

ARMENIA

COUNTRY GENDER

EQUALITY BRIEF



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**UN WOMEN REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEPA	EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement
CoE	Council of Europe
CRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CGEB	Country Gender Equality Brief
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEW	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
GRB	Gender-responsive Budgeting
HDI	Human Development Index
HRW	Human Rights Watch
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
OP	Optional Protocol
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSFs	Open Society Foundations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSDF	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework
UNSR	UN Special Rapporteur
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UN Women's Country Gender Equality Brief (CGEB) provides a snapshot of the status of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Armenia¹, particularly against the gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Framed under Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the CGEB also attempts to summarise how/ if women from marginalized or vulnerable communities may be doubly challenged in the types of discrimination they face. The CGEB closes with a country-specific Matrix of Gender-related SDG Indicators for Armenia.

Developed using a UN Women corporate methodology and template, through a document review only and in consultation with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Armenia, the CGEB reflects current research and current statistics. No primary research or analyses was carried out. Nor does the CGEB attempt to process or interpret raw data.

Findings of Document Review

Armenia ranks 98th of 153 countries in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Report, illustrating important gains in terms of gender equality in recent years, particularly in the area of education. However, challenges remain in the area of health, women's economic empowerment, women's political participation, and women's unpaid, unsupported care work in the home. The prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a pervasive challenge in the country.

At the root of all of the above challenges hindering the full realization of gender equality in Armenia are the gender norms – and subsequent gender stereotypes – which are pervasive in Armenia. These gender norms are perpetuated by families, communities, cultural and political leaders, state policies, education curricula, private sector and media. These norms shape expectations of what it is to be a “good” woman, man, girl and boy, their expectations of each other, their support of each other, and the self-confidence among all to take on non-traditional roles. The impact of these norms – when coupled with other broader social norms around economic standing, family, disability, orientation, ethnicity – are significant. For the LGBTI community, women living with disabilities, women trying to overcome GBV, women from minorities, rural women, and women living with HIV, the negative

impact of a broad range of social norms – including gender – are immense.

Armenia's legislative frameworks in support of ensuring gender equality and advancing women's empowerment is relatively strong. Women's Global SDG Database gives Armenia a scoring of 81.8% for overall legislative frameworks on gender equality and women's empowerment 41.7% for overall legislative frameworks on GBV; 80% for overall legislative frameworks on Employment and Economic empowerment; and 81.8% for overall legislative frameworks on Marriage and Family.ⁱ

While there is no stand-alone law on non-discrimination, the National Constitution prohibits discrimination of any kind, and an important step was taken in 2013 with the adoption of the *Law on Guaranteeing Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men*. Legislative enforcement continues to be a challenge, however, with the Law receiving very little in terms of national budgetary allocations, and the mechanisms tasked with implementing the Law having limited capacity. The recent Prime Ministerial Decree (2019) on the Council Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is an important measure to ensure the Council is given greater authority and greater clarity to its role as a core mechanism to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.ⁱⁱ Further, temporary

¹ UN Women is currently a non-resident agency in Armenia, with programming and partnerships in country led by the UN Women Country Office – Georgia, with support from the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul).

special measures in the Electoral Code have gradually contributed to tackling gender-based discrimination in political life.

Amendments to the *Family Code and Law on Civil Status Acts* in 2013² ensured the same legal age of marriage for both women and men (18 years of age), but allow persons between 16 and 17 years of age to marry if they have permission from their parents or legal guardian. Further, there are no specific penalties in the Code for authorizing or knowingly entering into child or early marriage. There are, however, criminal sanctions in cases involving sexual relations with someone under the age of 16. The Armenian Constitution defines marriage as a union between a woman and a man, with no explicit mention of prohibition of same sex marriage however. In November 2019, an opposition party proposed a draft bill to expressly outlaw same sex marriages in Armenia, but it was turned down by Parliamentⁱⁱⁱ.

Armenia's *Reproductive Health (RH) Law* is relatively strong in support of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHRs). The challenge remains in ensuring rural women, women from ethnic minorities and women living with disabilities affordable access and quality services and rights upheld in the Law. In 2016, the Law on RH was amended with a view to tackling sex-selective abortions, although there is concern by some women's rights activists that the amendments may be misused by conservative-minded health practitioners to "screen" the reasons behind women's request for abortions.

In 2014, Armenia adopted the *Law on Identification and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation*. In 2017, the Government adopted the *Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace in the family* which ensures preventive and protective mechanisms for the victims of Domestic Violence (DV), as well as it guarantees the social assistance. However, the Law's provisions around upholding traditional values and family harmony remains problematic and impact the degree to which the Law can ensure prevention and protection against all forms of GBV. As of 2019, the responsible ministry has put forward proposed amendments which focus in part on these concerns. Of particular importance to tackling GBV is Armenia's signing of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention in 2018.

2 Family Code/Article 10; Civil Code/Article 24.

Women's representation in national parliaments worldwide ranged from 0 to 61.3% (2019), with a global average of 24%, up from 19% in 2010. At the local level, data from 103 countries show that women's representation in elected deliberative bodies varies from less than 1% to close to 50%, with a median of 26%.^{iv} **Women's political leadership in Armenia has followed the global trends. Armenia's current 24% of women in Parliament is the highest the country has seen since the fall of the Soviet Union. From 3.1% in 2000 to 18% in 2018 just prior to the Velvet Revolution, these statistics show a gradual acceptance of the important role women can play in public life. Nonetheless, there is currently only 1 woman Cabinet Minister (MoLSA).**

Within the civil service, women make up 54% of civil servants, and men 46% (2016)^v, and yet 83% of the highest civil service posts were occupied by men as compared to only 17% of those occupied by women (2016)^{vi}. In 2019, this increased to 19% of managerial positions being occupied by women. This statistic folds in civil service and appointment positions, including cabinet and deputy ministers. 70% of the lowest civil service posts are held by women, as compared to 30% of those held by men (2016).^{vii} Women's position in management positions overall in Armenia has increased since 2000, when it was at 21.5%, but peaked in 2010 at 31.7% and as of 2017, is only at 28.7% - and while these figures represent advancement, it is not significant within a nearly 20 year period.^{viii}

At the local level, women's leadership role continues to be limited. As of 2019, there is only one female mayor among 46 urban communities of Armenia^{ix}; and despite the reform of local governance structures in recent years, only 1 of the 52 heads of the consolidated municipalities is a woman;^x and in looking at all communities in the country (502), only eight women are heads of communities overall^{xi}; and only 9.33% of all local municipal councilors are women.^{xii} There are currently no women governors, and only two of the 12 deputy governors are women (2019)^{xiii}.

The above figures show a very mixed degree of change for women in leadership positions. Generally, one can see an increase in women's leadership positions – but when looking at the most senior level positions at all levels (Cabinet, Regional Governors, Mayors, Community Heads), one sees limited advancement. At the national level, the gradual increase of women's engagement in politics nationally is in part due to the

temporary special measures adopted in the Electoral Code. The Velvet Revolution and the increasing social mobilization of a broad ranges of groups advocating for greater social justice has fostered an enabling environment in Armenia, and a greater awareness among political parties of the need (and readiness of voters) for women in politics.

Overall, **however, more women in political life is generally reflective of increased support by political parties in this regard.** Political parties are the greatest enabler and greatest bottleneck to women's engagement in political life, with parties worldwide typically investing significantly more resources – financial support, peer mentoring, media time, public relations support, access to winnable ridings and seats - into young men entering politics instead of young women. While detailed information about women in political parties in Armenia is not readily available, global studies show that women entering and engaging in politics may face high levels of discrimination including sexual harassment from party members; and are often objectified by national media. In Armenia, a 2015 study found that “there is strong resistance to women's participation in political life, evidenced in the formal statements of leaders and politicians, reproduced through media and in daily narrative of the broader society. Cultural and customary discourses are frequently used to justify that the ‘rightful’ place of women is not in politics. Prejudice against political women speaking up in public or seeking political office is very common and prevents women from participating in public life or seeking political office.”^{xiv}

In the private sector, Armenia is in line and/or exceeding the Europe and Central Asia regional averages on women's leadership, but nonetheless, women's participation as business owners and managers remains limited, particularly when compared to their high levels of education. Under a World Bank Survey of 360 firms in Armenia (2013), 25.3% of firms had women participating in the ownership of these firms (as compared to the ECA Regional Average of 32.2%); 14.5% of firms had women with majority ownership (compared to the ECA Regional Average of 13.5%); 19.1% of firms had women as the top managers (as compared to the ECA Regional Average of 18.2%).^{xv} According to national data, of all businesses in Armenia, only 18% of women were employers compared to 82% men (2016).^{xvi}

Women's leadership roles are hindered by the challenges they face in accessing support for their

unpaid care work in the home. Access to quality and affordable child care outside the three main cities remains a challenge, as does accessing necessary support services for the elderly. This is directly as a result to the social norms which continue to prescribe women's role as first and foremost, wives and mothers. In a survey carried out in 2011, 60.4% of men and 39.6% of women surveyed agreed with the statement “women cannot be good managers”^{xvii}, and in 2016, 58.3% of respondents in a recent survey found people believe men are better political leaders than women.^{xviii} Yet also in 2016, respondents to another survey, while believing men make better political leaders, supported women's political participation and activism and quotas guaranteeing women's role in public administration and local governments (63.3%) and in business (65.9%) and recognize women's leadership potential (81.7%).^{xix} These survey results are reflective of the overall challenge women in elected and managerial positions face in Armenia – an increased recognition of women's rights to be in positions of authority, alongside entrenched beliefs of men being more appropriate in leadership roles.

Armenia has **made incredibly important progress in terms of advancing near universal enrollment of both boys and girls in primary education, and to a lesser extent in secondary education.** The greatest age of risk for school dropout – for both boys and girls – is the transition from lower secondary to upper secondary education. Currently the overall enrollment rates for both primary and secondary – for girls and boys – is the lowest it has been since 2009. In primary school enrolment (gross) for 2018, there was full gender parity in terms of enrollment but only 92.7% children were enrolled as compared to 99.06% in 2010.^{xx} In secondary school, 84.8% of girls and 81.73% of boys were enrolled, with an overall enrollment rate of 83.15% (2018) as compared to 104.71% in 2010.^{xxi} In 2018, the total out of school children (primary education level) were 11,426, and of these, 47% were girls and 52.9% were boys^{xxii}. The total out of school rate for adolescents is 14,888, and of this, 41.5% are girls and 58.5% are boys (2018).

There is **limited gender-responsive analysis on education trends available in Armenia as to why – from lower secondary education onwards – girls continue to outperform boys in terms of enrollment and educational attainment.** Due to social norms – including gender norms - boys may be at greater risk of drop out because they are under pressure to “earn

rather than learn” – particularly for boys in the rural areas^{xxxiii}, as there may be a perception that traditional gender roles require this of young men. Social norms may also foster the belief, particularly in the rural areas, that the education being offered does not align with economic opportunities in their region which would be “appropriate” for boys. For many girls in rural households facing economic insecurity, there may be pressure to take on unpaid care work and domestic work in the home, to alleviate the pressures on the adult women in the family, who in turn may be able to go out to work. Equally however, teenage girls in poorer households may also under pressure drop out of school and get a job, as well as face pressures in some instances to marry early. Given the lack of data on the enrollment and performance of girls and boys from ethnic minorities in Armenia, it is hard to know what link – if any – there may be between potential dropout rates and early marriage among certain ethnic minorities.^{xxxiv}

There is **limited sex disaggregated statistics for children living with disabilities**. State figures showed that approximately 18.8% of children with disabilities were reported to be receiving a secondary education (2011).^{xxxv} 70% of children with disabilities went to a regular primary-level school, 12% went to special schools (2011).^{xxxvi} In rural areas, approximately 71% of children with disabilities do not attend kindergarten, and this is as high as 80% in the rural areas.^{xxxvii} Efforts to ensure full human rights of people with disabilities in Armenia have included the commitment towards inclusive education and de-institutionalisation of persons with disabilities as well as the ratification of most major human rights instruments related to the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2018, the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that “special attention be paid to ensuring inclusive education at the pre-school level and to pursue de-institutionalisation equally for children with and without disabilities”.^{xxxviii} Since 2014, the government of Armenia has taken steps toward the de-institutionalisation of education with the amendments to the Law on Education and the Law on Mainstream Education stipulating that by August 1, 2025 the entire Armenian educational system would become fully inclusive. By March 1, 2017, there were 291 inclusive schools in Armenia^{xxxix}. The process is still ongoing and full de-institutionalisation is not yet complete as of 2019.

In 2018, **tertiary school enrollment (gross)** was at 54.57%, the highest since 2009, with 62.65% of those enrolled being women, as compared to 41.12% which were men.^{xxx} Since 2005, the proportion of women tertiary graduates have fluctuated around the 61% mark, without any significant increase or decrease.^{xxxi} 39.8% of all graduates are women in STEM-related tertiary-level programmes (2018)^{xxxii}. 64.5% of Masters graduates were women as compared to 35.5% being men. (2016)^{xxxiii} The top three areas of study at the tertiary level for women in Armenia are philological sciences, then social work, followed by journalism; while for men it is agricultural sciences, engineering and architecture and construction (2016).^{xxxiv}

When looking at prime working age (24-52), women’s labour force participation rates (LFPR) remains a challenge, at 62.4% as compared to men’s 86.1% (July 2019)^{xxxv} and when looking at marital status, with 67.8% of married men compared to 46.3% of married women being employed (2017).^{xxxvi} Industry (manufacturing, services, retail, for example) is the main sector of employment, with women’s engagement at 55% and men’s engagement at 46% (2017).^{xxxvii} In general after the agricultural sector, women tend to be more engaged in education (17.7%), wholesale and retail trade (10.8%), and human health and social work (8%) (2017).^{xxxviii} Interesting to note that women’s engagement in the IT sector is growing, with 37% of the IT sector being made up of women in 2018-2019, placing Armenia among some of the top countries in the world for women’s engagement in the IT sector.^{xxxix} In 2019, 59.0% of all international migrants were women.^{xl}

In Armenia, **the second largest labour sector is agriculture, with women’s engagement at 37% and men’s engagement at 31% (2017).**^{xli} In 2017, Armenia had a 44.5% informal employment rate with 98.5% in the agricultural sector of which 99.1% were women and 97.7% men, of which 99.9% were women non-employed (earning no wages) while 68.8% were employed.^{xlii} Despite the large numbers of women working Agriculture formally and informally, only 16% of women in Armenia own land compared to 35% of men (2015-2016), which is down from 39% of women in 2010. Among women who own land, 32% do so in rural areas compared to 5% in urban areas. 26% of women aged 45-49 own land compared to 10% of women aged 15-19.^{xliii} The Constitution, the Civil Code, and law governing rights in family and marriage

ensure equal property and equal inheritance rights to both women and men. The challenge is in practice, where women rarely exercise these rights. This may in part be due to unequal registration of land ownership, particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent land privatization process in the late 1990s. At that time, land was divided among households, with ownership awarded to the men as “heads of the household”. Only in the absence of men as heads of household, were women granted land titles at that time.^{xiv} Unequal inheritance practices also contribute to women’s low rates of land ownership. In practice, social norms in Armenia perceive men as the “rightful” inheritors of land, as they are often the ones expected to remain in the household, while women marry and join their husband’s household. Further, many women throughout Armenia have limited knowledge about their rights to own land, particularly among rural women.^{xv}

According to the official data, differences in **nominal wages between men and women decreased by 8.3% since 2008. Nonetheless, the gender pay gap stands at 32.5%**, with women’s earnings amounting to 67.5% of men’s in 2017.^{xvi} In 2018, Armenia’s gross national income per capita for men was US\$12,581 as compared to only US\$6,342 for women – a little over 50% less than what men earn.^{xvii}

More nationally specific analysis is needed, but if the global realities may be applied to the Armenian context, the challenges to women’s economic security may in large part be due to the gender norms which may result in girls being streamed into traditional education and subsequent labour sectors which may often be non-competitive or undervalued sectors, particularly in the small towns and rural areas of Armenia which may have fewer economic opportunities than urban areas. The assumption by society – including employers and decision-makers in government – that women’s primary “job” is to take care of the family also impacts young women’s employment opportunities. In a survey of 3,200 households, 85 per cent of respondents agreed with the statement that “a man should normally be the breadwinner” (2015).^{xviii} According to the OECD Social Institutions and Gender 54% of the adult population of Armenia believe that “children will suffer if mothers are working outside home for pay” and 12% of the population declare “that it is not acceptable for a woman in their family to work outside home for pay”^{xlix}.

These perceptions in part have resulted in limited state-led investments to provide affordable, inclusive, and quality day care and pre-primary programmes. In 2019, only 33.6% of girls and 31.7% of boys were enrolled in pre-primaryⁱ, and in the rural areas only 17% of children are enrolled in pre-primary as compared to 35.6% of children in urban areas (2016).ⁱⁱ Studies show that there are approximately “300 rural communities, especially the remote and smaller ones with less than 500 people” lacking access to any early childhood education services.ⁱⁱⁱ Further, and given the aging nature of Armenia’s population, there remains limited investment in elderly care support programmes.

Once in the workplace, many companies, including the State, do not actively advance family-friendly policies such as breast feeding policies, paternity leave, flexible workhours to compensate for family illness – a practice which has proven globally to actually advance productivity rather than reduce – or workplace-supported creches. Discriminatory workplace practices which hinder young women’s advancing in particular, as well as sexual harassment and bullying, are not well documented and thus it is hard to measure the impact of these realities.

As the primary provider of unpaid care work in the home, these above realities have a direct impact on women’s ability to work outside of the home and engage in public or political life. **Women in Armenia therefore spend 33% of their time in gainful employment compared to 60% of men; spend upwards to 21.7% of their time on unpaid domestic care work in the home, and approximately six times more time on child care activities than men.**^{liii}

Women’s **overall fertility rate in the country has remained relatively unchanged in recent years, and is currently at 1.576 children per 1,000 women of fertile age (2017). This is significantly lower than the 2.150 fertility rate needed for simple reproduction of population (2018).**^{liiv} The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) for Armenia remains high when compared to the overall socio-economic development of the country – 19.8/100,000 as of 2018^{lv}, compared to 40.0/100,000 in 2000^{lvi}. The rate has fluctuated considerably within that 15 year period. The Government of Armenia’s introduction five years ago of a separate budget line for the free distribution of modern contraceptives, as well as financial support for women in need to access obstetrics care were important measures in tackling the MRR, as was the creation of new medical centres.

Overall however, the Government's total allocation to health care remains low in comparison to its overall GDP. In 2020, the government of Armenia has budgeted approximately \$226 million healthcare of the total \$3.8 billion state budget, an increase of 21% since 2019. But this amount is still quite small when compared to the budget for social protection, defence and economic trade relations.^{lvii} Subsequently, rural women continue to face greater challenges in both understanding their SRHRs and accessing the needed support in the use of modern contraceptives.^{lviii} As the CEDAW Committee has concluded, it is essential to strengthen access to both basic health care as well as SRH care for rural women, women from ethnic minorities and women living with disabilities.^{lix}

44% of women residing in urban areas and 30.3% of women residing in rural areas visited a health facility in 2015-2016. ^{lx} **Women's rate of visits to primary health care was 1.4 times higher than that of men within that same time period.**^{lxi} In 2016, 17.2% of the population overall did not seek care because it was unaffordable.^{lxii} A survey conducted in 2009 found that 69% of respondents, especially rural youth (80%) had never applied to any health facility for SRHR-related services. The attendance to health facilities increased, however, with the age of respondents. Although majority of 14-19 years old adolescents (89%) never applied to any SRH facility, more than one half of 20-24 years old young people (54.5% of females and 52% of males) applied for various SRHR-related services.^{lxiii}

In terms of women's empowerment and a real and lived equality, **women's legal rights, access, voice and decision-making authority over reproductive health and sexual rights is central. Globally, only 57% of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in union make their own decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and reproductive health services**^{lxiv}. Armenia is performing well above the global average, with 66.9%, of women making these decisions on their own, reflecting approximately a two point percentage increase from 2010.^{lxv} 57.1% of women of reproductive age (15-49) use contraceptives (2017).^{lxvi} However, only 36.9% of women (ages 15-49) have their family planning satisfied with modern methods.^{lxvii} Withdrawal is the most widely known traditional method (94%) among currently married women.^{lxviii} Knowledge of contraception is widespread in Armenia, with 97% of women and 99% percent of

men having heard of at least one method. More than nine out of every ten married women have heard about the male condom, the IUD, and the pill. However, only about two-third of married women are aware of female sterilization and less than half have heard about injectables and emergency contraception. Awareness of male sterilization (37 %) and implants (24%) is substantially lower (2015-2016).^{lxix} Attitudes about sexuality continue to remain discriminatory toward women as was revealed in survey findings with 85.9% of respondents agreed (including 75.0% of those who strongly agree) with the statement that a woman should remain a virgin until marriage (2016).^{lxx}

The WEF's Sub-index on Health and Survival ranks Armenia 148th of 153 countries in 2019, due in large part to Armenia having one of the worst female-to-male sex ratios at birth worldwide at 111 males for every 100 females, as compared to the naturally occurring 105:100. The reason for this ratio is sex-selective abortion and son biased fertility stopping^{lxxi} which is also be referred to as gender-biased sex selection. UNFPA estimates that if sex-selective abortion continues in Armenia, the country could be 'missing' 93,000 unborn girls by 2060.^{lxxii} Data shows that the sex-ratio at birth becomes more skewed in families who already have girls, with ratios as high as 173:100 observed for third births where families already have two girls.^{lxxiii} Early findings from an emerging UNICEF's study show that some parents in Yerevan may prefer girls, but only if they have two boys already. In one study respondents providing reasons for son-biased selection in fertility refer to the male as the "breadwinner" and the one who will be able to provide for the parents later on in life, whereas the daughter "will be economically dependent on her husband's decisions and means, and who may choose to help and support his own parents"^{lxxiv}.

"The world is rapidly changing. Families, and the role of women and girls within them, are also changing. Today, there is no 'standard' family form, nor has there ever been. In order for laws and policies to support families and meet the needs of all their members, they must evolve and adapt."^{lxxv} As UN Women's Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020 outlines, understanding the challenges and opportunities women face in realizing their full potential is intertwined with the resilience, vulnerability, type and overall status of both their families and their households.

In **Armenia, extended households are common,**

but this does not necessarily translate into large households. According to the 2011 Census, 21.3% of all households were made up of 4 persons; 15.1% of households made up of 3 persons; 11.5% of households made up of 5 persons, and only approximately 3.4% of households were comprised of 8 persons or more. However, 1 person households are also increasingly common, comprising 12.2% of all households in 2011 (Census), as compared to 1% in 2007.^{lxxvi} As of 2018, 65.7% of all household types in Armenia were headed by men, as compared to 34.3% of households which are headed by women (2018).^{lxxvii} Households are aging alongside the aging population. 10.3% of the population is currently 65 and older, which would classify Armenia's population as aging according to the demographic ageing scale set by the UN (2018).^{lxxviii} Women continue to live considerably longer than men in Armenia, with a 7.2 year gap between the genders in terms of life expectancy.^{lxxix}

What do these above figures tell us about households from a gender perspective? Conclusions are challenging to draw in the absence of a comprehensive, gendered understanding of household structures, types and needs in Armenia. UN Women and Armstat plan to carry out a Time Use Survey in 2020, which will contribute to understanding the situation considerably. What is known in Armenia, however, is that women-headed households tend to be larger than those of men, with more persons outside the workforce (children and elderly).

Latest poverty figures in Armenia tell us that 28% of women headed households are poor, as compared to 22% of men's headed households; and women-headed households were 30% of the total poor population of Armenia (2018)^{lxxx} Further, as the gender wage gap for Armenia (above) illustrates, women earn less than men overall. In thinking about household poverty, however, it is important to note that comprehensive gender-responsive understanding of the degree to which women "headed" households are more vulnerable to poverty and less resilience to natural and economic shocks is lacking in Armenia. Globally, UN Women's preference is to move away from measures of "male" and "female" headed households because the meaning of the term is ambiguous. For some, a female head is only possible when the male partner is missing from the household, while others may equate headship with being the main income earner or main decisionmaker. Further, in household surveys,

both the enumerators and respondents understand the terms to mean different things. Disaggregation by 'headship' is thus neither precise nor very revealing and may reinforce stereotypes about female-headed households being the poorest of the poor. Thus the findings for Armenia require further analysis in terms of what makes that household "vulnerable" - the education level of the household "head", the size and average age of the household, the location of the household, the ownership and type of dwelling of the household, are factors which all play significant - if not more important - roles in determining vulnerability than the gender of the household head.

The lack of social services and social protection support is a persistent challenge to women achieving full gender equality in the country. In households "headed" by women who have many children and/or older persons requiring care, this is a stark gap in their overall safety net - and for rural women or women living with disabilities, even more so. Continued lack of social protection to families living in poverty is resulting in what is known as "social orphans" in Armenia, whereby families place children into institutions simply because parents lack the financial means to take care of them. "Placing children, including children with disabilities, in institutions renders them vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and sale for adoption, in particular when institutions lack monitoring mechanisms and trained personnel to identify such cases".^{lxxxii}

In Armenia, among **ever married women age 15-49, 14% report having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their partner, and 8% report experiencing such violence in the past 12 months (2015-2016)**^{lxxxiii}. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2015-2016) found that 10% of women surveyed and 23% of men in Armenia agreed that wife beating was justified in certain situations with acceptance of wife beating reaching levels as high as 40-41% in some rural regions (2016)^{lxxxiii}. Survey findings from a study conducted by UNFPA in the same year found that 35.7% of respondents agreed that a woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together (44.6% of male respondents and 27.8% of female respondents) (2016).^{lxxxiv}

Globally, what we know is that women's lack of representation in governance processes results in a lack of influence to shape the biases which the governance systems may perpetuate, including those

parts of government tasked with preventing and responding to GBV, including the Police, the Judiciary, social services and beyond. Globally, too often GBV is not treated as a violent crime, but rather a civil matter within the home. Measures as contained in the Istanbul Convention to criminalise all forms of GBV – including DV – have not yet been adopted in Armenia or the region as a whole. In 2017, a new law on violence in the home has entered into force. However, as mentioned above, the Law has been heavily criticised by the women’s movement as it seeks to strengthen “traditional values” and “restoring family harmony”, as key principles of the law.^{lxxxv} With the adoption of the Istanbul Convention in 2018, national conservative groups in Armenia are increasingly pushing back, claiming that the convention aims to destroy “traditional family values” and introduce a “third sex”.^{lxxxvi}

Throughout Armenia, and particularly outside of Yerevan, survivors of GBV have limited knowledge of their rights under the laws, and of the services and state-support provided. Non-governmental organisations have been the primary providers of support services to survivors of GBV. In 2018, six support centres were identified/established for survivors of DV which are meant to provide information, necessary psychological and legal counselling and other social services to victims of domestic violence, which are free of charge, which decide on placement of persons and their dependents subjected to domestic violence in shelters upon their consent, monitor the root causes and scope of GBV, as well as support services for the rehabilitation of the perpetrators of violence. The support centres are also meant to liaise with the Police departments over specific GBV cases, and support survivors’ search of jobs. Three of these centres are in Yerevan, and the remaining three are located in Shirak, Lori and Syunik Marzes^{lxxxvii}.

Societies often judge rather than support women who attempt to leave DV situations; there is limited trust in the police that they will treat the cases confidentially and professionally; limited knowledge of the rights of women in cases of DV; limited access to resources to cover the cost of a lawyer, and in the rural areas, limited lawyers to represent survivors who seek justice. In the health sector, there are often instances of discriminatory and judgmental treatment by health care and social work professionals towards persons who have experienced sexual violence in particular.

In terms of harmful practices such as Child and force marriage as well as early unions, the data in Armenia is limited. As indicated above, legislation has improved and the legal age of marriage for both girls and boys is now at 18 years of age. However, the CEDAW Committee has raised concerns over the clause in the Family Code which allows waivers of the legal age of marriage for cultural, ethnic or other considerations. Some data indicates that early marriage rates have decreased over the years, but it remains a difficult phenomena to monitor. There is anecdotal evidence that among the Yezidi community, where rates of unregistered marriages are higher, the rate of child and forced marriage may be an issue. It is believed that some Yezidi girls may marry at 13- 14 years of age; a girl who does not marry until 17 is considered ‘late and not worthy of respect’, according to a focus group conducted by the UNFPA in 2014.^{lxxxviii}

Data Limitations and Future Considerations

In Armenia, while there has been important improvements in terms of overall socio-economic statistical analysis being generated nationally, there is limited statistics or analyses produced on the socio-economic realities of marginalized groups, such as women from ethnic minorities, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and AIDS, and rural women, to name a few.

Monitoring of the status of gender equality and women’s empowerment in Armenia would greatly benefit from:

- The planned Armstat/UN Women Time Use Survey (2020), which will significantly enrich understanding of not only the needs of households in Armenia, but also the support required to strengthen women’s economic security and leadership in the community.
- Conducting a new survey on the Prevalence of GBV in the country, using the WHO global methodologies, ethics and principles;
- Developing nation-wide, inclusive analysis of why both girls’ and boys’ educational attainment of primary and secondary levels of education is declining, and what are the gender-dimensions of this decline.

- Conducting gender-responsive national research on the root causes of poverty;
- Conducting Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Surveys, ensuring to include equal parts women and men, girls and boys, on Gender Equality, Women's empowerment, women's leadership, and the role of men in ending discriminatory practices;
- Institute national level gender-responsive budgeting systems and monitoring therein to assess annual investments towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the impact of these investments;

Purpose and Methodology

Purpose and Scope

UN Women's Country Gender Equality Brief (CGEB) **provides a snapshot of the status of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Armenia**³, particularly against the gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In partnership with the broader UN System, UN Women has significantly increased investment world-wide in not only understanding the overall situation of women and girls in each country, but also in supporting the identification of key statistical gaps at the national level which impede national stakeholders' understanding of the gains, gaps and challenges in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW).

To this end, the CGEB for Armenia provides an **overview of national and international commitments to GEEW and key statistics in the areas of population demographics, health, education, leadership, labour and economic empowerment, poverty reduction and ending all forms of GBV**.

Framed under Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the CGEB also attempts to summarise how/if women from marginalized or vulnerable communities may be doubly challenged in the types of discrimination they face. The CGEB closes with a country-specific Matrix of Gender-related SDG Indicators for Armenia.

3 UN Women is currently a non-resident agency in Armenia, with programming and partnerships in country led by the UN Women Country Office in Georgia.

Indicators:

As per a corporate template, the CGEB Indicators were selected by UN Women **as core indicators to measure the drivers, progress, gaps and challenges to GEEW in a country. The CGEB Tables include all gender-related indicators of the SDGs⁴ and are grounded in the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)**. The CGEB indicators were shared with the UN Country Team to ensure relevance, and to modify terminology if required for national context.

The production of CGEBs is a relatively new process within UN Women world-wide, and as the Briefs evolve, and as data analysis grows worldwide, the Indicators included in the CGEBs will be expanded and/or modified as required.

Methodology

As per the UN Women Corporate Guidelines on the development of Country Gender Equality Profiles and Briefs⁵, the CGEB for Armenia:

- Follows a corporately prescribed template, which includes all relevant gender-related SDG indicators, and was developed in consultation with UN Women research and data experts in the ECA region and at Headquarters;
- Was developed through a desk-top document review of existing national and international data, with priority given to national data generated in the last five years, ideally.
- As only a statistical summary drawing on existing analysis and sources, the CGEB is a UN Women-owned knowledge product to be used primarily to provide the UN in Armenia with a quick and ready resource of the overall status of GEEW. Consultations and engagement of national stakeholders was not required, given that the document is focused primarily on provision of data to measure key GEEW indicators, and not in providing an overall qualitative analysis.
- Was developed in consultation with the UNCT's

4 There are 53 gender-related indicators under the SDG. In the case of ECA, the SDG Indicator on female genital cutting/mutilation was not included. Thus only 52 gender-related SDG Indicators were included in this CGEB.

5 UN Women Headquarters – Research and Data. (2018) UN Women Guidelines for Country Gender Equality Profiles. 2018 Version.

Gender Theme Group, which advised on the types of global indicators in the UN Women corporate CGEB template most relevant to Armenia's context; the data sources to be used; and provided substantive inputs into the drafting of the CGEB;

- Was researched and drafted by a two-person consultancy team – a national expert based in Armenia working alongside an international expert supporting CGEBs in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region;
- Underwent a quality control process, whereby UN Women, key UN experts, and UNCT vetted the CGEB methodology, templates and drafts. As part of the quality control process, the international and national consultant, UN Women Georgia and the UNCT for Armenia reviewed the document for the purposes of fact checking, with the consultancy team being ultimately responsible for ensuring the data used is referenced correctly.

Document Review: The CGEB document review included reviewing: relevant national legal and regulatory frameworks as well as national action plans; Reports generated by Government, Civil Society and international organisations on sustainable development, national growth and the status of GEEW in Armenia; national reports⁶ and Concluding Observations emerging from relevant State/International Treaty body dialogues; Voluntary National Reviews on the SDGs; and National Reviews of Beijing +25 . Both Armenian and English language documents were reviewed.

Data sources: Preference was given to national data where possible and where credible, coming from official statistical sources in Armenia including, but not limited to: Population and Census Surveys, Labour Force Surveys, Living Standards Measurement Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Reproductive Health Surveys, Prevalence Surveys on Violence Against Women, Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys, Perception Surveys to name a few. Where no national data was available, regional and global data sets and analyses were used.

Limitations

The CGEBs are developed through document review only. The CGEB methodology does not allow for processing raw data and independently arriving at statistics to measure the indicators selected. Rather, and based on

a document review, the CGEB captures current research and current statistics.

In Armenia, the national statistical body – Armstat – has generated significant amounts of sex-disaggregated statistics on the overall socio-economic situation in the country. Despite significant levels of raw data available, there is limited statistics or analysis produced on the socio-economic development of groups who are often marginalized, such as women from ethnic minorities, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and AIDS, and rural women, to name a few.

⁶ Including alternative/shadow reports to treaty bodies.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

A land-locked country with two of its four borders closed due to political tensions and unresolved conflict, Armenia is a lower-middle-income country with a population of 2.95 million. Despite recent political upheaval, Armenia's overall economic growth has seen a steady improvement. In 2018, the overall national gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.2%, an outcome "above Armenia's historical average growth rate of about 2.5% during the past decade"^{lxxxix}, and the per capita GDP reached US\$4,187 (2018).^{xc} The country's economy remains heavily reliant on the extractive industries and agriculture growth and production.

Armenia ranked 81st of 189 countries in UNDP's latest Global Human Development Index (HDI 2019), which is below the regional average for both Europe and Central Asia (ECA). Unemployment in Armenia remains relatively stable, albeit high at 17.8% (2017),^{xcii} and approximately 25% of those living under the poverty line have some form of employment.^{xciii} Armenia continues to have a large proportion of its population working in the informal and usually unprotected sectors, including agriculture. Armenia's servicing of its growing national debt, a continued strong investment in the military, high unemployment and overall limited investment into building a strong social protection floor have contributed to growing inequalities. In 2017, inequality levels increased by almost one percent compared to 2016, with a GINI coefficient of 33.6% in 2017^{xciii}. The poverty rate, while gradually declining, remains high – at 23.5% in 2018 compared to 25.7% in 2017 and 27.6% in 2008^{xciv}. In 2017, one in four persons was living on US\$3.3 per capita per day.^{xcv} Understanding inequalities requires a deeper understanding of the intersecting natures of discrimination in Armenia. Outside of Yerevan, smaller towns face limited economic opportunities, and rural areas face limited access to both formal employment and at times key services such as accessible, quality health care. Armenia is a largely homogenous country – approximately 98% of the population are ethnic Armenians - and its legislation does not allow for any discrimination based on gender or ethnicity. Nonetheless, the main ethnic minorities in the country - Yazidi, Russians, Assyrians, Kurds and Jews – continue to have limited representation in Government bodies. Through recent constitutional reforms and temporary special measures, four representatives of the main

ethnic minorities have been elected to the National Assembly.^{xcvi} Refugees, and asylum-seekers, especially those of non-Armenian ethnicity, face increasing challenges in terms of accessing needed socio-economic support, social integration with host communities.

Operating under a new Parliamentary Republic structure adopted in 2015, and with the impact of the Velvet Revolution of 2018 still being felt, there are increasing expectations of improved government transparency. There is a gradual fostering of greater trust among citizens in the governance processes at all levels. A number of constitutional and legislative measures have supported this improved trust, including a package of bills adopted by the Parliament in recent years which have made the "buying and selling of votes a criminal offense punishable by up to six years' imprisonment".^{xcvii} Measures taken by the newly elected authorities are creating an improved environment for ending impunity and corruption as well as opening space for public dialogue, particularly from dissenting and marginalised voices who at times in recent history had faced state-sanctioned intimidation. Juxtaposed to this increased sense of inclusion is the increased voice of far-right groups with conservative views on inclusion and equality.^{xcviii}

Armenia has made considerable progress in the areas of child and maternal health, the fight against HIV and AIDs. Nonetheless, the high rates of poverty, the disparate availability of quality services in the rural areas, the need for greater food security among poorer populations, improving equal and equitable access to quality education for all populations including children living with disabilities, and the need for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women remain real challenges to the country's overall development.^{xcix}

SUMMARY OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

This section monitors SDG Indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex: In terms of measuring overall percentage of achievement of this indicator, UN Women's Global SDG Database gives Armenia a scoring of 81.8% for overall legislative frameworks on GEEW; 41.7% for overall legislative frameworks on GBV; 80% for overall legislative frameworks on Employment and Economic empowerment; and 81.8% for overall legislative frameworks on Marriage and Family.^c

International Treaties and Commitments relevant to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

- In 1992, Armenia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and signed its Optional Protocol (OP) in 2005;
- In 1993, Armenia acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and ratified its OP (including inquiry procedure) in 2006;
- In 1993, Armenia has been party to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
- Since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, Armenia's Government and Women's Movement continue to be politically active in engaging around national, regional and global dialogue on the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), including the Government recently prepared its National Review of Beijing +25 in 2019;

- Armenia participated in the 1994 **International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** and its subsequent global reviews, including most recently participating in the UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD+25 (2018);
- In January 2001, Armenia became the 42nd member state of the CoE;
- In 2007, Armenia signed, and then in 2010 formally confirmed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- In 2013, Armenia ratified the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- In 2017, the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed, committing Armenia to "equal opportunities and antidiscrimination, aiming at enhancing gender equality and ensuring equal opportunities between women and men, as well as combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation".^{ci}
- In January 2018, Armenia signed the Council of Europe's "Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", also known as the Istanbul Convention. Armenia placed reservations against articles 30/para 2 on Compensation by the state; 55/1 on ex parte and ex officio proceedings/not requiring the victim to file and/or requiring the state to continue the prosecution process; Article 58 on statutes of limitations; and Article 59 regarding the upholding of residency status;

Additionally, in May 2006, Armenia issued a standing

invitation to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. Subsequently, a number of UN Special Rapporteurs have had formal visits to Armenia.

National Constitution and Laws which are significant to advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

• **Equality and Non-Discrimination:**

- The *National Constitution* enshrines the principle of equality between sexes (Article 86); upholds women's equal rights to men to enter into marriage (Article 35); and with amendments made in 2015, the new Constitution, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion, world view, political or other views, belonging to a national minority, property status, birth, disability, age and other personal or social circumstances (Article 29), and ensures legal equality between men and women (Article 30).^{cii}
- In June 2013, the *Law on Guaranteeing Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men* came into force. This law is the guiding policy of the government as it pertains to gender equality. The mechanisms and bodies tasked with implementing this law have faced challenges of technical capacities and limited national budgetary allocations;⁷
- Despite the above legislative frameworks, as per Armenia's most recent Universal Periodic Review (UPR 2016) before the UN's Human Rights Council, a key legislative gap in upholding the commitments made under the CEDAW is Armenia's continued lack of a stand-alone non-discrimination law. As per the CEDAW Committee's most recent Concluding Observations (COs), such a law would need to include a "broad definition of discrimination against women, covering direct and indirect

⁷ It is interesting to note that when the law was being developed, socially conservative factions in government and society objected to the use of the term "Gender Equality" in the title of the Law, as many feel that it is a foreign concept which contravenes Armenian culture.

discrimination by both State and non-state actors and encompassing intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention and previous concluding observations".^{ciii} In 2019, a draft non-discrimination law was put forward by the Armenian National Assembly, with some space put forward by Government for public dialogue with civil society organisations (CSOs).^{civ}

• **Rights in the Family and Marriage:**

- Armenian law, including its Civil Code, grants equal property rights to both women and men, but in practice women rarely exercise these rights. Unequal inheritance and land ownership/registration practices continue (see below);
- The National Constitution enshrines the right to free choice and consent in marriage, although there is no specific legislation dealing with forced marriage.
- Amendments to the Family Code and Law on Civil Status Acts in 2013⁸ ensured the same legal age of marriage for both women and men (18 years of age), and in accordance with the CRC. These laws however allow for someone between 16 and 17 years of age to marry if they have permission from their parents or legal guardian. There are no specific penalties for authorizing or knowingly entering into child or early marriage. There are, however, criminal sanctions in cases involving sexual relations with someone under the age of 16.
- According to Article 1 of the Family Code, only marriages registered in the Civic Status Registration Department are legally recognized. Religious marriages which do not include a civil marriage license are unrecognized. However, the law does not regulate informal or de-facto unions.^{cv} The CEDAW's COs (2016) for Armenia noted with concern that women in de facto unions and the children resulting from such unions are left without any form of legal protection regarding economic matters upon the termination of such a union.^{cvi}

⁸ Family Code/Article 10; Civil Code/Article 24.

- The Armenian Constitution defines marriage as a union between a woman and a man, but there is no explicit mention of prohibition of same sex marriage in the Family Code. In November 2019, an opposition party proposed a draft bill to expressly outlaw same sex marriages in Armenia, but it was turned down by Parliament^{cvi}
 - In terms of prevalence of early marriage, there is very little data available, and it is assumed by many to be a rare phenomenon in the country. Some indications show that among the Yezidi population, there may be discriminatory practices resulting in early and forced marriages.^{cvi}
- **Land Rights: [Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex. (SDG Indicator 1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.1.2)]**
 - National Constitution, the Civil Code, and law governing rights in family and marriage ensure equal property and equal inheritance rights to both women and men.
 - The challenge is in practice, where women rarely exercise these rights. This may in part be due to unequal registration of land ownership, particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent land privatization process in the late 1990s. At that time, land was divided among households, with ownership awarded to the men as “heads of the household”. Only in the absence of men as heads of household, were women granted land titles at that time.^{cix}
 - Unequal inheritance practices also contribute to women’s low rates of land ownership. In practice, social norms in Armenia perceive men as the “rightful” inheritors of land, as they are often the ones expected to remain in the household, while women marry and join their husband’s household. Further, many women throughout Armenia have limited knowledge about their rights to own land, particularly among rural women.^{cx}
 - **Women’s Leadership:**
 - An amendment to the Electoral Code in 2016 increased the minimum quota for women’s representation to 25% for the 2017 elections and to 30% for subsequent national elections.^{cx}
 - In the proportional list system of the national elections, 30% of all candidates nominated by parties must be the under-represented gender, and are to be every third name on the list (Article 83 of Electoral Code).
 - **Legislation on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SDG Indicator 5.6.2):**
 - It is the duty of the Central Electoral Commission to ensure that the temporary special measures are met and to reject the registration of the electoral list of a political party, or an alliance of political parties, if the electoral list does not meet the requirements defined by Article 108 of the electoral code.
 - These temporary special measures do not, however, actually ensure women’s participation in the National Assembly or the Council of Elders in the event that a party wins, as the 30% refers only to the proportional lists (“voter lists”) and not to the actual number of elected deputies.
 - In addition, there is a 25% quota guiding the allocation of mandates to Members of Parliament (MPs), which are sometimes refused by the women MPs.
 - In 2002, the Law on Person’s Reproductive Health and Rights was adopted. sexual and reproductive health education of adolescents (Article 5).^{cxii} Article 10 of the Law allows for abortions up to 12 weeks without any restrictions, and between 12 and 22 weeks for health and social reasons.
 - Armenia’s legislation is relatively strong in support of women’s SRHRs. The challenge remains in ensuring rural women, women from ethnic minorities and women living with disabilities access the services and rights upheld in the Law.
 - In 2016, the Law on RH was amended with a view to tackling sex-selective abortions. Specifically, the Law now prohibits sex selective abortions, and thus requires compulsory questioning of women requesting abortions between weeks 12 and 22, when sex selection abortions may happen. There is concern among many women’s rights activists that this amendment may be misused by conservative-minded doctors, and/or may lead to corruption thereby allowing for the continuation of sex selection abortions.

- **GBV, Human Trafficking and Exploitation:**

- In 2014, Armenia adopted the Law on Identification and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation.
- In December 2014, Armenia adopted the Law on Social Assistance, which includes rights of survivors of DV to access social assistance, and in particular ensuring they can access shelters and support so as to leave a violent situation.
- In 2017, the Government adopted the Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace in the family which ensures preventive and protective mechanisms for the survivors of DV, as well as guaranteeing social assistance if required. For many in the women's movement, the Law's provisions around upholding traditional values and family harmony remain problematic and impact the degree to which the Law can ensure prevention and protection against all forms of GBV.
- In 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Social Assistance (MoLSA) put forward proposed amendments to the Law, including addressing the limited definition of DV in the existing law, by including, for example, "controlling behavior" as part of the definition; to increase protection mechanisms for the survivor wherever possible; and to challenge the protection of the accused perpetrator in the name of "family reconciliation". Furthermore, the amendments seek to recognize the role CSOs play in supporting DV survivors, along-side the recognized state organisations.
- In addition to a new Action Plan on ending GBV (see below), the Government has also adopted a series of Decrees/Acts to support implementation of the Law:
 - "Defining the Sample Contracts for Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence",
 - "Requirements to the Shelters and Personnel there for Victims of Violence";
 - "Defining the Procedure of Centralized Registration of Domestic Violence Cases;
 - "Defining the Procedure of Disposal of Temporary Assistance Account of Victims of Domestic Violence";

- "Defining the Procedures of Formation and Functions of the Council on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Armenia";
- "Approving the Composition of the Council on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Armenia."

National Policies, Programmes and Action Plans:

- **Gender Equality:**

- In 2010 the Government of Armenia adopted the Gender Policy Concept Paper, a policy which aims to facilitate gender mainstreaming in all spheres of socio-political and socio-economic life. Under this, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) was mandated to oversee the government's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- In 2011, the Government adopted the Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan for 2011-2015. After its completion there was a gap in proposing a new action plan. In May 2019, the new Gender Strategy Action Plan for 2019-2023 was adopted. The priorities of the new action plan are to improve the national mechanisms for advancing gender equality; achieve equal participation of women and men in management and decision-making; to overcome gender discrimination in the social and economic areas and achieve women's economic empowerment; full participation of women and men and promotion of equal opportunities in education and science; expanding equal opportunities for men and women in the health sector; and preventing gender discrimination overall.

- **Human Rights:**

- In 2014, the Government of Armenia adopted its first National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for 2014-2016, and a renewed Action Plan was adopted for 2017-2019. As of the drafting of the CGEB for Armenia, a draft 2020-2022 National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and is to go for approval in November 2019.

- ***GBV and Human Trafficking and Exploitation:***

- In 2011, the Government adopted the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence for 2011-2015. A new National Action Plan is now being drafted.
- Armenia has had five national anti-trafficking programmes implemented over the last twenty years, with the last one spanning 2016-2018. The new programme for 2019-2021 has recently been developed

- ***Women, Peace and Security (WPS):***

- In February 2019, the Government adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2021);

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Armenia's 2010 Gender Policy Concept Paper officially appointed MoLSA as the responsible body for gender policy in Armenia. Under the Ministry, the Department of Family, Women and Children's Issues was established.

In December 2000, the Council of Women was established under the Office of the Prime Minister, tasked with coordinating GEEW issues. In 2014, this Council was reconstituted into the Council Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. At the mazrpetaran level, there are now "Departments for the Protection of Family, Women and Children's Rights". The national Council and its related mechanisms, however, had limited capacities, resources and clarity of remit to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation and monitoring of the national legislative and regulatory frameworks guiding gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 2016, and in its dialogue with the CEDAW Committee, the Government of Armenia expressed intent to transform the Council on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities between Women and Men into full national mechanism for monitoring and implementing gender equality policies, ideally to be in conformity with the related General Recommendations of the CEDAW.^{cxiii} To this end, in November of 2019, the Council was revised through a Prime Ministerial Decree which focused on giving the Council greater authority and to provide greater clarity on its role, as well as specifying its composition and structure as well as mandating the establishment of a working group with the focus of organizing the Council's work.^{cxiv}

In 2018, the Council on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Armenia was established. This council is tasked with coordinating the implementation of the *Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace in the family*. The members of the Council include

representatives from State authorized bodies and from civil society. Currently, the Council is tasked with drafting a separate strategic document to effectively address the multifaceted issues of DV. Investments in 2019 by the UN System and Government have strengthened the role of the Council, and future focus will be on increasing the regularity of the Council's meetings and direct follow up to decisions taken. As mentioned above, work at the regional level is carried out by the "Departments for the Protection of Family, Women and Children's Rights".

Since 2015, and including its conduct during the Velvet Revolution and thereafter, the role and remit of the Office of the Human Rights Defender has increased. Over the years, the Office has witnessed a gradual increase in resource allocation under the national budget, although resources remain insufficient. Within the Office of the Human Rights Defender, there is an Advisor on Women's/Gender Equality Issues. Indications from reports are that the Advisor on gender equality issues is not an active role within the Office.

Related mechanisms which the above Councils are required to coordinate with are: the National Council on Sustainable Development under the Prime Minister's Office; the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; the Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Development Council; the National Youth Policy Council under the Prime Minister's Office; Integrated Social Service System Management Council; Anti-corruption Council under the Prime Minister's Office; and the Armenia Country Coordination Mechanism fighting HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and others^{cxv}.

PARTNERSHIPS

The recently adopted acts and decrees around ending GBV have significantly strengthened the guidance on the nature and scope of inter-ministerial partnerships. The government's stated commitment to strengthening the role of the Council on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men will be important to significantly improving the implementation of all gender equality legislation, including ending all forms of GBV. A key gap in the inter-ministerial and inter-departmental partnerships at all levels of government in Armenia is coordinated, systematic and harmonized methods of monitoring the impact, gaps and challenges of laws around GEEW and GBV.

The relationship between civil society – women's rights activists, non-governmental organisations, academics and cultural leaders – and the national mechanisms tasked with oversight of GEEW has been primarily focused on public and technical dialogues. The dialogue has been primarily around the incorporation of international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment into national legislation, and the monitoring of the implementation of these commitments. Since 2010, the Government/Women's movement dialogue has been strongly focused on strengthening state prevention, protection and response to GBV.

Civil Society in Armenia has been typically the main mechanisms through which women living in the margins have accessed services and support – this includes rural women, women surviving and/or displaced by the conflict, survivors of trafficking, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and AIDs, women survivors of GBV, women from ethnic minorities, and the LGBTI community. The Government of Armenia – and in particular MoLSA – recognizes this and draws on the civil society's expertise in this regard.

The legislative frameworks guiding freedom of assembly, association, speech and media remains strong and for the most part align with the majority of international standards. The laws governing the establishment and registering and monitoring of CSOs is implemented relatively well. Challenges arise at times in terms of the understanding of police, courts and politicians of these laws and their application. As stated by the *UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*, it is "essential that the Government deepen the trust of the people in their

law enforcement authorities, particularly considering the current juncture in the wake of the Velvet Revolution."^{cxvi}

There are currently over 30 CSOs working on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women in Armenia.^{cxvii} Despite the relative freedoms women's CSOs experience in Armenia, many of them – including in the rural areas – "continuously face difficulties in raising gender-sensitive matters and their work can be perceived as having a detrimental effect on religious beliefs and public morals."^{cxviii} The majority of women's CSOs in Armenia struggle in an environment of severely restricted financial aid, and this impacts their organisational capacity to maintain long-term alliances in advocating with policy makers for change. Nonetheless, during the Velvet Revolution, the important role that the women's CSOs and activists played in advancing change was noted by a number of observers, including the *UN SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association* who noted "the participation of women and youth was key to the transition."^{cxix} Despite their important role in the Velvet revolution, the UN SR notes this unfortunately did not translate into a significant number of women being appointed to leadership positions within the new administration (see table below on women's leadership).^{cxx}

Social movements in Armenia have "done remarkable work in bringing together a broad base of support, composed of students, youth, civil society members, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender groups, feminist movements, environmental activists, diaspora movements, academia, private sector actors, the media, politicians, musicians and celebrities" together.^{cxxi} The rise in hate speech and polarising views since the Velvet Revolution has deepened the importance of these broad-based alliances in advocating for and monitor of the application of social justice in the country.

Key partners of national stakeholders on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including ending GBV, have been international multilateral organisations such as the UNCT, the CoE, the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, as well as key international non-governmental organisations such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Open Society Foundations (OSF). The UNCT currently co-chairs the Gender Theme Group with MoLSA.

FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

This section monitors SDG Indicator 5.c.1: Whether or not there are systems to track and make public allocations for Gender equality and the empowerment of women: In Armenia, there is currently no system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and the empowerment of women, although the UN Women Global SDG Database assesses Armenia as “approaching requirements” under this indicator.^{xxxi}

Key drivers of achieving the SDGs requires legislative frameworks which uphold the international norms and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women; institutional mechanisms which have capacities, resources and authority to implement, coordinate and monitor the same; strengthened political and practical commitment towards partnership and cooperation, including media, public/private partnerships, and also more comprehensive inter-ministerial partnerships which trickle down to local administrative units; and the significantly increased mobilization of resources towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In Armenia, there is limited available data on the national budgetary allocations towards the legislative and regulatory frameworks mentioned above. This is due to an absence of robust gender-responsive budgeting measures that not only allow for enhanced allocation of resources, but rigorous monitoring of these allocations from a gender perspective. Globally, only 19% of sixty-nine countries reviewed by UN Women met the criterion for establishing a comprehensive system to track budget allocations from the perspective of gender equality and women's empowerment.^{xxiii}

Under its National Action Plans on Gender Equality and GBV, the government has anticipated budgeting from the national budget, international partners, CSOs through target financing, and other sources of funding not prohibited by national legislation. Since 2018-2019, the Government has begun a process of strengthening and establishing a series of effective mechanisms aimed at ensuring gender equality (see above), among which

the development and enforcement of gender-sensitive budgeting tools and instruments is on the agenda for upcoming years. As per the current National Action Plan on Gender Equality, the government plans to develop and implement a toolkit for gender sensitive budgeting with criteria that it be introduced, implemented and monitored for all levels of public administration.

Where the Government of Armenia has made notable increases in budgetary allocation towards gender equality has been in the establishment of free legal services by the Office of the Public Defender for women to support them in family matters, heritage, property, mediation and arbitration. As of 2016, the funding allocated to the free legal services is available but insufficient.^{xxiv}

Under the document review of the UN Women CGEB, no figures were provided on what percentage of official development assistance (ODA) for Armenia is allocated towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. Of the 2017 ODA coming from the OECD DAC members⁹, and through the use of the OECD's Gender Marker, US\$314,000 of funds coming into the country were “principally” for gender equality, and US\$25,761,000 of funds coming into Armenia had a “significant” focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women.^{xxv}

9 Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Following a corporate template, the **indicators below have been identified based on the areas and issues identified in the BPfA, SDGs, CEDAW as “drivers” of inequality, as well as indicators by which gender equality and the empowerment of women may be measured. The Tables below contain all gender-related indicators of the SDGs** (excluding one on female genital cutting/mutilation which is not relevant to the ECA region).

The analysis which follows each Table is based on national statistics and data, wherever possible. Where national statistics are not available, UN Women’s CGEB has drawn from global databases and analyses produced by the UN System, World Bank, World Economic Forum, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and OSCE.

Throughout the Indicators below, wherever possible, data also tries to illustrate the challenges different groups of people may face. The factors which contribute to discrimination and inequalities facing women and girls are interconnected, and are related to socio-economic status, geography, ethnicity, and orientation for example. These intersecting forms of discrimination come together to “create deep pockets of deprivation across a range of SDGs -from access to education and health care to clean water and decent work.”^{cxvii}

Where possible, statistics for years 2000 and 2010 are provided along-side the most recent statistics, as points of comparison to identify progress, bottlenecks and trends.

For regular updated statistics on a number of the Indicators below, please also visit the [UN Women Global SDG Database: https://data.unwomen.org/data-portal](https://data.unwomen.org/data-portal)

TABLE 1
Armenia's Global Rankings

Global Indices	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) ¹⁰	1.1% of the population (2005) ^{cxvii} .	0.3% of the population (2010) ^{cxviii} .	0.2% of the population representing a gradual decline in the overall MPI levels (2015 recorded in 2019) ^{cxix} In real numbers, 5,000 people were multidimensionally poor in Armenia (2015) ^{cxx} .
Human Development Report Index (HDI) ¹¹	93rd of 174 countries (2000)	76th of 169 countries (2010)	81st among 189 countries (2019).
HDR Ranking (Inequality Adjusted)	---	Score of .619, representing a loss of 11% (2010)	Armenia's IHDl has a value of 0.685 (2019) ^{cxxi} .
HDR Gender Development Index (GDI)	75th of 174 countries with a score of 0.718 (in 2000 HDR but from 1998 ranking) ^{cxixi} .	---	Score of 0.972 and of Group 2 (2019) ^{cxixii}
HDR Gender Inequality Index (GII)	66th of 138 countries or score of 0.570 (2007) ^{cxixiv}	66th of 169 countries or score of 0.570 (2010) ^{cxixv}	57th of 162 countries, or score of 0.259 (2019) ^{cxixvi}
World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Index	71st of 128 countries, with a score of 0.665 (2007).	90th of 134 countries, with a score of 0.667 (2010).	98th of 153 countries or score of 0.684 (2020) ^{cxixvii}
WEF Sub-Index: Economic Participation and Opportunity	24th of 134 countries with a score of 0.721 (2007)	59th of 134 countries with a score of 0.669 (2010).	78th of 153 countries or score of 0.673 (2020) ^{cxixviii}
WEF Sub-Index: Educational Attainment	24th of 128 countries with a score of 0.999 (2007)	26th of 134 countries with a score of 0.999 (2010)	45 th of 153 countries or a score of 0.998 (2020) ^{cxixix}
WEF Sub-Index: Health and Survival	128th of 128 countries with a score of 0.923 (2007)	130th of 134 countries with a score of 0.937 (2010)	148th of 153 countries with a score of 0.948 (2020) ^{cxli} Armenia's unchanging low rank in the health and survival index is in large part due to the skewed sex ratio at birth ^{cxli}
WEF Sub-Index: Political Empowerment	125th of 128 countries, with a score of 0.017 (2007).	106th of 134 countries, with a score of 0.062 (2010)	114 th of 153 countries with a score of 0.118 (2020). ^{cxlii}

10 Please note that the MPI figures are different from the national poverty figures as they measure different levels and types of poverty.

11 Please note that comparing HDI rankings and sub-indices across the years is challenging because of the changing sample size and changing HDR methodologies.

OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) ¹²	---	For 2014 ^{cxliii} : SIGI Category :High; SIGI Value: 0.236 Discrimination in Family: 0.0497/Very Low; Restricted Physical Integrity: 0.185263/Low; Son Bias: 0.988/Very High; Restricted Resources and Assets: 0.2048/Low; Restricted Civil Liberties: 0.3539/Medium	For 2019 ^{cxliv} SIGI Category: Low SIGI Value: 28% Discrimination in Family:33% Restricted Physical Integrity: 35% Restricted Access to Productive and Financial Resources: 23% Restricted Civil Liberties: 19%
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TABLE 2
Demographic Overview

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Population Size	3.2 Million (2000). ^{cxlv} 1988 to 1992, it is estimated that the country received over 360,000 refugees of ethnic Armenian background from Azerbaijan most of whom are now naturalized, but many of whom are still struggling with their socio-economic integration and suffering from lack of durable housing solutions. ¹³ Between 2005-2007 Armenia received about one thousand refugees from Iraq ^{cxlvi}	2,876, 536 (2011) ^{cxlvii}	2.9 Million (2019 data projections based on the 2011 Census). ^{cxlviii} In the period from 2012 to the beginning of 2018, the number of Armenia's population decreased by 1.6%, thus constituting an average annual decrease of 0.4%. ^{cxlix} Ethnic Armenians (98%), Yezidis (1.2%); and less than 1% of the population is made up of other ethnicities, including Russian, Assyrian, Kurdish, Ukrainian, Greek, Georgian, Persian and other (2019). ^{cl} Hosting about 15,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Syria (2019) ^{cli} 188,460 people with disabilities were registered or 6.3% of the population, and approximately 47% of these are women and girls (2018) ^{clii} .
Age and sex, by % of population	---	---	Women make up 52.6% of the Armenian population while men make up 47.4% (2018) ^{cliii} . -2 million people are between the ages of 15-65 with an average age of 33.9 for the entire population (2018). ^{cliv} 10.3% of the population is currently 65 and older, which would classify Armenia's population as aging according to the demographic ageing scale set by the UN (2018) ^{clv} .

12 The SIGI is based on qualitative and quantitative data on discriminatory social institutions for 180 countries. A detailed profile for each country compiles information on laws, social norms and practices related to the SIGI sub-indices. The coding of scores for SIGI variables is based on a consistent coding framework that is applied to all countries. The higher the percentage/average, the higher the inequality. For 2014 and 2019, the sub-indices had different forms of measure/value.

13 Source: Comments and inputs from the UNCT as part of the review process of the UN Women CGEB.

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Literacy rate and overall educational attainment, by % of population	98.2% overall: 97.3% of women and 99.2% of men (age 15+) (1998) ^{clvi} Combined secondary and tertiary gross enrollment rate: 72% (68% of women and 75% of men) (1998) ^{clvii}	99.5% overall (2000-2008); ^{clviii} Population with at least secondary schooling (25 years and older): 94.1% of women and 94.8% of men (2010) ^{clix}	Overall literacy rate: 99.7% (ages 15+): 99.9% for women and 99.8% for men (ages 15 to 24) (2017) ^{clx} Proportion of population who have received some secondary education: 96.9% of women and 97.6% of men (age 25 years and older) (2018) ^{clxi} Mean years of schooling – for both men and women, it is 11.8 years (2018) ^{clxii} .
Marital Status, by % of population	----	1,145 de facto marriages and unions of youth under the age of 17. 26% of these cases were under the age of 15 (2011 Census)	64% of women and 55% of men were married or in a union (2015) ^{clxiii} . 5% of girls under 18 years of age are married in Armenia (2019) ^{clxiv} .
Average Life span, by sex	70.7 years overall (73.8 years for women; and 67.4 years for men) (1998) ^{clxv}	74.2 years overall (2010) ^{clxvi}	74.9 overall: 78.4 years for women; 71.2 years for men (2018) ^{clxvii}
Household composition and size	In 2007 ^{clxviii} : 41.4% of households are extended households; 31.5% of households are couples with children; 7.5% of households are Lone mother households; 7.1% of households are couples only; 1% of households are Lone father households; 1% of households are 1 person households;	In 2011 ^{clxix} (from Census): A total of 763,584 households in Armenia, with 21.3% of households made up of 4 persons; 15.1% of households made up of 3 persons; 12.2% of households were made up of 1 person; 11.5% of households made up of 5 persons 8 or more person households made up 3.4% of all households; Majority of household members are between the ages of 20-29; and ages 60 and above. Women comprise the majority of household members in all age groups except from ages 0-19. 130 homeless households with a total of 398 members.	In 2018, 65.7% of households in Armenia were headed by men (22% of which were likely to be poor) 34.3% were headed by women (28% of which were likely to be poor) Women-headed households were 30% of the total poor population of Armenia (2018) ^{clxx}

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Location of residence (locale, by region and urban/rural), by % of population	---	Approximately 67% of households are based in urban areas and 33% are based in rural areas. After Yerevan, the majority of households reside in Shirak, Lori and Kotayk regions (according to the 2011 Census).	---
% of population who have migrated (internally), by sex, by location and by sector	---	---	<p>Between 2016-2017, 21,900 individuals (16% of emigrants) migrated internally within Armenia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -60% of these migrated to Yerevan. -Although the data available does not disaggregate based on internal and external emigration, the general pattern for emigration reasons with regards to all emigrants is related to work (64.5%). -Similarly, the non-disaggregated data for all emigrants (internal and external) reports that 85.8% of emigrants are male.^{clxxi}
% of population who have migrated (externally), by sex, by age, by location and by sector	---	---	<p>Between 2016 and 2017, 137,000 individuals emigrated externally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -67% of all emigrants migrated to the Russian Federation. -85.8% of migrants and 67.5% returning migrants were men, and the construction sector was the main sector of focus for migrants.^{clxxii}

TABLE 3

Women in Leadership

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG Indicator 5.5.1)	3.1% of Parliamentary seats were held by women (2000) ^{clxxxiii}	9.2% of Parliamentary seats were held by women (2010) ^{clxxxiv}	As of 2019: - 24% of Parliamentary seats are held by women – or 32 of 132 MPs - 9.33% of local municipal councilors are women; Heads of consolidated municipalities: only 1 of 52 heads is a women (2019) ^{clxxxv} - Women head of communities – 8 of 502 heads of communities overall. ^{clxxxvi} It is important to note that in the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, temporary special measures are in place within the proportional electoral systems which require 25% of the list to be the under-represented gender. Subsequently, these three cities have an average of 26% of women in their elected government positions.
Proportion of women in managerial positions overall (SDG Indicator 5.5.2)	21.5% of all managerial positions in Armenia are held by women (2007). ^{clxxxvii}	31.7% of all managerial positions in Armenia are held by women (2010) ^{clxxxviii}	28.7% of all managerial positions in Armenia are held by women (2017) ^{clxxxix} .
% of Mayors, by gender (elected)	---	---	In 2019 there is only one female mayor among 46 urban communities of Armenia. ^{clxxx} This is the first time that a woman has held this post in Armenia.
% of Cabinet Ministers, by gender;	8% of ministers and deputy ministers in Armenia were women (2002) ^{clxxxxi}	2 women ministers and 6 women deputy ministers making up 10% of the total (2010). ^{clxxxii}	As of November 2019: .09% or only 1 Cabinet Minister is a woman (MolSA); 24% or 10 female deputy ministers of 41 are women.
% of appointed central government managers, by gender	There were no women governors in Armenia in 2002 ^{clxxxiii}	There were no women governors in 2010, and out of 23 deputy governors, only 1 was a woman ^{clxxxiv} .	There are currently no women governors ¹⁴ , which are regional appointments by the central government in Yerevan. Of 12 deputy governors, only two are women (2019) ^{clxxxv} .
% of appointed local government leaders, by gender ¹⁵	Women made up 2% (16 women out of 800) of local administrative heads in Armenia (2002) ^{clxxxvi}	3% of local administrative heads (24 out of 886) were women (2010) ^{clxxxvii} .	5.8% of administrative heads (24 out of 413) are women (2019). ^{clxxxviii}
% of civil servants, by gender (and by level)	---	Women made up 10% (15 out of 128 posts) of high-level civil service (2010) ^{clxxxix}	Women make up 54% of civil servants, and men 46% (2016) ^{cx} 83% of the highest civil service posts were occupied by men as compared to only 17% of those occupied by women in 2016 ^{cxci} . In 2019, this increased to 19% of managerial positions being occupied by women. This statistic folds in civil service and appointment positions, including cabinet and deputy ministers. 70% of the lowest civil service posts are held by women, as compared to 30% of those held by men (2016) ^{cxcii} .

14 For CGEB Armenia, the term “governor” is defined as the “head of the marz” or “regional head”.

15 As new position was created after the community consolidation – the “Community Administrator”, which is an appointed position. These include former mayoral positions of the consolidated towns/villages (now called “settlements”).

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
% of private sector leaders (CEOs, Business Owners), by gender;	5.8% of administrative heads (24 out of 413) are women (2019).	In a World Bank Enterprise Survey (2012-2013) of 360 firms, it found that: -25.3% of firms surveyed had women participating in the ownership of these firms (as compared to the ECA Regional Average of 32.2%); -14.5% of firms had women with majority ownership (compared to the ECA Regional Average of 13.5%); -19.1% of firms had women as the top managers (as compared to the ECA Regional Average of 18.2%). ^{ccxciii}	Women represented about 20.7% of business owners of all active enterprises combined (16,200 of 78,000 enterprises). Looking only at individual entrepreneurs and owners of micro-sized enterprises combined, women made up 30% of this group (about 15,000 of 50,000 enterprises) (2015) ^{ccxciv} 18% of women were employers compared to 82% men (2016) ^{ccxcv} .
Perceptions of women and men as leaders and as decision-makers (SDG 16.7.2.)	---	60.4% of men and 39.6% of women surveyed agreed with the statement “women cannot be good managers” (2011) ^{ccxcvi}	58.3% of respondents found people believe men are better political leaders than women (2016) ^{ccxcvii} In another survey, respondents while believing men make better political leaders, supported women’s political participation and activism and quotas guaranteeing women fixed for women in public administration and local governments (63.3%) and in business (65.9%) and recognize women’s leadership potential (81.7%). (2016) ^{ccxcviii}
Data on women’s engagement in peace-building Data on women’s engagement in peace-building	1993, the chairs of the National Committees of the Helsinki Citizens’ Assemblies of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Arzu Abdullayeva and Anahit Bayandur, won the Olaf Palme Peace Prize for their outstanding activities towards the establishment of peace in the region by the power of grassroots diplomacy. In the following years however, such efforts at grassroots diplomacy decreased due to increasing negative attitudes on both sides toward the other. ^{ccxcix} Under the Ministry of Defense, a women’s unit was established within the peacekeeping brigade. The first group of the female peacekeepers (4 persons) was engaged in the Armenian group that implements peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 2018 ^{cc} From 2013-2017, an estimated 30 national, regional and international peacebuilding projects have been implemented by Armenian ^{ccci} . One significant outcome of civil society activities with regards to the Women, Peace and Security agenda was the establishment of the UNSCR 1325 Monitoring Group in 2013 by eight organizations with the aim to monitor the situation around the UNSCR 1325 and prepare ground for the elaboration of the National Action Plan on 1325 (adopted in 2019) ^{ccci} .		

TABLE 4

Gender Dimensions of Education

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Primary School Enrollment, by % (SDG Indicator 4.5.1)	95.4% of children were enrolled in primary school (2005). ^{cciii}	99.06% (Gross enrollment) (2010) – of this, 100.72% were girls and 97.65% were boys In Net enrollment, there is almost full parity between boys and girls 94.63% boys and 95.76% girls (2011) ^{cciv} Total of out of school children: 6,728. Of which, 40.4% are girls and 59.6% were boys. (2011) ^{ccv}	92.72% of children were enrolled in primary school, a slight decrease from 2017 and the lowest gross enrollment ratio since 2009. There was full parity in the enrollment rate (2018). ^{ccvi} Total out of school children (2018) were 11,426, representing a significant increase since 2011. Of these, 47% were girls and 52.9% were boys ^{ccvii} In 2016-2017, 7,454 children with disabilities were enrolled in education Out of these, 2,910 were enrolled in primary education and 3,762 were enrolled in lower secondary education. ^{ccviii}
Secondary School Enrollment, by % (and by lower and upper secondary) (SDG Indicator 4.5.1)	92.1% of children were enrolled in secondary school (2005). ^{ccix}	104.71% total Gross enrollment, with 103.74% of girls and 105.62% of boys (2010). In Net: 92.51% total enrolment, with 92.32% of girls and 92.69% of boys (2010). ^{ccx} Total of out of school adolescents: 9,663 of which 42.5% were girls and 57.5% were boys (2011) ^{ccxi} State figures showed that approximately 18.8% of children with disabilities were reported to be receiving a secondary education (2011). ^{ccxii} 70% of children with disabilities went to a regular school, 12% went to special schools (2011). ^{ccxiii}	83.15% of children were enrolled in secondary school, the lowest percentage of enrollment in secondary education since 2009. A difference between enrollment ratio of boys to girls is evident with 84.8% girls and 81.73 boys enrolled (2018). ^{ccxiv} Total out of school rate for adolescents is 14,888, representing a significant increase since 2011. Of this, 41.5% are girls and 58.5% are boys (2018). ^{ccv} In 2016-2017, 7,454 children with disabilities were enrolled in education ^{ccvii} . Out of these, 3,762 were enrolled in lower secondary education.
Tertiary education and completion, by % (SDG Indicator 4.5.1)	39.5% of the population were enrolled in tertiary level education (2005). ^{ccxvii} 61.9% of all tertiary school graduates were women (2005). ^{ccxviii}	52.55% Gross enrollment (58.03% of women and 47.6% of men) ^{ccxix} 61.5% of all tertiary school graduates were women (2010) ^{ccxx}	Tertiary school enrollment (Gross) registered at 54.57%, the highest since 2009. 62.65% of these were women and 41.12% were men (2018) ^{ccxxi} 59.4% of all tertiary school graduates were women (2018). ^{ccxxii} Since 2005, the rates of women graduating from tertiary level education has fluctuated around the 61% mark, without any significant increase.
Tertiary School enrolment, by % (Privately owned)	---	58.4% of women and 41.6% of men were enrolled in private higher education establishments (2010). ^{ccxxiii}	12.2% of students in tertiary education were enrolled in private institutions (2015). ^{ccxxiv}
Tertiary School enrollment, by % (Publicly owned)	---	51.7% of women and 48.3% of men were enrolled in public higher education establishments (2010). ^{ccxxv}	72.9% of students in tertiary education were enrolled in public institutions ^{ccxxvi} .

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
% of women and men graduating at Tertiary level with degree/diploma in a STEM-related field	---	38.0% of total graduates who are female and graduating with a STEM-related tertiary level ; as compared to 39.8% of men(2010) ^{ccxxvii}	39.8% of all graduates are women with STEM-related degrees/diplomas (2018) ^{ccxxviii} 4.1% of total number of tertiary level graduates were women graduating in the field of Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction compared to 16.2% of men in the same field (2018). ^{ccxxix} In Information and Communication Technologies women made up 0.8% of graduates while men made up 2.3% (2018). ^{ccxxx}
% of women and men with Graduate (Masters) level degree or higher;(SDG Indicator 4.5.1)	Of all Masters Graduates, 60.0% were women and 40% were men; and of post graduate degree holders, 29.9% were women and 70.1% were men (2006) ^{ccxxxi} ; Doctors of Science graduates – 37.5% were women and 62.5% were men (2006). ^{ccxxxii}	Approximately 11% of women and approximately 5% of men were enrolled in Masters programmes (2010). ^{ccxxxiii} Of all Masters' Graduates, 61.9% were women and 38.1% were men; 41.4% of post doctoral degrees were held by women as compared to 58.6% held by men (2010) ^{ccxxxiv} Doctors of Science graduates – 23.1% were women and 76.9% were men (2010) ^{ccxxxv}	Approximately 15% of women and 11% of men were enrolled in Masters Programmes (2016) ^{ccxxxvi} . 64.5% of Masters graduates were women, as compared to 35.5% men, 44% of post doctoral degrees were held by women as compared to 56% held by men (2016) ^{ccxxxvii} Doctors of Science graduates – 28.6% were women and 71.4% were men (2016).
Top three areas of study (Tertiary level) for women, and for men.	---	The top three areas of study at the tertiary level for women in Armenia were social sciences, education and pedagogy and geodesy & land amelioration; while for men it was military education, aeronautical engineering and rocketry, and automation and management (2010) ^{ccxxxviii} .	The top three areas of study at the tertiary level for women in Armenia are philological sciences, then social work, followed by journalism; while for men it is agricultural sciences, engineering and architecture and construction (2016). ^{ccxxxix}
Enrollment into pre-primary/day care, by sex(SDG Indicators 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.); As well as: Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	---	37% of children were enrolled in pre-primary (Gross enrollment rate): 39.58% of girls and 34.76 of boys (2010). ^{ccxli} 1 in 3 children with disabilities does not attend or has not attended pre-school. This indicator is twice as low in rural areas (23%) compared to urban areas (44%) (2011) ^{ccxli} .	Pre-primary school enrollment for girls comprised of 33.6%% and 31.7% for boys, gross enrollment ratio of the 0-2 age group among boys was 4.7% and 4.9% for girls. For the 2-5 age groups the gross enrollment ratio was 60.5% for girls and 56.5% for boys (2019). ^{ccxlii} There is a significant urban-rural disparity between school and pre-school enrollment with 35.6% enrollment rate in urban areas as compared to only 17% in rural areas (2016). ^{ccxliii} The net enrollment rate of children in pre-primary education was 35.14%, with 36.61% girls and 33.85% boys (2018). ^{ccxliv} 7,454 children with disabilities were enrolled in education. Out of these 782 were enrolled in pre-primary education (2016-2017). ^{ccxlv} In rural areas, approximately 71% of children with disabilities do not attend kindergartens with 80% in rural areas. ^{ccxlvi}

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
<p>Degree to which gender equality concepts have been mainstreamed into primary, secondary levels; and in tertiary levels (SDG Indicator 4.7.1)</p>	<p>Gender thematic materials are included in elementary school as part of “Myself and the Environment” subject. The students learn about topics that relate to the equality of women and men (2018)^{cxxlvii}.</p> <p>Tolerance Education is implemented in secondary school and respective teacher’s manual is introduced for various grades since 2008. The programme teaches the students to be tolerant, collaborative, contribute to conflict resolution, and has a component focused on concepts of gender equality.^{cxxlviii}</p> <p>There is no data available on the degree to which gender equality concepts have been mainstreamed into tertiary levels of education.</p>		
<p>Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex (SDG Indicator 4.1.1)</p>	<p>Primary Level: 77.5% of girls and 72.4% of boys (Literacy/reading proficiency) (2003)^{cxxlix}</p> <p>Lower Secondary Level: 84.6% of girls and 79.4% of boys (Literacy/reading proficiency)(2003)^{ccl}</p>	<p>72% of children achieved a minimum proficiency level in mathematics at the end of primary school (2015).^{ccli}</p> <p>The percentage of the students at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics is 76%, compared to 72% in primary level (period 2010-2015).^{cclii}</p>	<p>88.6% of boys and 90.1% girls achieved minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics at the end of lower secondary level (2017)^{ccliii}.</p> <p>The proficiency levels in mathematics declines from 45.3% in primary school level to 31.8% in lower secondary and then drops to 31% in upper secondary level (2017).^{ccliv}</p> <p>The achievement level varies among girls and boys in urban and rural areas. The percentage of boys who score excellently in general proficiency varies, with 16% in Yerevan, compared to 27.4% of boys residing in the regional centers, 29.4% in other regional towns and 22.1% in villages. Similarly, for girls, the numbers are 31.9% in Yerevan, 51.2% in the regional centers, 57.8% in the regional towns, and 38.5% in villages. The share of girls scoring excellently outperforms that of boys in all mentioned locations.^{cclv}</p>
<p>Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex (SDG Indicator 4.3.1)</p>	<p>---</p>	<p>Comprehensive data on this indicator is limited.</p> <p>30,000 people participated in training and improved-qualification, which is approximately 1.5% of the adult population. (2008)^{cclvi}</p>	<p>Approximately 24% of respondents between the ages of 18-30 in a study received an additional non-formal education or training during the last 3 years (2018)^{cclvii}.</p> <p>59.6% of women as compared to 40.4% of men received additional training. At the same time, more men from rural areas are involved in additional education than women from rural areas (2018).^{cclviii}</p> <p>The share of the urban population between the ages of 18-30 that received training is much larger at 70.4% compared to that of the rural population at 29.6% (2018).^{cclix}.</p>

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of population in given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex (SDG Indicator 4.6.1)	---	---	There is no reported data on the proportion of the population with at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional and numeracy skills.
Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity, (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes, (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, (e) basic drinking water, (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities and (g) basic handwashing facilities; (SDG Indicator 4.a.1.)	---	---	<p>100% of schools had access to electricity and connection to internet. 94.9% of schools had adequate water supply and 90.4% of schools had adequate sewage systems. The number of teachers per computer were 1.7 (2017).^{cclix}</p> <p>A higher percentage of schools in rural areas are without water supply - Gegharkunik at 12.7% and Syunik at 11.6%. Similarly, heating is lacking in 8 schools of the country, of which 4 are in the Shirak region, 2 in Ararat, 1 in Syunik, and 1 in Lori. (2010-2016).^{cclxi}</p> <p>2018 approximately 80% of school buildings in Armenia do not conform to building codes and standards, particularly those located in rural areas^{cclxii}.</p> <p>No data is available on access to single sex basic sanitation facilities; and access to basic handwashing facilities.</p>

TABLE 5

Gender Dimensions of Health

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Average life expectancy;	70.7 years overall (73.8 years for women; and 67.4 years for men) (1998) ^{cclxiii}	74.2 years overall (2010) ^{cclxiv}	74.9 overall: 78.4 years for women; 71.2 years for men (2018) ^{cclxv}
Death by communicable diseases, by type, gender, age, location;	---	---	Death by communicable diseases in Armenia is quite low. 144 men and 50 women died of infectious and parasitic diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) is currently a serious health concern in Armenia (2017). The incidence of tuberculosis was estimated to be 41 per 100,000, while the incidence of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis was 8.9 per 100,000 (2015) ^{cclxvi} .
Mortality rate, attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability)	21.0% of women and 35.4% of men (2000) ^{cclxvii}	17.9% of women and 35.1% of men (2010) ^{cclxviii}	<p>15% of women and 30.9% of men (2016)^{cclxix}</p> <p>93% of all deaths were by Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (2016)^{cclxx}.</p> <p>44% related to cardiovascular diseases (53% were women; 48% were men); 28% related to cancer (45% of which were women, 56% were men); 14% related to other NCDs (2016).^{cclxxi}</p> <p>NCD mortality is significantly higher in the regions of Tavush and Lori. (2016) Particularly high rates of deaths from cancer are reported in Lori (approximately 265 per 100,000 people in 2017; about 220 per 100,000 people in Shirak in 2017; about 200 per 100,000 people in Syunik in 2017), which a recent study attributes to high levels of pollution due to mining in these regions (particularly Lori and Syunik) and high rates of poverty (particularly Shirak) (2019).^{cclxxii}</p> <p>One major concern with regards to NCDs and age is the phenomenon of early deaths as a result of NCDs, which covers 28.5% of the general death structure. This means that every third does not reach the age of 65. (2016)^{cclxxiii}</p>

Frequency of health visits in a year; by sex;	26.7% of women surveyed in the DHS had visited a health professional in the past year (2000) ^{cc1xxxiv} .	In 2009, 15% did not seek care because it was financially unaffordable, as compared to 22.6% in 2012. ^{cc1xxxv}	Rate of women's (38.4%) visits to primary health care settings was 1.4 times higher than that of men (27.9%) (2016). There were not significant rural/urban variations in rates: 36.5% of rural and 35.8% of urban population visiting district or family doctors in 2016 ^{cc1xxxvi} . In 2016, 17.2% did not seek care because it was financially not affordable. ^{cc1xxxvii} 44% of women residing in urban areas and 30.3% of women residing in rural areas visited a health facility. Majority of health visits were by women of the 30-34 age group (55.6%) followed by 50.8% in the 25-29 age group and 46.8% by the 35-39 age group. Young women of the 15-19 age group made the least health visits at 16.2%. ^{cc1xxxviii} (2015-2016)
Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
HIV rates, by gender, age, civil status (married, single, divorced, widowed), and location.	---	Since 2010 new HIV infections have increased by 31%. 57% of the registered adult cases in 2011-2015 were infected abroad accounting for 70% of cases registered in 2011-2015 being associated with migration. The highest rate of HIV infection was registered in Shirak region at 104.7 per 100,000, followed by Lori, Gegharkunik, Armavir with the rates of 97.4, 70.8 and 70 respectively. ^{cc1xxxix} HIV Prevalence among women aged 15-49 is 0.2%. (2014)	0.2% HIV prevalence in the adult population aged 15-49 (2016) ^{cc1xxx} . 65% of HIV cases were transmitted through heterosexual practices, and 26% through drug (2015). 96.7% of women contracted HIV through heterosexual practices (2015). 52.5% of men contracted HIV through sexual transmission and 37% through drug use (2015). ^{cc1xxxi} In 2016, Armenia eradicated mother-to-child transmission of HIV. No data available on persons living with HIV by civil status (married, single, divorced, widowed, etc)
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations (SDG Indicator 3.3.1)	0.2 per 1,000 uninfected population (2000) ^{cc1xxxii} Female ^{cc1xxxiii} – All ages: 0.1/1,000 (ages 15-24): 0.2/1,000 (ages 15-49): 0.2/1,000 (50+): 0.0/1,000 Male ^{cc1xxxiv} – All Ages 0.3/1,000; (ages 15-24): 0.2/1,000; (ages 15-49): 0.5/1,000; (50+): 0.1/1,000;	0.1 per 1,000 uninfected population (2010) ^{cc1xxxv} Female ^{cc1xxxvi} – All ages: 0.0/1,000; (15-24): 0.1/1,000; (15-49): 0.1/1,000; (50+): 0/1,000; Male ^{cc1xxxvii} – All Ages: 0.1/1,000; (ages 15-24): 0.1/1,000; (ages 15-49): 0.2/1,000; (50+): 0.1/1,000;	0.1 per 1,000 uninfected population (2017) ^{cc1xxxviii} Female ^{cc1xxxix} . All ages: 0.0/1,000; (15-24): 0.1/1,000 (15-49): 0.1/1,000 (50+): 0.0/1,000 Male ^{cc1xxx} – All Ages: 0.1/1,000 (ages 15-24): 0.1/1,000; (ages 15-49): 0.2/1,000; (50+): 0.0/1,000;

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES);	---	---	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population was 3.8% (2018). ^{cccxi} The highest level of food insecurity was 24.2% in Shirak province, followed by 22.6% and 19.5% prevalence in Tavush and Lori provinces respectively (2015). ^{cccxi}
% of population facing malnutrition	13% of children under age five were stunted, and 3% were severely stunted. There was considerable regional variation, ranging from 8% in Yerevan and Kotayk to 32% in Gegharkunik. Overall, 2% of children were wasted and 3% were underweight (2000) ^{ccciii} .	---	9.4% of children under 5 years of age were affected by stunting in 2015, of which 10.9% were male and 7.8% female (2017). ^{ccciv} Stunting is more common in rural areas, with rural children twice as likely to be stunted as their urban counterparts (13 and 6 percent, respectively) (2015). ^{ccciv} Percentage of overweight: total- 47.7%, male-45.4%, female 50.1% (2018) ^{cccvi} Percentage of obese: total- 19.5%, male- 14.0%, female 25.0% (2018) ^{cccvi}
Total Fertility Rate	1.8 children per 1,000 women of fertile age (2000) ^{cccviii}	1.7 children per 1,000 women of fertile age (2005-2010) ^{cccix}	Fertility rate was 1.576 children per 1,000 females of fertile age (15-49 years) in 2017 against 1.647 in 2016. This was significantly lower than the fertility rate 2.150 needed for simple reproduction of population (2018). ^{ccc} The gross reproduction rate of population (the average number of daughters that would be born to a female in fertile age, provided that the birthrate for the given year remained unchanged) was 0.752 (2018). ^{ccci}
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) (SDG Indicator 3.1.1)	40.0/100,000 (2000) ^{cccii}	33.0 / 100,000(2010) ^{cccii}	19.8/100,000 as of 2018 ^{ccciv}
Use of modern contraceptives, by % of population;	61% of married women reported using contraception: 22% of these were using modern methods and 37% were using traditional methods (2000) ^{cccvi} .	---	57.1% of women of reproductive age (15-49) used contraceptives in 2017. ^{cccvi}
Most common forms of modern contraceptives used;	Of the 61% of married women reporting to use contraceptives, 32% were using withdrawal; the IUD was the second most common method (9%) (2000) ^{cccvi} .	---	The most common form of contraceptive used is withdrawal. Of modern contraceptives, IUD, pills and condoms are the most common. Approx 1/3 rd of modern contraceptive users (primarily IUD users) obtain their contraceptives from the public sector, while 2/3 rd s (primarily pill and condom users) depend on private medical sources. ^{cccvi}

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Awareness of modern contraceptive use;	98% of women in Armenia were aware of at least one form of modern contraceptive methods (2000) ^{cccix} .	---	<p>Knowledge of contraception is widespread in Armenia, with 97% of women and 99% percent of men having heard of at least one method. More than nine out of every ten married women have heard about the male condom, the IUD, and the pill. However, only about 2/3rds of married women are aware of female sterilization and less than half have heard about injectables and emergency contraception. Awareness of male sterilization (37%) and implants (24%) is substantially lower (2015-2016).^{cccix}</p> <p>Withdrawal is the most widely known traditional method (94%) among currently married women. (2015-2016).^{cccx}</p>
Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (SDG Indicator 3.7.1)	28.3% of women (2000) ^{cccxi} .	39.4% of women (2010) ^{cccxi} .	36.9% of women ^{cccxi} .
Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care (SDG Indicator 5.6.1)	---	64.3% of women (2010) ^{cccxi}	66% of women (2016) ^{cccxi}
Average age of first birth;	22.3 years (2000) ^{cccxi} .	23.3 years (2010)	<p>24.8 years (2017)^{cccxi}</p> <p>33.0% of live births in 2017 were to non-registered marriages (including extra-marital births), against 35.5% in 2007 and 32.4% in 1997.^{cccxi}</p>
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG Indicator 3.1.2)	96.8% (2000) ^{cccxi}	99.5 (2010) ^{cccxi}	99.8% of births in Armenia were attended by skilled health personnel (2016). ^{cccxi}
Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years, aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group (SDG Indicator 3.7.2);	35.7 per 1,000 (1990-2008) ^{cccxi}	35.7 per 1,000 (1990-2008) ^{cccxi}	24 per 1,000 women (2016). ^{cccxi} This rate decreased in 2017 to 21/1,000. The average number of births for this age group was double that of women of the same age group in urban areas. ^{cccxi}

% of planned pregnancies versus unplanned pregnancies;	83.2% of pregnancies were wanted at the time of conception, 9.2% were wanted later, 7.5% were not wanted (2000). ^{ccccxxvii}	---	92% of births were wanted at the time of conception, 6% were reported as mistimed (wanted later), and 2% were unwanted (2015-2016 DHS). ^{ccccxxviii}
% of Total Induced Abortions	47% of women in their lifetime (2000). ^{ccccxxix} Women age 40-49 had an average of 2.8 abortions in their lifetime (2000). ^{ccccxxx}	31% of women in their lifetime (2010). ^{ccccxxxi} Women aged 40-49 had an average of 1.6 abortions in their lifetime (2010). ^{ccccxxxii}	25% of women aged 15-49 have had an abortion in their lifetime (2015-2016). ^{ccccxxxiii} Abortion rates for rural women were twice as high than that of urban women (0.8% versus 0.4%) (2015-2016). ^{ccccxxxiv} Women aged 40-49 have had 1.3 abortions in their lifetime (2015-16). ^{ccccxxxv}
% of women accessing gynecological care, by age, status, location;	92% of all women received antenatal care (ANC) from a skilled provider (2000). ^{ccccxxxvi}	99% of all women received ANC from a skilled provider (2010). ^{ccccxxxvii}	Just under 100% of all women received ANC from a skilled provider (2015-2016). ^{ccccxxxviii} There are only small variations in provider use across subgroups of women. The most notable differences are by region. In Gegharkunik, only 87% of women saw a doctor, 10% saw a nurse or midwife for ANC, and 3% had no ANC (2015-2016). ^{ccccxxxix}

TABLE 6
Gender Dimensions of Labour and Economic Empowerment

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) , by sex, by marital status and by industry	---	68.6% of women; 81.8% of men (2010) ^{ccccxl}	<p>Overall LFPR: 58.8%, with 59.9% male and 49.6% female participation (July 2018) (ages 15+)^{ccccxli}</p> <p>Youth between the ages of 15-24 made up 35.1% of the LFPR (32.8% young women and 37.2% young men.) for 2016.^{ccccxlii}</p> <p>When looking at prime working age (24-52), women's LFPR remains a challenge, at 62.4% as compared to men's 86.1% (July 2019).^{ccccxliii}</p> <p>67.8% of married men compared to 46.3% of married women were employed (2017)^{ccccxliv}</p> <p>The gender gap in activity rates for women and men was 26.4% with 40% gap for the 25-34 age group. Analysis links this gap to women's unpaid care and domestic work in the home.^{ccccxlv} (2016)</p> <p>Industry (manufacturing, services, retail, for example.) is the main sector of employment for the labour force, with women's engagement at 55% and men's engagement at 46% (2017);^{ccccxlv}</p> <p>The second largest sector is agriculture, with women's engagement at 37% and men's engagement at 31% (2017).^{ccccxlvi}</p> <p>In general after the agricultural sector, women tend to be more engaged in education (17.7%), wholesale and retail trade (10.8%), and human health and social work (8%) (2017).^{ccccxlvii}</p> <p>Interesting to note that women's engagement in the IT sector is growing, with 37% of the IT sector being made up of women in 2018-2019, placing Armenia among some of the top countries in the world for women's engagement in the IT sector.^{ccccxlviii}</p> <p>For men the main sectors after agriculture are public administration and defense (12.7%), wholesale and retail trade (11.3%) and manufacturing (10.9%) (2017).^{ccccxlix}</p>

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG Indicator 8.5.2)	Ages 15-24: 10.1% of women and 12.6% of men (2006) ^{ccccli} Ages 25+: 9.7% of women and 9.5% of men (2006) ^{ccccli}	Ages 15-24: 48% for women and 31.9% for men (2010) ^{ccccli} Ages 25+: 17.5% of women and 14.5% of men (2010) ^{ccccliv} Unemployment rate of women living with disabilities 12.4% as compared to 18.4% for men (2014) ^{cccclv}	Ages 15- 24: 44.8% for women and 32.8% for men (2017); Ages 25+: 14.7% for women and 16.2% for men ^{cccclvi} Unemployment rate of women living with disabilities 8.1% as compared to 17.7% for men (2017) ^{cccclvii}
Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (by sex)	---	44.5% of women (ages 15-24) as compared to 44.8% of men of the same age (2011) ^{cccclviii}	23.4% men from ages 15-29 and 45.9% of women of the same age group were reported as not in education, employment or training in 2017. ^{cccclix}
% of unemployed persons accessing adult education/ workforce skills development	---	---	32% of unemployed persons are receiving formal education and/or non-formal education or vocational training with an equal proportion of women to men (2017) ^{cccclx} .
% of population who have migrated (internally), by sex, by location and by sector	---	---	Between 2016-2017, 21,900 individuals (16% of emigrants) migrated internally within Armenia. 60% of these migrated to Yerevan. Although the data available does not disaggregate based on internal and external emigration, the general pattern for emigration reasons with regards to all emigrants is work (64.5%). Similarly, the non-disaggregated data for all emigrants (internal and external) reports that 85.8% of emigrants are male. ^{cccclxi}
% of population who have migrated (externally), by sex, by age, by location and by sector	58.9% of all international migrants were women (2000) ^{cccclxii}	59.4% of all international migrants were women (2010) ^{cccclxiii}	Between 2016 and 2017, 137,000 individuals emigrated externally. 67% of all emigrants migrated to the Russian Federation. 85.8% of migrants and 67.5% returning migrants were men, and the construction sector was the main sector of focus for migrants. ^{cccclxiv} 59.0% of all international migrants were women (2019). ^{cccclxv}
Average hourly earnings of women and men employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities (SDG Indicator 8.5.1)	Gender pay gap, monthly earnings: 48.1% (2000) ^{cccclxvi}	Gender pay gap, monthly earnings: 35.9% (2010) ^{cccclxvii}	In 2015, women's mean hourly rate was 436AMD compared to 545AMD for men ^{cccclxviii} . Women's monthly average salary was 143,000 AMD, while men's monthly average salary was 212,000 AMD (2017) ^{cccclxix} . In the agricultural sector men's monthly average salary was 129,000 AMD while women's was 102,000AMD, despite the fact that women have the largest share of employment in this sector (2017). The average monthly salary for men employed in non-agricultural sector was 212,000 AMD while for women it was 143,000 AMD (2017). According to the official data, differences in nominal wages between men and women decreased by 8.3% since 2008. Nonetheless, the gender pay gap stands at 32.5%, with women's earnings amounting to 67.5% of men's in 2017. ^{cccclxx} In 2018, Armenia's gross national income per capita for men was US\$12,581 as compared to only US\$6,342 for women – a little over 50% less than what men earn. ^{cccclxxi}

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of the population employed in part time labour, by sex	---	33.9% of women (all ages) (2010) (BEIJING DASH)	34% of women were working part-time compared to 18% men (2017) ^{ccclxxxii}
% of population who own their own business (SME);	---	---	0.6% of working women were owners/entrepreneurs of their own business as compared to 2.2 % men. Women are less likely to own firms with at least five employees compared to men and more likely to own retail businesses as opposed to any other businesses. 19.1% of firms with five or more employees are managed by women. (2014) ^{ccclxxxiii}
Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex. (SDG Indicator 1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.1.2)	---	---	According to Armenia's Demographic and Health Survey (2015-2016) approximately 16% of women in Armenia own land compared to 35% of men, which is down from 39% of women in 2010. Among women who own land, 32% do so in rural areas compared to 5% in urban areas. 26% of women aged 45-49 own land compared to 10% of women aged 15-19. ^{ccclxxxiv}
Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex (SDG Indicator 2.3.2)	---	US\$961.8 in total (2010) ^{ccclxxxv}	The average monthly salaries of the population engaged in the agricultural sphere amounted to 121,000 AMD in 2017. There is no disaggregated data for small scale farming and cash crop farming, which makes it difficult to report on the income of small scale food producers in Armenia. The measurement of women's incomes in farming is especially difficult because women often work on family farms, family businesses, or in the informal sector, which is often not perceived by women themselves as employment. ^{ccclxxxvi}
% of population who are self-employed; who are home-based workers; who are seasonal workers (by sector)	21.9% of women are own-account workers (2000) ^{ccclxxxvii}	27.5% of women are own-account workers (2010) ^{ccclxxxviii}	34.7% women and 35.3% men are own-account workers in Armenia and 5.5% overall are contributing family workers (2018) ^{ccclxxxix} .
% of population who are active in the informal/unprotected workforce (by sector);	---	50.4% with 46.9% men and 54.6% women (2010) ^{ccclxxx} .	In 2017 Armenia had a 44.5% informal employment rate with 98.5% in the agricultural sector of which 99.1% were women and 97.7% men, of which 99.9% were women non-employed (earning no wages) while 68.8% were employed. ^{ccclxxxi} The informal workforce is mostly focused in rural areas (69.8%) and 20.7% in cities (2017). ^{ccclxxxii}
Proportion of informal employment in non agricultural employment, by sex (SDG Indicator 8.3.1)	---	30.1% of women and 43.4% of men (2014) ^{ccclxxxiii}	In 2017 informal employment in the non-agricultural sector was at 18.3%. Women made up 13.9% of the population in non-agricultural informal sector and men made up 21.9%. ^{ccclxxxiv} From 2015-2016 women who worked in agriculture were mainly either self-employed (82%) or employed by a family member (14%) ^{ccclxxxv} .

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age (SDG Indicator 8.7.1)	---	---	<p>52,000 children were registered as working in Armenia (2015). The number of working children disaggregated by age is as follows: 4.6% of children in the 5-11 age group, 15.7% of children in the 12-15 age group and 27.7% of children in the 16-17 age group are engaged in child labor. Of children aged 10-17 engaged in child labor 35,500 are unpaid family workers, with 47,000 children out of the total 52,000 working children aged 5-17 engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing.</p> <p>8.5% of these were between the ages of 5-17, of which 69.7% were boys and 30.5% were girls.</p> <p>31,2000 children out of the total number of engaged in child labour were in hazardous child labour, 72% of these were boys and 27.8% were girls.^{cccboooi}</p> <p>Data on sexual exploitation of children in Armenia is not comprehensive. The UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography reported that there are gaps in terms of reporting of “cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, which results in underreporting”.^{cccdbxxxvii} Data provided by the Office of the Prosecutor General states that “between 2010 and 2014, nine persons were convicted for trafficking in children for the purpose of prostitution, with sentences of 4 to 11 years of imprisonment handed down”.^{cccdbxxxviii}</p>
Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status (SDG Indicator 8.8.1).	---	<p>Fatal: 0 of 100,000 (women) and 3.1 of 100,000 (men) (2012)^{cccdbxxxix}</p> <p>Non-fatal: 7.0/100,000 (women) and 72.1/100,000 (men) (2013)^{cccdbccc}</p>	<p>In 2018, 42 industrial accidents were registered in Armenia of which 3 affected women and 39 men, and which were primarily in the mining and manufacturing sectors, with many happening in Syunik region. Of these figures, 9 were fatal (Yerevan, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, and Syunik). The number of industrial accidents reported in 2018 is the lowest since 2000.^{cccdbccxi}</p> <p>With only 23 labour inspectors country wide (2018) for the more than 1.5 million workers in the country, a large gap remains in terms of sufficiently and effectively addressing workplace conditions, violations and other issues of concern.^{cccdbccxii}</p>

TABLE 7

Gender Dimensions of Poverty

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of population below US\$1.90 per day, by sex. (SDG Indicator 1.1.1)	4.5% (2005) ^{cccxciii}	1.9% (2010)	2.1% in 2018, a significant reduction of the past twenty years ^{cccxciv} . 0.5% of the female population and 0.4% of the male population of Armenia 15 years and older was living under the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day (2016) ^{cccxcv} .
National Poverty Rate;	53.5 (2004)	27.6% (2008) ^{cccxcvi} .	23.5% (2018), constituting a fall of 2.2% points compared to 2017, and of 4.1% points compared to 2008 ^{cccxcvii} .
Proportion of population living below national poverty line, by sex. (SDG Indicator 1.2.1.)	---	Women constituted 54.5% of persons living in poverty as compared to men, who constituted 45.5% of persons living in poverty (2010). ^{cccxcviii} .	Women accounted for 30.2% of the population living below the national poverty line and men accounted for 28.5% of the population living below the national poverty line (2016) ^{cccxcix} .
Population without own income, by age and sex.			No data found
Multidimensional poverty, by sex. (SDG Indicator 1.2.2.)	1.1% of the population in Armenia were living in multidimensionally poverty (2005) ^{cd} .	0.3% of the population were living in multidimensional poverty (2010) ^{cdi}	Armenia's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index value is 0.001, the incidence of multidimensional poverty is 0.2% and in total 5,000 people are multidimensionally poor in Armenia ^{cdii} . According to Armenia's own national MPI index that it uses, 27.8% of the population was living in multidimensional poverty in 2016 with 30.2% women and 28.5% men ^{cdiii} . The poverty rate of female-headed households was higher at 29.2% compared to 24.4% for male-headed households (2018). ^{cdiv}
Proportion of people below 50% of median income, by sex. (SDG Indicator 10.2.1)	---	---	No data found
Population without own income, by sex and income quintile;	---	---	No data found
Consumption data (household expenditure), by type;	69.4% of household consumer expenditures were on food goods (including tobacco), 15% were on non-food goods and 15.6% on services (1999) ^{cdv}	56.3% of household consumer expenditures were on food goods, 15.5% on non-food good and 28.2% on services (2010) ^{cdvi}	Household consumer expenditure amounted to an average of 44,413 AMD of which 20,416 AMD (45.9%) was expenditure on food goods (including tobacco), 15,500 (34.9%) was on services, 8,497 (19.2%) was on non-food goods (2017) ^{cdvii} .

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Time use data:	Proportion of women's time spent on unpaid care work (ages 15+): 3.8% (2004) ^{cdviii}	Proportion of women's time spent on unpaid care work (ages 15+): 3.3% (2008). ^{cdix}	<p>Armenia's only Time Use Survey was conducted in 2008¹⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women spend 33% of their time in gainful employment compared to 60% of men. - 96% of women surveyed spend significantly higher proportion of their time on housework, family care or unpaid work, almost 5 hours 12 minutes for women; - 53% of men surveyed spend only 1 hour and 3 minutes for some form of housework and family care during everyday life. - Overall, women spend 5 times more time on unpaid work than men; while men spend 4.6 times more time on paid work than on unpaid work than women. - Women's main activity is on child care, and spend 6.6 times more on this than men. - Men have on average 5 hours and 16 minutes a day "free time", as compared to 3 hours and 54 minutes a day for women.^{cdx}

16 UN Women and Armstat will conduct a new Time Use Survey in 2020.

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and vulnerable. (SDG Indicator 1.3.1)	<p>Social Assistance: 22.4% (2008),^{cdxi}</p> <p>Pension: 87.0 (2000)^{cdxii}</p> <p>Labour Market programmes: 2.9% (2008)^{cdxiii}</p> <p>Unemployment benefits: 12.0% (2000)^{cdxiv}</p>	<p>Social Assistance: 23.2% (2010)^{cdxv}</p> <p>Labour Market Programmes: 6.3% (2010)^{cdxvi}</p> <p>Unemployment benefits: 24.1% (2010)^{cdxvii}</p>	<p>47.3% of the population was effectively covered by at least one social protection cash transfer (2016).</p> <p>- 68.5% of persons above the retirement age, with 62.3% male and 72.6% female, were receiving a pension;</p> <p>-100% of persons with severe disabilities were collecting disability social protection benefits;</p> <p>- 21.4% children;</p> <p>- 38.2% of the poor and</p> <p>-16.2% of vulnerable persons were covered by social protection benefits.</p> <p>-61% of mothers with newborns were receiving maternity benefits^{cdxviii}.</p> <p>There is no recent data on unemployment, but in 2011 ILO registered that 20.8% of unemployed persons were receiving unemployment benefits.</p> <p>It is important to note that the minimum monthly amount of the old age pension, which stands at 24,000 AMD (approximately 45 EUR) is below the national minimum wage of 55,000 AMD (105 EUR) and below the 2015 extreme poverty line of 24,109 AMD. Although the average pension received by pensioners in 2017 was 40,000 AMD (above the minimum) older persons living in Armenia who do not have support from family members end up living in poverty^{cdxix}.</p>
% of population accessing child-care and creches;	---	---	<p>In 2018 the net enrollment rate of children in pre-primary education was 35.14%, with 36.61% girls and 33.85% boys.^{cdxx}</p> <p>In 2016 there was a significant urban-rural disparity between school and pre-school enrollment with 35.6% enrollment rate in urban areas as compared to only 17% in rural areas^{cdxxi}</p>
% of population accessing elderly care; care for severely disabled;	---	---	No data found
% of population accessing paid paternity/maternity leave;	---	---	47.9% of paid maternity leave was accessed by women in Armenia in 2012 ^{cdxxii} This is parental leave but fathers rarely exercise their rights in this regard. Paternity leave is 70 days before birth and 70 days afterbirth. 15 days may be added if the birth has been medically difficult. Paternity leave is approximately 85% of the salary of the individual.

Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing, by sex (*)	---	---	1.7 per 100,000 was living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (2016). ^{cdxxiii}
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TABLE 8

Gender Based Violence in Armenia

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of ever partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological, economic violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and age. (SDG Indicator 5.2.1).	---	---	<p>According to the DHS 2015-2016¹⁷:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Among ever-married women age 15-49, 14% report having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their spouse, and 8% report experiencing such violence in the past 12 months. - Among ever-married women who have experienced spousal violence (physical or sexual), 40% reported experiencing physical injuries. - 6 % of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence at least once since age 15; - 3% experienced physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.
Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years or older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence. (SDG Indicator 5.2.2);	---	---	<p>According to the DHS 2015-2016, 1% of women age 15-49 report having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.</p> <p>However, there is not more comprehensive data available.</p> <p>According to the Sexual Assault Crisis Center, in the 2015-131 cases of sexual assault were investigated in 2015, of which 95 cases were charged, of which 63 of the suspects were other than an intimate partner of the survivor. Survivors of these cases ranged from ages 4 to 62. In 2015 45 of the criminal cases occurred in Yerevan, 73 in the regions. In 2016 out of the 108 cases charged 65 of the suspects were other than an intimate partner of the survivor. Survivors of these cases ranged from ages 5 to 74. In 2016 45 of the criminal cases occurred in Yerevan, 98 in regions.^{cdxxiv}</p>

17 The above data is from the DHS 2015-2016, and questions are focused primarily on intimate partner violence. Responses were from a sample size of 4,500 plus women between the ages of 15-49 (no more than one woman per household). The module followed the WHO's ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence (WHO 2001).

Indicator	2000	2010	Most Recent Year
Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 20 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (SDG Indicator 5.2.2 and 16.2.3);	---	---	Comprehensive data is not available. See above.
Victims of physical or sexual harassment, by sex. (SDG Indicator 11.7.2)	---	---	Data not available
% of women who have faced GBV who accessed support services (by type);	---	---	<p>According to the DHS of 2015-2016, 29% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by anyone have sought assistance to stop the violence with the majority seeking help from their own families (82%) and only 2% seeking help from friends and lawyers^{cdxxxv}.</p> <p>However there is no consolidated administrative data to provide a detailed or up-to-date breakdown of the types of services accessed and the numbers of survivors supported by Government and CSOs.</p> <p>According to women's rights activists, GBV is widely underreported in Armenia – particularly sexual violence. It is therefore difficult to know the real number of cases.</p> <p>In 2019, according to police statistics 1,270 hotline calls on DV were registered, of which 570 of violators were given an initial warning, and of which 170 resulted in emergency intervention.^{cdxxxvi}</p> <p>In 2018, 864 incidents of violence against women were registered, of which 223 were cases of DV^{cdxxxvii}.</p> <p>In 2017, the Women's Rights Center NGO supported 1,336 women affected by DV with legal and psychological services.^{cdxxxviii}</p> <p>From 2008 – 2016 the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Armenia provided support services for over 500 women and minors affected by sexual assault.^{cdxxxix}</p>
Number of protection orders issued	---	---	No data found.
Number of GBV cases, including sexual violence, processed by the Courts.	---	---	In 2018, 519 criminal cases on DV were investigated as compared to 458 in 2017. In 2018 authorities brought charges against 31 persons for DV and the Courts convicted 7 of these. In 2017, 458 criminal charges related to DV were reported, leading to 86 indictments. ^{cdxxxx}

<p>Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation. (SDG Indicator 16.2.2)</p>	<p>Trafficked for sexual exploitation: 44 cases (2006)^{cdxxxix}</p> <p>Trafficked for labour exploitation: 3 cases (2006)^{cdxxxix}</p>	<p>Trafficked for sexual exploitation: 19 victims detected (2010)^{cdxxxix}</p> <p>Trafficked for labour exploitation: 3 (2011)^{cdxxxix}</p>	<p>In 2017, nine people were supported as suspected victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>In 2016, 21 men were supported as suspected victims of human trafficking in the areas of forced labour, servitude and slavery; 4 women were supported as suspected victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.</p> <p>In 2015, 4 women were supported as suspected victims of human trafficking for forced labor, servitude and slavery.^{cdxxxv}</p>
<p>Perceptions of gender-based violence;</p>			

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