, the UN will adopt innovative approaches; promote SDG financing; strengthen civil society; enhance communication with the displaced population and host communities; support the engagement of the Armenian diaspora; support evidence-based decision-making; as well as contribute to the creation of an enabling policy environment and closing the policy-implementation-financing gap.

In order to deliver these outcomes, the UN will mobilize not only entities already based in Armenia, but also resources from its (sub-) regional and global offices. Efforts will be made to increase the coherence of UN actions, while building broad partnerships with civil society; the private sector; academia; think-tanks at national, regional, and local level; including the Armenia diaspora, for the achievement of the SDGs.

Closely linked to the effectiveness of the CF interventions lay the principles of sustainability and the strengthening of national capacities. This will be secured through close collaboration with relevant government counterparts, including through the development of capacity within the government; line ministries; the national statistical system; and other national institutions to replicate and/or scale guidelines and methodologies; as well as policy and financing frameworks. The focus will be on building in-house capacities through on-the-job support and learning by doing. This will be informed by existing and upcoming capacity assessments such as Parliament needs assessment and functional review, Gender audit in Parliament, Civil service functional review and SIGMA conducted by the UN and other stakeholders.

This framework also acknowledges factors which risk hindering the progress towards the set results. In particular, there is emerging evidence that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates existing development challenges, as well as poses new ones triggering a protracted crisis, both globally and in Armenia. The Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) to COVID-19, developed alongside the CF, is the UN instrument to provide continued support to the country in order to counter the impact of the pandemic and is fully aligned with the priorities and strategies set in this document.

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On 27 September 2020, heavy fighting broke out in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result of a large-scale military offensive, according to official data, over 90,000 people were displaced from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area, with many finding refuge in Armenia, thus further exacerbating the national socio-economic situation in the country caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the cessation of hostilities on 10 November 2020, the latest outbreak of fighting created new humanitarian needs and added significant pressure on existing response capacities, especially those of the social, health and economic systems.

The commitment to leave no one behind implies that sustainable development should be accessible to all people in Armenia, including people from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area. This framework in turn considers integrating social cohesion, human security and conflict sensitivity efforts across all programmatic interventions, seeking regional partnerships both external and internal to the UN development system.

Importantly, the CF is a compact among UN development and humanitarian entities, including the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). It provides the overarching framework for the coherent, integrated, and synergistic achievement of development results delivered collectively and by individual entities under the leadership of the empowered RC.

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

National Context

Armenia has undergone significant changes since 2018, when the ‘Velvet Revolution’ brought about peaceful political transformation. Transparent and trusted parliamentary elections were held in December 2018 leading to the formation of a new government and an ambitious reform agenda characterized by a renewed commitment to good governance, inclusive economic growth, and the realisation of human rights. The government also launched the development of a comprehensive Armenia Transformation Strategy 2020-2050 (ATS), including the 2030 Action Plan, organized around 16 mega-goals and embracing the SDGs. In the absence of a National SDG Framework, the ATS has offered an opportunity to link the government’s long-term vision, sectoral strategies, policies, and budgets and to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

The Common Country Analysis (CCA), which is the analytical basis for the design of this framework, analysed the progress made in Armenia around the “5Ps” of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People (the social dimension); Prosperity (the economic dimension); Peace (the ethical dimension, ideals, and values of equality, freedom, human dignity and justice); Planet (the environmental dimension) and Partnership (the importance of collaboration). The following section summarizes the key CCA conclusions on gaps, challenges, and opportunities for achieving the 2030 Agenda/SDGs in the country.

i. People

The Republic of Armenia is a landlocked country located in the southern Caucasus. It has a total population of 2,96 million, with a declining and ageing demographic trend and a large diaspora estimated to be eight to ten million ethnic Armenians globally. An average annual net migration rate during the period 2013-2018 of 24,000 resulted from poverty, unemployment, lack of decent work opportunities, and lack of social inclusion. The great majority of persons leaving the country in search of work are men. Rural women are particularly affected by labour migration of partners, which exposes them to higher risks of economic distress and high HIV-infection rates due to high levels of migration.

As emphasized by Armenia’s second Voluntary National Review report, published in June 2020, the government attaches particular importance to the role of human capital development. This commitment was reflected in the state budget envisaging around a 13 percent rise in social spending and allocations for human capital development.

Armenia made significant progress in reducing poverty from a peak of close to 54 percent in 2004 to 23.5 percent in 2018, driven largely by growing labour income, notably in the construction sector, as well as agricultural sales in rural areas. Regional development disparities between the capital, other urban areas, and rural regions remain evident. Restrained access to high-quality education, health, and other public services, compounded with limited economic opportunities, trap households in poverty and multiple deprivations. Inequalities are a concern, with the Gini coefficient (income distribution) having increased from 33.9 percent in 2008 to 36.0 percent in 2018.¹ Housing conditions and safety still remain serious challenges.

¹ <https://knoema.com/atlas/Armenia/GINI-index>

Government expenditure on education in 2019 was 7.9 percent of the state budget expenditure, declining from 8.7 percent in 2015. The quality of education in Armenia is worsening. This, together with deteriorating infrastructure and poor management of schools has resulted in declining educational outcomes. The need to enhance results, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) has been emphasized. Skills mismatch with the labour market is an issue as well as making lifelong learning a reality. Reforms are ongoing to make the educational system more inclusive. While the objective to ensure literacy and completion of basic education has been achieved for the entire population in Armenia, children with disabilities continue to be the largest out-of-school group.

The health care system in Armenia is skewed towards inpatient care, concentrated in the capital city, despite concerted efforts to reform primary care provision. Out-of-pocket payments remain high (over 80 percent of total health expenditure), reducing access to essential services for the poorest households, especially concerning inpatient care and pharmaceuticals. The fertility rate in Armenia has remained low (1.6 children per woman in 2018) and maternal mortality decreased to 18,3 per 100,000 live births in 2017. Family planning has increased, and the proportion of women aged 15-49 who use some form of contraceptive methods is on the rise. Although the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Armenia is low, risk factors and vulnerabilities exist and reports of discrimination by health personnel against women with disabilities and women living with HIV/AIDS has been noted. It is of concern that access to basic health care services and sexual and reproductive health services is limited, in particular for rural women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic and religious minorities and adolescent girls. The priority remains to continue implementing government programmes in the areas of tobacco and harmful use of alcohol control, diabetes; HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis and STIs immunization and treatment; as well as mental health.²

After the large-scale military hostilities in September-November 2020, the priorities of the Government have expanded to include the creation of psychosocial support mechanisms to provide for the mental and physical wellbeing of the affected population, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, women, veterans, and people with disabilities, as well as the implementation of comprehensive programs aimed at meeting the needs of war veterans, including medical care, procurement of prostheses, and psychological support.

Social protection and safety net programmes play an important role in mitigating especially extreme poverty through redistribution mechanisms. The formal system consists of contributory social insurance benefits, non-contributory social assistance benefits, and social services. However, there are gaps in financing and effective coverage, adequacy of benefits, and social services. The social welfare system is associated with high exclusion errors: a total of 60 percent of the most deprived and poorest households do not receive any form of social assistance. The fragmented administration of various cash benefits, social services and employment services further compounds coverage gaps.

Food insecurity increased sharply following the global economic crisis in 2008-09; currently, it affects 16 percent of the population with limited access to nutritious food; a higher prevalence being in the north of the country. The double burden of stunting and obesity characterizes malnutrition patterns, particularly among children under five. Iron-deficiency anaemia is a public health concern: more than ten percent of women and children are anaemia, with mother's

² National Statistical Service [Armenia], Ministry of Health [Armenia] and ICF. 2017. Demographic and Health Survey Armenia 2015-2016 available from <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR325-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

³ National Statistical Service [Armenia], Ministry of Health [Armenia] and ICF. 2017. Demographic and Health Survey Armenia 2015-2016 available from <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR325-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

education positively associated with children's consumption of healthy food.³ Diversified farms, high value agriculture and access to markets improves availability of crops and income, thereby increasing nutrient adequacy of farming households.

ii. Prosperity

Armenia's economy expanded strongly in the last few years and has led to Armenia's classification as an upper middle-income country in 2018. In 2019, Armenia ranked 61st among the 167 countries (up from 68 in 2018) in the overall Prosperity Index rankings of the Legatum Institute, a London-based think-tank. However, the 2020 outlook has been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the drop of commodity prices.

Despite government efforts, the share of informal employment is considerable, having greatly impacted the effectiveness of the government's support packages during crises, such as COVID-19. Youth participation in the labour market remains limited (one out of three active young persons is unemployed) and there remains a considerable gender unemployment gap in Armenia. The gendered division of labour within society and the fact that women carry out the majority of unpaid care work (three times that of men) has been identified as a primary cause of women's insufficient economic activity in Armenia. Women also carry out the majority of unpaid work, including family farming. Furthermore, the gender pay gap and occupational gender segregation is significant. Businesses report a shortage of skilled labour force, emphasizing a mismatch between education, skills, and labour market needs.

In the last few years, the agricultural sector declined. The sector suffers from land abandonment, low productivity, fragmentation, insufficient investments, poor access to input and output markets, and environmental degradation of both pastures and arable land. Climate change and extreme weather, together with an inadequate irrigation system, have impacted agricultural yields. Small farmers, especially poor female farmers, are disproportionately bearing the consequences due to poor or no infrastructure and assets, low or no access to credit, and unavailability of crop insurance.

While the government, together with international development partners, is investing in the maintenance, repair, road safety, and construction of transportation systems, the overall rail and road infrastructure is still suffering. This is affecting the transportation of goods and persons, as well as road safety. Road security concerns have been on the rise, especially in the southern marzes (provinces) of the country, due to the proximity of foreign military forces and possible presence of mercenaries⁴, hence resulting in an urgent need to ensure new sustainable road connectivity between some communities.

iii. Peace and Governance

The South Caucasus sub-region presents a complex environment with several protracted conflicts that have emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains dynamic and on 27 September 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict re-erupted, with the heaviest hostilities in decades, causing substantial loss of life and suffering, displacement, and

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26494&LangID=E>

destruction. Even before the recent escalation, residents of regions adjacent to the conflict zones, refugees, and people residing in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK), experienced various forms of deprivations. These ranged from exposure to intermittent military/border guards' clashes, severe lack of livelihood opportunities, limited access to social services, to inadequate human rights protection mechanisms.

In the aftermath of the outbreak of heavy fighting on 27 September 2020, approximately 90.000 persons from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area have been displaced, a lot of civilian property damaged, destroyed, or lost (data as per 8 December 2020). Most of them currently reside in different marzes (regions) of Armenia and are either hosted privately or accommodated in collective shelters. A significant number of the arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh may not be able to return safely even now with the ceasefire in place, particularly residents of territories currently under the control of Azerbaijan.

Border communities of the Republic of Armenia, particularly in Syunik and Tavush marzes (regions) have been affected as well, with some incurring significant losses of economic and productive assets, agricultural land, and human lives. Physical security and safety concerns have been on the rise in marzes due to the proximity of foreign military forces. Maintaining sustainable connectivity with these marzes (regions) is a priority for the Government of Armenia, as it is necessary to ensure the protection of vulnerable communities.

The United Nations remains prepared to respond to the humanitarian needs in all areas affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to help the safe and voluntary return of displaced people, to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to all conflict affected areas under this Framework and to scale up ongoing assistance, as required and agreed.

Of note, the negotiated, comprehensive, and sustainable settlement of all remaining core substantive issues of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in line with the basic principles and elements within the framework of the internationally agreed format of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs continues to shape the humanitarian-development-peace nexus for the region, including Armenia.

In the aftermath of the "Velvet Revolution", there has been a renewed commitment to good governance, strengthening democratic institutions and processes, including anti-corruption efforts, and upholding the human rights agenda. In this context, the government approved the Strategy on Judicial and Legal Reforms for 2019-2023 and the Strategy on Anti-Corruption Reforms for 2019-2022. The available recent governance-related indicators for Armenia have reflected this overall positive change.⁵ The government has approved the new Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for 2020-2022, reflecting the need for more tangible progress for the protection of human rights.⁶

The reform of the public administration and development of an accountable, efficient, transparent, and professional civil service have been prioritized by the government. The aim is to streamline the civil service avoiding overlaps, introduce performance-based policies and strategies, and enhance transparency and efficiency in the use of public resources. The GoA is also one of the first

⁵ Armenia scored 86th on the Democracy Index 2019 ranking of the Economist Intelligence Unit, improving its position by 17 points. V-Dem Institute in its 2020 report highlighted Armenia as exhibiting the second biggest democratic gains on the liberal democracy index.

⁶ The use of the term Human Rights in this document refers to all international human rights norms and standards, i.e., not just those contained in UN Human Rights instruments but also those contained in other human rights instruments, such as ILO Conventions.

signatories to the Open Government Partnership initiative, having committed to and implemented a package of reforms in budgeting, healthcare, social protection, procurement, and education. Armenia is committed to enhancing and improving both access to justice, especially for vulnerable groups, and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. The state guaranteed free legal aid system has been established, however, people are often unaware of their rights, with different factors (financial constraints, legal illiteracy and complicated judicial procedures) further limiting legal assistance. This issue has been further exacerbated in the aftermath of the recent large-scale military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area, whereby thousands of Armenian citizens residing in Armenia are now facing challenges requiring recourse to the legal system to defend their rights to life and human dignity and loss of property as a consequence of the conflict, in particular in territories that are currently under control of Azerbaijan.

Ensuring gender equality remains a challenge in Armenia manifested in, as well as driven by, uneven economic and political participation, insufficient gender-sensitivity of public administration system, gender-based discrimination in the labour market, unequal access to economic resources, and poor social protection for low-income female-headed households. Gender-based violence and domestic violence remain a pervasive problem. As described in the CCA, the full realization of gender equality in Armenia is prevented by prevailing gender norms and subsequent gender stereotypes.

The rights of persons with disabilities have been high on the government's agenda through the ongoing comprehensive reform, however, an enabling legal and policy framework and disability-inclusive policy, programming, and services at all levels remain to be seen. In this regard, war veterans who have been disabled during the course of the recent military hostilities are of particular concern.

iv. Planet

Armenia is a diverse country, featuring a variety of climates, from arid subtropical to cold high mountainous climates. It is characterised by a high degree of biodiversity density and considered by Conservation International as one of the 25 global biodiversity “hotspots”. Armenia, however, is also prone to earthquakes, landslides and erosion. About 15 percent of agricultural lands in Armenia are susceptible to droughts, coupled with erosion and salinization. While landslides are very rare in Armenia, they are typically caused by floods. The country has established legal and institutional frameworks for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including adoption of international conventions and agreements. The recent military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area particularly the reported use of certain conventional weapons have caused a significant environmental damage and will require long term measures to decontaminate affected areas. The impact of climate change is also affecting women and men unevenly. As noted in a Country Gender Assessment for Armenia, due to “the increasing migration of male family members, women are assuming a greater workload for agriculture production as the sector becomes more prone to disaster risks, putting women at the forefront of dealing with disaster impacts on agriculture production.”⁷

The country remains highly dependent on fuel imports for transportation, energy and heating. Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions is a high priority. Armenia remains a water-stressed country, due to inefficient use and management of water, with access to services in rural and especially bordering areas remaining a challenge. Agriculture is the main source of

⁷ Asia Development Bank, 2019 Armenia Country Gender Assessment, p. 39.

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/546716/armenia-country-gender-assessment-2019.pdf>

water use, and more than half of irrigation water is being lost; therefore, addressing the issue of irrigation water by increasing the supply is of high importance, as it will lead to the development of border communities through the stabilization and development of rural agriculture. Moreover, the country is at risk of deforestation and a deepening negative impact on the environment caused by mining activities. In this regard, the government has put in place a number of mitigation measures and a development strategy of Armenia's mining sector is expected to be drafted in 2021, keeping in consideration its impact on the environment and health.

v. Partnership

Located in the Caucasus region, Armenia is on the transcontinental land bridge between Europe and Asia, surrounded by countries such as Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The closure of borders by Azerbaijan and Turkey affects Armenia's regional connectivity and overall economy, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of being a landlocked state. The closure of borders has a negative influence on the living standards of the population of Armenia, especially its vulnerable groups, and on their social and economic rights (based on Armenia-UNDAF 2016-2020). Of note, national COVID-19 measures also led to temporary border closures to Georgia and Iran in 2020.

Armenia follows an open and liberal policy with regard to foreign trade, which has been growing since the 1990s. In the trade balance, the import of goods and services dominates exports, making Armenia a net importer country. Armenia has been a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) since 2015. In 2017 the European Union and Armenia signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which has provided the basis for economic, trade, and political cooperation. Since 2003 Armenia has also been a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Achieving the SDGs in Armenia's upper-middle income context will require expanded partnerships as well as massive re-alignment of financial resources both public and private. To mobilize additional domestic public resources for SDG implementation and acceleration, the government needs to enhance its revenue collection performance and increase state revenues. Clear links between policies, planning, and budgeting processes need to be established. Innovative and evidence-driven mechanisms also need to be adopted to leverage partnerships and multiple sources of development financing.

Groups at Risk of Being Left Behind

Leaving no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. By using the UN LNOB framework, the CCA analysed how different groups in the country are lagging behind or are at risk of being left further behind, because they are economically, socially, spatially, and/or politically excluded. The following main groups emerged:

- **Persons living in poverty**, and those living just above the poverty line (who could be pushed back into poverty even after small shocks, i.e., the current COVID-19 pandemic, and following the recent escalation of hostilities, as the families of the war victims as well as of those wounded currently face a plethora of socio-economic difficulties).
- **Women and girls** experiencing different forms of exclusion and discrimination, particularly women with disabilities, those overcoming Gender-Based Violence (GBV), minorities, women in rural areas, women living with HIV/AIDS, women living in closed institutions, such as penitentiary and psychiatric institutions.
- **Displaced populations comprised of various groups**, including ethnic Armenians displaced from Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria, refugees and asylum-seekers from Ukraine, Iran, Iraq, and

other countries, those facing difficulties in accessing health and social services, and those displaced due to disasters.

- As a consequence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict **persons arriving from Nagorno-Karabakh** have emerged as another vulnerable group, comprising mainly women and children severely affected by the armed conflict. This group also includes residents of communities bordering Azerbaijan, particularly in Syunik and Tavush marzes (regions), which in proximity of foreign military forces are reportedly facing multiple threats to their lives, well-being, and productive activities.
- **Youth**, especially those living with disabilities and from other vulnerable groups, and those facing challenges in seeking employment and empowerment.
- **Children** exposed to poverty, stunting or chronic malnutrition, difficulties in accessing quality health care services and education, as well as being vulnerable to violence and exploitation.
- **Older persons**, especially those living alone, particularly older women, which is also a growing segment of the country's population.
- **Migrants** (including Armenian returnees), frequently exposed to vulnerable employment and violations of their rights, without proper access to necessary services, particularly health support in the host country.
- **Persons with disabilities**, most being either unemployed, discouraged from actively seeking work, or underemployed, have limited access to services and in many cases, and are deprived from participation in public and community life. This category will require special attention in the aftermath of the military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area which has resulted in several thousand newly acquired disabilities due by military activities, mostly among men of working age.
- **People at risk of being left behind due to stereotypes, stigma and discrimination**, including men, and particularly women living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable groups facing identity-based stigma and discrimination.
- **Persons living in remote and rural areas**, the vast majority of them is living in the lowest performing districts, mainly engaged in labour-intensive and low-productive agriculture. In bordering communities, security concerns and exposure to conflict further exacerbate vulnerabilities of the local people, including access to quality education, health and social services as well as quality early childhood development and learning.
- **People living in areas vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards.**

Many people face more than one type of deprivation, disadvantage, or discrimination and are more likely to be at risk of being left behind.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1. Theory of Change

The **design** of the UN's collective effort for 2021-2025 is underpinned by the 2030 Agenda, multi-year national planning, the 2016-2020 UN Development Assistance Framework Evaluation, and the UN Common Country Analysis. It is also influenced by a series of internal and external, multi-stakeholder strategic planning and visioning exercises conducted in preparation of this Cooperation Framework.

In keeping with COVID-19 requirements, the CF strategic planning process was moved to a virtual format. The following strategies were adopted to ensure inclusion and consultation in defining the overall CF theory of change and subsequent prioritisation:

- An online stakeholder survey was administered to collect the views of 65 partner organisations. This included international development partners, national civil society organisations (representing different societal groups), the private sector, academia, and media. The partner organisations shared their desired scenarios for the future of Armenia, their views on potential development solutions and UN comparative advantages vis-à-vis other development partners.
- The results of the stakeholder survey were compounded with the results of the UN75 survey, contextualised for Armenia and aligned with the stakeholders' survey. The survey generated the views of 6148 people living in Armenia on the long-term priorities for Armenia, the role and contribution of the UN in Armenia for the desired changes, and expectations from the UN in Armenia to support the people's vision of Armenia.
- The elaboration of the CF also benefitted greatly from a series of multi-stakeholder consultations as well as assessments conducted by UN individual agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, in preparation of their country programmes. This has allowed drawing on some of the key vulnerabilities identified through focus group discussions targeting children, adolescents without parental care, those with disabilities, those living in poverty, and victims of violence. Furthermore, under the overall leadership of the UNRC, a series of sizable assessments were carried out by UN agencies in a number of cross cutting socio-economic areas in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. This served as another important evidence-base on which to build the disaggregated needs of vulnerable groups within the country.
- A series of UNCT internal strategic planning and visioning workshops were also conducted to assess the challenges and opportunities identified through the CCA and multi-stakeholder consultations and to prioritise them based on the following criteria: (a) Transformational effect: the potential to bring change and positively influence other development priorities; (b) Leave No One Behind: The potential positive effect of working on this challenge for the groups left behind or at risk of being left behind; (c) Reach: the number of people affected and the magnitude of the challenge; (d) Time sensitivity: short-term and long term consequences of not acting urgently; (e) Effort: the level of resources needed (including financial resources, human resources, time) to be able to successfully address this challenge; (f) UN comparative advantage and value proposition in relation to other partners; as well as (g) Convergence with government priorities.

The consultations led to the articulation of the **UN vision** towards 2030 as an Armenia where:

- people are healthy, skilful, live free of poverty and deprivation, and are resilient to shocks and disasters;

- people enjoy equal rights and have equal opportunities in life, regardless of their gender, age, ethnic background, religious beliefs, legal status, place of residence, other social/individual traits and/or whether they have a disability;
- natural resources are managed sustainably with respect to the constraints of the natural ecosystems and the needs of future generations;
- governance systems are people-centered, gender-responsive, effective and sustainable, ensuring political stability, protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, enjoying people's trust and promoting social cohesion, with decisions made based on evidence and international standards; and
- the economy is thriving based on principles of an inclusive green economy, thus, attracting investment, creating jobs, supporting economic diversification, promoting export and trade and facilitating the return of migrants.

There are several **challenges and risks** on the path to this vision of Armenia. These include:

- vulnerability to political, social, economic, security related, and environmental shocks due to the overall geopolitical situation, macroeconomic structure, environmental degradation and climate change as well as risks from natural hazards and human induced disasters (e.g., earthquakes, mudflow, landslides, technological hazards, and climate induced disasters), demographic dynamics (e.g., shrinking and ageing population, more urbanization, migration), and health hazards;
- volatile regional dynamics, due to the several protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus sub-region, especially in Nagorno-Karabakh, with conflict-affected populations being exposed to various forms of deprivations;
- increasing gaps between rural and urban areas and across marzes, particularly in border regions (wealth, economic opportunities, education, accessibility to services, infrastructure, etc.) and significant levels of multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability to poverty;
- limitations in governance and democratic institutions, especially the judiciary, law enforcement, overall public administration, local governance systems, and lack of evidence-based policymaking;
- discrimination and gender inequality, rooted in patriarchal practices and norms, which hinder women and girls from equally contributing to and benefitting from national development processes as well as remaining challenges regarding violence against women and girls, including gender-based violence, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and other areas relating to women's economic empowerment; and
- unhealthy lifestyles as well as regional disparities seen in the prevalence of undernourishment, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Furthermore, there is emerging evidence that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates some of these challenges and poses new ones. While the long-term impact of the pandemic remains uncertain, the findings of the recent Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) for Armenia highlight structural challenges as well as emerging inequalities and vulnerabilities that risk an escalation of the health, economic, and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in the long-term.⁸

The global pandemic and restrictive measures both at the national and community level have substantially restricted the economic activity in sectors such as tourism and hospitality, trade,

⁸ The rapid nationwide Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) was undertaken by UNDP, as the technical lead for the UN's socio-economic response in Armenia. It was under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, in partnership with UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women, and the Asian Development Bank with generous technical support and input from other UN agencies, and IFIs. The assessment can be accessed [here](#).

agriculture, and services. Along with an economic downturn, shrinking fiscal space and reduced remittances, poverty levels are set to rise, having a disproportionate impact on women, especially women facing intersectional discrimination. It will also have a disproportionate impact on children, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, minorities, migrants, informal workers, and other vulnerable groups. A rise in unemployment is expected, particularly among youth, deepening existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, particularly for people employed in the informal economy and those relying on remittances.

Existing gender inequalities, including the gender unemployment gap and the gender pay gap, are also likely to deepen in the wake of COVID-19. The SEIA for Armenia found that the COVID-19 crisis severely impacted Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), with women-led SMEs hit the hardest. Already existing inequalities in the gender division of labour in the household may further deepen with an exacerbated burden of unpaid care work on women and girls. The SEIA found that a higher percentage of women devoted more time to household activities, such as cooking, cleaning, household management and shopping, than men. There is a risk that violence against women and girls, including intimate partner violence, will increase and intensify.

The negative socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, exacerbated by the large-scale hostilities in September-November 2020, are likely to increase reliance on government services, placing further pressure on a system already under strain, especially regarding emergency preparedness and response capacities in the health and social sectors. Education quality and accessibility were undermined by the lockdown, affecting particularly the most marginalized groups, such as children with disabilities. Existing vulnerabilities relating to food security and nutrition have worsened due to the ongoing crisis and the pressure to fast-track economic growth will possibly overshadow environmental sustainability considerations.

As the CCA and other available analyses and stakeholders' perceptions⁹ show, the achievement of these desired changes would mean addressing a number of bottlenecks as well as leveraging potential drivers for change. These are exemplified in Figure 1 below. At the core there is a need to strengthen governance institutions, in particular the judiciary and public administration. If these become more people-centred and effective, there will be a positive domino effect, not only at the political and social cohesion levels, but also in terms of socio-economic outcomes. Healthy behaviours, proper nutrition, and an effective healthcare system are the key drivers towards a healthier population across rural and urban areas and societal groups. The government budget in the health sector remains comparatively low vis-à-vis global standards (5 percent of total expenditure compared to 8 percent average of low-middle income countries)¹⁰ while out-of-pocket expenditure is significant (84 percent of total health disbursement in Armenia compared to 39 percent in low-middle income countries on average).¹¹ Likewise, on the education front, more effective and resourced local governance is needed to reduce the rural/urban gap (e.g. in high school enrolment rates) as well as a focus on early education and matching skills with the labour market. This is partially hindered by the quality of education, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A 2017 World Bank study on women in STEM careers found that societal beliefs about gender norms limit women's education and career choices. Furthermore, school textbooks are clearly gender-insensitive giving strong preference to men in all forms of representation.¹²

⁹ See outcomes of the stakeholders' survey carried out as part of the consultation to develop the CF.

¹⁰ CCA 2020, p. 17

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Sources: General assessment of the Armenian high school textbooks from a gender perspective: Armenian Literature, Armenian History, and Civics. Dr. Vladimir Osipov, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, Sociology & Law,

Labour migration and high unemployment rates (the latter disproportionately affecting women) appear linked to the need to strengthen sustainable farming and livelihood opportunities in rural areas, which is in turn instrumental in increasing food security and proper nutrition. While temporarily halted by the pandemic, tourism represents a potential economic driver which requires investments in infrastructure and skills. Industry, as well, should move to higher value-added productions, reducing dependency on primary goods imports, which are highly vulnerable to external shocks. This is held back by limited private and foreign investment due to an uncertain business environment and space for improvement in innovation and connectivity.

In order to ensure the environmental sustainability of economic development, a focus on circular economy, low-carbon energy production, sustainable mining and land use are identified as crucial drivers. Land, air, and water pollution not only affect the environment and people's health, but also land and water productivity.

Vulnerabilities and inequalities are underpinned also by social norms and weak cross-sectoral policies/coordination (as in the case of gender inequalities, domestic and gender-based violence), low resilience to shocks (limited responsiveness of social protection schemes), and dependency on remittances and employment in the informal sector (especially for women).

Armenian National Academy of Sciences, & Ms. Jina Sargizova, Gender Expert. WB. Yerevan. 2015.; Silova, Iveta. 2016. Gender Analysis of Armenian School Curriculum and Textbooks: Policy Brief. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24948> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.; The Profile of Equity in the General Education in Armenia in 2010-2016. OSFA. 2017

UN Armenia Vision 2030 Theory of Change

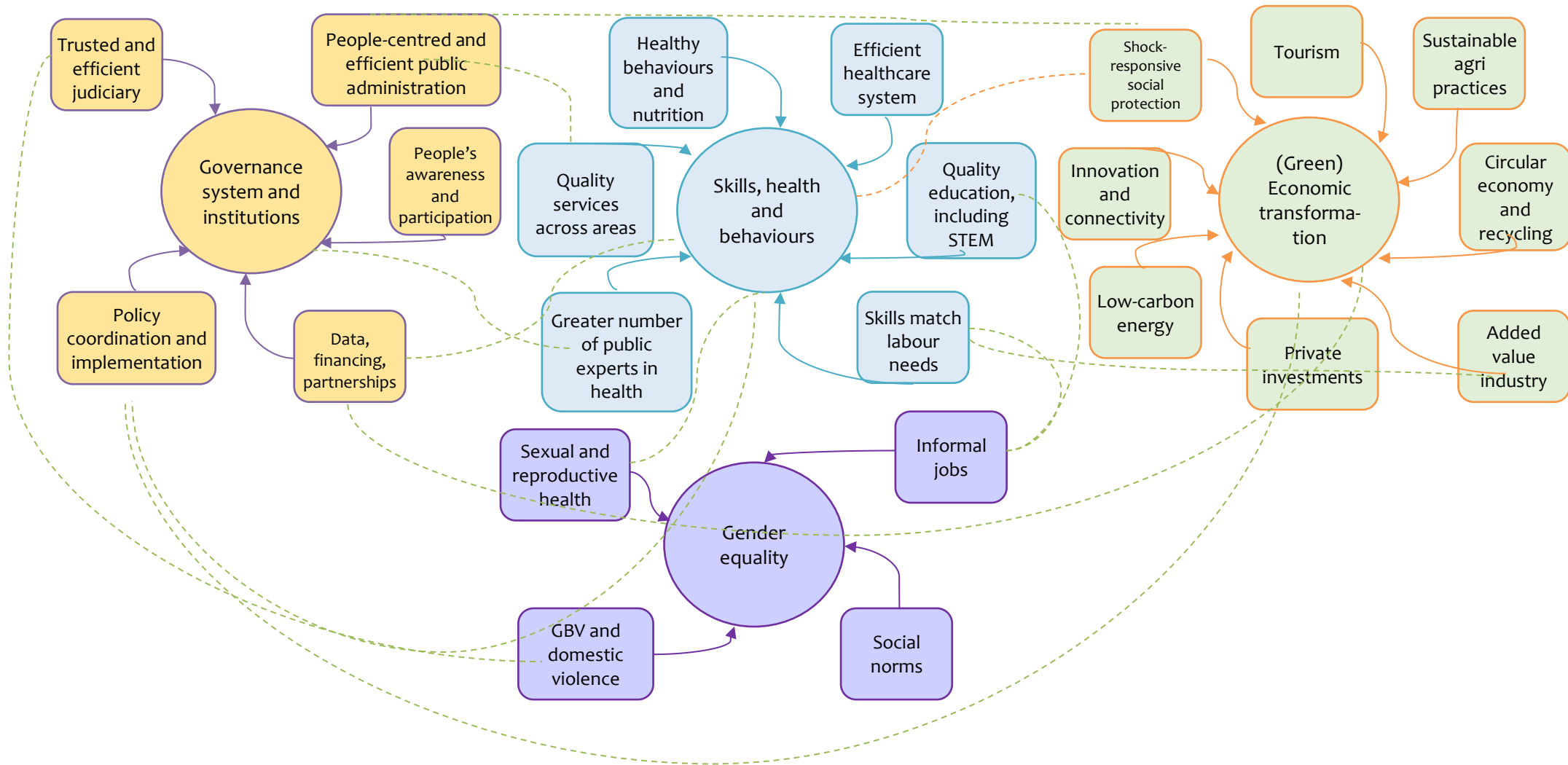


Figure 1: UN Armenia Vision 2030 Theory of Change

2.2. From CCA to Cooperation Framework Priorities

2021-2025 UN ARMENIA COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS AND STRATEGIES DIAGRAM

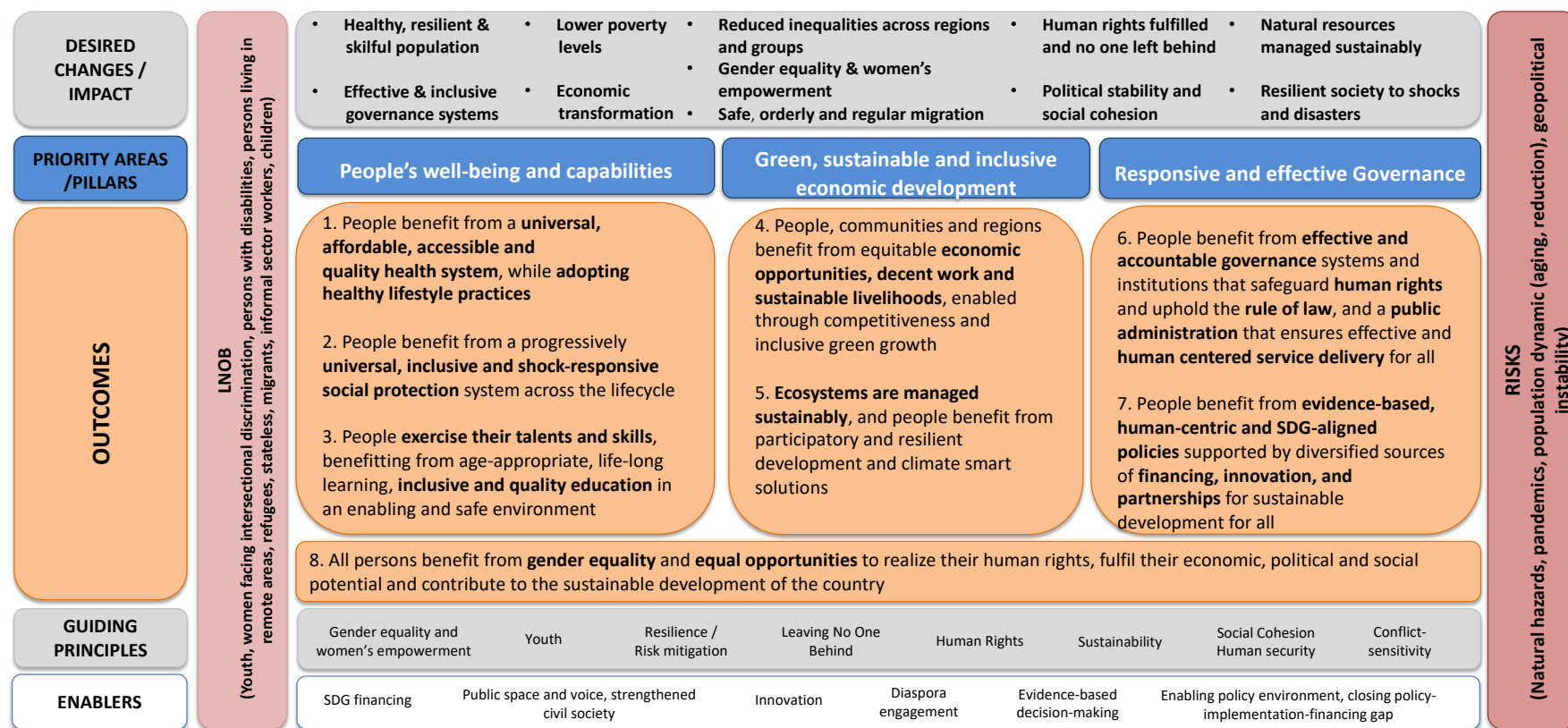


Figure 2: UN Armenia CF Results and Strategies Diagram

The UN in Armenia Vision 2030, carried out as part of this strategic planning process, included a reflection on the UN's strengths and opportunities. This led to the identification of the following key approaches based on the UN acknowledged **comparative advantages** in the country:

- focus on transformational issues providing multidimensional and inclusive policy advice as well as institutional capacity building
- contribute to creating an enabling environment for social and behavioural change, without losing sight of the grassroots level
- uphold its normative agenda, advocating for individuals and social groups who are left behind or are at risk of being left behind
- be the partner of choice in promoting innovative development solutions, connecting Armenia with the regional/global networks, providing technical expertise, and supporting knowledge management
- leverage all relevant resources of the UN system, present in-country or based at the regional/global level
- build broad and deep partnerships to mobilize resources for the achievement of the SDGs and generate a whole-of-society approach to sustainable development

These were shared and discussed with the government and reinforced by the results of the stakeholders' survey carried out as part of this planning process. The survey clearly asked the stakeholders what type of comparative advantages the UN had vis-à-vis other development partners. The consultation showed that the UN is perceived as well-positioned to advocate for marginalized groups and to promote human rights, connect Armenia with the rest of the world, bring knowledge and research, as well as build partnerships and facilitate multi-sectoral coordination. These are comparative advantages that cut across all result areas identified in this CF.

The **prioritized development solutions** were translated in outcomes and captured in cross-cutting themes and 'enablers'. In defining the outcomes, the results-based management principle of being specific, attainable, and measurable was followed, avoiding including more than one result in the same outcome. This meant striking a fine balance between having a few focused, strategic results and comprising all potential UN contributions to the identified country's challenges.

As outlined in the above diagram (see Figure 2), the Cooperation Framework is structured around three main priority areas/pillars (related to the improvement of people's well-being and their capabilities, to foster economic "green" transformation, and to support responsive and effective governance systems) and a cross-cutting outcome related to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The eight outcomes selected for the UN system to contribute to are directly linked to the priorities identified and in line with the overall Theory of Change towards 2030 for Armenia. In particular, the **synergies**, and potential **trade-offs** between economic growth and pollution or food security/nutrition and environmental degradation are captured in the connection between outcomes 1, 4 and 5 and reinforced by the underpinning principle of sustainability which permeates the whole framework. This means supporting rural development and sustainable agricultural production to enhance livelihoods, as well as to provide nutritious and affordable food to counter current malnutrition patterns, which are at least partially linked to the limited availability and accessibility to locally produced safe and healthy food. Economic transformation efforts are approached in conjunction with climate change solutions, both in terms of alternative/renewable energy sources (a key input for industrial growth especially in rural areas), and in promoting the development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The link between the job market and skills is acknowledged in the intervention strategies adopted under

outcomes 3 and 4; both synergistically contributing to the SDG target 4.4, i.e., creating the skills for decent jobs and employability.

People's prosperity is sought adopting a multifaceted approach aiming at realizing an affordable and effective healthcare system (outcome 1), providing quality education (outcome 3), establishing an enabling environment for decent jobs and livelihoods (outcome 4), while ensuring protection schemes for those at risk of being left behind through building their resilience to shocks (outcome 2). Outcomes 6, 7 and 8, focused on the overall governance system, SDGs, financing, data, and gender equality and how they transversally contribute to all the other results areas. A specific connection is evidenced between aspects of outcome 8, in its efforts to increase women's decision making at all levels of the executive, legislative, and judicial sectors of governance systems and those of outcome 6, which aspires to reduce inequalities through a more effective and trusted justice system.

The CF design process progressed in parallel to the evolution of the **Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050, 20+ sectoral strategies and other national planning instruments** and remained sensitive to the content of the current Government Programme for Armenia, which outlines the following four SDG-aligned objectives for the period 2019-2023: (1) expanding opportunities for economic activities, (2) enhancing efficiency in governance, (3) developing human capital, and (4) developing and expanding access to reliable infrastructure.

The aftermath of the September – November 2020 large-scale military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area necessitated the development of a dedicated Inter-Agency humanitarian response plan (IARP) for people in Armenia and host communities displaced by the hostilities. The CF will need to take into account the humanitarian, early recovery and resilience needs of the displaced populations and ensure that the UN strategies and interventions address the development-humanitarian-peacebuilding nexus, particularly in areas affected by the NK conflict.

While a full-fledged SDGs nationalization process has not yet been finalized, a set of relevant SDGs targets have been selected to focus on in the CF. These have been mapped out in Figure 3 where direct and indirect linkages have been identified to show how results are synergistically supported across all outcomes. A total of 49 targets across all SDGs (with the exception of SDG 6 and 14) have been selected as the key foci of this CF. Given the interlinked nature of the SDGs, the CF will naturally indirectly contribute to a higher number of SDGs and SDGs targets (see Figure 3 below).¹³

To realize these outcomes, the UN will partner with society as a whole, to help strengthen the governance system, civil society, and the social contract between the state and the people living in Armenia. In particular, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Guidance, the work of the UN will consider the following **guiding principles** in all its programming:

- leaving no one behind, including those affected by conflict
- gender equality and women's empowerment
- youth empowerment
- resilience (including emergency preparedness and response, risk-informed development and shock-responsive policies)
- a human rights-based approach to development
- sustainability

¹³ For the full list and description of the SDGs targets see Annex 2.

Furthermore, in the context of Armenia, the UN will consider youth empowerment, social cohesion, and all dimensions of human security, as well as conflict-sensitive programming throughout the implementation of the CF.

Considering the UN's comparative advantages in Armenia and the overall development context of the country per the CCA, by implementing this framework UN entities have committed to adopt several important '**enablers**', i.e., strategic interventions which will be applied where relevant, across all outcome areas. These are:

- promote and leverage innovation in all sectors
- support mobilization and resource allocation for SDG financing (public, private and blended)
- expand public space and voice, strengthening civil society and public awareness
- leverage the Armenian diaspora's potential to contribute to the country's sustainable development
- support research, system-thinking, fact-based analysis, risk-informed and evidence-based policy and decision-making
- promote an enabling and inclusive policy environment, including closing the policy-implementation financing gap

The formulation of contributions to each outcome also took into consideration the recommendations arising from **international human rights mechanisms**, in particular the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which represents the most recent and relevant set of recommendations, as well as the Action Plan for 2020-2022 deriving from the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection of the Republic of Armenia.¹⁴ These are referred to under each outcome's intervention strategies and specific outputs. In this regard, the CF notes the importance of a continuing constructive engagement with international human rights mechanisms in pursuing these results.

In 2000, the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security¹⁵ was adopted. This landmark resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian responses and in post-conflict reconstruction. It also stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Armenia adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP)¹⁶ to implement UNSCR 1325 in 2019. The NAP was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be implemented for the 2019-2021 period. The development of this CF was undertaken in parallel with the design of the SERRP to COVID-19. While the latter has a specific focus and a shorter time frame, it clearly contributes to each of the CF pillars and related outcomes, in particular regarding the support to social services and social protection, and the strengthening of the macroeconomic framework. The SERRP includes a number of short/medium term interventions designed to respond to the negative impact of the virus-containment measures and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable.

¹⁴ https://www.moj.am/storage/uploads/o2Appendix_2.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/docs/2000/10/un-security-council-resolution-1325>

¹⁶ [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Armenia%20NAP%20\(2019-2021\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Armenia%20NAP%20(2019-2021).pdf)

UN - Armenia Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025

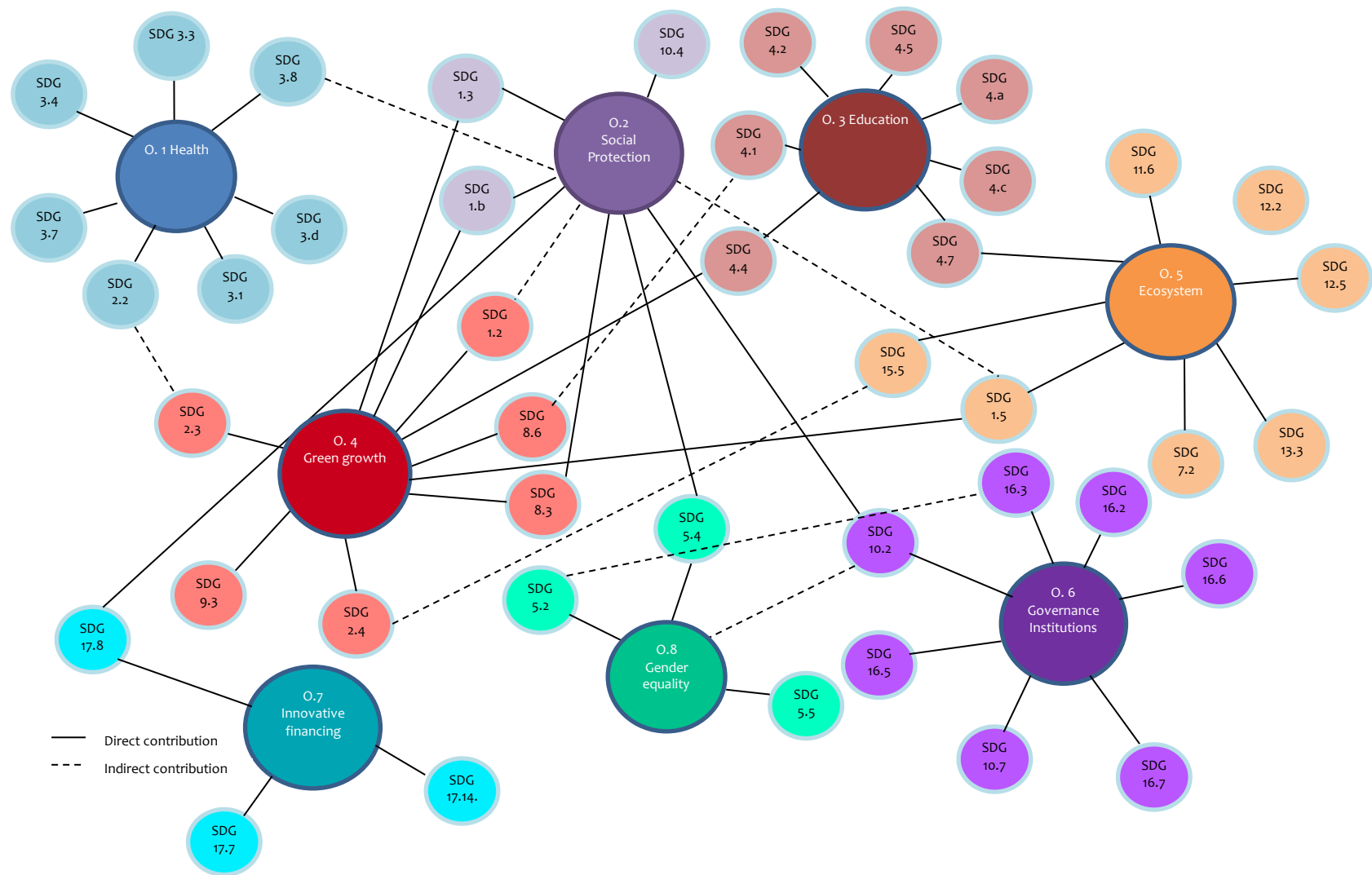


Figure 1: CF Outcomes and SGD Targets (See Annex 2 for the complete list of SDG targets covered by the CF)

2.3 Cooperation framework outcomes and partnerships

The sustainable path of Armenia, as analysed and captured in the Theory of Change and in Armenia's Transformation Strategy and related plans, lies in building more effective and trusted public institutions to strengthen people's capabilities and potential. This is underpinned by environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns. The outcomes under this Framework are designed to accompany Armenia towards the 2030 Agenda by building capacities at the national and sub-national levels, while responding to immediate and outstanding development gaps. It is expected that, at the end of this programming cycle, the country will enjoy a more conducive environment for further economic, social, and environmental transformation. Furthermore, the UN will introduce innovative financing mechanisms, value chain addition measures, energy production smart solutions, and other opportunities, to be scaled up and embedded in national plans and programs for broader impact and sustainability.

It is expected that at the completion of this programme cycle, the UN will be able to switch gears and accompany the country towards the 2030 Agenda finishing line with one comprehensive and consolidated programme built on the results of this CF.

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1: People benefit from a universal, affordable, accessible, and quality health system, while adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Health is first and foremost a right, as enshrined in Article 12.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights¹⁷ and is one of the main priority areas for the Government. The spread of COVID-19 has put the health emergency preparedness and the need to invest in the health system high on the government's agenda. As emerged in the CCA, the main challenges in the health sector are linked to underfunding, high out-of-pocket expenditures, the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and malnutrition. These are connected with deficiencies in the health system and unhealthy behaviours, (e.g., alcohol consumption, unbalanced diets, smoking) as well as with large flows of displaced people and the economic situation in general.

In order to increase the opportunity for people to fulfil their potential and ensure their well-being, the health system needs to become more affordable and available as well as providing preventive measures. Its overall efficiency, especially at the local level, needs to improve and people themselves have to be empowered to embody healthy practices. It is also important that people have access to nutritious and healthy food. On these premises the UN entities in Armenia are committed to adopting different strategies.

The UN will work towards ensuring that people have access to healthy and nutritious food through conducting analyses of food value chains (allowing an increase in efficiency and affordability), directly supporting sound nutrition for young children, initiating school feeding programmes, communication and nutrition education programmes (with the assumption that these will lead to attitudinal and behavioural changes in food consumption patterns), and building capacities to provide proactive and responsive services to limit the health impact of malnutrition and to promote healthy lifestyles. Food security and nutrition needs of people displaced due to recent

¹⁷ "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health."

military hostilities from in and around NK displaced to Armenia due to recent military hostilities will be addressed in the framework of the UN Inter-Agency humanitarian response plan (IARP).

The theory of change on health systems suggests, that if Universal Health Coverage (UHC) objectives, such as financial protection and equity in the use of needed health services, are adopted; people-centred service delivery is developed; and resilient and shock responsive health system functions are supported, then health inequities will be reduced since services will become available and accessible to the broader population. In particular, enhancing the implementation of public health policies at national and sub-national levels is expected to reduce the incidence of NCDs and CDs (including HIV), prevent and control future pandemics and other emergencies, promote childcare services and parenting practices, engaging fathers, as well as fulfil sexual and reproductive health rights. Efforts will be made to respond to the concern expressed by CCA over the limited access to basic health care services and sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraceptives, in particular for rural women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and adolescent girls. To ensure sustainability of development contributions, the focus will be on building capacities for the MoH's stewardship, national and sub-national capacities, and policy advice for people-centred service delivery, support for data availability, data exchange between relevant bodies for a system approach, and financing mechanisms, as well as support to strengthen the country's preparedness in health-related emergency prevention and control. The main assumption is that capacities will translate into improved service delivery, while gender disaggregated data, financing, and policy will be used effectively to expand the reach and reduce inequalities. Efforts will be made to ensure equality in access to and compensation for jobs in the health care sector. The focus will also be to support the improvement of quality and access to reproductive health services. There will also be the introduction of accountability systems into the health sector as well as the inclusion of relevant family planning commodity budget lines into the state budget. This will allow women from vulnerable groups to have access to quality SRH services. In the aftermath of the large-scale military hostilities in and around NK, a massive need for mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) of the conflict-affected populations has emerged. The CF will contribute addressing the immediate and longer term MHPSS needs, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, as well as war veterans, including those with newly acquired disabilities.

The third hurdle that often prevents people in Armenia from benefitting from a quality health system is the opportunity to make informed choices. When people have access to evidence-based information and are educated on health-related issues starting in school and continuing through adulthood, they adopt healthier behaviours. This includes behaviours regarding emergencies, immunization, SRH, mental health, psycho-social health, and general well-being. This will be pursued through curricula advice, parent education, public campaigns, and risk communication initiatives.

These planned contributions are also in line with a number of recommendations provided by member states as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council, including 153.38 and 153.148 (on basic healthcare for women and SRH), 153.137-145 (on equitable access to healthcare services, including non-discrimination for HIV-positive individuals) and 153.136 on the development of a national health insurance scheme.

The main overall assumption for the achievement of this outcome is that government priorities will not be drastically shifted in the post COVID-19 economic downturn or crisis/emergency situation (including the recent large-scale hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area). The expansion of conservative organizations could also influence the spread of misinformation and incorrect interpretation of sexuality education and family planning issues.

Partnerships

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, National Institute of Health, National Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, hospitals and healthcare institutions, European Union (EU), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Children of Armenian Fund (COAF), World Vision Armenia, Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS), Fund for Armenian Relief, Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, American University of Armenia and women's groups will be the main partners with the UN to contribute to this outcome. Other development partners include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, Malaria (GFATM), USAID, and the World Bank who will be contributing to support programming under this outcome area. The UNCT will further strengthen partnerships at the regional level, including engagement with the Central Asia and Caucasus Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership Platform.

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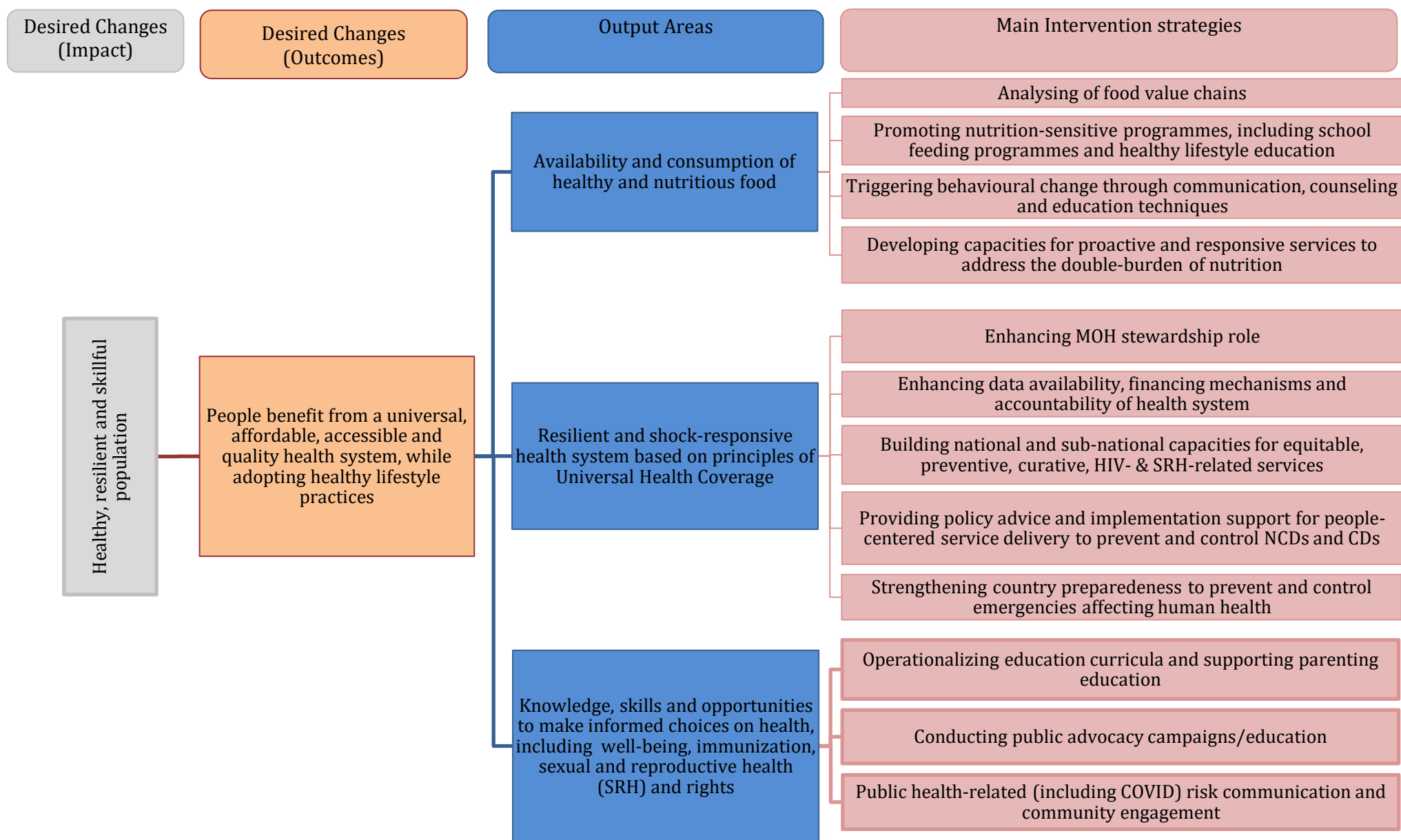


Figure 3: CF Outcome 1 Theory of Change Diagram

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 2: People benefit from a progressively universal, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection system across the lifecycle.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Progressively universal, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection systems provide a playing level field for people, addressing their vulnerabilities to poverty, exclusion, inequality, deprivations, and shocks. Effective social protection measures are thus key to ensuring people's well-being, enhancing their resilience, reducing gender disparities, and creating opportunities across the lifecycle. As evidenced in the CCA, the social protection system in Armenia suffers coverage gaps, with some groups hardly or unequally covered by cash transfers, social support, and services. Moreover, the benefit size is often inadequate to cater to social needs and to unleash a person's full economic potential. Since the system is not shock-responsive and databases are not integrated, the government's ability to offset the impact of economic, social, and other shocks, including COVID-19 and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on affected households has been significantly hindered. Efficient governance mechanisms are essential in this regard.

In order to enhance Armenia's social protection system, we have identified two main pathways. The first regards the quality and effectiveness of rights-based and universal social protection programmes adopted by the country. The second is enabling a policy environment for the system to flourish.

To expand social protection coverage and to ensure income security across the lifecycle, the UN will support the definition of basic social security guarantees and service packages, conduct feasibility studies (including prototyping and testing), conduct research and analysis (to address gaps in coverage and access), and develop social service workforce capacities. To ensure not only the availability, but also access to and interlinkages between these services, people need to be aware of their rights and how to access them, especially during shocks. Non-discriminatory behaviours among service providers should be promoted and enhanced. This will be facilitated by working on public communication and population feedback mechanisms. Cash-based and shelter related initiatives for people displaced by the recent military hostilities will be prioritized as part of the humanitarian response to strengthen the resilience of the affected populations. People with newly acquired disabilities caused by the military activities will be supported through specifically designed social interventions in line with the government policies and programmes.

In this regard, it is a priority to implement comprehensive programs aimed at meeting the needs of war veterans, including medical care, procurement of prostheses, psychological support, professional training and job creation.

Integration, inclusivity, shock-responsiveness, and coverage throughout the life cycle can be sustained if the enabling environment for social protection is strengthened at all levels of governance. Gender-responsive social protection programming with a focus on female-headed households, parents with many children, women, and girls will be at the heart of work on systems strengthening. This will play a crucial role in addressing gendered life-course risks, often compounded by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and harmful social norms. This will also enable access to services, including health, education, the labour market, protection from violence and abuse, and contribute to economic empowerment, among other things via access to flexible working arrangements and childcare. It will also have a spill over effect on the labour market. It is assumed that if sound, disaggregated data/evidence is available on social protection and poverty (with efficient data exchange and management in place), and the capacities to

monitor the implementation of social protection programmes are further developed in an integrated manner, then it will be possible to capture social inequities and gendered social risks, thus securing a more inclusive reach. Additionally, strengthening coordination across different arms of the public administration and integrating emergency response and resilience into the social protection system will guarantee that the programmes are shock-responsive and, overall, more effective. Adequate public and private partnerships and financing, including the analysis of the fiscal space and costing, will contribute to stronger and sustainable social protection systems and investment in family-friendly policies and programmes. Finally, participation of end-users in decision-making processes will be key for tailoring a sustainable social protection system.

This drive towards a broader and tighter social protection system will also respond to a number of UPR recommendations, such as those related to combating poverty and social inequality (153.132-135), focusing on women, children, and people with disabilities (153.50).¹⁸

To achieve these results, there is a clear assumption that the government's commitment to international standards, evidence-based poverty reduction, inclusive growth, and mainstreamed social protection reforms are sustained throughout this programme cycle. It is as important that different layers of the government structure, development partners and the private sector are willing to coordinate and cooperate in terms of social service provision, exchange and synchronization of data.

Partnerships

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – as the key agency responsible for social protection, will be the main partner in the implementation of this Outcome. Other stakeholders include various line ministries such as the Territorial Administration and Infrastructure; Health; Education, Science, Culture and Sport; Finance and the Migration Service. Agencies such as the labour inspectorate, integrated social service, Parliament, and sub-national authorities at regional and local levels would also be included. National and international civil society organizations and foundations, including relevant Armenian diaspora organizations, women's rights organizations, ODPs, faith-based organizations, trade unions, and employers' organizations will ensure that the voice of the population, especially those at risk of being left behind, are heard in planning and decision-making processes and human rights are protected. To this end, a collaboration with the Human Rights Defender's Office has also been established. The expertise resident in ArmStat, academia, research organizations, and think-tanks will be leveraged to generate evidence and data.

Partnerships with development partners, in particular the EU, Council of Europe, World Bank, IMF, ADB and USAID, civil society partners, and women's groups, will be key in the advancement of social protection reforms, joint advocacy, and the coordination of efforts and funding for greater impact. Partnering with the media will be instrumental for raising awareness and adequate communication about social protection reforms to potential beneficiaries. The engagement with the private sector will be aimed at ensuring greater involvement in social service delivery, outsourcing of services, financing, and support through their corporate social responsibility programmes. Finally, philanthropists and the diaspora will be sensitized and involved in both the design and implementation of social protection programmes, through direct engagement, intellectual volunteering and knowledge exchange, with more targeted support to community-based services.

¹⁸ The UPR process brought forward a high number of recommendations regarding the rights of people with disabilities, which are supported by the cross-cutting focus of this CF on this group of people.

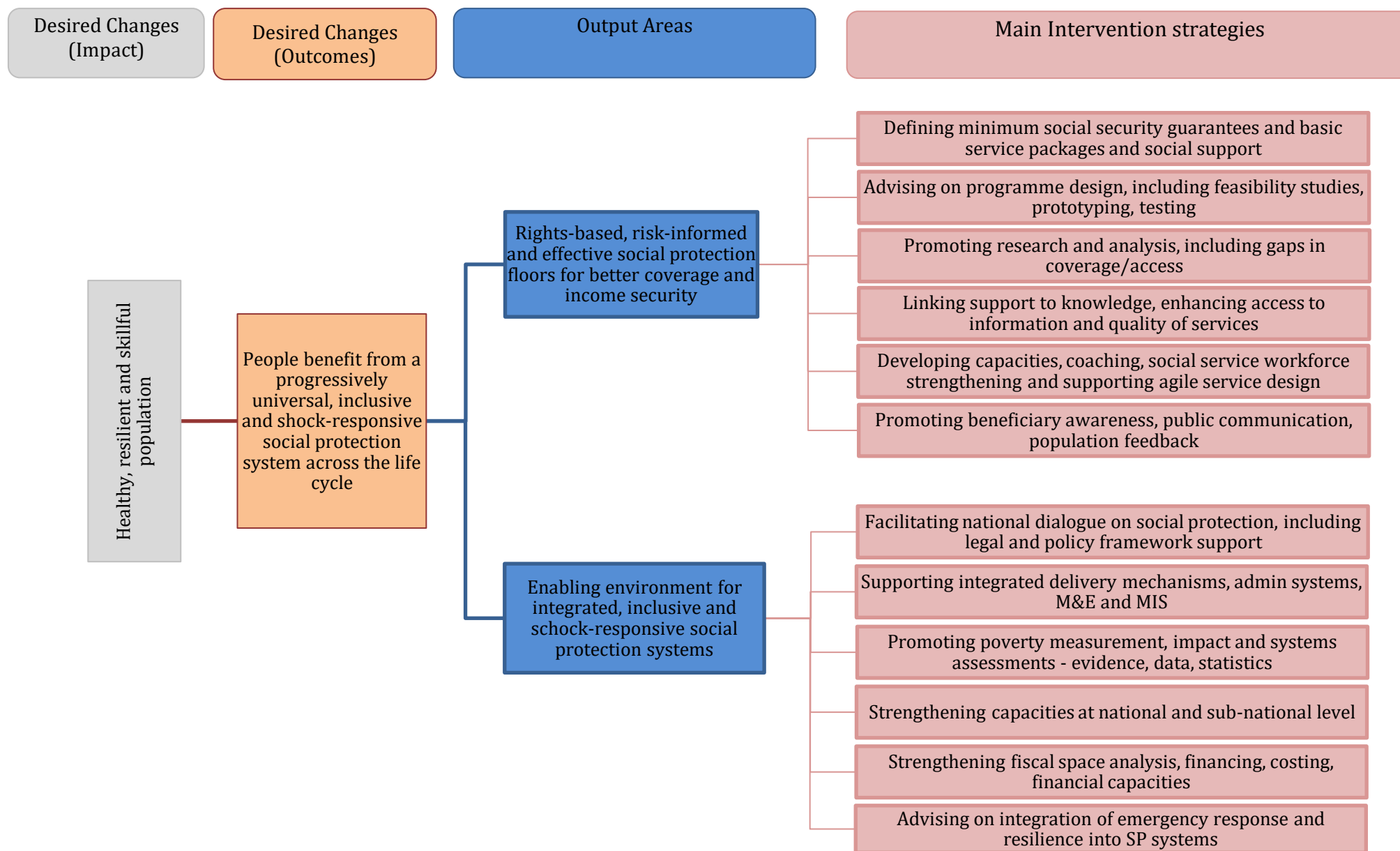


Figure 4: CF Outcome 2 Theory of Change Diagram

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 3: People exercise their talents and skills, benefitting from age-appropriate, life-long learning, inclusive, and quality education in an enabling and safe environment.

Theory of change and UN Development Support

Quality education enhances cognitive, creative, and emotional development; supports the objectives of peace, citizenship, and security; fosters equality; and passes global and local cultural values down to future generations. The theory of change underpinning this outcome stems from the CCA, indicating that Armenia's education system would benefit from improved school structures, enhanced access to education in remote areas, provision of quality preschool education, as well as enhanced educational outcomes and quality of teaching. There is also a need for improved inclusivity, especially with regards to adolescents and youth with disabilities, persons who have become disabled or partially incapacitated during the war, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, people arriving from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area, youth affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and their families, and those from vulnerable communities (including children living in border areas). Furthermore, social norms limit women's education and career choices. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated such inequalities, underscoring the importance of education system reform.

Keeping the goal of an “educated and skilful population of Armenia” at the centre of its support, the UN has identified the following three main changes needed to reach this outcome: enhancing the quality of the education system and its inclusiveness, including pre-primary education; creating an enabling environment for quality learning and inclusion; and expanding the opportunities for age-appropriate and lifelong learning.

To contribute to better quality and inclusive education, the UN will focus on enhancing competency-based education, ensuring that foundational and transferable skills run through the core of the curriculum—teaching assessments, as well as the inclusion and integration of vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, migrants, refugees, stateless persons and persons from bordering areas. This implies modernizing teachers' training, deployment, and retention; promoting learner-centred teaching and curricula; technical assistance for education policy planning and budgeting (especially for pre-primary schools); promoting multi-sectoral approaches; and developing early learning models.

In order to ensure an enabling, safe and inclusive educational environment, there is a need to enhance the physical structures of the schools, making them accessible to all and resilient to disasters. The UN will also focus on strengthening national capacities in gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive, pandemic-sensitive and climate change-responsive planning, and support-tracking of out-of-school children through enhanced data management.

Lifelong and age-appropriate learning is essential to develop the skills needed to be an active member of society and expand livelihood prospects. Based on this premise, the UN will support the development of skills that are more adequate to the 21st century needs in the labour market, facilitating a stronger link between employment and education; supporting interventions for investment in vocational training, including targeted actions to ensure that women equally benefit; support to women and girls in STEM; developing digital, media literacy, and cyber security skills for youth and adolescents; promoting internship programmes and other lifelong learning opportunities; as well as promoting civic education and participation. The UN will also provide re/up-skilling opportunities to returned Armenian migrants and labour emigrants as well as design

talent development and retainment strategies to engage the Armenian diaspora in community-based economic activities.

The common thread is to create the conditions for groups currently being left behind (or at risk of being left behind), including children with disabilities, girls and in boys in remote areas, people from poorer households, migrants and refugees, and young unemployed people (where women are overrepresented), to enhance their opportunities to benefit from adequate learning. This is in line with several UPR recommendations which we expect Armenia to accept and be willing to implement. This is especially in regard to the inclusiveness of the education system for children with disabilities or those coming from disadvantaged families (153.149-156, 153.215).

The **main assumptions** in developing the above theory of change are that education remains high on the government's reform agenda and is properly funded; and international development organizations, government and private investors are able to allocate resources for the modernization of the education system and capacity building in education institutions.

Partnerships

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS), Ministry of Finance (MF), Ministry of Economy (MoEc.), Manufacturing Sector Associations, Manufacturing Private Companies, International Development Organizations and NGOs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MoTAI), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), State Committee on Urban Development, local self-government bodies, community-based organizations (CBOs) and regional education departments; Office of High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Armenia; universities; Vocational Education Training (VET) institutions will all be key partners for the UN in delivering this outcome and will play an active role in contributing to the overall results. The National Human Rights Institution will play a key role in partnering on issues related to the normative agenda. Engagement with the private sector to bridge the skills development/labour market gaps and with the Armenian diaspora to leverage its intellectual potential and skills transfer for the country's transformation into a knowledge and innovation-based economy, will also be central to this outcome's implementation strategy.

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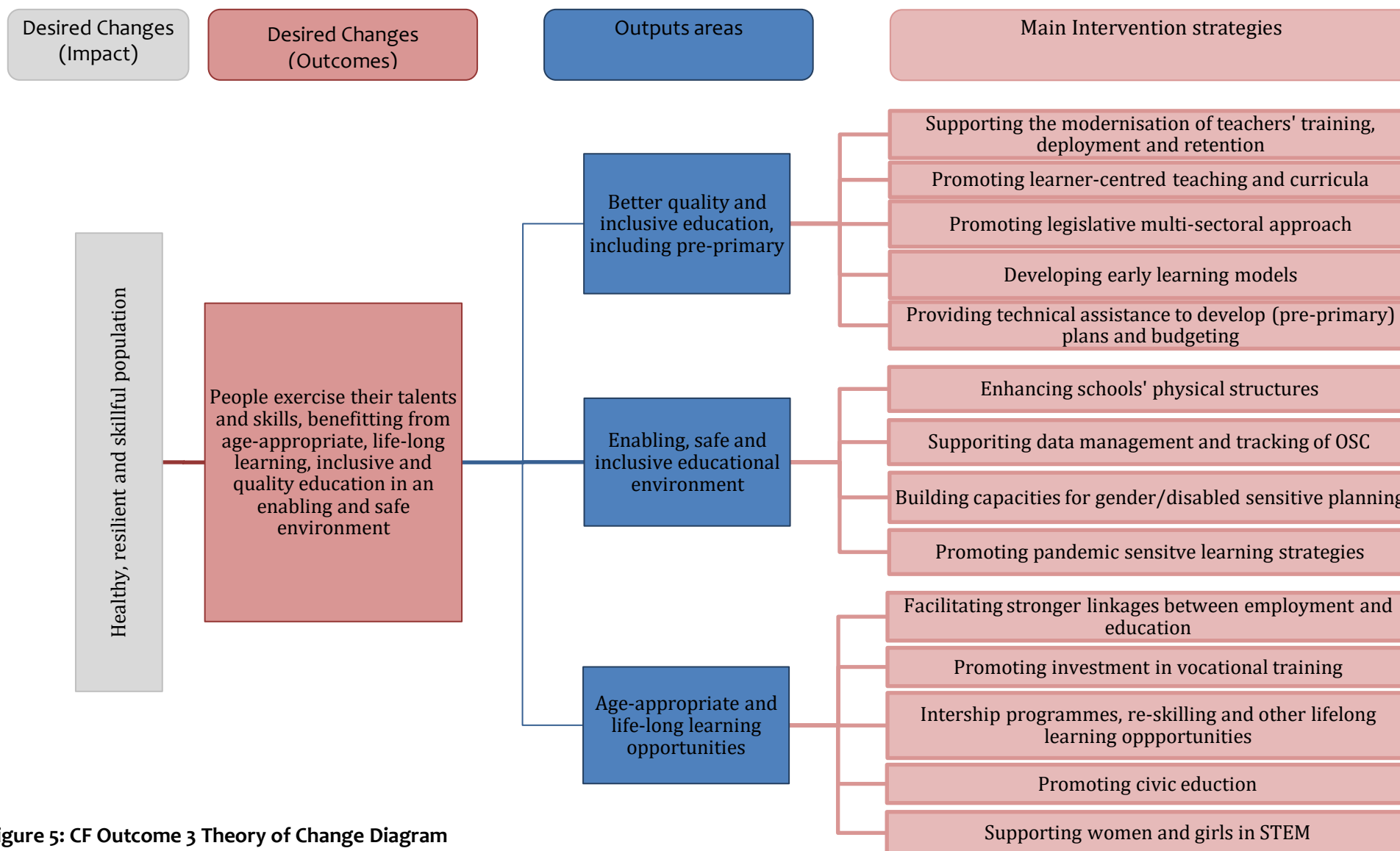


Figure 5: CF Outcome 3 Theory of Change Diagram

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 4: People, communities, and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Even though Armenia's economy expanded in the last few years, driven mainly by the service sector, it remains vulnerable to external shocks. Informal employment and unemployment (disproportionately affecting women) are the main challenges (45 percent of total employment is in the informal sector and 33 percent of young active people are unemployed).¹⁹ Rural areas and smaller cities are the most affected by the lack of sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs. Other large and rapidly emerging vulnerable groups include war veterans, people with disabilities, displaced populations, stateless persons and persons deprived of the right to education. The gender pay gap and occupation gender segregation remain significant.

The pathway towards more equitable opportunities for all, inevitably goes through the promotion of inclusive green growth in line with the sustainability principle of the 2030 Agenda. Three main challenges arise from the analysis, which hinder progress towards a more equitable distribution of livelihoods and decent jobs, namely (i) the need to build people's productive capacities both in rural and urban areas; (ii) limited capacities at national and sub-national levels to develop and implement green and sustainable economic development policies; and (iii) lack of sufficient investments in green and sustainable interventions, business and production models, existing economic and food security problems in border areas.

In order to increase women's and men's capacities, especially vulnerable groups and those at risk of being left furthest behind, for sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs across the country, skills and opportunities need to be developed in parallel. The UN's strategic interventions will be geared towards developing new capacities, especially for green jobs and resilient livelihoods (promoting continuous/life-long learning, re/up-skilling – including in culture and creative industries, entrepreneurship, digitalisation); and creating jobs and opportunities for these skills to be employed (strengthening food systems, supporting green agribusiness, market integration, trade facilitation and connectivity, value chains, MSMEs development and technological innovation for the fourth industrial revolution). Furthermore, with the purpose of reducing structural barriers that hinder women's economic empowerment as well as the integration of veterans, people with disabilities, displaced populations and other marginalised groups in the labour market, focus will be given to the introduction of new partnership schemes with the private sector, and support for the advancement of policy frameworks on a care economy. Opportunities will be advanced for female entrepreneurship, their broader engagement in the STEM area, and their emergence as innovators. Affirmative measures will be explored and applied to facilitate career advancement of women to leadership roles in the private sector. The UN will seek solutions that use participatory and bottom-up approaches for territorial and local economic development where women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities to benefit from proportional territorial development. Likewise, it will promote human security by engaging in crisis-affected communities, promoting local businesses and income opportunities. Further strategic interventions will also be considered in terms of bolstering competitiveness, supporting export-oriented industries and attracting foreign direct investment.

¹⁹ In the age group 15-24, 41.1% of girls/women and 33.9% of boys/men have been estimated to be unemployed. The corresponding percentage for women 25-34 years old was 27.3% and for men 25-34 years old 19.8%.

The second area of intervention supports the former by developing national and sub-national capacities for sustainable economic development policies. This means building capacities for policy design and implementation as well as stronger institutions to promote inclusive, gender-responsive and effective employment, an active labour market and labour migration policies. There is also a focus on protection of labour rights, including protection from exploitation. Foresight and integrated policy support will also be introduced with the view of being able to match skills with the labour market needs. There will also be support to cross-sectoral/inter-agency approaches which contribute to improved rural livelihoods, income diversification and competitive agriculture; generation of disaggregated data and promotion of territorial analysis; promotion of affirmative policies and practices to enhance women's economic opportunities; and promotion of MSMEs and innovative, export-oriented, high-tech industries.

The third important component regards investments in green and sustainable economic initiatives, which are expected to increase thanks to the facilitation of dialogues between the private and public sectors; engagement of Armenia's diaspora and other initiatives to boost investments; and the promotion of an inclusive environment to attract national and foreign direct investments, including strengthening competitiveness, development and implementation of programs in border areas to ensure economic and food security and mitigate internal and external migration risks.

The linkages between (green) economic growth and enhanced livelihoods are recognised and encouraged by member states in their recommendations to Armenia's UPR process, and in particular with 153.78-79. Likewise, this outcome will support the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in the labour market (UPR recommendation 153.218).

The theory of change for this outcome builds on the overall **assumption** made that the private sector and state authorities are ready to constructively cooperate to facilitate a transition towards inclusive, equitable and green growth and creating an enabling environment for the protection of labour rights and equal opportunities for all.

Partnerships

The realization of the desired changes will entail broad financial, technical and policy-oriented partnerships with the Government of Armenia as well as close engagement between public and private sectors, local communities and decision makers.

In particular, the role of several line ministries will be pivotal: the Ministry of Economy in supporting the elaboration of policies and frameworks targeting inclusive green growth and competitiveness at the local, regional and national level; the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in identifying targeted interventions, designing labour market policies, supporting life-long learning, identifying labour market needs and generating data; the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport in designing policies and interventions to improve skills and know-how to access the labour market; the Ministry of Environment in supporting the inclusion of green aspects in economic policies and interventions; the Ministry of High-Tech Industry in designing, developing and/or implementing desired digitalization, ICT and innovations; and the Prime Minister's Office in coordinating and ensuring alignment with the Government 2050 Transformation Strategy (ATS).

Local and regional constituencies, civil society organizations, professional associations, employers' and workers' organizations, will be engaged to facilitate bottom-up initiatives, as well as disseminate top-down policy recommendations. The private sector (including but not limited to,

agribusinesses, IT companies, SMEs, start-ups, national and international corporations) will be involved in both the design and implementation of measures to support the establishment of partnerships involving the public and private sector alike, attract new national and international investments, and leverage their know-how to drive the green and equitable development of both urban and rural areas. Direct engagement of the academia, think-tanks and national agencies (including but not limited to the Statistical Committee of RA, State Employment Agency, State Tourism Committee, Migration Service) will enrich UN interventions' design and support the institutionalization of developed approaches.

International development partners (EU, USAID, GIZ, SDC, ADA and others), IFIs (including but not limited to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank) and diaspora organisations will play an active role throughout the process to drive the elaboration of green growth strategies, supporting joint advocacy on key issues both nationally and internationally, and unlock new funding opportunities, also through south-south and triangular cooperation initiatives. National and international media outlets, as well as social media platforms will be leveraged to support the promotion of interventions, raise awareness on inclusive green growth, attract investments and showcase areas of opportunities and results achieved in these directions.

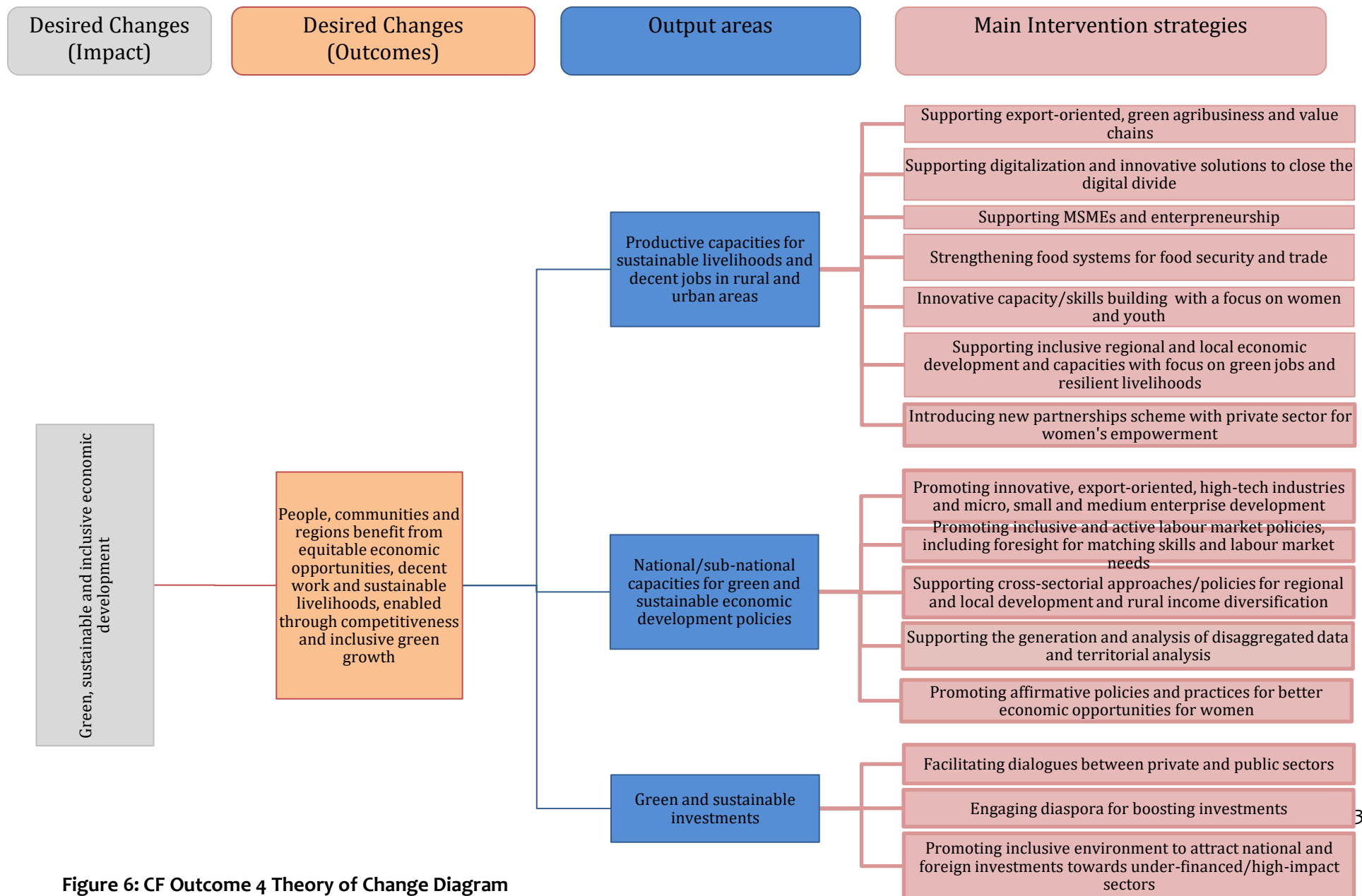


Figure 6: CF Outcome 4 Theory of Change Diagram

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 5: Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate smart solutions.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Armenia is a diverse and environmentally rich country, however, change in climate, coupled with inefficient and inconsistent environmentally sound management of natural resources, poses increasing stress on the people's and ecosystems' resilience. This is intertwined with aspirations towards economic green growth. Armenia remains a water stressed country with agricultural land partially (about 15 percent) prone to droughts, erosion, and floods. Industrial development is also impacted by fuel import dependency for energy and heating, and people are exposed to the health threats of hazardous waste and pollution. This framework also takes into consideration that, as highlighted in the CCA, women and men are differently affected by climate change and related disaster-prone agricultural production. Furthermore, despite the legal framework that ensures equal property and equal inheritance rights to women and men, the implementation remains weak.

The pathway to environmental sustainability and resilience requires changes that will help the country transition towards (i) a low carbon, resource efficient, resilient and socially inclusive "green economy", (ii) ability to properly manage its waste and its ecosystems, and (iii) to adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and disasters. The UN's interventions will be geared towards strengthening national capacities in policy development and implementation; resilience building; as well as identifying, piloting, and scaling data-driven, gender-responsive and tech-based smart policies; solutions that are environmentally and climate friendly, risk-informed, prevention oriented, people-centred, context specific, and long lasting; as well as implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Armenia is also party to several multilateral environmental agreements.²⁰

More specifically, it is assumed that the integration of resource efficiency, green, and circular economy principles in development plans, policies, and practices will result in enhanced energy efficiency and lower emissions. In parallel, the UN will support the adoption of alternative energy solutions and efficiency measures, including low carbon technologies, as well as innovative financing instruments (including private sector engagement through innovative PPP-based models, green bonds, performance-based payment and others) to direct investments towards low carbon solutions. This will also be supported by facilitating the introduction of eco-innovation in industry and best practices, such as eco-industrial parks and circular practices.

To be able to effectively manage ecosystems and mitigate pollution from waste, chemicals, and other sources; regulatory frameworks, policies, and practices will be tackled. To minimise the adverse impact on people's health and the ecosystem, the interventions will target challenges related to collection, reduction, recovery, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal, with a specific focus on sustainable management of municipal and industrial wastewater, chemicals, hazardous waste, air, and noise pollution. At the same time, conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, including forests, land, water, and air will need to be promoted, with the incorporation of ecosystem-based management approaches, resilient thinking, risk-informed

²⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment; Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

and prevention-oriented development into governance systems, business practices, and consumption behaviours.

The third significant change that needs to take place in order to advance towards a more environmentally sustainable and less vulnerable society, is related to people's and ecosystems' resilience to climate change impacts and natural and technological disasters. There is a broad spectrum of interventions needed in order to make progress in this area, including improved legislative and planning frameworks, new tools for information management, enhanced community participation, and increased local level resilience, and promotion of behavioural change.

Culture and attitudes to risk have to evolve, and one key priority will be to make vulnerable groups' voices heard through a dedicated inclusive approach. Natural, biological or technological hazards have differing short and long-term impacts on different groups within society. Equally, different groups may bring unique skills, resources, and knowledge to first reduce risks and also to overcome the aftermath of a disaster. The strengths and challenges of each group will be recognized at early stages of risk assessments, strategic planning and efforts at the national and local level. More dedicated action will be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality; climate change and variability; unplanned and rapid urbanization; poor land management; and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics, and epidemics.

This will require all-of-society engagement, environmental education/awareness, behavioural changes, new types of economic and fiscal instruments, public-private partnerships, and tapping the potential of Armenia's technology sector. The UN will address energy poverty and insecurity by unlocking retrofit markets for energy-efficiency and renewable sources and facilitate access to international climate financing mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation. Efforts will be made to contribute to the revision of national risk assessment, ensuring its inclusive nature, and recognizing the socio-economic impacts of disasters on marginalized communities. Development of an inclusive national risk assessment will also require work to build dialogue and trust between authorities and those sections of the community that may have been overlooked.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the UN will pay particular attention to the environment-health nexus by mainstreaming a "one-health approach" into cross-sectoral policies, financing, and actions. This encompasses reducing risks to human health through sound management of waste, chemicals, air and water pollution and green transformation of urban mobility and industry. Green and resilient recovery will be boosted by promoting sustainable city concepts through low emission and circular economy models; helping design and translate NDC; developing a framework for National Adaptation Planning, including mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into sectoral strategies and action plans in line with the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Action. The UN will also advocate for a new social contract, turning people and businesses into active development partners at all levels. Moreover, national capacities in resilience building will be strengthened and gender-responsive public and private investments in disaster risk management will be stimulated.

The main **assumption** is that the incorporation of ecosystem-based management approaches, resilient thinking, and risk-informed development into governance structures is perceived and recognised by the population and decision makers as a prerequisite for inclusive green

development. This would mean that the government and key stakeholders, while appreciating the objective of transitioning towards a green/low-carbon economy, remain committed to undertake the needed policy, institutional, and legislative changes. The overall intervention strategy also assumes that all stakeholders (government, private sector and civil society) will produce and share knowledge around the need and pathways for a transition to a green economy.

A rights-based approach is at the core of the outcome. It greatly contributes to equity and inclusiveness by tackling environmental degradation and climate risks, which have a substantial impact on vulnerable groups, including the poorest segments of society. A human rights-based approach, as a key principle in pursuing development outcomes, is mainstreamed by meaningful, effective, and informed participation of relevant stakeholders, particularly women and youth, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the interventions. Specific needs and constraints of poor and vulnerable groups will be analysed, and measures will be identified to further promote inclusive participation and equal benefits, including access to natural resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Partnerships

To support the country in its transition towards a resilient, low carbon and green economy, partnerships need to be established with a wide range of actors. Among the line ministries, the Ministry of Environment will have a central role in setting required policy changes and new strategies; the Ministry of Economy will support the design of innovative financing instruments that will decouple economic growth from climate change and environmental degradation and attract investments; the Ministry of Emergency Situations will include Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention within the scope of ecosystem-focused interventions in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and improve resilience and preparedness to shocks and natural hazards; the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports will incorporate climate change, environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction into the national education curriculum and state standards; the Ministry of Health will support designing health prevention-oriented policies and measures linked with the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment more broadly; and the Prime Minister's Office will coordinate and align with the 2050 ATS.

Local communities, civil society organizations, labour unions, and local self-government bodies will be engaged in the design and implementation of UN-supported interventions. This will ensure that these are demand-driven and contextualized. The private sector is expected to contribute with the promotion of innovative approaches and mobilization of investments. Academia, think-tanks and national agencies (Statistical Committee of RA, State Employment Agency, Forest Committee of the Ministry of Environment, "Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Centre" SNCO, DRR National Platform (ARNAP), R2E2 foundation, etc.), sources of know-how and information, will be instrumental in needs-assessments and the facilitation of decision-making processes. National and international media and social media platforms will play a key role in establishing awareness raising campaigns and mobilising citizens and businesses alike towards the establishment of a new social contract.

International and diaspora organisations, development partners, including but not limited to the EU, SIDA, GIZ, USAID, ADA, SDC, and IFIs such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, EBRD, EIB, and the International Monetary Fund are expected to partner with the government and the UN in this endeavour, support joint advocacy efforts, and be funding partners.

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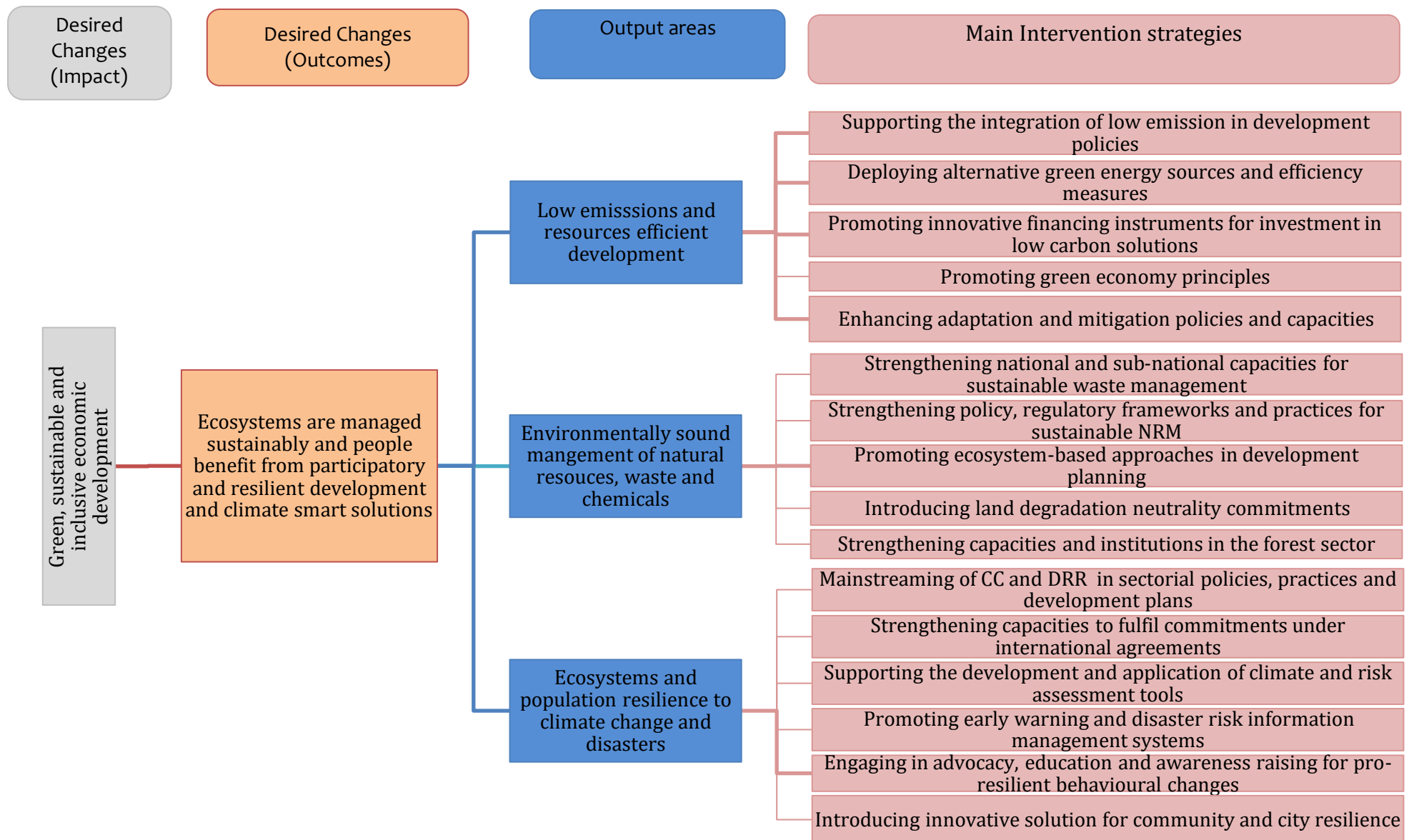


Figure 7: CF Outcome 5 Theory of Change Diagram

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 6: People benefit from effective and accountable governance systems and institutions that safeguard human rights and uphold the rule of law, and public administration that ensures effective and human-centred service delivery for all.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

The ‘Velvet Revolution’ and subsequent democratic elections in 2018 brought renewed confidence and initiated a new phase of state-building in Armenia, setting the stage for significant governance reforms. As indicated in the CCA, outstanding challenges in this area pertain to the effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector institutions, including transparency and accountability, insufficient organizational, financial and technical capacities and an obsolete operational basis. This situation calls for stronger policy making capacities across all structures, promotion of a people-centred and gender-responsive services culture, better linkages between planning and budgeting, as well as horizontal coordination and cooperation. Furthermore, there is a persistent underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in the public administration system, as well as in decision making positions at national and sub-national levels.²¹

Based on the analysis, the change pathway towards democratic governance underpinning the CF is through strengthening people’s trust in the governance systems on one side and enhancing service delivery capacity on the other. This means building democratic, effective, and accountable institutions capable of upholding human rights and the rule of law; preventing discriminatory practices and violence; as well as delivering effective, human-centred and gender-responsive services for all. The priorities described by the government’s 2019-2023 Strategy on Judicial and Legal Reform, the National Strategy, the 2019-2022 Action Plan on Anti-Corruption Reforms, the National Strategy and the 2020-2022 Action Plan lay the foundation for and inform UN programming in this field.

It is assumed that if constitutional, electoral, and parliamentary processes and institutions are strengthened and public administration is supported to become more efficient, digitalised, and client-oriented, then Armenia’s governance will be more inclusive, transparent, and accountable: civil servants and executives will have a better understanding of their role under a democratic setting and will be supported by smart, transformative solutions and adequate organisational structures. This will be sustained by efforts to ensure proper checks and balances, a separation of powers, a ‘whole-of-government’ approach, inclusivity, and mainstreaming Human Rights principles in the UN programming. The role of quality journalism in this regard is also acknowledged. Reports by the NHRI (Human Rights Defender’s Office) are also important as they provide information on shortcomings and progress achieved on a regular basis.

Trusted, independent, efficient, and effective judiciary, law enforcement, and human rights institutions can be achieved, if capacities for non-discrimination, diversion, integrity, impartiality, mediation, accessible legal aid, and probation systems are strengthened; child-friendly processes and standards are put in place; and court case management systems are made more efficient through digitalisation. This way institutional efficiency would be coupled with progressively more adequate capacities of those in leadership to ensure access to justice for all and in particular to the most vulnerable.

²¹ With the purpose of increasing gender equality in the executive, legislative, and judicial sectors, strengthening capacities for leadership positions and the promotion of policies, systems, and mechanisms to facilitate the participation of women will be addressed in the CF as part of outcome 8. “All persons benefit from gender equality and equal opportunities to realize their human rights, fulfil their economic, political and social potential and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.”

In order for all people to benefit from effective governance systems, migration governance also needs to be strengthened, considering the sheer size of this phenomenon in the country and its impact on the socio-economic outlook. The change needed is in terms of making migration safe, orderly, and regular, which contributes to enhanced regional connectivity. This can be achieved if the related governance mechanisms are improved. This includes strengthening border management institutions to foster cross border cooperation, trade, and mobility.

On the citizens' side, the CF is expected to increase people's awareness, overall civic engagement, and participation through the adoption of crowdsourcing initiatives and other public participation mechanisms. There will also be promotion of social cohesion and a new social contract based on the principle of intergenerational justice.

The UN's collective efforts will be based on the principles of connectivity and inclusiveness and will address emerging vulnerabilities with a human-centred approach. All of these efforts are designed to ultimately reduce inequalities and discrimination, while ensuring people's participation and empowerment regardless of their place of residence, gender, ethnic background, religious beliefs, age, legal and migratory status, and wealth. Participation of women in decision-making will be advanced and their representation increased at the national and local level. Inclusive civic processes, participatory mechanisms, and affirmative policies will be promoted at the institutional level, with parallel enhancement of civic and political awareness, leadership among women and youth, and the expansion of opportunities to strengthen their voice, agency, and support as they enter public roles.

This outcome is strongly correlated with the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including those arising from the UPR process and the Action Plan for 2020-2022, derived from the National Strategy on Human Rights Protection of the Republic of Armenia. Particularly, in regard to upholding the rule of law (UPR 153.35, AP 27-38); promoting non-discrimination and preventing discriminatory practices, especially discrimination based on gender (UPR 153.43, 52-55, 57, 58, 60-72, AP 5-8, 48), hate, and racism (UPR 153.73-74, AP 39-42, 44). The drive to improve the level of trust and efficiency in the judiciary will also contribute to the UPR recommendations calling for its independence (UPR 153.114-123) and inclusivity (UPR 153.236); those related to eradicating cases of torture and ill-treatment (UPR 153.84-93, AP 12-26); and those calling for strengthening of media freedom and freedom of association (UPR 153.108, 110-113). This outcome also responds to UPR recommendations 153.24-28 calling for anti-corruption measures and institutions, and the request to strengthen national human rights mechanisms (UPR 153-36.40-41) and ensuring the protection of human rights defenders (UPR 153.241-246).

The main assumption under this outcome is that the government will remain committed to building democratic, inclusive, human-centric, effective, and accountable institutions; promoting effective and client-oriented service delivery; developing comprehensive and balanced migration governance and connectivity related interventions. Work on challenging gender norms and related gender stereotypes (Outcome 8) will also positively contribute to better governance. Related risks include the possible backlash of conservative positions against non-discriminatory policies, insufficient intergovernmental cooperation and harmonization of practices, as well as redirected financing in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Partnerships

Internal and external partnerships will be developed in order to make progress towards this outcome. This will include stronger UN interagency cooperation through new joint programmes and monitoring frameworks. International Financial Institutions such as EBRD and ADB, are recognized as important development partners in this programmatic area, as they contribute with

synergistic interventions in such areas as border cooperation, trade, and mobility. Key international development counterparts include the EU, OSCE, USAID, and the governments of the UK, Japan, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and other bilateral partners. The diaspora can also play a supportive role towards governance reforms. The government of Armenia itself is looking to promote the temporary return of experts to support governance reforms and capacity building programs. The contribution and the role of the Human Rights Defender's Office is instrumental for data collection methods on the progress of the implementation of SDG 16 and the SDG framework in general. Partnership with the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and the UN, which started in 2019 will continue to further SDG 16 implementation and monitoring. Other national stakeholders include the Office of the Prime Minister, Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Corruption Prevention Commission, the Electoral Management Bodies, Statistical Committee, the State Revenue Committee, police, and civil society organizations, including women's groups and organisations representing persons with disabilities.

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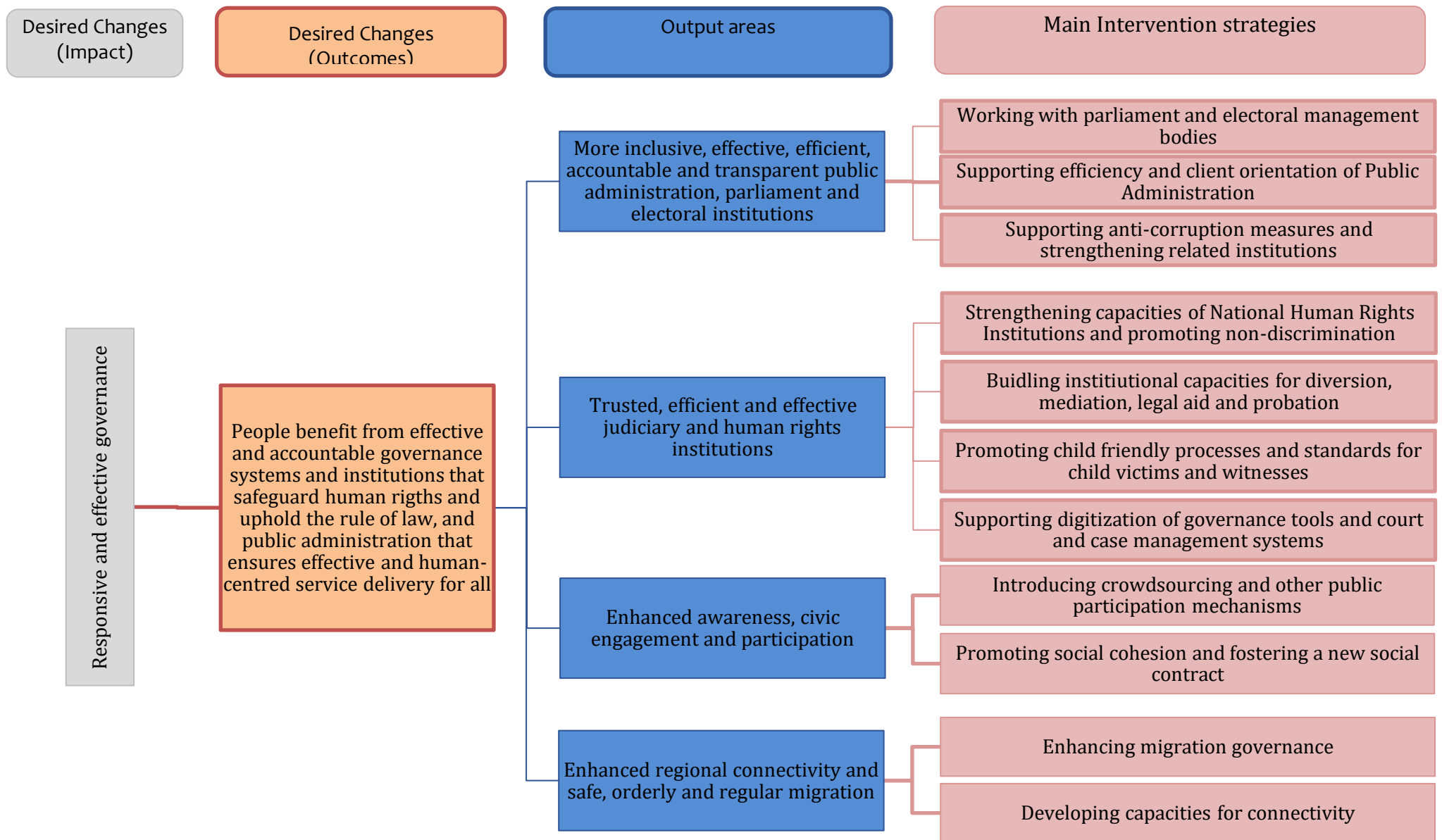


Figure 8: CF Outcome 6 Theory of Change Diagram

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

Theory of change and UN Development Support

Governance systems are empowered by effective partnerships, financing, and evidence-based processes. On this premises this outcome is set to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda in Armenia, under the pillar of Effective and Responsive Governance.

The pathway for this result is designed to overcome two main hurdles: availability of sound data and evidence for policymaking and mobilization of finances and partnerships for SDGs. It builds on the General Assembly Resolution 72/279, mandating the UN development system (and in particular UNDP with a role of ‘integrator’) to promote integrated policy and programme solutions at national, regional, and local levels; support the development of an integrated ecosystem for SDG data and analysis to help fast-track development progress; support development of SDG-aligned evidence-based policies and frameworks using state-of-the-art tools for data collection, modelling, and forecasting; and transfer knowledge, behavioural insights, and innovation to help pioneer new ways of ‘doing development’.

Evidence-based policymaking will be strengthened by introducing innovative, impact-oriented, and data-driven solutions for policymaking at the national and local level. It will build capacities for research and data collection, not only in the public sector but also in civil society (CSOs, think tanks and research institutes). It will also generate gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data on demographic intelligence, children’s rights, and migrants, among others.

United Nations agencies will continue to support the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, focusing on capturing social inequities through surveys and administrative data. Considering the discontinuation of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in Armenia, UNICEF’s advocacy and technical assistance for implementing the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) will generate disaggregated data on children, women, and families and will allow identification of deprivations. DHS has been a key source of evidence for the demographic and health situation in the country since the late 90s, however the programme stopped its operation in the region with no equivalent study planned yet. MICS is the largest source of statistically sound and internationally comparable data on women and children worldwide. It generates data on key indicators on the well-being of children, adolescents, women, and men and helps shape policies for the improvement of their lives. It is the most important single source of data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global human rights frameworks (CRC, CEDAW, etc.).

The nutritional status of children and women of reproductive age is another critical data gap that needs to be addressed. UNICEF and WFP plan to address this issue in cooperation with ArmStat and other partners during this programmatic period.

Specific capacity building for the National Statistics Committee will also be provided through the deployment of staff. One such effort is the engagement of WFP data specialists to support the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia with household data analysis and management, particularly the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS), process management, and optimisation where needed and strengthening the capacity of the National Statistics Committee’s relevant staff on food security indicators’ composition and analysis. Capacity building activities for the National

Statistics Committee will continue through collaboration with the World Bank on preparing a nutrition poverty line. Transferring data into national ownership and related capacity support to NSC will be part of the support offered.

In order to catalyse financing for the SDGs, the UN will work closely with the government to create clear links between policies, planning, and budgeting processes; and deploy innovative mechanisms to leverage partnerships and multiple sources of finance towards underfinanced sectors and sectors which will have knock-on effects on others. A special focus will be placed on conducting a Development Finance Assessment and to design an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) roadmap to help the government catalyse the resources needed to achieve their national development priorities and results in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The UN will initiate dialogues between the government, the private sector, and investors to provide a common understanding on SDGs financing and impact investment; stimulate innovative tech solutions through the implementation of thematic impact acceleration programmes; and provide platforms for developing and piloting innovative financing tools, including diaspora bonds. Broad partnerships will be built bringing together different stakeholders to facilitate dialogue, leverage collective intelligence and expertise to ensure maximized impact for development solutions.

The main assumption is that innovation in data production and analysis together with higher participation and capacities of non-government entities will provide the evidence for decision-makers to track progress towards SDGs and to better target interventions towards the advancement of 2030 Agenda and more effectively reach those groups at risk of being left behind. Likewise, new partnerships, high-impact innovative solutions, and financing frameworks can be leveraged. These, if properly managed and channelled, will support the realization of the sustainable development agenda in Armenia.

Partnerships

Engagement with both government and non-government partners will be fundamental for the realization of this outcome. This includes the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister's Offices, line ministries (including the Ministry of High-tech Industry and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs), local governments, and ARMSTAT. Non-government partners will comprise the private sector (specifically impact investors, impact funds, and others to realign and catalyse public/private finance for the SDGs through the application of innovative financing mechanisms, such as performance-based mechanisms, and the leading tech companies to co-create innovative solutions for development challenges), IFIs, research institutions (e.g., NORC Research Institute), academia, and civil society organizations.

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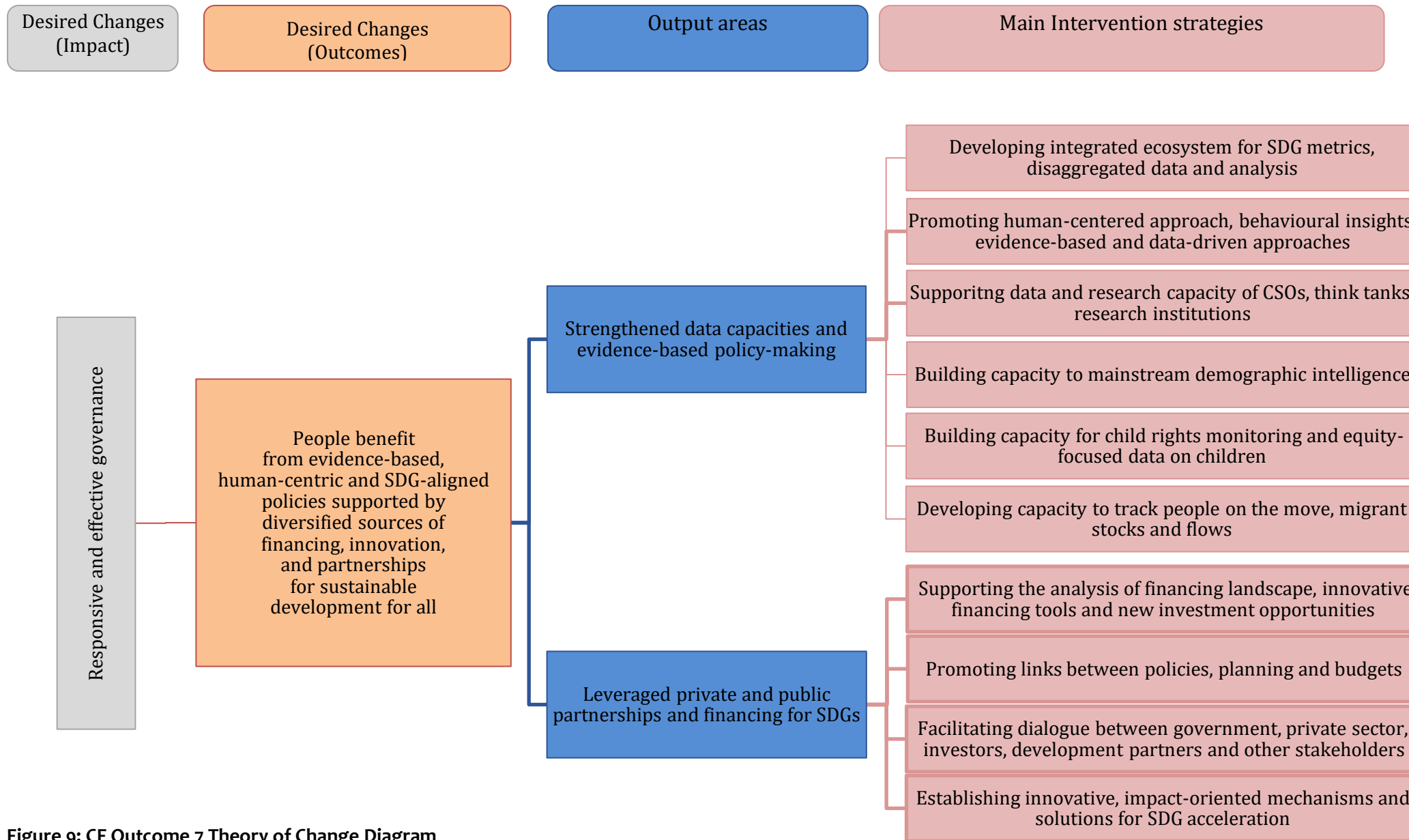


Figure 9: CF Outcome 7 Theory of Change Diagram

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

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Discrimination based on gender is a fundamental challenge for Armenia's future development. As indicated in the CCA, women and girls are being left behind, especially those facing intersecting forms of discriminations. Although in recent years the country has made progress regarding gender equality, especially in the area of education, the full realization of gender equality in Armenia is prevented by prevailing gender norms and subsequent gender stereotypes. As is further highlighted in the CCA, women and girls are frequently subjected to gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic violence, harmful practices, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. Challenges remain in relation to women's economic empowerment, women's political participation, inadequate social protection, and the burden of women's unpaid care and domestic work. There is an unequal representation of women in the socio-economic and political spheres.

In order to reduce the incidence of GBV and harmful practices (including gender-biased sex selection at birth), the UN will contribute to strengthening policies, legal and accountability frameworks; increase public awareness and behavioural change through community engagement, campaigns, and engagement of men and boys; increase access to services for survivors of GBV, domestic violence, and human trafficking; and support multi-stakeholder response systems and data collection.

Participation of women in decision making is limited in the executive, legislative, and judicial sectors. To increase gender equality in these sectors, women's capacities for leadership positions will be strengthened, while policies, systems and mechanisms to facilitate their participation will be promoted. Participatory models for equal engagement at the community level will also be supported and promoted, together with public awareness and advocacy campaigns, and the engagement of communities to gradually remove gender bias.

Women's potential to support the country's economic development cannot unfold if existing structural barriers are not removed. This means supporting the reduction of women's unpaid care and domestic work burden in order to enable women's socio-economic empowerment; supporting accessible and affordable childcare and family friendly social protection; and, as a cross-cutting strategy, undertaking advocacy initiatives to curtail gender discrimination. The UN will also consider opportunities to increase capacities for sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis in all the areas of interventions.

A large number of UPR recommendations to Armenia includes gender equality and women's empowerment. Several of these relate to gender-based violence and domestic violence. They include the need to enhance capacities of law enforcement and social workers to respond to GBV (153.175, 161); and to criminalise, prevent, and respond to domestic violence (153.177-192). Specific recommendations also call for efforts to ensure equal participation and opportunities of women (and other minorities) in public, political, and economic life (153.158-160, 162-172), adopting measures to remove sexual harassment (153.174) and granting social protection, maternity, and childcare support (153.173).

The assumption is that working on challenging gender norms and related gender stereotypes, removing structural barriers, expanding work opportunities, and improving the legal framework

will facilitate progress towards increased GEWE. It will enable the advancement of women's economic, social, and political empowerment and women's abilities to exercise their rights.

Hence, this outcome will address some of the barriers and root causes related to other outcome areas, for instance women's lower labour force participation (Outcome 4) and the participation of women in decision-making (Outcome 6). The CF acknowledges the risk that misinformation can lead to manipulation in order to target the reform agenda of the current government. Expansion of conservatism, a further deepening of patriarchal views and gender stereotypes may hinder the development of GEWE.

Partnerships

Partnerships will be established with the public and private sector, and international stakeholders. More specifically, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (including the Migration Service), the Prime Minister's Office, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, the police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Investigative Committee, the governor's offices (marzpetarans), municipalities and local authorities, the Human Rights Defender, development partners, civil society organizations, including workers' and employers' organizations, and the media. With all the aforementioned stakeholders, partnerships will be forged in order to undertake advocacy and policy dialogue/capacity building and awareness raising. With CSOs, women's groups and media, partnerships will be forged to conduct awareness raising and advocacy initiatives, including utilizing innovative approaches and joint media projects.

2.4 UNCT configuration

The Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs are ambitious and span a broad range of development issues that are interlinked and cross-cutting in nature. In order to effectively deliver on its commitments under this Cooperation Framework, a review of the UNCT configuration was carried out in accordance with the principle of "needs-based, tailored country presence", called for in the UN development system repositioning resolution.²²

The configuration exercise was carried out among all UN entities that have signed and plan to deliver on the CF commitments, both physically present in the country, contributing remotely, as well as with mandates beyond the purely developmental. The overall assessment is that the UNCT in its current form has the necessary technical, functional, and operational expertise and capacity to deliver on the commitments made in the CF.²³ Additionally, the UNCT, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, will continue its important role in development coordination, leveraging innovative SDGs financing (public, private and blended), as well as supporting the engagement of the Armenian diaspora to contribute to the country's sustainable development.

²² UN General Assembly resolution 72/279, paragraph 2.

²³ Further details are elaborated in the United Nations Country Team Configuration Joint Concept Paper.

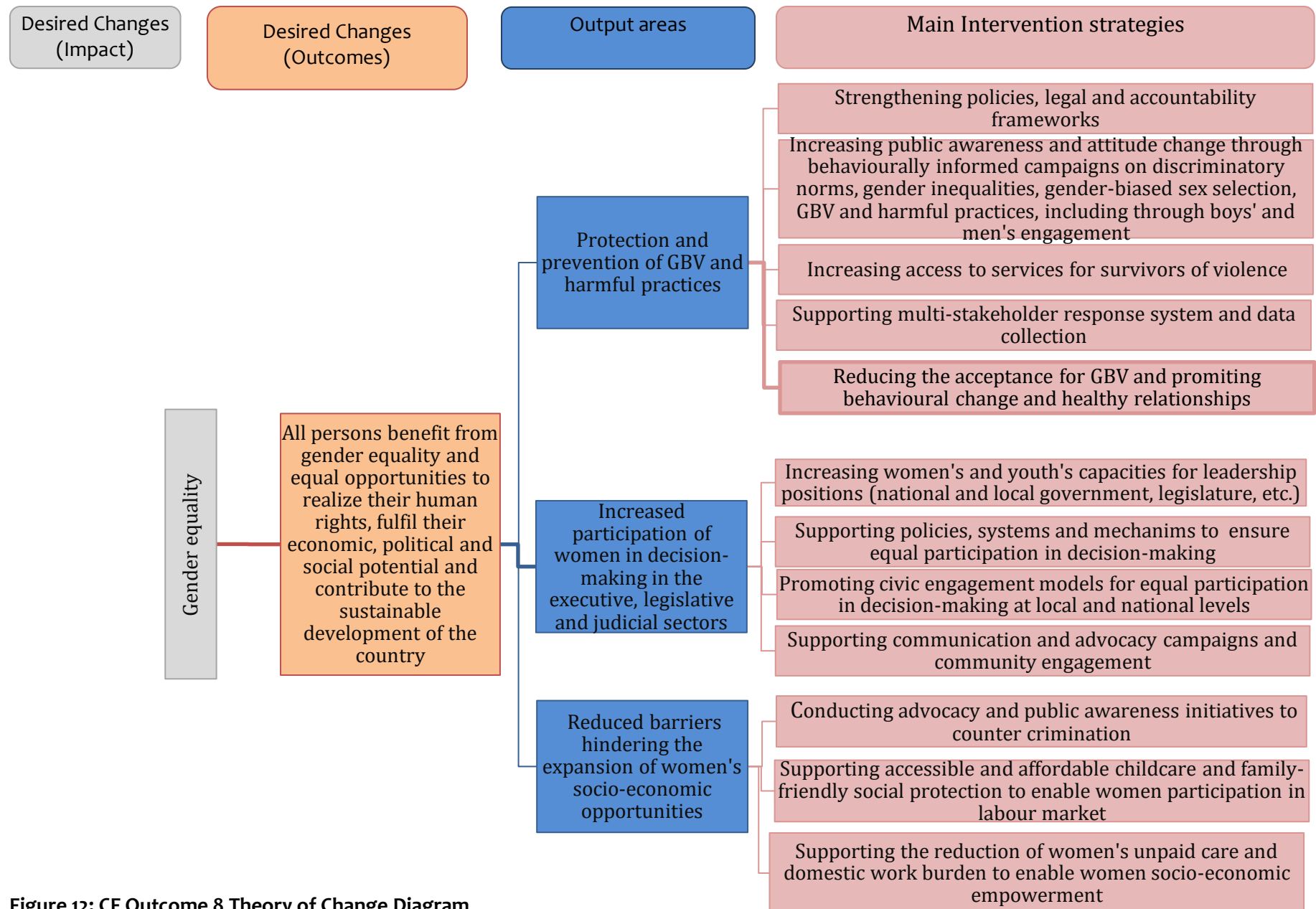


Figure 12: CF Outcome 8 Theory of Change Diagram

CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 Cooperation Framework Governance and Management Structure

Cooperation Framework governance is nationally owned. Towards the launch of the CF, it is expected to set up the **National/UN Joint Steering Committee (JSC)** - the highest governing body of the CF, co-chaired by the RC and the most senior representative of the central government counterpart for the UN system. The JSC is the highest governing body. Its membership will include key partners identified in the CF for joint contributions to national priorities and the 2030 Agenda. The JSC will ensure strategic direction and oversight of the CF; alignment with national, regional and international development processes, mechanisms and goals; and links with other processes such as the Voluntary National Reviews.

The **National SDG Council** will act as an overall platform for CF implementation, aligning CF activities with the GoA's ongoing reform agenda as well as engaging in regular monitoring of the implementation of SDG targets and indices in the frame of the CF and long-term sectoral policies, strategies, and programmes. The **UNCT**, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, will provide the overall strategic oversight and guidance for the entire CF cycle and is responsible for approving all the deliverables. To operationalize the process, UNCT has established the CF Management Team.

The **CF Management Team** composed of UN resident agencies' deputies and NRA focal points will provide oversight for CCA and CF. It will provide quality assurance in terms of reviews, analytical, support, and recommendation on the draft products. The CF Management team will ensure that all milestones along the CF roadmap are met on time and will also secure the effective engagement and participation of in-house UN experts, Results Groups members and other relevant stakeholders throughout the CF development and implementation process. The CF Management Team will be responsible for coordination across the RGs, to ensure clear linkages between the SDG targets, the ATS, the 20+ sectoral strategies, their targets and indicators, as well as the overall collaboration across the three dimensions (economic, social, environmental) of sustainable development.

Results Groups (RGs) are established for each of the three CF pillars, while the UN Internal Gender Theme Group (IGTG) has assumed the role of results group for the design, implementation, and monitoring of Outcome 8. The RGs provide UN leadership, coordination, and accountability for implementation of the interventions designed to achieve the set outputs and outcomes and for making progress towards the set results. The groups are formed by UN staff at the technical level and chaired by a member of the UNCT (i.e., a UN entity's representative). Results Group membership includes UN entities not physically located in the country and will include relevant government and non-government representatives as needed.

Meetings of the Results Groups take place periodically, at least bimonthly, during the implementation of this framework. Key tasks of RGs include, but are not limited to, periodic updates of the Common Country Analysis; design, monitoring, and reporting on progress towards CF strategic priority outcomes and outputs; annual updates of the UN joint work plan; funding frameworks for the purposes of developing Joint Annual/Biannual Workplans; monitoring and coordinating interventions; reports against the monitoring framework at output level; and to review results achieved (and related theory of change) at the end of each year. The RGs will report regularly to the UNCT and annually to the Joint Steering Committee between the UN and the

Government of Armenia, where any need of adjustment in the results framework and underpinning theory of change will be discussed.

The **UN Armenia Inter-Agency M&E Group** will provide technical assistance in the development of the CCA and the CF. They will especially ensure that the UN prioritization is based on a robust analysis of the UN comparative advantage and the CF theory of change and that the results framework is logical and measurable. The group will also support the development of the CF's costed multi-year joint monitoring and evaluation plan, ensuring that individual M&E plans are coordinated and reflected in the CF MEL plan. To tap the potential of UN regional expertise, the regional experts' team will be assembled by the Regional DCO from system entities interested in supporting the UNCT in undertaking the initial CCA process.

The **UN Communications Group** will prepare and implement a communications strategy for the CF to help the UN development system convey very simply and concretely what the UN development system is doing to help the country achieve the SDGs. Dissemination of this information should be in an accessible language and format, and consider issues such as disability, language, literacy levels, and cultural background.

3.2 Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

The implementation of the CF is contingent upon the funding availability and resources to be mobilized both at the country level and through other funds.

Following the signing of the CF, the Funding Framework will be developed to serve as a financial planning and management tool. It will serve as a consolidation of the agreed, costed results of the UN CF - including operations and communications - for the full duration of the programme cycle. The CF Funding Framework will also be launched with the Development Partners Coordination Forum together with the government as a platform for resource mobilization.

As per the guidance on the CF Funding and Financing, the Funding Framework will have two levels: (1) a multi-year Funding Framework covering the full duration of the CF, and (2) annualized Funding Frameworks continuously monitored and updated as part of Joint Workplans. This exercise will be complemented by the financial landscape analysis done as part of the Development Finance Assessment, providing data and analytical information on both quantitative and qualitative aspects of development resources in Armenia.

The Funding Framework, combined with the financial landscape analysis, will serve as the basis for the development of a resource mobilization strategy for the CF, and the periodic UN-Government funding dialogues with other stakeholders. Based on funding gaps for the CF and its JWPs, and under the leadership of the RC and the respective government counterparts, these dialogues will aim to attract funding and thus encourage joint programming.

The UNCT will also leverage available joint funds, as it has already successfully mobilized funds from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and Joint SDG Fund. This will promote SDG integration and sustainable investing in the context of the Decade of Action. In collaboration with the Development Partners in the country, a country based pooled fund will also be established to support the sustainable and continuous funding of the CF with innovative and catalytic financing. Under the CF the UN will also be supporting the government in developing and implementing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). This will define broader financing mechanisms to reach the SDGs in Armenia based on the analysis of current financing frameworks, flows, and gaps.

The humanitarian response will be mainstreamed in the overall programme delivery and will be overseen and supported at all the levels of the CF governance. Within the overall CF governance structure, the humanitarian coordination architecture established will ensure effective and efficient delivery of the UN humanitarian response to all affected people in all locations.

3.3 Derivation of the UN Entity Country Programming Instruments from the Cooperation Framework

The UN entities' country programming instruments have been developed in line with the strategic approach reflected in this document. Since the strategic planning process for the preparation of the CF was delayed (and further affected by the pandemic crisis), it benefitted from the outcomes of individual agencies' consultations and planning of respective country programmes. The UN entities' programmes were then further defined and shaped around the priorities and strategic interventions designed under this Framework. To ensure proper sequencing and alignment, a request for the extension of the Country Programme Documents (CPDs)²⁴ submission to the 2021 January Board was put forward, allowing time to ensure that CPDs' outcomes copy the CF outcomes verbatim.²⁵ All other UNCT entities will also directly derive their agency-specific country programme instruments from the CF results.

3.4 Joint Workplans

The CF will be implemented through the country programme instruments of the UN entities, which are derived from the CF. They will come together in a Joint Work Plan which presents the planned programmatic sub-outputs and resource contributions of each UN entity to the CF outputs. They will serve to reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication, and ensure the coherence and synergy of the UN entity collective programming in the country.

All UNCT members will be involved in preparing Joint Workplans, regardless of physical presence. The Joint Workplans will be discussed within and across Results Groups to ensure that gaps, overlaps, and potentials for synergy and joint programmes are identified and responded to as appropriate. The Joint Workplans will capture the CF outcomes, outputs, funding framework, resources, SDG targets and indicators, gender equality, human rights, disability inclusivity, and any other system-wide markers, with each UN entity's contributions (sub-outputs and resources) to the CF outputs clearly aligned to the CF theory of change.

Once the UNCT in Armenia implements UN INFO, in an effort to reduce transaction costs, the Joint Workplans will be prepared online in the UN INFO, and not as separate off-line documents. Upon full migration to the UN INFO platform, the UNCT in Armenia will integrate the UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) and Joint Workplan into the CF Joint Work Plan and track its progress through UN INFO. Additionally, in the formulation of the Joint Workplans mainstreaming of the principles of LNOB; gender equality, human rights, disaster risk reduction, and other cross-cutting themes will be ensured, both in terms of programmes as well as resource allocation and partnerships.

The Joint Workplans will be endorsed by the UNCT and the Joint National UN Steering Committee. The endorsed Joint Work Plan will be the basis for the Annual Performance Review to ensure that it responds to the evolving country context and feeds directly into preparation of the Annual UN country results report to the government.

²⁴ For UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF

²⁵ As a result, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF CPDs have copied, verbatim, the outcomes of the CF.

3.5 Business Operations Strategy in Support of the Cooperation Framework

The UN will implement the UN's Global Business Operations Strategy (BOS) which will help further drive the cost-efficiency and quality of the UN's operational support, create synergies, efficiencies, and productivity gains in the operational processes. The UN's Operations Management Team (OMT) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the BOS, providing recommendations to the UNCT on common business operations, and identifying opportunities for innovative business models and collaboration to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations' programmatic work under the CF.

CHAPTER 4: CCA UPDATE, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PLAN

4.1. Updates of the UN Common Country Analysis

The CCA will be updated through periodic (at least annual) reviews and in case of major changes in national circumstances (e.g., escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, new political crises, changing human rights context, and disasters). The UNCT may also find it necessary to initiate periodic 'horizon scanning' or trend analysis between the annual reviews. Where relevant, CCA updates will also be informed by other strategic assessments in order to maximise capacity and availability of information. An analysis of the populations at risk of being left behind will be integrated into each of the updates of the CCA through a review of the latest data and evidence as well as consultations with the concerned populations.

With its heavy data emphasis, the CCA will shift onto and keep updated a digital platform which is being established by DCO as an online repository of automated country analytics, data sources, and datasets. The interagency UN Expert Team, composed of key programme and policy staff, will be leading the CCA process. They will ensure that the CCA is updated periodically and can serve as a relevant source of information on the evolving context.

4.2. Monitoring Implementation of Joint Workplans

Monitoring of the CF is an ongoing process designed to learn about the efficiency and effectiveness of UN interventions as programmes are being implemented. To support this function, the UNCT in Armenia will adopt UN INFO, digitizing the 2021-2025 CF and related Joint Workplans. This online platform will allow tracking changes in the monitoring indicators set at the output and outcome levels. The UNCT will ensure the use of the gender equality and human rights markers and will consider creating 'beneficiary' tags in UN INFO to help track which activities are aimed at particular groups identified as those being (or at risk of being) left behind. All UN entities will report on their agency's contributions to the CF by regularly recording their progress directly in UN INFO against the planned sub-outputs and resources.

A costed multi-year monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan will be developed by the UNCT in Armenia. UN entity-specific monitoring plans will be derived from and support the MEL Plan of the CF. The UN Armenia Inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation Group will execute the CF MEL Plan, in conjunction with Results Groups. They will track progress towards planned results, monitor risks and assumptions, identify challenges and opportunities, and reflect learning to inform decisions and course correction in the evolving country context.

The progress of the CF will be monitored through JSC reviews held at least once a year. Along these regular annual reviews, a JSC review will take place at the earliest possibility in consultation with the government once the full impact of the recent Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is better known. This will serve as an opportunity to amend the CF, if necessary, and ensure the continued relevance of the framework in the face of evolving national circumstances. Respective changes will be documented in the review report, which is reflected in the related Joint Workplans and UN INFO.

Essential linkages will be established with government monitoring activities (surveys, census, voluntary national reviews, poverty studies), which are important sources of data and evidence for the UN's contribution to development changes. The UNCT in Armenia will also support the strengthening of national data and information systems through its revitalized Data Taskforce.

Risks and Opportunities

At the time of drafting the CF, there are two highly tangible and relevant threats to the realization of its outcomes. The first is the current global COVID-19 pandemic, the course and socio-economic consequences of which are still not fully predictable. The second is the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which erupted anew in the last quarter of 2020. It is possible that these threats will 'distract' resources and policy commitment towards the development results set in this framework, as all of them assume a continued political commitment to reform and change, as well as resources being effectively deployed to support relevant services and measures.

The UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan, together with the government and other partners' efforts, is designed to counter the impact of the pandemic (both in terms of human health and related health system's preparedness, as well as the socio-economic effects of the global and national lockdown) and build resilience towards future health and natural hazards. The pandemic has also further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities linked to the geopolitical situation, the macroeconomic framework, and social service delivery capacities (see section 2.1 above). While the SERRP and other supporting measures will respond to and mitigate such risks, these are outstanding challenges that will impinge upon development results in the longer term.

Furthermore, the CF acknowledges that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has already exacerbated the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and created new needs and development priorities. Adaptive programming approaches will be put in place to adjust the CF's programmes once the impact is better known, based on an agreed prioritization with the Government of Armenia, according to the established procedures. A joint review to elaborate these adjustments will be held in consultation with the government.

Likewise, adaptive measures will be taken should new situations emerge in the course of the implementation of this programmatic framework, including tapping into the regional and global tier of the UN system. The CF ToC and Joint Workplans will be constantly reviewed for adaptation of programmes and intervention strategies in the course of the implementation.

4.3 Cooperation Framework Annual Performance Review and Country Results Reporting

Under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, each Results Group will conduct an Annual Performance Review with its stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learnt in the last quarter of each year of CF implementation, based on UN INFO reports. Based on this review and the evolving country context, the Results Groups will propose amendments to the Cooperation Framework and/or the following year's Joint Workplan

to the UNCT in order to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the UN support to the country.

The UN INFO reports, Annual Performance Reviews and CCA updates will feed into the UN Country Results Report. This will capture the full footprint of the UN entities in supporting the government to advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The UN Country Results Report will inform the Joint National UN Steering Committee Annual Performance Reviews focusing on how the country context evolved in the past year, the UNCT's achievements, challenges, opportunities, learning, and adaptations in implementing the Cooperation Framework.

4.4 Evaluation Plan

A final independent evaluation of the CF will be carried out in 2024 (penultimate year of the Cooperation Framework's implementation) and is considered the first step in the strategic planning process leading to the new programming cycle. The evaluation will be undertaken by an independent consultant or a team of consultants (to be defined) and commissioned by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The evaluation Terms of Reference will ensure an inclusive and participatory approach involving all stakeholders as well as the independence and impartiality of the evaluation team, in line with the UNEG norms and standards. Multiple data collection methods will be suggested to ensure inclusivity, comprising of focus group discussions, online surveys, facilitated participatory workshops, and in-depth interviews.

The CF final evaluation will be informed by in-depth LNOB analysis, to ascertain how CF programming is addressing drivers and manifestations of entrenched deprivations and what programmatic adjustments may be required.

The independent evaluation will be planned by the UNCT in order to coordinate timing and focus and to ensure cross-fertilisation with country programme evaluations of individual agencies and reduce transaction costs for the stakeholders involved.

Annex 1: Armenia Cooperation Framework Results Framework 2021-2025

Impact:					
Strategic Priority 1 (or Pillar): People's well-being and capabilities					
National development priorities: ATS: Educated and competent nation; healthy and safe nation; large and prosperous families RA Government Action Plan for 2019-2023 (Increased efficiency of the health system; Improvement of mother and child healthcare)					
Regional frameworks: TBC					
SDGs and SDG targets: 1.b, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.d, 10.2, 10.4, 17.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.a, 4.c, 4.7					
UPR Recommendations: 153.38, 153.50, 153.132-156, 153.215					
Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target for 2025	Source/Mean of Verification	Assumption Statement
Outcome 1: People benefit from a universal, affordable, accessible, and quality health system, while adopting healthy lifestyle practices UN Agencies: IOM, UNAIDS, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNODC, IFAD	SDG 3.2.2. Neonatal mortality rate	B: (2018) 5%	4%	ArmStat reports	Government's health priorities are not shifted due to emergencies and instability
	SDG 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	21	16	ArmStat reports	
	Contributing to SDG 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on health	B: (2019) 6.1%	15.5% in budget allocations for health sector vs. average growth of the budget	Costing reports for and human capital programming, MTEF, Budget Law	
	Contributing to SDG 3.8.1 (SERRP 1.1). Number of people accessing essential (non-COVID-19 related) health services, disaggregated by sex	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
Output 1.1	SDG 2.2.1 adapted: Percentage of children under five who are stunted	B: (2015) 9%, M: 11%; F: 8%	7% M: 7%; F: 7%	Nutrition Surveillance System, DHS, MICS	Food market dynamics are changed based on food value chains

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<p>Healthy and nutritious food is available and consumed</p> <p>Un Agencies: UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IFAD</p>	SDG 2.2.2 adapted: Percentage of children under five who are overweight	B: (2015) 14% M: 15%; F: 13%	11% M: 11%; F: 11%		analysis and people change behaviour based on education provided
	(SERRP 2.3.) Number of primary school children receiving meals or alternatives to meals, such as take-home rations	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	(SERRP 3.4.) Number of direct beneficiaries of food supply protection regimes	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
<p>Output 1.2 Armenia's health system is strengthened to be more resilient and shock-responsive</p> <p>Un Agencies: UNAIDS, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNECE</p>	Proportion of primary healthcare facilities providing adolescent-friendly health services in accordance with WHO standards	0	25%	MoH (2020-2025 Health System improvement action plan implementation report)	Capacities, advices and data availability are translated into more equal and people-centred health services
	Contributing to SDG 3.b.3 (SERRP 1.2.) Number of health facilities that received UN support to maintain essential immunisation services since COVID-19 disruptions	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	Contributing to SDG 3.8.1 (SERRP 1.4.) Number of community health workers receiving UN support to maintain essential services since COVID-19 disruptions	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	

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<p>Output 1.3 Knowledge, skills, and opportunities to make informed health-related choices is enhanced</p> <p>UN Agencies: IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNODC</p>	SDG 5.6.1. Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	B: (2016): 66%	T: (2025 75%)	World Bank Database UN Women Country Gender Equality Brief for Armenia Report	Exposure to health education and knowledge will lead people to healthier behaviours and informed choices
	Percentage of medical students studying based on the revised curricula on reproductive health and rights.	0%	100%	YSMU and NIH data	
	School-based “Healthy lifestyle” curricula operationalized, including for people with disabilities.	0%	100%	MoESCS reports	
<p>Outcome 2 People benefit from a progressively universal, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection system across the lifecycle</p> <p>UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNODC</p>	Contributing to SDG 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on social protection	B: (2019) 27.8%	31.3% in budget allocations for social protection sector vs. average growth of the budget	Costing reports for and human capital programming, MTEF, Budget Law	Government’s commitment to international standards, evidence-based poverty reduction, inclusive growth and social protection reforms is sustained throughout this programme cycle
	Contributing to SDG 1.3.1 (including SERRP 2.5.): Population covered by at least one social protection benefit, disaggregated by sex and vulnerable persons covered by social assistance	B: (2019) Population: 54.4% Vulnerable Groups: 19.6%	T: (2025) Population: 60% Vulnerable Groups: 22.6%	ILO - Social Security Inquiry Database	
	Multidimensional poverty index	B: (2018) Population: 23.6%, Yerevan: 18.4% Other Urban Areas: 22.1% Rural areas: 29.2%	T: (2025) Population: 21.6%, Yerevan: 16.4% Other Urban Areas: 20.1% Rural areas: 27.2%	Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia reports by ArmStat	

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			(Target data to be sex-disaggregated)		
<p>Output 2.1 Rights-based, risk-informed, and effective social protection floors, including cash and services, are designed and implemented to expand social protection coverage, ensure income security across the lifecycle</p> <p>UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNODC</p>	Number of improved services/response package provided	2020: 0	2025: 8	MLSA, Ministry of Health (MoH), annually	People's awareness will enhance access to the services, while the latter will be improved based on analysis, research and prototyping.
	Contributing to SDG 1.3.1 (including SERRP 2.5.): Proportion of population covered by COVID-19 social protection programmes, by sex, age, vulnerability	309,951 beneficiaries and 84,810 families for social support; 486,434 families and beneficiaries for gas/utility subsidies	At least 10% increase in coverage of beneficiaries and families (with focus on emerging vulnerable groups outside ongoing government support programmes)	ARMSTAT database and reports; GoA reports (sectoral and over-arching), project reports, SERRP progress Reports	
<p>Output 2.2 Enabling environment for integrated, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection systems is strengthened at all levels of governance</p>	Existence of integrated social services system countrywide	B: (Score 1) Weak ISS system in place, with improvements in terms of coverage, integration, coordination, child, disability, gender-sensitivity, M&E and financing framework	T: (Score 3) Strong: ISS system in place with strong, inclusiveness, child, disability, and gender-sensitivity including financing framework and clear M&E framework	Assessments, studies, Government reports	Different layers of the government structure are willing to cooperate and coordinate in terms of social service provision, exchange and synchronization of data.
	Shock-responsive SP: Policy/strategy/law is adapted to support	B: (Score 1) SP policy or strategy in place, but no	T: (Score 3) SP policy or strategy in place, and highly	Assessments, studies, government reports	

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UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNODC	appropriate and timely vertical and/or horizontal expansion of the existing social protection systems during a crisis by government and/or humanitarian agencies	adaptation to make it shock-responsive	adapted to make it shock responsive		
	SDG 1.2.2 Proportion of population living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions, by rural/urban	B: (2018) Population: 23.6% Yerevan: 18.4% Urban areas: 22.1% Rural areas: 29.2%	T: (2025) Population: 21.6% Yerevan: 16.4% Urban areas: 20.1% Rural areas: 27.2%		
Outcome 3 People exercise their talents and skills, benefitting from age-appropriate, life-long learning, inclusive and quality education in an enabling and safe environment	SDG 8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	Baseline (2019): 23.3%	T: (2024) 10	ArmStat, annually SDG National Reporting Tool (ArmSDG), annually Social Snapshot Report in Armenia, annually MESCS, MTAI, MLSA and Labour Inspectorate, annually	Education remains high on the government's reform agenda and properly funded
	UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UNODC	Contributing to SDG 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending on education	B: (2019) 7.9%	18.4% in budget allocations for education sector vs. average growth of the budget	
		SDG 4.1.5: Number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth of primary and secondary school age, disaggregated by sex	B: (2019) 44,799	T: (2025) 22,000	
				UNESCO Institution of Statistics	

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	National proxy of SDG 4.2.4: Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education disaggregated by gender	B: (2018) 38%, M:36.6% F:39.7%	T:(2025) 60%, M: 60% F: 60%	MoESCS/EMIS, Government Programme, Reports	
Output 3.1 Education system is strengthened to deliver quality and inclusive education to all, including in pre-primary schooling UN Agencies: UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, UNODC	Existence of national strategies to address inequities in education access, participation and retention	B: Draft 2021-2025 Education Development Strategy	T: Costed and coherent education sector plan aligned to the strategy	Government reports, Education sector review	Trained teachers and revised curricula will be able to raise students' performances
	Number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth of primary and secondary school age	B: 44799	T: 22500	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	
	Enhancement of teacher professional development systems	B: In-service teacher training system abolished (2019)	T: National teacher professional development system concept notes operationalized Evaluation of the teacher professional development plan	Government reports, Education sector review	
Output 3.2 Educational environment is more inclusive, safe, and enabling UN Agencies: UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, UNODC	Number of small-size rural schools benefitting from the government's Safer School Budget Programme	B: (2019) 22	55		Adequate school buildings and policies will facilitate access and retention of children with disabilities, girls and other vulnerable groups
	Policies and plans supporting inclusive education for children with disabilities	B: (2019) Inclusive Education Concept draft (2019)	T: There is a law/policy establishing the right of all children to receive education, with an explicit mention of		

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			children with disabilities.		
	EMIS that transparently shares disability disaggregated data on enrolment	B: (2019) Data on SEN and disability assessment is underreported	T: (2025) EMIS reports are produced on enrolment of children with disabilities		
Output 3.3 Opportunities for age-appropriate and life-long learning are expanded	Percentage of schools that include gender-sensitive adolescent engagement and project-based learning in their development plans	B: (2020) 0.8%	50%		Life-long and age-appropriate learning will translate in jobs, livelihood opportunities and civic engagement
UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UNODC	Contributing to SDG 4.3.1: Number of VET institutions in the regions of Armenia upgraded and capacitated to provide upskilling/reskilling courses and programmes	0	3 upgraded institutions, with at least 140 women and girls benefitting from upskilling/reskilling courses and internship programmes	MPTF 2 progress reports (women and girls in rural communities of Lori, Shirak, Tavush and Gegharkunik marzes), MESCS	
	Number of partnerships/mechanisms to overcome education and labour market gap	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 4 3 models are expected to be developed by MESCS and 1 model/mechanism as part of 'Work Armenia' strategy	MESCS and 'Work Armenia' strategy implementation reports	
	(SERRP 2.2.) Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	Number of girls with new knowledge, technology and innovation skills to pursue careers in STEM	0	150	MPTF 2 progress reports	

Strategic Priority 2 (or Pillar): Green, sustainable, and inclusive economic development					
National development priorities: ATS: Mass-export of finished goods, productive and responsible farming, attractive for business Armenia 2019-23 Government Programme and Action Plan (GPAP), Sections 5 and 6. Sustainable Agricultural (Vision 2029), 2020-24 SME Development Strategy. 2020-23 Business Environment Improvement Programme					
Regional frameworks: TBC					
SDGs and SDG targets: 1.2, 1.3, 1.b, 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 8.3, 8.6, 9.3, 9.4					
UPR Recommendations: 153.78-79, 153-218					
Outcome 4: People, communities, and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNIDO, WFP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNCTAD, IFAD	SDG 1.2.1 adapted: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex	B: (2018) Total poverty: 23.5 % Rural poverty: 21.3 % Urban poverty: 24.9 % Female poverty: 23.6% Male poverty: 23.4%	T: (2025) Total poverty: 21.5% Rural poverty: 19.3% Urban poverty: 22.9 % Female poverty: 21.6% Male poverty: 21.4%	ArmStat, annually SDG National Reporting Tool (ArmSDG), annually Social Snapshot Report in Armenia, annually	The need to consider both effective use and management of natural resource as well as the provision of sustainable livelihood, decent jobs and economic opportunities for all is recognized by decision makers as a prerequisite for inclusive green growth. Moreover, the need for equitable development in urban and rural communities is established and reflected in policies, plans and budgets
	SDG 8.5.2 adapted: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and geography	B: (2018) 19% Women: 20.4% Men: 17.9% Youth: 24.9% Rural: 11.3% Urban: 24.9%	T: (2024) 17% Women: 18% Men: 17% Youth: 22% Rural: 10% Urban: 23%		
	Per capita average monthly gross income level of rural population (AMD)	(2018): 55,216	(2024): 70,000		
Output 4.1	Number of jobs created in urban and rural	B: (2020) 1500 (805 men, 695 women)	T: (2025) 2000 (1050 men, 950 women),	UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports	Community-based development provides

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<p>People, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, are empowered to build productive capacities and benefit from community development in rural and urban areas ensuring sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs</p> <p>UN Agencies: FAO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNIDO, WFP, UNHCR, IFAD</p>	communities for women and men		disaggregated also by rural and urban		capacities and opportunities for improved livelihoods and decent jobs
	Number of economic actors benefitting from improved productive capacities and strengthened value chains	B: (2020) 240	T: (2025): 390 (25% women-led)		
	(SERRP 3.1.) UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high risk COVID-19 sectors	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	(SERRP 3.2.) Number of private sector companies (including women-led businesses) and formal/informal sector workers (disaggregated by sex) supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic	TBC 0 women-led businesses and entrepreneurship	TBC 15 women-led businesses and entrepreneurship	SERRP progress Reports	
		1 women-led new start-ups established	7 women-led new start-ups established	MPTF 2 Progress Reports	
Output 4.2 Capacities at national/subnational levels are strengthened to design and implement policies for inclusive, green and sustainable economic development		0 women with improved/new skills (business & digital)	150 women with improved/new skills (business & digital)		
	Number of inclusive LED and decent workplans/strategies, mechanisms/policies in place with financial sources identified	B (2020) 45 plans/strategies; 2 policies/mech.	T: (2025) 60 plans/strategies; 6 policies/mech		Investment in under-funded sustainable sectors will increase job opportunities in rural and smaller cities areas
	(SERRP 3.1.) UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high risk COVID-19 sectors	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	

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UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, WFP, UNECE, UN-Habitat, UNCTAD, IFAD	(SERRP 3.2.) Number of private sector companies and formal/informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
Output 4.3 Green and sustainable investments are promoted to drive equitable and export-oriented growth UN Agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNIDO, WFP, UNECE, UNCTAD	SDG 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	TBD	TBD	Statistical Committee of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry	
Outcome 5: Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate smart solutions	SDG 9.4.1. adapted: CO2 emissions per GDP (in PPP)	B: (2017) 0.22 tons equivalent USD thousand	T: (2025) 0.21 tons/USD thousand	National GHG inventory, Biennial- annual update, MoE, biennially National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reports, MTAI, Yerevan Municipality, Reports to GCF, UNFCCC NDC ArmSDG, ArmStat, Energy balance, annually MES, NPDRR, annually	Government and key stakeholders remain committed to undertake the needed policy, institutional and legislative changes
	Number of sectors that increased capacity to adapt/mitigate to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster carbon-neutral, climate-resilient development	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 3		
	SDG 15.1.2 adapted: Ha of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater	B: (2020) 250.000 ha	T: (2025) 380,000 ha		

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UN Agencies: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UN-Habitat, IFAD	biodiversity under improved management			Reports, assessments, surveys, media UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports	
	SDG 7.1.2 adapted: Number of people benefitted from affordable/clean energy technologies (disaggregated by sex)	B: (2020) 4000	T: (2025) 8000 (55% women)		
	SDG 13.1 adapted: Number of strategies to strengthen resilience/adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards, natural disasters.	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 5 (3 sectorial, 2 regional adaptation strategies, with funding identified)		
	Contributing to SDG 15.1.1: Ha of forest cover under sustainable and climate adaptive management practices	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 135,800 ha		
Output 5.1 Low emission and resource efficiency objectives are mainstreamed into development plans/policies and business practices UN Agencies: UNDP, UNECE, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, IFAD	Number of development plans/strategies with targets for low emission and climate-resilient development adequate funding adopted, including NDC, NDP, LEDs	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 2	MoE, annually	Changes in policies and policies and plans will translate into lower emissions and adoption of energy efficient solutions
	Number of institutional coordination mechanisms established/operationalized in line with multilateral agreements	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 2	MoE, MES, annually	
	Number of cities adopted and budgeted resilient/green development plans	B: (2020) 0	T: (2024) 5	MTAI, annually	

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	Number of communities benefitting from renewable energy sources	B: (2020) 80	(2024) 100	LSGs, annually	
	Number of public residential buildings improved level of energy efficiency	B: (2019) 2 public, 3 residential	T: 200 public, 300 residential	Evaluations (once in 2-3 years)	
	Number of households (including female-headed) benefitting from energy efficiency measures	B: (2019) 88 (10% women-headed)	T: (2024) 45000 (15% female-headed)	Evaluation Report, LSGs, annually	
Output 5.2 Enabling environment is created for environmentally sound management of ecosystems, and mitigated pollutants from waste, chemicals, and other sources UN Agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNECE, IFAD	Amount of chemicals and waste reduced and/or safely disposed	B: (2020) 0	T: (2024) 1100t of POPs waste is prevented from release through elimination/secure storage,	MoE, biannually	Proper waste management will reduce health risks and preserve the environment
	Contributing to SDG 15.3.1: Ha of ecosystems/lands rehabilitated or sustainably managed, including through innovative spatial/urban plans and rural community-based solutions	B: (2020) 0	T (2025): 186,000 (UNDP: 130,000 FAO: 56,000)	Ministerial/ Municipal reports, annually	
	Number of improved policies, mechanisms, and legal, regulatory frameworks to address conservation and sustainable use of natural resources	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 10	MoE, annually	
Output 5.3 Ecosystems and population vulnerability is reduced through	Number of communities covered by disaster risk management framework, adopted gender-responsive disaster risk management/adaptation	B: (2016) 109	T: (2025) 200	ARS, NPDRR, MES, annually	Resilience is built by setting a proper policy framework, supported by adequate risk assessment tools and increased people's

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increased resilience to climate change and disasters UN Agencies: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UNECE, IFAD	plans with identified financial sources and coordination and monitoring mechanisms in place				awareness (which will lead to behavioural change)
	Number of health institutions with Hospital Safety Index modules (including gender responsive contingency plans, etc.)	B: (2020) 0	T: (2025) 25	MoH, ARS, annually, Evaluations (once)	
	Innovative digital platforms and reports in place for risk-informed, evidence-based, gender disaggregated policy making	B: (2020) 1	T: (2025) 4	Reports, biannually	
Strategic Priority 3 (or Pillar): Responsive and effective governance					
National development priorities: ATS: Efficient and Accountable Governance, Rule of Law in Armenia 2019-2023 GPAP Section 3 State Demographic Policy 2009-2035					
Regional frameworks:					
SDGs and SDG targets: 10.2, 10.7, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7					
UPR Recommendations: 153.35-36, 153.40-41, 153.43, 153.52-55, 153.57-58, 163.60.72, 153.73-74, 153.84-93, 153.108, 153.110-113, 153.114-128, 153.236, 153.241-246					
Outcome 6: People benefit from effective and accountable governance systems and institutions that safeguard human rights and uphold	Level of Government effectiveness, transparency, and accountability	B: (2019) Voice and Accountability 40.39	T: (2025) Voice/Accountability 42	Worldwide Governance Indicators	Political stability and continued government’s commitment to governance reforms
		Government Effectiveness 51.44	Government Effectiveness 52.2		
		Control of Corruption 42.79	Control of Corruption 43.2	TICPI- Armenia	
		Open Government Partnership 2021- 2023	Open Government Partnership 2021 2023	OGP Action Plan Implementation report	

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the rule of law; and a public administration that ensures effective and human-centred service delivery for all UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, OHCHR		Action Plan implementation 60%	Action Plan implementation 80%	UPR-2024, IRI biannually, Judicial Reform Strategy Action Plan reporting, annually	
	Rule-of-Law Index	B: (2020) 48.56	T: (2025) 50 (Improvements due to administrative legal digital solutions)	Worldwide Governance Indicators	
	Contributing to SDG 16.6.2 and SDG 16.7.2: Availability of gender-sensitive platforms/tools to measure the proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services (SDG 16.6.2); and who believe decision-making is inclusive (SDG 16.7.2)	B: (2020) ArmStat collects data in health and education sectors	T: (2025) New platforms (3) to collect sex-disaggregated data on services provided		
Output 6.1 Progressively more inclusive, effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent public administration, parliament and electoral institutions UN Agencies: ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC	Level of public trust in elections	B: (2019) 53% Trust in CEC. Fairness 63 percent	T: (2025) 63% trust in CEC Fairness 73%	CEC, IRI, Caucasus Barometer, biannually	
	Level of public trust in Parliament	B: (2019) 33%	T: (2024) 43%	Caucasus Barometer, MAP Project Public Opinion Poll, biennially	

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<p>Output 6.2 Trusted, efficient and effective judiciary and human rights institutions</p> <p>UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, OHCHR</p>	Availability of standalone law on equality	B: (2019) no	T: (2024) yes	Parliament.am	
	Percentage of Human Rights Action Plan 2020-2022 and 2023-2025 recommendations implemented	B: (2020) 5.9% of HRAP recommendations 2020-22 implemented as of 8 Dec 2020	T: (2022) 70% of HRAP 2020-22 recommendations implemented T: (2025) 70% of HRAP 2023-2025 recommendations implemented	UPR, MoJ, HRDO, www.e-rights.am, annually	
	Percentage of girls and boys who are in contact with the justice and administrative bodies who benefit from interventions to improve children's access to justice	B: (2020) 0%	T: (2025) 50%	Government reports, MoJ reports	
<p>Output 6.3 Enhanced awareness, civic engagement, and participation</p> <p>UN Agencies: ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC</p>	Number of digitized/strengthened gender-sensitive governance mechanisms ensuring transparency/accountability, including through citizen engagement, crowdsourcing	B: (2020) 2	T: (2024) 20	Government reports, annually Note: Two mechanisms for baseline cover “e-Request citizens feedback mechanism” and “Datalex”	
	Number of citizen-centred and gender-sensitive scalable innovative solutions introduced aimed at democratic processes	B: (2020) 5	T: (2025) 23	Government reports, annually Note: Five mechanisms for baseline cover “admission to school” tool, “consumer rights public chatbot” tool, “CareerLab” tool, “Quality of life monitoring tool for	

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				Yerevan” and “Hosank-info” monitoring of utility spending tool	
Output 6.4 Migration managed more humanely and orderly with enhanced regional connectivity UN Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNODC	Number of initiatives to promote connectivity and border management	B:(2020): 3	T:(2025) 5	UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports	
Outcome 7: People benefit from evidence-based, human-centric, and SDG-aligned policies supported by diversified sources of financing, innovation, and partnerships for sustainable development for all UN Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UNODC, IFAD	SDG 17.14.1 adapted: Number of gender-sensitive and SDG-aligned policies, frameworks and mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	B: (2020) HRAP 2020-2022 activities, aligned with SDGs	T: (2025) 3, including the adoption of ATS as the national SDG framework, promoting gender equality and LNOB, for enhanced policy coherence of sustainable development	ATS document and results framework VNR, UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports. DAD, DFA	Partnerships, financing mechanisms and evidence are translated into SDG-aligned policies and budgets
	Contributing to SDG 17.3.1: Existence of a gender-sensitive nationally owned measurement and financing framework for public and private spending on SDGs	Not available	Availability of nationally owned gender-sensitive measurement and financing framework for public and private spending on SDGs	Budget Message, MTEF, INFF Roadmap; DAD	
	SDG 17.18.1 adapted: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation (by sex,	49%	97%	ArmStat, annually SDG National Reporting Tool (ArmSDG), annually	

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	geography, etc.) when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics			Social Snapshot Report in Armenia, annually	
<p>Output 7.1 National data capacities are strengthened, and evidence-based policymaking is promoted</p> <p>UN Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNODC</p>	SDG 17.19.2 adapted: Population Census 2021 conducted and at least 10 in-depth analysis and studies are conducted based on Census data with focus on those furthest behind	No	Yes	Armstat Census Report	Innovation in data production and analysis, higher participation and capacities of non-government entities will provide the evidence for SDGs monitoring and target interventions
	Number of innovative, impact-oriented, data-driven tools for policy making	B: (2020) 5	T: (2025) 10	Programme progress reports	
	(SERRP 4.1.) Number of impact assessments in response to the COVID-19 crisis with a focus on at-risk populations	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	(SERRP 4.2.) Number of policies informed by socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
<p>Output 7.2 Private and public mechanisms and partnerships established to support impact-driven innovation ecosystems and</p>	Number of innovative mechanisms/partnerships for 2030 Agenda	B: (2020) 10 mechanisms; 5 partnerships	T: (2025) 20 mechanisms; 10 partnerships	UN Agency Programmatic Progress Reports	Partnerships, innovative solutions and financing frameworks channel more public and private resources for the achievement of SDGs
	Number of gender-sensitive, inclusive and evidence-based Integrated National Financing Frameworks Developed, including Climate Change Financial	(2020) 0	(2025) at least 3 gender-sensitive and inclusive Financing Frameworks developed for the	Climate Change Financial Framework; Human Capital Financial Framework; & Agriculture Financial Framework	

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financing for SDGs in Armenia	Framework; Human Capital Financial Framework; & Agriculture Financial Framework		2022-2024 MTEF process		
UN Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, IFAD					
Standalone outcome on gender equality					
National development priorities: 2019-2023 GPAP Sections 7-8 Gender Equality Strategy: Priority 2. Overcoming gender discrimination in the socio-economic sphere, expanding women's economic opportunities, Priority 5. Prevention of gender discrimination.					
Regional frameworks:					
SDGs and SDG targets: 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 8-5, 16.1					
Outcome 8: All persons benefit from gender equality and equal opportunities to realize their human rights, fulfil their economic, political, and social potential and contribute to the sustainable development of the country UN Agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO,	SDG 5.2.1 adapted: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older reported to be subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	450	1000	MOLSA Reports	Increased GEWE contributes to Armenia's socio-economic development, as it would unleash women's potential allowing all people to fully contribute to the country's progress
	Gender Gap (Score/Rank)	B: (2020) 0.684/98	T: (2025) 0.710/72	Global Gender Gap Index	
	SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, (b) local government, (c) ministries	B: (2020) (a) Parliament - 24% (b) Local Government – 10% (c) Ministries – 24%	T: (2025) (a) Parliament - 30% (b) Local Government – 20% (c) Ministries – 27%	GII, GDI, Gender Global Gap Report and other gender indicators, annually	

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WFP, UNHCR, UNODC, IFAD					
Output 8.1 Protection and prevention from GBV and harmful practices increased	SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, by sex.	B: 68.9%, M: 70.8, F:68.9	20%	DHS, MICS	
UN Agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNODC, IFAD	Contributing to SDG 5.2.1 (SERRP 2.4.) Measures in place to address gender-based violence (GBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic	TBC	TBC	SERRP progress Reports	
	A coordinated multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence in place (including ensuring accessibility of services for persons with disabilities), including in humanitarian settings in partnership with CSOs.	No	Yes	MTAI, MLSA, LGSS, tracked annually. CEDAW committee. Human Rights Defender's reports	
	Number of behaviourally informed campaigns addressing discriminatory gender and sociocultural norms, gender inequalities, GBV and gender-biased sex selection in partnership with CSOs.	17	25	Human Rights Defender's reports, MLSA	

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Output 8.2 Participation of women in decision making at all levels of the executive, legislative, and judicial sectors of governance systems UN Agencies: UNDP, WFP, UNODC, IFAD	<i>Number of gender-responsive legislative acts, monitoring/development programmes, policies, and gender-sensitive practices (Gender Seal) at national/local levels</i>	B: (2020) 5	T: (2025) 30		
Output 8.3 Structural barriers hindering the advancement of women's socio-economic opportunities reduced UN Agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, IFAD	SDG 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	B: (2017) 28.7%	T: (2025) 35%	Gender Equality Brief Armenia, UN Women	
	Contributing to SDG 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent (per week) on three types of unpaid domestic work: household chores; caring for sick, elderly, and disabled family members; and caring for children, by sex.	B: (2020) Women: 58.5 hours weekly Men: 28.4 hours weekly	T: (2025) Women: 50 hours weekly Men: 35 hours weekly	Analysis of the Gender Pay Gap and Gender inequality in the Labour market in Armenia, UN Women, Armstat	
	Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex and Age (%)	B: (2018) Female, 15-24: 31.3% Male, 15-24: 40.2% % Female, 25-54: 57.6% Male, 25-54: 86.5% Female, 55-64: 46.4% Male, 55-64: 70.1% Female, 65+: 20.7%	T: (2025) Female, 15-24: 333 Male, 15-24: 40.2% Female, 25-54: 59.6% Male, 25-54: 86.5% Female, 55-64: 48.4% Male, 55-64: 70.1% Female, 65+: 22.7%	ILO data based on quarterly labour force surveys, Armstat	

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		Male, 65+: 37.7%	Male, 65+: 37.7%		
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Annex 2: SDGs and Selected SDGs Indicators

SDG	SDG Targets
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.2 By 2030, reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance.
	1.5 By 2030, build resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters.
	1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.	2.2 by 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons
	2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, through secure and equal access to land, productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and progressively improve land and soil quality.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
	3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases; combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.
	3.4 by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing.
	3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services; including for family planning information and education; and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
	3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection; access to quality essential health-care services; access to safe, effective, quality; and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
	3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
	4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.
	4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.
	4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.
	4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

	4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
	4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially less developed countries and small island developing states.
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and other types of exploitation.
	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.	7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth; full and productive employment; and decent work for all.	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation; encourage the formalization and growth of Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises, including through access to financial services.
	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
	8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.	9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and integration into value chains and markets.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.
	10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities by paying special attention to air quality and municipal waste management.
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	12.2 By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
	12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.
	13.3 Improve education, and awareness, of human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.
Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children
	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
	16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
	16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.	17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination, and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.
	17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for less developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.
	17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
	17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.
	17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Annex 3: Cooperation Framework Legal Annex

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Armenia and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025.

Whereas the Government of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following relationships:

UNDP	With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and UNDP (the “Standard Basic Assistance Agreement” or “SBAA”) on 8 March 1995. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
UNICEF	With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF in 1998 and ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 26 April 2000, provides the basis of the relationship between the Government and UNICEF.
UNFPA	With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA. This UNSDCF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.
WFP	With the World Food Programme, a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 09 June 2000.
UNIDO	With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Framework Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government, signed and entered into force on 8 March 1995 shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO projects and programmes in Armenia.
FAO	With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Basic Agreement was concluded between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and FAO on 25 October 2017, the Aide-Mémoire was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia and FAO in view of the establishment of a FAO Representative Office in Armenia on 26 November 2003, and the Exchange of Letters between FAO and the Government of the Republic of Armenia was signed respectively on 17 June 2003 and 25 August 2003 concerning the accreditation of the FAO Sub-regional Representative for Eastern and Central Europe, based in Budapest, as FAO Representative to Armenia.

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UNHCR	With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a Co-operation Agreement concluded between the UNHCR and The Government of the Republic of Armenia on 22 November 2004.
IOM	With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the agreement “Cooperation Agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Republic of Armenia” concluded between the Government and IOM on 13 October 1994.
UNAIDS	With the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), the provisions of the SBAA signed by UNDP and Government of Armenia be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNAIDS.
WHO	The Basic Agreement between the World Health Organization and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the establishment of technical advisory cooperation relations concluded on 17 September 1997.
UN WOMEN	With the UN Women, the Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 8 March 1995 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UN Women. Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of UN Women’s governing structures.
UNESCO	With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 8 March 1995 shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNESCO projects and programmes in Armenia.
UNODC	With the United Nations Office for drugs and Crime (UNODC), the relationship between the UNODC and the Governments in the region, including Armenia is governed by the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) signed by the Governments and the UNDP. The SBAA was also accepted as a basis of cooperation between the Governments and the UNODC and shall apply to the assistance provided by UNODC.
For all agencies, including UNECE, UNDRR, UN Habitat, UNCTAD, OHCHR, ILO, IFAD: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures.	

The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the “General Convention”) or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) to the Agencies’ property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the

Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) “Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement”.

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.