

Statistical Annex

*Annexes are numbered in accordance with the numeration of the respective chapters.
In certain cases insignificant difference between the totals and the sum of the components is the result of data rounding.*

Annex 1

Table A 1.1 Armenia. Natural Population Flows, Marriages and Divorces, by Provinces and in Yerevan, 2016

	Permanent population at the end of the year, Thos. people			Birth			Death			Marriage	Divorce
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
RA	2986.1	1418.8	1567.3	40592	21445	19147	28226	14536	13690	16294	3648
Yerevan	1075.8	497.1	578.7	15418	7950	7468	9274	4738	4536	6528	1581
Aragatsotn	128.5	63.5	65.0	1742	949	793	1162	574	588	705	144
Ararat	258.4	125.2	133.2	3684	1993	1691	2413	1271	1142	1319	230
Armavir	265.8	129.5	136.3	3396	1860	1536	2337	1168	1169	1430	250
Gegharkunik	230.7	115.6	115.1	3036	1666	1370	1926	992	934	1070	146
Lori	221.1	102.0	119.1	3023	1569	1454	2875	1451	1424	1106	538
Kotayk	252.8	121.5	131.3	3488	1818	1670	2341	1253	1088	1412	274
Shirak	239.3	112.8	126.5	3309	1813	1496	2615	1342	1273	1048	241
Syunik	138.9	67.9	71.0	1468	762	706	1367	739	628	672	132
Vayots Dzor	50.3	24.3	26.0	629	333	296	513	288	225	356	42
Tavush	124.5	59.4	65.1	1399	732	667	1403	720	683	648	70

Source. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

Table A3.1. Armenia. Poverty Indicators in 2008 and 2016
(Standard Errors in Parenthesis)

(Percent)

	2008			2016		
	Extremely poor (%)	Poor (%)	Share (%) of the poor in the total population	Extremely poor (%)	Poor (%)	Share (%) of the poor in the total population
<i>Urban communities</i>	1.9	27.6	64.9	2.0	28.8	63.6
	(0.3)	(0.9)		(0.4)	(1.4)	
Yerevan	1.1	20.1	33.9	1.9	24.9	33.3
	(0.4)	(1.4)		(0.5)	(1.8)	
Other towns	2.8	35.8	31.0	2.1	33.2	30.3
	(0.4)	(1.1)		(0.5)	(1.9)	
<i>Rural communities</i>	1.2	27.5	35.1	1.4	30.4	36.4
	(0.4)	(1.4)		(0.3)	(2.2)	
Total	1.6	27.6	100	1.8	29.4	100
	(0.2)	(0.8)		(0.3)	(1.2)	

Source. ILCS 2008 and 2016

Note. Consumption was measured per one adult person. Poverty indicators were calculated using 2009 minimum food basket and the share of non-food products estimated in 2009. Poverty lines were adjusted with consideration of inflation. Standard errors were adjusted according to initial sample points.

Table A3.2. Armenia. Per Adult Equivalent Monthly Consumption, by Decile Groups, 2008 and 2016, in Average 2008 Annual Prices

(Percent)

Decile groups	2008		2016		Average annual change in consumption, 2008-2016, %
	Share in total consumption	Average consumption	Share in total consumption	Average consumption	
1-the poorest	4.8	20 462	4.1	20 867	0.2
2	5.9	25 200	5.3	26 778	0.8
3	6.7	28 907	5.7	29 073	0.1
4	7.6	32 524	7.2	36 486	1.4
5	8.4	36 311	8.3	42 087	1.9
6	9.4	40 213	9.3	46 809	1.9
7	10.5	44 839	10.4	52 200	1.9
8	11.9	50 663	11.9	60 095	2.2
9	13.9	59 478	14.1	71 006	2.2
10-rich	20.9	90 123	23.7	119 400	3.6
Average	100	42 870	100	50 481	2.1

Source. ILCS 2008 and 2016

**Table A3.3. Armenia. Basic Poverty Indicators by Provinces and in Yerevan,
2008 and 2016 (Standard Errors in Parenthesis)
{95% Confidence Interval in Shaped Brackets}**

(Percent)

	2008		2016			
	Extremely poor	Poor	Extremely poor	Poor	% in the poor	% in the total available population
Yerevan	1.1 (0.4) {0.3 ; 1.9}	20.1 (1.4) {17.3 ; 22.9}	1.9 (0.5) {1.0 ; 2.9}	24.9 (1.8) {21.2 ; 28.5}	28.2	33.3
Aragatsotn	0.5 (0.4) {-0.3 ; 1.3}	20.3 (3.2) {13.9 ; 26.7}	0.6 (0.4) {-0.2 ; 1.4}	15.7 (2.8) {10.3 ; 21.2}	2.0	3.7
Ararat	1.6 (0.7) {0.2 ; 3.0}	31.3 (2.9) {25.5 ; 37.1}	1.0 (0.6) {-0.2 ; 2.3}	26.9 (4.1) {18.9 ; 35.0}	7.8	8.6
Armavir	0.7 (0.3) {0.1 ; 1.3}	24.5 (2.4) {19.7 ; 29.3}	1.5 (0.8) {0.0 ; 3.1}	30.0 (5.1) {19.9 ; 40.0}	9.8	9.6
Gegharkunik	0.4 (0.1) {0.2 ; 0.6}	32 (3.1) {25.8 ; 38.2}	1.0 (0.8) {-0.6 ; 2.5}	28.8 (5.0) {19.0 ; 38.5}	5.3	5.5
Lori	2.8 (0.8) {1.2 ; 4.4}	34.2 (2.5) {29.2 ; 39.2}	2.7 (0.9) {1.0 ; 4.5}	35.8 (3.6) {28.8 ; 42.9}	11.5	9.5
Kotayk	2.1 (0.7) {0.7 ; 3.5}	39.5 (2.4) {34.7 ; 44.3}	1.3 (0.5) {0.3 ; 2.2}	35.4 (4.0) {27.6 ; 43.2}	12.6	10.5
Shirak	4.6 (1.3) {2.0 ; 7.2}	42.4 (2.6) {37.2 ; 47.6}	3.7 (1.3) {1.1 ; 6.2}	45.5 (5.1) {35.5 ; 55.4}	12.1	7.8
Syunik	1.3 (0.4) {0.5 ; 2.1}	20.3 (3.0) {14.3 ; 26.3}	1.1 (0.7) {-0.4 ; 2.5}	24.2 (3.2) {18.0 ; 30.5}	4.0	4.7
Vayots Dzor	1.9 (0.9) {0.1 ; 3.7}	21.1 (3.1) {14.9 ; 27.3}	1.2 (0.7) {-0.2 ; 2.7}	18.8 (3.8) {11.4 ; 26.5}	1.3	2.1
Tavush	1.7 (0.7) {0.3 ; 3.1}	23.2 (2.6) {18.0 ; 28.4}	1.9 (1.0) {-0.0 ; 3.8}	33.8 (3.8) {26.4 ; 41.2}	5.4	4.7
Total	1.6 (0.2) {1.2 ; 2.0}	27.6 (0.8) {26.0 ; 29.2}	1.8 (0.3) {1.3 ; 2.3}	29.4 (1.2) {27.1 ; 31.7}	100	100

Source. ILCS 2008 and 2016

Table A3.4. Armenia. Poverty Rate by Consumption and Income Indicators (according to Total Combination) 2016

(Percent)

	Consumption non-poor	Consumption poor	Total
Extremely poor. Extreme (food) poverty line = AMD 23 313			
Income non-poor	92.2	1.4	93.6
Income poor	6.0	0.4	6.4
Total	98.2	1.8	100
Poor, total poverty line = AMD 40 867			
Income non-poor	57.0	18.8	75.8
Income poor	13.6	10.6	24.2
Total	70.6	29.4	100

Source. ILCS 2016

Table A3.5. Armenia. Poor and Extremely Poor Population, by Both Consumption and Income Indicators, 2008 - 2016

(Percent)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Extremely poor	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4
Poor	14.3	16.6	17.7	16.0	14.2	14.2	11.6	10.8	10.6

Source. ILCS 2008 and 2016

Table A3.6. Armenia. Poverty Rate in Armenia in 1996-2015, according to Three Methodologies of the World Bank

(Percent)

	1996 methodology		2004 methodology		2009 methodology	
	Poor	Extremely poor	Poor	Extremely poor	Poor	Extremely poor
1996	54.7*	27.7*	...	...	...	...
1998/99	55.1	22.9	56.1	21.0	...	...
2001	50.9	16.0	...	...	...	...
2002	49.7	13.1	...	...	...	...
2003	42.9	7.4	...	...	...	...
2004	39.0	7.2	34.6	6.4	53.5	4.4
2005	X	X	29.8	4.6	40.1	3.3
2006	X	X	26.5	4.1	30.2	2.3
2007	X	X	25.0	3.8	26.4	2.0
2008	X	X	23.5	3.1	27.6	1.6
2009	X	X	28.7	5.2	34.1	3.6
2010	X	X	28.9	5.3	35.8	3.0
2011	X	X	25.4	5.2	35.0	3.7
2012	X	X	21.1	3.5	32.4	2.8
2013	X	X	18.1	3.2	32.0	2.7
2014	X	X	18.1	3.3	30.0	2.3
2015	X	X	21.8	4.0	29.8	2.0
2016	X	X	X	X	29.4	1.8

*) In 1996, the Integrated Living Conditions Survey was conducted during one month, thereafter, in 1998/1999 and since 2001 it was conducted annually.

Data from 1996-2003 surveys are not extended on the master sample.

Table A3.7. Armenia. Breakdown of the Poverty Rate Changes by Consumption Growth and Distribution Components during 2008-2016 (Average Values)

	Total	Other urban areas	Yerevan	Other towns	Rural communities
Extremely Poor					
Percentage change in poverty rate	0.17	0.12	0.87	-0.69	0.28
Consumption indicator	-7.93	-9.15	-9.91	-7.44	-6.73
Redistribution	8.11	9.27	10.78	6.75	7.01
Poor					
Percentage change in poverty rate	1.85	1.23	4.78	-2.60	2.93
Consumption indicator	-26.76	-27.54	-23.29	-30.25	-25.25
Redistribution	28.61	28.77	28.07	27.65	28.19

Source. ILCS 2008 and 2016

Note. A change in poverty over 2008-2016 can be explained by a change in mean consumption and a change in consumption distribution. Decomposition of change in poverty into consumption growth and distribution components (according to the methodology developed by Datt and Ravallion, 1992) allows explaining what would be the impact of growth (decline) in consumption on poverty, keeping inequality constant and vice versa. The 1.85 percentage point increase in overall poverty in Armenia reflected the impact of both the consumption and redistribution components. Thus, in the case when the average level of the first component – consumption – resulted in a 26.76 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate, the inequality index underlying the second - distribution component - resulted in poverty increase by 28.61 percentage points. In other words, if the consumption level of all Armenian households grew in the same pace, poverty in 2016 would have reduced by 26.76 percentage points as compared with 2008. In contrast, in the result of slower growth in consumption of poor households at an unequal growth rate over time, the poverty rate reduced by only 1.85 percentage points. Hence, these two components together led to increase in the poverty rate. When viewed from a regional perspective, it is evident that the 2.93 percentage point increase in the overall poverty level in rural areas is driven by an average increase in consumption, which has led to a 25.25 percentage point decrease in poverty and an increase in inequality, which led to a 28.19 percentage points of poverty increase.

**Table A3.8. Armenia. Consumption Determinants, 2008 and 2016,
Dependent Variable (Consumption per Adult Equivalent)**

	2008 Full specifications		2016 Full specifications	
Household characteristics				
0-5 age group	-0.026	(0.010)**	-0.028	(0.013)*
6-14 age group	0.014	(0.008)*	0.001	(0.02)
15-18 age group	-0.052	(0.013)***	-0.072	(0.017)***
19-25 age group	0.011	-0.009	-0.009	(0.013)
26-45 age group	0.022	(0.008)**	0.026	(0.008)***
46-60 age group		base		base
61+ age group	-0.023	(0.012)*	0.020	(0.009)*
Ln(household size)	-0.213	(0.022)***	-0.240	(0.023)***
Main characteristics of household head				
Head age	-0.007	(0.003)*	0.005	(0.007)
(Age) 2	0	(0.000)**	0.000	(0)
Female	-0.06	(0.010)***	-0.037	(0.012)**
Disabled	-0.027	(0.037)	0.052	(0.035)
Elementary or primary, incomplete secondary education		base		base
General secondary education	0.076	(0.013)***	0.016	(0.015)
Secondary vocational	0.261	(0.097)**	-0.061	(0.017)***
Tertiary education	0.237	(0.013)***	0.170	(0.017)***
Hired worker/ wage employed		base		base
Self-employed	0.053	(0.027)*	-0.011	(0.033)
Other employment	0.044	(0.064)	-0.139	(0.08)
Unemployed	-0.014	(0.021)	0.012	(0.048)
Pensioner	0.048	(0.036)	0.094	(0.077)
Other non-participant	0.019	(0.071)	0.347	(0.053)***
Other characteristics of household				
Migrant members	0.074	(0.018)***	0.196	(0.023)***
Migrant members returned from abroad	0.079	(0.025)***	0.069	(0.022)**
Migrant members returned from other places in Armenia	0	0	0.116	(0.072)
Share of wage-employed members in the household		base		base
Share of self-employed members in the household	-0.023	(0.024)	0.036	(0.052)
Share of otherwise employed members in the household	-0.049	(0.076)	0.180	(0.115)
Share of unemployed members in the household	-0.244	(0.023)***	-0.286	(0.021)***
Share of pensioner members in the household	-0.283	(0.062)***	-0.186	(0.107)
Share of other not employed members	0.094	(0.033)**	0.001	(0.076)
Yerevan		base		base
Aragatsotn	-0.075	(0.020)***	-0.066	(0.02)***
Ararat	-0.148	(0.011)***	0.002	(0.016)
Armavir	-0.043	(0.015)**	-0.128	(0.023)***
Gegharkunik	-0.16	(0.016)***	-0.087	(0.023)***
Lori	-0.165	(0.011)***	-0.170	(0.011)***
Kotayk	-0.196	(0.007)***	-0.059	(0.005)***
Shirak	-0.211	(0.007)***	-0.347	(0.013)***
Syunik	-0.022	(0.010)**	-0.170	(0.009)***
Vayots Dzor	0.008	(0.015)	0.014	(0.013)
Tavush	-0.028	(0.014)*	-0.269	(0.013)***
Constant	11.112		11.369	(0.188)***
Adjusted R squared	0.235		0.2303	
Poor MSE	0.3724		0.4235	
Number of observations	7294		5,184	

Source. Data of ILCS 2008 and 2016

Note: base –reference category, * indicates 10% significance;
** indicates 5% significance; *** indicates 1% significance.

Table A3.9. Armenia. Consumption Components by Quintile Groups and Regions, 2008 and 2016
(In Average National Prices, AMD, Monthly, per Adult Equivalent)

	The poorest		2		3		4		5		Total	
	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016
All households												
Food products	16 056	16 937	19 096	21 990	21 703	28 247	25 238	32 451	30 461	42 168	22 512	28 359
Alcohol and tobacco	762	1 002	1 234	1 506	1 537	2 053	2 050	2 564	2 733	3 351	1 663	2 095
Clothing and shoes	254	345	565	747	1 061	1 640	2 061	3 002	4 427	6 811	1 674	2 509
Utilities and communication	2 263	4 942	3 693	7 726	5 069	10 499	5 670	13 426	8 720	19 546	5 084	11 228
Transport	148	781	363	1 555	549	2 851	875	5 011	1 099	11 350	607	4 310
Household goods	737	604	1 357	840	2 281	1 264	3 624	1 517	8 378	2 581	3 276	1 361
Recreation and culture	0	90	1	168	2	292	13	1 180	67	5 614	17	1 469
Education	144	49	778	160	1315	710	1943	1 033	4048	2 594	1646	909
Health care	12	1 022	154	1 516	259	2 379	687	3 543	6 133	20 030	1 449	5 698
Other services	324	709	586	1 079	983	1 574	1 472	2 653	2 839	5 268	1 232	2 257
The rental value of durable goods	2 149	6 159	2 904	7 627	3 512	9 385	4 128	10 544	5 876	11 105	3 710	8 964
Average	22 849	32 640	30 730	44 912	38 270	60 894	47 760	76 924	74 782	130 418	42 870	69 159
Food consumption in-kind	2 478	2 638	2 909	3 194	3 529	4 545	4 691	4 966	4 541	5 264	3 630	4 122
Yerevan												
Food products	14 847	14 601	17 411	19 698	19 810	24 727	22 448	27 967	28 426	39 521	21 670	27 095
Alcohol and tobacco	976	1 540	1 469	1 594	1 725	2 236	2 483	2 663	2 747	3 332	2 018	2 416
Clothing and shoes	144	119	471	461	759	799	1 614	1 955	4 532	6 727	1 865	2 606
Utilities and communication	2 872	6 007	4 197	9 958	5 974	12 873	6 183	16 523	9 676	21 209	6 327	14 337
Transport	211	1 424	366	2 272	549	3 806	855	7 527	863	14 123	622	6 916
Household goods	730	556	1 462	781	2 597	1 208	3 895	1 375	9 088	2 657	4 245	1 484
Recreation and culture	0	97	2	165	4	175	9	2 354	69	6 039	23	2 325
Education	247	30	966	101	1 630	864	2 482	1 254	4 844	3 560	2 405	1 467
Health care	1	1 396	173	2 262	224	3 572	998	4 434	4 877	27 988	1 656	10 381
Other services	733	1 012	1 252	1 235	1 593	1 610	2 591	2 292	4 251	5 922	2 334	2 855
The rental value of durable goods	2 524	5 696	3 075	7 330	3 493	9 064	4 164	9 887	6 216	10 237	4 195	8 679
Average	23 284	32 478	30 844	45 857	38 359	60 934	47 721	78 231	75 591	141 315	47 311	80 561
Food consumption in-kind	791	748	573	977	736	1 662	1 540	1 686	2 075	2 456	1 263	1 627
Other town households												
Food products	15 654	17 822	18 871	22 577	21 914	29 562	25 275	34 205	30 302	49 125	21 318	28 503
Alcohol and tobacco	726	563	1 208	1 382	1 413	1 897	1 729	2 251	2 598	2 790	1 408	1 656
Clothing and shoes	273	197	523	576	1 170	1 350	2 210	2 020	4 395	6 070	1 420	1 597
Utilities and communication	2 209	5 105	3 970	8 021	5 314	11 101	6 587	13 930	9 351	21 099	4 977	10 771
Transport	148	351	307	827	435	1 918	753	3 436	1 482	7 231	534	2 229

	The poorest		2		3		4		5		Total	
	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016	2008	2016
Household goods	774	560	1 412	824	2 045	1 082	3 360	1 287	8 778	1 832	2 756	1 033
Recreation and culture	0	92	0	184	3	382	37	401	137	1 611	27	420
Education	145	84	804	181	1 275	788	2 262	1 395	4 238	1 898	1 460	732
Health care	11	768	206	1 355	276	1 870	323	3 494	7 041	14 012	1 182	3 256
Other services	126	612	321	1 086	584	1 487	856	2 470	1 572	5 004	590	1 803
The rental value of durable goods	2 194	6 539	2 986	7 730	3 607	9 424	4 556	11 408	6 245	14 261	3 623	9 334
Average	22 259	32 693	30 609	44 743	38 037	60 861	47 948	76 297	76 138	124 933	39 296	61 334
Food consumption in-kind	962	1 088	1 052	1 225	1 392	1 979	1 503	2 121	2 529	3 655	1 382	1 825
Rural households												
Food products	17 454	18 108	20 476	23 039	23 439	29 628	27 668	34 924	33 849	42 349	24 378	29 397
Alcohol and tobacco	643	939	1 097	1 575	1 451	2 059	1 873	2 715	2 815	3 690	1 547	2 168
Clothing and shoes	313	662	673	1 138	1 273	2 508	2 358	4 626	4 282	7 348	1 715	3 180
Utilities and communication	1 870	3 911	3 070	5 775	3 946	8 243	4 636	10 428	6 699	16 162	3 982	8 760
Transport	100	622	418	1 809	644	2 989	970	4 066	1 186	9 410	657	3 655
Household goods	699	684	1 230	901	2 161	1 466	3 552	1 809	6 931	2 879	2 803	1 522
Recreation and culture	0	84	0	152	0	295	2	774	11	7 177	2	1 557
Education	65	33	623	180	1 029	530	1 265	574	2 620	1 510	1080	545
Health care	21	932	87	1 142	280	1 967	647	2 826	7 463	11 257	1 486	3 440
Other services	211	543	353	957	677	1 624	857	3 097	1 532	4 419	704	2 086
The rental value of durable goods	1 806	6 212	2 705	7 734	3 450	9 584	3 824	10 451	5 062	10 682	3 339	8 917
Average	23 184	32 730	30 732	44 402	38 351	60 893	47 652	76 290	72 451	116 883	41 691	65 227
Food consumption in-kind	5 574	5 574	6 364	6 924	8 161	8 915	9 488	9 876	10 029	10 421	7 898	8 320

Source: ILCS 2008 and 2016

Table A3.10. Armenia. Sources of Income, by Consumption Quintile Groups and by Regions, in 2016 (acc. to 2016 Current Prices, Monthly, AMD, per Adult Equivalent)

Income sources	1	2	3	4	5	Total
All households						
Wage-employment	25 033	34 358	37 116	46 180	65 369	41 611
Self-employment	4 092	4 870	6 142	7 598	14 174	7 375
Agriculture	8 419	11 184	14 321	15 708	12 898	12 506
Remittances from relatives	2 867	4 203	6 523	8 544	9 722	6 372
Social transfers	11 675	12 067	11 807	12 345	12 368	12 052
Pensions	9 411	10 425	10 530	11 253	11 588	10 641
Other social assistance	134	141	81	136	184	135
Sales of real estate	43	2	8	6	41	20
Other income	1 461	1 568	3 087	3 616	3 515	2 650
Income in-kind	1 861	2 723	3 098	3 200	3 494	2 875
Average	55 451	70 975	82 102	97 199	121 580	85 463
Yerevan						
Wage-employment	40 979	55 291	56 731	73 416	90 811	66 976
Self-employment	6 067	6 281	8 191	11 325	13 653	9 734
Agriculture	353	442	483	586	514	482
Remittances from relatives	1 202	3 973	5 540	7 657	9 487	6 079
Social transfers	11 955	12 378	13 208	14 260	13 783	13 223
Pensions	10 746	11 705	12 584	13 525	13 194	12 472
Other social assistance	189	180	34	248	229	185
Sales of real estate	140	7	29	18	82	60
Other income	1 045	2 468	3 614	2 536	1 487	2 118
Income in-kind	748	971	1 655	1 661	2 439	1 614
Average	62 490	81 811	89 453	111 459	132 257	100 285
Households in other towns						
Wage-employment	21 457	29 749	35 818	41 473	49 731	33 953
Self-employment	5 369	5 531	6 489	8 385	17 487	7 675
Agriculture	2 966	3 216	5 357	4 986	7 631	4 506
Remittances from relatives	4 183	4 627	8 309	10 371	15 144	7 705
Social transfers	11 688	12 668	11 125	11 922	12 045	11 896
Pensions	8 937	10 514	9 482	10 501	11 012	10 002
Other social assistance	134	220	167	158	160	171
Sales of real estate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	881	1 567	3 064	4 021	4 739	2 602
Income in-kind	802	882	1 340	1 218	2 588	1 235

Income sources	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Average	47 345	58 240	71 503	82 376	109 365	69 571
Rural households						
Wage-employment	14 870	23 966	24 055	26 689	35 332	24 751
Self-employment	1 325	3 130	4 349	3 857	13 136	4 965
Agriculture	19 924	27 578	32 318	36 548	34 628	30 184
Remittances from relatives	3 103	3 917	5 648	7 922	7 086	5 531
Social transfers	11 429	11 196	11 396	11 044	10 395	11 110
Pensions	8 713	9 394	9 972	9 898	9 464	9 497
Other social assistance	90	29	39	25	130	61
Sales of real estate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	2 318	912	2 725	4 227	5 922	3 177
Income in-kind	3 718	5 977	5 708	5 990	5 597	5 397
Average	56 686	76 676	86 199	96 278	112 096	85 114

Source. *ILCS 2016*

Note: *Income is defined as total disposable income. The income is calculated equivalent to one adult.*

Annex 3

Table A6.1 Average Monthly Consumption Expenditures per Present Household Member in 2008, 2015-2016

(AMD)

	Total households			Including					
				Urban areas			Rural areas		
	2008	2015	2016	2008	2015	2016	2008	2015	2016
Consumption expenditures	28 878	42 867	43978	30 568	47 161	46519	25 754	35786	39536
Including									
• Purchase of food	14 984	18 705	18520	15 086	19 014	18540	14 794	18 197	18486
• Non-food products	4 730	8 074	8732	5 082	8 394	8735	4 079	7 546	8727
Of which,									
Clothing, shoes, textiles	1 247	1 794	1882	1 243	1 661	1582	1 254	2 013	2406
Furniture and household goods	1 122	633	851	1 238	572	857	909	732	840
Medications, medical supplies	536	1 883	1969	635	2 274	2328	354	1 239	1341
Construction materials	133	335	392	178	424	432	49	189	323
Fuel	544	1 521	1669	521	1 422	1527	586	1 684	1918
• Purchase of alcoholic beverages	227	237	244	218	222	216	243	263	293
• Purchase of tobacco	1 019	1 414	1351	1 094	1 470	1334	882	1 320	1380
• Personal service fees	7 918	14 437	15131	9 088	18 061	17694	5 756	8 460	10650
Including housing and utility services	2 635	5 689	6148	3 052	6 856	7264	1 865	3 765	4199
Of which, living space fee	36	421	474	55	659	734	2	29	21
Utility service	2 599	5 268	5674	2 997	6 197	6530	1 863	3 736	4178
Including, electricity	1 031	2 464	2619	1 144	2 889	2905	821	1 764	2121
gas	1 254	2 275	2521	1 351	2 622	2959	1 075	1 702	1755

wood	19	81	154	10	75	130	37	90	195
Household service fee	46	143	308	52	167	399	36	104	149
Of which, clothes and shoe repair	4	3	5	5	5	7	3	1	2
Cultural services	3	101	196	5	163	258	0	0	88
Tuition fee	1 221	488	663	1 457	713	811	783	118	406
Medical assistance	1 035	2 659	2308	1 029	3 745	2923	1 048	868	1234
Hospital fee, including rest	20	519	658	30	736	548	1	162	849
Transportation services	967	1 441	1570	1 199	1 778	1877	539	886	1033
Communication services	1 404	2 393	2438	1 553	2 656	2714	1 129	1 959	1956
Legal services	16	376	447	22	450	409	5	253	513

Source: *SILCS 2008, 2015-2016*

Table A 6.2. Average Monthly Consumption Expenditures per Capita of Household, by Decile Groups, in 2004-2016

(AMD)

2004	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	19 251	5 740	8 535	10 436	12 289	14 154	16 288	18 950	22 638	28 763	54 713
Including											
Food products*	10797	4214	6090	7480	8543	9428	10437	11693	13425	15853	20815
Alcoholic beverages	163	21	38	63	53	85	120	146	211	275	614
Tobacco	808	296	399	531	652	732	801	866	1090	1157	1560
Non-food products	2787	492	872	929	1315	1623	2030	2634	3092	4696	10180
Services	4696	717	1136	1433	1726	2286	2900	3611	4820	6782	21544

2005	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	21109	6071	9233	11583	13514	15500	17902	20878	24902	31248	60276
Including											
Food products*	12035	4448	6598	8348	9322	10417	11846	13124	14937	17803	23518
Alcoholic beverages	179	18	32	42	63	82	112	152	182	350	751
Tobacco	835	261	436	519	624	735	863	1022	1217	1160	1513
Non-food products	3014	506	828	1005	1403	1711	1892	2555	3134	4525	12588
Services	5046	838	1339	1669	2102	2555	3189	4025	5432	7410	21906

2006	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	23 276	7 321	10 878	13 239	15 249	17 561	20 117	23 319	27 457	34 187	63 377
Including											
Food products*	13 149	5 318	7 852	9 182	10 199	11 631	12 867	14 068	15 884	18 434	26 031
Alcoholic beverages	210	18	34	62	73	114	131	214	258	356	842
Tobacco	953	283	463	564	783	839	1 013	1 125	1 326	1 373	1 759
Non-food products	3 250	515	917	1 284	1 501	2 184	2 327	2 934	3 652	5 337	11 837
Services	5 714	1 187	1 612	2 147	2 693	2 793	3 779	4 978	6 337	8 687	22 908

2007	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	26 297	8 065	11 841	14 424	16 876	19 554	22 533	26 077	31 446	40 137	72 006
Including											
Food products*	14 080	5 620	8 085	9 450	10 602	12 056	13 465	15 311	17 475	19 976	28 761
Alcoholic beverages	236	31	65	77	100	108	146	216	309	441	863
Tobacco	975	367	447	697	881	891	993	1 109	1 295	1 384	1 685
Non-food products	4 113	578	1 091	1 223	1 586	2 094	2 881	3 465	4 638	7 338	16 232
Services	6 893	1 469	2 152	2 976	3 708	4 406	5 049	5 975	7 729	10 999	24 465

2008	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	28 878	9 132	13 434	16 316	19 398	22 536	25 824	29 585	35 254	44 165	73 124
Including											
Food products*	14 984	6 153	8 906	10 250	11 710	12 967	14 766	16 371	18 520	20 882	29 311
Alcoholic beverages	227	37	50	64	121	142	138	176	318	370	850
Tobacco	1 019	408	540	721	796	1 054	983	1 044	1 361	1 405	1 884
Non-food products	4 730	670	1 110	1 535	2 156	2 727	3 607	4 720	5 850	8 413	16 508
Services	7 918	1 864	2 828	3 747	4 615	5 645	6 330	7 274	9 206	13 095	24 571

2009	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	27 667	8 984	13 033	15 934	18 692	21 468	24 564	28 475	33 321	41 394	70 813
Including											
Food products*	14 145	5 715	8 220	9 730	11 139	12 504	13 525	15 586	17 145	20 347	27 541
Alcoholic beverages	238	17	42	64	92	119	183	249	296	463	860
Tobacco	1 035	458	542	744	884	1 082	1 114	1 065	1 303	1 385	1 777
Non-food products	7 955	695	1 196	1 686	2 192	2 600	3 168	4 361	5 685	7 100	14 257
Services	4 294	2 100	3 032	3 709	4 384	5 164	6 575	7 214	8 892	12 100	26 378

2010	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	28 646	9 478	13 371	16 177	18 680	21 544	24 759	28 260	33 515	42 086	77 560
Including											
Food products*	14 844	6 124	8 495	9 962	11 338	12 753	14 197	15 611	18 382	21 942	29 672
Alcoholic beverages	272	29	44	72	115	135	161	199	308	584	1 074
Tobacco	1 009	369	558	694	771	879	1 086	1 214	1 229	1 538	1 766
Non-food products	4 439	809	1 244	1 803	2 151	2 585	3 403	4 135	5 288	7 228	15 625
Services	8 082	2 147	3 030	3 645	4 305	5 191	5 913	7 101	8 307	10 793	29 422

2011	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	32 585	10 677	15 154	18 419	21 344	24 404	27 803	32 088	37 591	47 385	90 979
Including											
Food products*	17 184	6 716	9 530	11 373	12 935	14 302	16 590	18 630	21 150	25 115	35 486
Alcoholic beverages	245	30	62	67	71	95	149	251	286	500	942
Tobacco	1 123	476	689	745	965	1 036	995	1 311	1 351	1 629	2 031
Non-food products	5 022	873	1 386	2 000	2 520	2 936	3 761	4 435	5 677	7 364	19 163
Services	9 011	2 582	3 487	4 234	4 853	6 035	6 308	7 461	9 127	12 777	33 357

2012	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	34 832	11 506	16 502	19 897	23 215	26 757	30 488	35 006	41 039	51 231	93 472
Including											
Food products*	16 970	7 276	9 734	11 495	13 081	14 616	16 330	18 550	20 957	24 713	33 820
Alcoholic beverages	242	33	45	64	80	107	139	212	309	377	1 048
Tobacco	1 199	492	670	873	915	1 091	1 114	1 161	1 592	1 696	2 379
Non-food products	6 159	900	1 919	2 616	3 254	4 042	5 427	5 945	7 080	9 558	20 823
Services	10 262	2 804	4 134	4 849	5 885	6 901	7 477	9 138	11 101	14 888	35 402

2013	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	36 787	11 929	17 537	21 034	24 460	27 881	31 930	37 021	43 789	54 399	97 905
Including											
Food products*	17 622	7 395	10 400	11 961	14 044	15 263	16 794	18 959	22 143	25 280	33 975
Alcoholic beverages	235	22	57	75	82	108	115	155	339	444	953
Tobacco	1 289	566	777	1 032	1 071	1 140	1 456	1 614	1 463	1 686	2 088
Non-food products	6 568	1 037	2 042	2 954	3 553	4 701	5 491	6 355	8 038	11 639	19 872
Services	11 073	2 908	4 260	5 013	5 711	6 669	8 070	9 939	11 806	15 350	41 017

2014	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	40 770	12779	18706	22634	26313	30385	34667	40210	47235	59040	117784
Including											
Food products*	18 635	7660	10738	12995	14729	16114	17986	20085	22813	27096	36137
Alcoholic beverages	244	23	52	82	88	85	174	210	280	429	1012
Tobacco	1 404	441	834	822	1014	1288	1371	1708	1729	1817	3018
Non-food products	7 442	1340	2458	3124	3854	4847	6104	7578	9104	11790	24222
Services	13 045	3315	4624	5611	6628	8051	9032	10629	13309	17908	53395

2015	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	42 867	13 675	19 450	23 516	27 492	31 964	36 770	42 349	49 757	60 993	122 641
Including											
Food products*	18 705	8 233	11 275	13 665	14 849	16 809	17 936	20 772	23 021	27 161	33 312
Alcoholic beverages	237	21	44	66	118	153	142	253	303	433	840
Tobacco	1 414	555	928	807	1 297	1 309	1 476	1 566	1 888	2 220	2 089
Non-food products	8 074	1 481	2 387	3 123	4 494	5 452	7 209	8 002	10 187	12 259	26 129
Services	14 437	3 385	4 816	5 855	6 734	8 241	10 007	11 756	14 358	18 920	60 271

2016	Total	Decile groups by consumption expenditures									
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Consumption expenditures	43978	14021	19776	23824	28328	33679	39290	45182	53285	64890	117485
Including											
Food products*	18520	8443	11007	13647	15138	16581	19074	20337	20589	23877	36496
Alcoholic beverages	244	28	51	88	116	133	204	224	215	486	898
Tobacco	1351	455	742	1022	1118	1338	1506	1680	1801	1712	2133
Non-food products	8732	1716	2789	3082	4454	5901	7181	9154	13161	14380	25500
Services	15131	3379	5187	5985	7502	9726	11325	13787	17519	24435	52458

Source. ILCS 2004-2016

*) including the consumption cost of own production food

Annex 4

Table A9.1. Armenia. Number of Pensioners and Pension Size by Pension Types, End of 2016

	Number of pensioners, person	Average pension size, AMD
Labor	466170	40352.5
Military service	2159	24678.4
Defined by other laws	199	314850.8
Number of pensioners	468528	40396.9

Source: The RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues

Table A9.2. Armenia. Probability of Becoming Eligible to Receive Family Benefits, 2016

Independent variables	dF/dx	Standard errors
Share of 0-5 age group	0.091	(0.007)***
Share of 6-14 age group	0.092	(0.006)***
Share of 15-18 age group	0.088	(0.007)***
Share of 19-25 age group	-0.016	(0.008)**
Share of 26-45 age group	-0.016	(0.006)***
Share of 46-60 age group	Base	base
Share of 61+ age group	-0.005	(0.006)
Ln (household size)	-0.068	(0.01)***
Per adult equivalent consumption	-0.044	(0.008)***
Age of household head	-0.005	(0.002)***
(Age of household head) 2	0.000	(0)***
Female head	0.023	(0.008)***
Elementary education (household head)	Base	base
Incomplete secondary education (household head)	0.009	(0.021)
General secondary education (household head)	0.000	(0.018)
Secondary vocational (household head)	-0.005	(0.018)
Tertiary (household head)	-0.034	(0.014)**
Not participating in the labor market (household head)	0.052	(0.013)***
Unemployed (household head)	0.077	(0.025)***
Self-employed (household head)	0.281	(0.126)***
Other employment (household head)	0.091	(0.029)***
Migrant members	-0.001	(0.011)
Migrant members returned from abroad	0.000	(0.012)
Car ownership	-0.064	(0.007)***
Temporary dwelling	0.121	(0.041)***
Land used by household	-0.002	(0.004)
% of own land	0.001	(0.009)
% of irrigated land	-0.007	(0.012)
Loan	-0.018	(0.012)
Livestock	0.011	(0.01)
LR chi2(38)	1207.7	
Prob > chi2	0	
Pseudo R2	0.3052	
Number of observations	5184	

Source. ILCS 2016

Note. base – reference category, * indicates 10% significance;

**indicates 5% significance;

***indicates 1% significance

Annex 5

SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN 2016

The year of 2016 for the sector of social protection was a complicated period, full of large-scale activities and achievements. Despite of unfavorable situation, activities aimed at introduction of new systems and new approaches to delivery of social services were implemented further. Positive progress was recorded in all areas of the social sector related to implementation of the reforms, which had been initiated earlier.

The main target in the pension sector remains the reduction of poverty among pensioners. The state policy in the field of employment has been aimed at creation of enabling environment for sustainable and effective employment of the population. Efforts in the field of disability were primarily aimed at making sure that defined rights are realized and equal opportunities are provided; with regards to children's rights, the objective was to secure realization of a child's right to live in a family through development of alternative child care services.

Works aimed at introduction, strengthening, and enhancing the quality of integrated social services were implemented further.

1. Labor and Employment

The state policy in the field of employment was aimed at creation of enabling environment for sustainable and effective employment of the population. The policy was focused on mitigation of tensions in the labor market; provision (through implementation of active programs) of priority-based sustainable employment of people, who are not competitive in the labor market; promotion of self-employment; increase of employment rate among job seekers, particularly among persons with disabilities and the youth; promotion of involvement of employers in the state programs which secure sustainable employment; and staffing of vacancies presented by employers with qualified specialists.

The state employment policy was implemented through the Annual Employment Regulation Program, elaboration of which had taken into account the RA Strategic Development Program for 2014-2025 (which had four priorities, among which expansion of employment was indicated as the first priority), requirements of the RA Prime Minister's Resolution N1256-A, dated December 29, 2016, as well as the monitoring and evaluation summary report on implementation of the State Employment Regulation Program for 2015 and state employment programs included therein.

The RA Employment Strategy for 2013-2018, the RA Law «On Employment», as well as the RA Government Decree N534-N, dated April 17, 2014 on «Approval of a Few Regulations Enforcing the RA Law on Employment», and other legal acts were used as the legislative basis considered to be the benchmark for development and implementation of the annual state employment regulation program.

Implementation of the actions provided for in the state employment regulation program for 2016 led to the following results:

According to the data of the State Employment Agency, the number of job seekers as of December 31, 2016 was 95.8 thousand (including 62.8 thousand women and 22.2 thousand young people). The share of the unemployed in the total number of job seekers was 84.4% or 80.5 thousand people. The share of unemployed women continued to be high - 66.0% of the unemployed or 53.1 thousand. The share of unemployed young people was 23.6% of the unemployed or 19.2 thousand people; the share of persons with disabilities was 3.6% or 2.9 thousand. In the total number of the unemployed, the share of first-time job seekers was 49.5% (39.9 thousand people, including 25.2 thousand of women), with the share of young people coming to 16.1 thousand or 40.3%. Among the unemployed, the share of persons non-competitive in the labor market was 73.98 thousand or 91.6%.

In 2016, 13006 people or 13.6% of the total number of job seekers were covered by the state employment regulation programs. 1063 persons involved in active programs were people with disabilities.

In January-December of 2016, 17473 job seekers were placed to job (7927 were provided with seasonal and temporary employment). Among those placed to job 9176 were women, 3714 - young people, and 900 - persons with disabilities.

In 2016, the following employment programs were implemented:

- **«Compensation of Material Expenses of the Unemployed Sent to Work in Another Location»**

Under this program 25 persons were sent to work elsewhere, including 13 women (10 of the program participants were young people, and two – persons with disabilities), (68 persons continued involvement in the program since the preceding year).

- **«Organization of Vocational Training for the Unemployed and for Employed Job Seekers Who Are at Risk to Become Unemployed»**

The program covered 1284 unemployed individuals (including 105 persons with disabilities). In 2016, based on the labor market demand, vocational training courses were organized for 49 professions, particularly for tourism service, service and repair of electronic computing machines, accountancy, management, agents, cashiers, designer service (make-up, manicure, waiters, cooks, salespeople, vendors, processing industry

specialists (confectioners, shoemakers/cobblers, manufacturers of repoussage doors and windows), tailors, new information technology specialists (C sharp programmers, administrative assistants, web designers), locksmith, and other specialties.

- **The program “Assisting the Unemployed in Gaining Professional Experience in the New Profession”** involved 473 unemployed persons (including 8 persons with disabilities).
- **Provision of Partial Salary Compensation to Employers of Persons Non-Competitive in the Labor Market, and Salary Compensation for Those Accompanying a Disabled Person** covered 268 persons. At the beginning of the year the contracts from the previous year continued with 172 persons. In 2016 the program enrolled 450 persons in total. The average monthly coverage of the program was 268 people (including 20 persons with disabilities).

- **«Organization of Job Fairs»**

11 fairs were organized in Aparan, Charentsavan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Abovyan, Gavar, Ijevan, Goris, Yerevan, and Armavir.

Job fairs were attended by 360 employers and 15020 job seekers; employers presented 1628 available and 1442 expected vacancies. As result of this program 833 job seekers were placed to work.

- **«Organization of Labor Market Research»**

The “Study of the Sectors of Economy” conducted among employers in the frame of the above program was intended to assess the recorded and anticipated changes in the labor market during the previous and forthcoming 3 years; forecast jobs to be created during the coming 1-3 years by the sectors of economy, specialties, and the RA provinces; study cooperation between employers and educational establishments, as well as evaluate the impact of newly created jobs from the perspective of GDP growth.

- **The program “Supporting Small Entrepreneurial Activities of Persons Not Competitive in Labor Market”** financed 74 business programs (including for 13 persons with disabilities). Business programs were implemented in the sectors of services, agricultural product processing, manufacturing, etc.
- **The program “Provision of Lump Sum Compensation to Employers of Non-Competitive Persons”** covered 732 non-competitive persons (including 72 persons with disabilities). The program consisted of 2 sub-programs. One sub-program, involving 711 non-competitive persons (including 51 persons with disabilities), was providing lump sum compensation to employers for allowing people not competitive on the labor market to acquire working skills and competencies; the other sub-program of job adaption and development of working skills and competencies of persons with disabilities, including persons with eyesight problems, involved 21 persons with disabilities.

- Under the program “Assisting Agricultural Enterprises through Promotion of Seasonal Employment” 5967 contracts were signed with 451 communities in 10 provinces. The program included 7640 beneficiaries (including 794 young people and 727 persons with disabilities). As a result of this program 9746.7 ha were brought under cultivation.
- The Program “Compensation of Costs to Visit Employers to Find Suitable Jobs for Non-Competitive Persons” covered 2005 non-competitive persons (including 78 persons with disabilities).
- «Organization of Paid Public Works» covered implementation of 33 programs in 27 communities (including 11 urban and 16 rural communities). The program covered 287 persons, including 31 women, 37 people with disabilities, and 67 young people.
- *«Assistance to People Non-Competitive in the Labor Market to Engage in Livestock Activities (cattle breeding, sheep breeding, poultry farming)».*

The program covered 54 unemployed persons, including 27 women, 2 young persons, and 8 persons with disabilities.

2. Pension Sector

A number of legal acts were developed in 2016 in order to regulate the pension sector, including:

1. The RA Law «On Amending the Republic of Armenia Law on Funded Pensions» (HO-76-N, dated 12.05.2016);
2. The RA Law “On Making Addenda and Amendments to the Republic of Armenia Law on the State Pension” (HO-1-N, adopted on December 16, 2016);
3. The RA Law “On Making Addenda and Amendments to the Republic of Armenia Law on the State Benefits” (NO-223-N, adopted on 16.12.2016);
4. The RA Draft Law “On Making Addenda and Amendments to the Republic of Armenia Law on Social Security of Military Servants and Their Family Members” (HO-246-N, adopted on 15.12.2016) submitted to the RA Parliament;
5. The RA Government Decree N76-N, dated January 20, 2016 “On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Government Decree N670-N, dated May 5, 2011”;
6. The RA Government Decree N571-N, dated June 2, 2016 “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N670-N, dated May 5, 2011”;
7. The RA Government Decree N 262-N, dated March 17, 2016 “On Making Amendments in the RA Government Decree N668-N, dated May, 2011”;

8. The RA Government Decree N531-N, dated May 26, 2016 «On Setting Procedures for Funds which are Generated if the Participant’s Mandatory Pension Fund Shares Are Redeemed before Attaining the Retirement Age, to be Transferred for the Benefit of the Participant to a Foreign State Funded Pension System that He/She is a Member of, and on Revocation of the RA Government Decree N824-N, Dated June 28, 2012»;
9. The RA Government Decree N247-N, dated March 10, 2016 “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N 665-N, dated May 5, 2011”;
10. The RA Government Decree N 670-N, dated June 30, 2016 “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N 1456-N, dated September 23, 2004”;
11. The RA Government Decree N 580-N, dated June 2, 2016 «On Individuals Who Were Killed or Died or Missed when Defending the Republic of Armenia, or Recognized as Disabled and Are not in the Military Service»;
12. The RA Government Decree N 542-N, dated May 26, 2016 “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N 895-N, dated August 28, 2014”;
13. The RA Government Decree N 756-N, dated July 21, 2016 “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N 674-N, dated July 10, 2014”;
14. The RA Government Decree N 1082-N, dated October 20 “On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Government Decree N 665-N, dated May 5, 2011”;
15. The RA Draft Government Decree “On Making Addenda to the RA Decree N 895-N, dated August 28, 2014” (submitted to the RA Ministry of International Economic Integration and Reforms);
16. RA Draft Government Decree “On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N 665-N, dated May 5, 2011 (submitted to the RA Ministry of International Economic Integration and Reforms).

Measures implemented in 2016 in the pension sector were aimed at improving targeting and quality of services provided to beneficiaries, including introduction and expansion of e-services and enhancing efficiency of appointment and payment processes of appropriate monetary payments.

Particularly, performance efficiency of information infrastructure of pension security system has significantly improved during the recent years due to strengthening of the Authorized Body capacities and increase of the volume of information received from other public administration bodies (State Register of Population, Border Electronic Management Information System, Personified Accounting etc.). The bases for recalculation of pensions were revised in order to integrate in the documents presented by the pensioner or in the data obtained from other authorities in compliance with the procedure prescribed by the RA legislation,

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the identification of information, which leads to changes in realization of the pension right or the pension size.

Relations related to calculation of the pension amounts paid in excess and recovery of these excessive amounts to the RA State Budget, pursuant to the administrative procedures, were regulated with consideration of the fact that those amounts were usually paid to socially vulnerable groups, and confiscation of any amount from these people on the basis of the court decision could have a significant impact on their social status. Considering the above mentioned, starting from January 1, 2017, the process of making deductions with the objective to recover in the state budget the amounts paid in excess by mistake (in violation of the RA Law) by January 1, 2017, was stopped; the amounts paid by January 1, 2017 were not calculated in the amounts paid in excess.

From then on, the obligation of obtaining archival documents to confirm the length of service required for pension appointment (change of the pension type, recalculation) will be with the State Social Security Service.

Starting from April 1, 2016, the sizes of bonuses for participants of the Great Patriotic War or participants of military operations (who have not been recognized as disabled) in other states (including Afganistan) in the composition of the Armed Forces of the USSR were increased by 50-140%.

The size of bonuses for participants (receiving military pensions) of the Great Patriotic War or participants of military operations in other states in the composition of the Armed Forces of the USSR, were set at AMD 12000 instead of AMD 8000, as well as the sizes of bonuses for participants (receiving labor pension (benefit)) of the Great Patriotic War or participants of military operations in other states in the composition of the Armed Forces of the USSR, were also set at AMD 12000 (instead of AMD 5000, AMD 7000, and AMD 8000).

Starting from January of 2017 applications for appointment of labor pensions and old-age benefits, disability benefits, and survivor's benefits can be submitted to any territorial office of the State Social Security Service regardless of the registration place of the beneficiary.

3. Social Assistance

In 2016, public benefits were appointed and paid in accordance with provisions of the RA Law on Public Benefits (HO- 154-N) as a separate form of social services defined by Article 8 of the Law on Social Assistance (HO-231-N). The RA Government establishes the regulations and specifications of appointing and paying the state benefits, as well as the size thereof.

In 2016, appointment and payment of benefits (family benefit, social benefit, emergency assistance), aimed at enhancing living standards of households, was the responsibility of the territorial social service agencies or units, which were separate subdivisions of the public governance or local self-governing bodies.

The system of public benefits used as an instrument for elimination of extreme poverty needs a transformation to support solution of general poverty reduction issues and enhance formation of sustainable households. Social policies are aimed at prevention of population migration from borderline and high mountainous regions and increase of social activity of population in these settlements, which would lead to decrease of social indifference.

Benefits Aimed at Enhancing Household Living Standards

The program of benefits aimed at enhancing living standards of households (former family benefit) is intended to support poor households and has a high social importance.

The issue of better targeting of the benefit program, which is aimed at enhancing household living standards, has always been viewed as a major challenge in the field of social assistance, and relevant measures in this area have been carried out in 4 main directions: revision of the family vulnerability assessment procedures based on the data of Integrated Living Conditions Survey; administration improvement; training of the territorial bodies' personnel; and public outreach.

Reforms in the Family Benefit System to revise the procedure for family vulnerability assessment, were done in accordance with strategic directions defined under the PRSP and GDP and findings of the annual integrated household living standards surveys conducted by the NSS.

Eligibility for family or social benefit is determined by the household vulnerability score, which is calculated in accordance with the procedure of household vulnerability assessment approved by the Government's Decree No 145- N, dated January 30, 2014. According to the defined procedure, a number of indirect indicators were used for assessing family (household) vulnerability, including the social category of each household member, number of disabled household members, the place of residence, housing conditions, average monthly income of the household etc.

Each of the above mentioned indicators has its numerical value, and the family's vulnerability score is determined by the product of such values. The higher the score, the more vulnerable is the family.

Since January 1, 2008 the threshold for eligibility for family benefit was established at "30.00" points, versus the previous year's level at "33.00". This score remained unchanged through 2016.

Major changes in family benefits were made in 2012 with regardsto the family's average monthly income structure and the income coefficient calculation formula.

Since January 2012, gross average monthly income of a household has been including also the monthly monetary assistance paid to military personnel and their family members, childcare allowances for children under 2, as well as benefits of the families of deceased national heroes of Armenia and the families of posthumous holders of Battle Cross Order. Pursuant to the Government Decree, the impact of income coefficient in the formula for calculating family vulnerability score was mitigated, thus neutralizing the impact of the monthly average “increased income” of the household.

As a result of these revisions, low income families and particularly those with children became eligible for family benefit. This is consistent with inflation and poverty rate increase recorded during the recent years.

At the same time, this measure has anti-corruption nature. Taking into account existence of individuals working in the system during the previous years or hiding the amount of their salaries, which is detected by the Ministry through comparison of different information bases, this measure allows poor households with low salaries to be enrolled in the system without resorting to roundabout ways.

Changes aimed at improving the processes for appointment and payment of public benefits relate first of all to the fact, that now more data related to eligibility for public benefits are accepted on the basis of the applicants’ statements, with further on-line check of reliability of such data. In particular, on-line data are received from the territorial divisions of the State Registry of Population of the RA Police (data on residence or family composition) and from the State Cadaster of Real Estate (regarding the size, type, and net cadastral value of the land owned by households). The two types of data indicated above are used directly by territorial bodies of social assistance through responses to their on-line inquiries. On-line data are received on monthly basis also from the RA Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Traffic Police of the RA Police, the Civil Registry Office, and the Company Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice, and from the “NORK” Social Services Technology and Awareness Center Foundation, which provides for centralized comparison of various information databases. Output lists are furnished to territorial bodies of social assistance that work with the households, re-examine their socio-economic conditions, and make proposals on their eligibility for family or social benefits.

Reforms in this area are reflected in the proportion of eligible households registered in the family vulnerability assessment system and those who became eligible for family or social benefits, as well as in the proportion of households with children in the number of households that became eligible for family or social benefits. Dynamics of the relevant changes is presented below.

Table 1. Family (or Social) Benefit in Armenia between 2012 and 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered households (% in the number of households in Armenia)	15.9	16.5	17.2	17.4	17.41
Beneficiaries (% in the registered households)	77.69	79.78	77.71	77.57	80.8
Beneficiary households (% in the total of RA households)	12.36	13.16	13.37	13.53	14
Households with children (% in the beneficiary households)	80.69	76.97	76.27	76.91	75.5
State Budget funds (billion)	37.105	37.105	37.105	38.361	38.361
Number of beneficiary families	96309	102570	104130	105408	106296
Average benefit size (AMD)	29350	29350	30350	30350	31350

In 2016, further efforts were made towards targeting family benefits to the poorest families, particularly to ones with children, particularly to those with many children, with particular consideration of the families living in highly mountainous or borderline areas.

The size of family benefit is determined by adding to the base benefit component an increment for each family member (child) under 18, whereby the size of the increment is dependent on the vulnerability score of the family, its place of residence, as well as the number of children in the household.

The base component of social benefit, family benefits, and quarterly emergency assistance in 2016 was set at AMD 18000.

Based on the vulnerability score, the increment sizes are determined for three ranges: the first is the range of 30.01-35.00 vulnerability points, the second - 35.01-39.00 points, and the third - 39.01 and more points. The difference of increments in these ranges is AMD 500, and the higher is the vulnerability score, the larger is the size of the increment.

The size of the increment in each of the ranges of the vulnerability score also varies. Particularly, the increment for children of families living in highly mountainous and borderline areas is AMD 500 higher than the increment defined for the given range, and in case of 4 or more children in the family, the increment per child is higher by another AMD 1000.

The Law on Public Benefits established clear grounds in the system of family vulnerability assessment for the appointment of one-time emergency assistance: in a family eligible for family benefit, the birth of a child, the child's school enrollment and the funeral of a deceased family member eligible for family or social benefit (except when such member is a pensioner or a beneficiary of old-age, disability or survivor's benefit).

With regard to families eligible for family benefit, the size of the lump-sum emergency assistance for childbirth was set AMD 50 thousand, for child's school enrollment – AMD 25 thousand, and for the funeral of a family member – AMD 50 thousand. In 2016, the following payments of lump-sum emergency assistance were made to families eligible for family benefit: for childbirth – to 5163 families, for child's school enrollment – to 11378 families, and for the funeral of a deceased family member – to 147 families.

Territorial bodies of social assistance may, in coordination with the social assistance councils, appoint quarterly emergency assistance to families experiencing hardships, which are registered in the system, but are not eligible for family benefit. Decisions on appointment of emergency assistance can be discussed every quarter and a decision made on appointment or rejection of emergency assistance. The size of emergency assistance is equal to the size of the basic benefit. In 2016 emergency assistance was provided to 5412 families.

At the same time the issue of providing social services as a package is considered important. Provision of **integrated social services** is a means to enhance the quality and accessibility of social services, to make them client-oriented, to ensure evaluation and monitoring of the services, as well as to increase efficiency of the whole process.

The process of transition to this system is quite long, it should be implemented gradually, and it is related to different areas in the sector. A major legislative work is being done for introduction of this system; the scope of authorities for each segment of the system, as well as the terms of joint work are being clarified, arrangements and annotations thereof are being developed, etc.

On July 26, 2012 the RA Government adopted Decree N 952-N aimed at introduction of the system of integrated social services. This Decree approved the program of introduction of integrated social service system (hereinafter *the system*). A pilot introduction of integrated social services system was implemented in Ararat province of Armenia.

Introduction of the system provides for establishment of territorial centers of integrated social services in the country (ISSTC), which will host territorial bodies providing social services: social security units of the

RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues, territorial (provincial) employment centers, medical and social expert committees, and local bodies of the RA regional administrations (Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Ararat, and Jermuk), providing social services.

In 2013, 19 ISSTCs became functional in Ararat, Artashat, Vedi, Masis, Ashotsk, Maralik, Charentsavan, Yeghvard, Baghramyan, Armavir, Vardenis, Chambarak, Noyemberyan, Achapnyak, Nubarashen, Davidashen, Nork-Marash, Avan, and Erebuni.

In the near future, with a view to continue the aforementioned process, the RA Government, by the RA Government Decrees or by concluding non-term contracts for free use of the real estate with related municipality leaders, will allocate to the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs buildings and premises to locate territorial centers of integrated social services also in other areas of the country.

In 2016, in respect of introduction of integrated social service system, activities for introduction of a knowledge-based process and establishment of new territorial centers to provide integrated social services were further implemented. Particularly, the following activities were implemented during the year:

Comprehensive training of social workers and creation of enabling conditions for operationalization of new territorial centers of integrated social services.

• **Organization of meetings, round tables, workshops, training courses related to cooperation between territorial bodies providing social services, local self-governance bodies, and social service providers for the purpose of institutionalization of social cooperation.**

Over the period between April and May, 2016, relevant personnel of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues made visits to provinces of Armenia with the objective of providing methodological assistance to conclusion of social cooperation agreements at local levels and establishment of coordinating committees in the framework of those agreements, based on the Order N 25-N of the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, dated February 11, 2016 (registered in the RA Ministry of Justice on November 3, 2016, N 11516078) «On Setting the Sample Form of Social Cooperation Agreement at the Territorial Level, Procedure for the Adoption of the Social Agreement at the Territorial Level, Sample Working Procedures of the Coordination Committee Established Pursuant to Social Cooperation Agreement Signed at the Territorial Level, and Revocation of the Orders of the RA Minister of Social Protection N 36-P, dated July 31, 2000 and N 153-N, dated September 18, 2006».

Relevant statements related to joining to regional social cooperation agreements, as well as establishment of coordination committees were posted on the official websites of the RA Local administrations (Yerevan Municipalities). The process of agreement signing is in progress.

«Rehabilitation Center for Offenders» SNCO in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe initiated drafting of the procedure for integration and referral of persons exempted

from punishment, and on that occasion, in the scope of the interagency social cooperation, workshops were organized in Aghveran from March 31 to April 2, 2016 with participation of penitentiary institutions, social workers of the Rehabilitation Center for Offenders and case managers from the territorial centers of integrated social services.

The process of concluding a national social cooperation agreement with representatives of national and international NGOs was launched on May 13, 2016, which assumed establishment of a unified network for social sector-related information exchange and implementation of actions aimed at enhancing the efficiency of case management and better targeting of social assistance. The process is open to accession for all natural and legal persons ready for cooperation, as well as for the state and local governance authorities.

Since May of 2016 around 46 organizations and physical persons have joined the national social cooperation agreement.

The Agreements are signed on a regular basis.

- **Development of programs and organization of "social work" training or qualification improvement**

On May 2, 2016 the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs issued the Order N 51-N «On Approval of the Additional Topics and Requirements for Training on Use of Software in the Process of Providing Social Services, Use of Software in the Work of the Personnel of Territorial Centers of Social Services, and Implementation of Preparation Activities» with the objective of developing necessary knowledge and skills, which would be used in the process of providing social services by the civil service or community service employees working in the field of social protection. In order to issue certificates to the staff of the territorial social service bodies, who completed the training based on the developed curriculum, the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs issued the Order N 63-A, dated June 8, 2016 «On Approval of the Composition of the Commission to Certify Software Knowledge of Employees of the Territorial Social Service Bodies».

Social Work Specialization and Social Workers' Qualification Training Programs were developed during the reporting period, which specified the topics of refresher training for social workers, as well as the schedule of training for different groups of trainees.

The Order N 91-A/1 of the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, dated August 24, 2016 approved the procedure and programs for organization of special training courses for the specialty of «social work». The courses were organized in November and December of 2016, and about 430 employees of the territorial social assistance agencies (units) were trained and provided with related certificates.

The Order N 97-A/1 of the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, dated September 26, 2016, approved the schedule of 2016 training courses on the use of the software to be used by the territorial bodies of social

service providers in the process of providing social services to the public, and about 500 employees of the territorial agencies (units) of social assistance were trained and provided with related certificates.

With the financial assistance of the USAID and UNICEFF, training courses for case managers of the territorial agencies (units) of social assistance participated in the training courses in the scope of the programs «Strengthening Case Manager Capacities» and «Foster Family» from July 18 to July 22, 2016 in Lori province of Armenia, and from September 7 to September 13, 2016 – in Armavir province. The objective of the courses was to contribute to harmonization of the policy and quality of service delivery through strengthening capacities of social sector specialists working at local levels.

In the scope of the Agreement signed between the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the UNICEFF two-day workshops-trainings were organized on September 2-15, 2016 for 50 case managers involved in the social case management activities of the territorial social service agencies (units) in the provinces of Shirak, Lori, Tavush, and Gegharkunik during the last stage of implementation of the Program «Mitigating Social Implications of Migration and Improving Involvement of Migrants in Local Development. Case Management Component». These workshops-trainings were aimed at development of professional awareness of the RA Law «On Social Assistance» and supporting regulations, as well as identification and clarification of existing issues.

On September 7-9, 2016 the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs jointly with UNICEFF organized a workshop in Dilijan on the topic of «Institutionalization of Cooperation between the Social Service Providers at Local and Territorial Levels».

On September 16-17, 2016, in the scope of the Program «Mitigating Social Implications of Migration and Improving Involvement of Migrants in Local Development. Case Management Component» the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs jointly with UNICEFF organized a workshop in Tsaghkadzor on the topic «New Solutions for Sustaining Social Case Management Institute», where the audience was familiarized with the new developments of the program, as well as the principles of elaboration of the information sub-system of social case management.

- **Social Worker Registry**

The social workers' registry of territorial agencies (units) of social assistance was established during the reporting period. Nowadays works are carried out to include into the registry the data on social workers of NGOs, which provide social services.

The registry of organizations and individuals that joined the national social partnership agreement was also formed.

- **Providing conditions for the launch of 20 additional regional centers of integrated social services**

Based on the Assignment N 02/24.12/3604-16 of the RA Prime Minister, dated March 16, 2016, the local self-governance authorities submitted new proposals on allocation of necessary premises (giving priority to the least costly options) for establishment of territorial centers of integrated social services (hereinafter *ISSTC*). Taking into consideration these proposals and with the objective of creating adequate working conditions and unified reception places in the new ISSTCs, activities aimed at preparation of sketch designs and design and cost estimation documents for construction or major repairs of the premises were developed and approved (for 11 ISSTCs). Civil works have already started in the ISSTCs of Vanadzor, Stepanavan, Amasia, Talin, and Malatia-Sebastia. Tenders were announced according to specified procedures to start the construction works in Shengavit and Hrazdan ISSTCs.

Decisions of the RA Government and Community Councils were made available also for allocation of appropriate areas for another 10 ISSTCs. Now it is the process of the state registration of the related property rights. For 7 ISSTCs the evaluation process of bids for selection of design company is underway. Procurement of the respective area for Artik ISSTC has been completed and now the handover process is underway.

In order to upgrade the property and technical equipment of new ISSTCs, a needs assessment has been carried out, and the process of announcing tenders for their acquisition is in process.

The consultant company selected for the development of financial models needed for the full functioning of the integrated social service system, submitted their first interim report on implementation of the work, which was adopted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

In order to implement the outreach campaign related to integrated social services system, “CMG” consultant company has been selected, which is currently engaged in the revision of the first interim report on implementation of its work, taking into consideration recommendations made by the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in relation to specification of highlighted topics, genres, audiences, and other features.

In order to discuss the issues and further steps for creation of the new ISSTCs, a workshop was organized on May 6-8, 2016, with participation of the heads of the local social service provider bodies.

Public outreach activities on implementation and issues of introduction of the integrated social service system were carried out in Vanadzor, Talin, Stepanavan, Akhuryan, and administrative district of Malatia-Sebastia in the City of Yerevan.

Child Care Allowance for Children under 2

According to the RA Law on Public Benefits, a parent on leave for care of children under 3 years, in accordance with the Labor Code is eligible for childcare allowance until the child is two years old. Starting from January 1, 2009 the amount of childcare allowance for children under 2 was set at AMD 18.000.

**Number of Beneficiaries of Childcare Allowances for Children under 2 and Financial Resources
Allocated for Benefit Payment in 2012-2016**

Years	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Financial resources (billion AMD)	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Financial resources (billion AMD)	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Financial resources (billion AMD)	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Financial resources (billion AMD)
Total	11539	3.066	13312	3.072	13063	3.068	13493	2.914

In order to improve the demographic situation, legislative changes which were initiated previously, continued in 2016 and were aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the forms and amounts of the state support provided for child birth.

Particularly, in order to regulate the field, a number of legal acts were developed in 2016, including the following:

1. The RA Law «On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Law on State Benefits» (HO-223-N, adopted on 16.12.2016);
2. The RA Government Decree N75-N, dated January 20, 2016 «On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Government Decree N1179-N, dated October 8, 2015»;
3. The RA Government Decree N81-N, dated January 20, 2016 «On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Government Decree N275-N, dated March 6, 2014»;
4. The RA Government Decree N 254-N, dated March 17, 2016 «On Making Amendments to the RA Government Decree N275-N, dated March 6, 2014»;
5. The RA Government Decree N 966-N, dated September 22, 2016 «On Making Addenda to the RA Government Decree N1566-N, dated December 29, 2015»;
6. The RA Government Decree N 1178-N, dated November 18, 2016 «On Making Addenda and Amendments to the RA Government Decree N275-N, dated March 6, 2014».

Since 2016 maternity benefits have been paid also to unemployed mothers. The benefit size is AMD 126 000.

In 2016, the directions of using the lump-sum childbirth allowance, which was provided as the amount of funds allocated for the family, were revised to be made more accessible especially for residents in rural areas. Based on the analysis of usage patterns of the family capital, as well as of the applications filed by citizens, the allowed directions for using the capital were expanded (now they can be used for payment of interests or principal amounts of agricultural loans extended to the children parents, if the loan interest is partially subsidized in the frame of a state program, as well as for purchase of an apartment or a house or other real estate in remote, borderline, highland, mountainous, and rural areas with less than 1000 inhabitants specified by the RA Government; in Aygut settlement of Gegharkunik province, Yeghegnut settlement of Lori province, Tatev settlement of Syunik province, and Itsakar settlement of Tavush province.

The application form for appointment of a lump sum benefit for child birth, maternity benefit for unemployed mother, childcare allowance for children under 2, and procedures for submission of the required documents were simplified: starting from January 1, 2017 they can be submitted to the territorial registration office of the beneficiary also by another person. Moreover, the lump-sum application for birth of the first and second child can be submitted online.

In examining the issue raised by the RA citizens, relations related to appointment and payments of child care allowances to parents who work for employers registered in Nagorny Karabakh and being on leave for care of children, have been regulated. In case of failure to appoint the care allowance in Nagorny Karabakh, the right for the care allowance shall be realized according to the RA legislation.

4. Social Protection

Disabled and Elderly

The policies and targeted state programs in **the area of disability** are aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, providing them with equal opportunities and affordable conditions, hence ensuring social inclusion thereof.

In 2016 activities aimed at bringing the Armenian legislation into compliance with the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, were further implemented.

The draft Law “On the Protection of the Rights and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities” was amended and adopted on the first reading at the National Assembly on December 16, 2016.

For the purpose of implementing a unified, coordinated policy of social inclusion in the sector in the coming years, a comprehensive program for social inclusion of persons with disabilities for 2017-2021 and a list of measures to ensure the implementation of the program were approved.

The works on a comprehensive assessment of individuals to introduce a new model of disability assessment based on the principles of International Classification of Functioning of the World Health Organization continued. Developed standards and tools will allow for evaluation of individuals as objectively as possible and for delivery of targeted services on the basis of comprehensive assessment of a person's needs. International conference "World without Barriers" was organized on October 20-21, 2016 with presentation of WHO ICF international experience, which also contributed to the findings and recommendations required for introduction of the model.

In 2016, under the state targeted programs persons with disabilities were provided with free prosthetic-orthopedic appliances, sound devices, and other rehabilitation accessories. The Ministry took consistent steps to clarify technical specifications of the appliances, as well as to control the prices thereof. For persons deprived of eyesight, the program of printing books and notebooks with special letters and recording of "Talking Books" was further implemented.

818 people received medical, social, and mental health rehabilitation services at "Artemed" Medical Rehabilitation Center.

State assistance was provided to the "Salvation" and "A Full-Fledged Life" NGOs for provision of social and rehabilitation services in the day care center to adolescents and young people with mental disabilities.

As of December 31, 2016 the number of persons with disabilities, who were registered in the national registry of persons with disabilities, was 205.166, including 8.118 children.

The main goal of the state policy **in relation to the elderly** has been to improve the quality of life of elderly people in need of care. In 2016, activities aimed at improvement of social protection, care and social services for the elderly and ensure appropriate living conditions and a decent old age life for them, were further implemented.

On October 27, 2016, the RA Government adopted Decree N 1112-N **«On Approval of the Lists of Free Social Services and Paid Social Assistance Services Delivered by Social Service Provider Organizations under the Jurisdiction of Public Agencies Guaranteed by the State, and on Approval of Cases and Procedures for Provision of Paid Social Assistance Services and Financing of Social Assistance at the Account of Funds Generated from the Paid Social Assistance Services»**, which will contribute to improving efficiency and responsibility of social service providers' activities and which specifies the lists of free social services and paid (copayment principle) social assistance services provided by social service providers under the jurisdiction of the state authorities and guaranteed by the State, as well as the cases and procedures for provision of paid social assistance services and financing of social assistance at the account of funds generated from the paid (copayment) social assistance services.

Activities provided by the RA Government Protocol Decree N31, dated August 2, 2012 «On Approval of the Strategy for the Social Protection of Elderly People and Overcoming the Consequences of Population Aging and the Strategy Implementation Action Plan for 2012-2017».

Under the program “All-Day Care Services for the Elderly” single elderly and disabled persons are provided with all-day care services at 5 nursing homes operating under the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs: nursing home N 1 of Yerevan, neurological boarding houses of Nork and Vardenis, Gyumri nursing home, and the Center “Dzorak” for care of persons with mental health problems. All 1210 pensioners in these nursing homes are under full care of the state.

Under the program “In-House Social Services for the Single Elderly”, in-house care and social services are provided by the “In-House Social Service Center for Single Elderly and Disabled Persons” SNCO, which provides care services to 1500 single elderly and disabled pensioners in Yerevan.

Under the program “All-Day Care Services for Persons with Mental Health Problems”, the center for day-care of persons affiliated to “Dzorak” Center for care of persons with mental health problems, provides care and social services to 30 persons with mental health problems.

Under the program “Temporary Shelter for Homeless People”, the state budget allocates funding to the Charity Foundation “Hans Christian Kofoed” to provide temporary housing (for up to 90 days) and various social services to 100 homeless people.

Under the program “Social Services for the Single Elderly and Disabled Persons Provided In-House and at Regional All-Day Care Centers”, state funding was allocated to the Charity NGO “Mission Armenia” to compensate the wages of the staff which provided services in-house and at all-day care centers to 4200 single elderly and disabled persons in 8 provinces of Armenia.

Under the program “All-Day Care and Social Services for the Elderly at Vanadzor Nursing Home”, 55 pensioners received care services at the nursing home in Vanadzor.

At the same time, the network of public, non-governmental, and private organizations involved in provision of social protection and care for the elderly, which was established by the initiative of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and concerned partner organizations (“Armenian Caritas”, “Mission Armenia” Charity NGO, Armenian Red Cross, etc.) for the protection of rights and interests of the elderly, continued its activities, revealing numerous problematic issues during the meetings and finding possible solutions to solve those issues. Members of the networks were engaged in drafting of the «Strategy for the Social Protection of Elderly People and Overcoming Aging Consequences and the Strategy Implementation Action Plan for 2012-2017».

Children

In 2016 reforms in the field of protecting family, women, and children rights were further implemented. Particularly, the following legal acts were developed and adopted during the year.

1. The RA Government Protocol Decree N 9 «On Approval of the Concept Paper to Reform the Procedure of Hand Over of Children Occured in a Difficult Life Situation to Foster Care», adopted on March 10, 2016;
2. The RA Government Protocol Decree N 18 «On Approval of the Concept Paper for Developing Alternative Care Services for Children in Difficult Life Situation in the Republic of Armenia», adopted on May 12, 2016;
3. The RA Government Protocol Decree N 38 «On Approval of the Action Plan Enforcing Implementation of the Concept Paper for Developing Alternative Care Services for Children in Difficult Life Situation in the Republic of Armenia» adopted on September 15, 2016;
4. The RA Government Decree N 551-N, dated May 26, 2016 «On Approval of the Referral Procedures and Criteria for Provision of Alternative Care to Children in Difficult Life Situation, and on Making Addenda and Amendments to Decree N 1112-N, dated September 25, 2015»;
5. The RA Government Decree N 631-N, dated June 2, 2016 «On Approval of the Charter of Guardianship and Trusteeship Bodies and Revocation of the RA Government Decree N 164-N, dated February 24, 2011»;
6. The RA Government Decree N 831-N, dated August 11, 2016 «**On Renaming** of the “N2 Boarding School for Children Care and Protection in Yerevan” State Non-Commercial Organization of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues **and** Amending the RA Government Decree N 890-N, dated July 26, 2007»;
7. The RA Government Decree N 957-N, dated September 8, 2016 “On Making Amendments in a Number of the RA Government Decrees”;
8. Order N 12-A/1 of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, dated January 31, 2016 «On Approval of the Methodological Guidelines for Activities of Guardianship and Trusteeship Committees Operating under the Guardianship and Trusteeship Bodies»;
9. Order N 54-N, dated May 3, 2016 «On Approval of the Forms of Conclusions on Provision of Child Care Services, Submitted to the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Forms of Conclusions on Referral of Children to Care Boarding School for Social Protection of the Population, Conclusions on Discharge of Child from the Boarding schools for Social Protection of the Population on the Basis of a Legal Application of the Child’s Parents (Parent) or Other Legal Representative, Conclusion regarding Child to Be Returned from the General and Special (Specialized) Type of the Social Protection

Institution to Biological Family, and Approval of Revocation of the Order N 121-N of the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, dated September 1, 2007».

In 2016, activities planned in the Strategic Plan for protection of children's rights in Armenia over 2013-2016 were further implemented. In particular, works were carried out to improve the quality of life and to provide social protection guarantees to children in difficult life circumstances, to develop the network of alternative services available for them, and to improve the quality of services provided at the child care and protection facilities.

Six facilities (orphanages) of social protection of general and special (specialized) type under the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues provided all-day care to around 660 children, who were deprived of parental care, including care of around 450 children in three special (specialized) facilities. Although the number of children in general all-day care facilities was decreasing, the number of children with health problems hosted by special (specialized) facilities has increased due to difficult socio-economic conditions.

As of July, 2016, around 664 school-age children from socially vulnerable families registered in the family poverty assessment system received care at 7 boarding schools of child care and protection within the Ministry's system. Care of those children was separated from education. In the scope of ongoing reforms, pursuant to the RA Government Decree N 831-N, dated August 11, 2016, the "Boarding School No 2 for Care and Protection of Children in Yerevan" State Non-Commercial **Organization** was reorganized into the Child and Family Support Center, which provided day care services and assistance to children in difficult life situation and their families who lived on the service area of the Organization.

As of the end of the year the six facilities were providing all-day care services to 529 children.

4 day-care social centers for children within the Ministry's system provided services to around 362 children aged 6-18 years in difficult life circumstances and also to their families. The non-governmental organization "Bridge of Hope" provided services to at least 250 children in difficult circumstances at 4 day-care centers for children (in Dilijan, Ijevan, Noyemberyan, and Berd).

The state non-commercial organization "Zatik Social Support Center of Children in Yerevan" provided all-day care services to around 19 children aged 3-18 years in difficult life circumstances for a period of 6 months. Around 23 children deprived of parental care were hosted by foster families.

In the scope of the program to bring children from the care facilities back to biological families (unloading and prevention) in the RA Lori and Shirak provinces 40 children were returned to their biological families, and 60 children were prevented from entering the care facilities. In the framework of this event

families were granted in-kind assistance packages: food basket, clothes and shoes, stationery, textbooks, and compensation for energy services.

In the scope of the program «Assistance and Counseling to Graduates of the Republic of Armenia Orphanages», 5 graduates 18 years old from «Vanadzor Orphanage» SNCO and «Gavar Orphanage» were granted a lump-sum assistance.

In 2016, with cofinancing of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in the scope of the program “Provision of Day-Care Services in the Inclusive Kindergarten N 92 of Malatia-Sebastia Administrative District of Yerevan City” multidisciplinary services were provided to about 24 children under 6 in difficult situation, including children with severe mental and physical disorders.

Works were implemented also to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women, prevent trafficking, and support its victims.

5. Demography

Works carried out in 2016, were based on Armenia's Demographic Policy Strategy and provisions of activities enforcing implementation of this Strategy, taking into consideration demographic developments recorded in the country during the recent years.

Indicators which characterize demographic situation in Armenia continued to be troublesome and problematic. As of October 1, 2016, as compared to the beginning of the year, permanent population of the country decreased by 4.7 thousand, thus amounting to 2,993.9 thousand. During the first 9 months of 2016, compared to the same period of the previous year, the main indicators of demographic development had different trends. Thus, during the period indicated above, 29914 births (decrease by 699), 20427 cases of death (decrease by 520), 12088 cases of marriages (decrease by 1032), and 2682 divorces (decrease by 117) were registered in the country.

Activities included in the RA Government Draft Decree on "Approving the National Program to Improve the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the List of Activities Enforcing the Program Implementation" were aimed at the following:

- Material incentives for births;
- Reduction of mortality, including infant and maternal mortality;
- Provision of housing to persons in need of the housing through introduction and implementation of the State Targeted Housing Program (social housing fund);
- Assistance to pregnant women of different age groups;
- Introduction of alternative approaches and options for support and development of young and large families through establishment of a National Fund for Demographic Development.

Constitutional changes that took place in the country and consideration of the low birth rate, stressed the importance of establishing social guarantees for large families. Para. 21 of the Annex to the RA Government Decree N245-A, dated March 10, 2016 provided for drafting of the RA Draft Law «On Large Families», which was submitted for the RA Government discussion in October, 2017.

With a view to ensuring a scientific and research basis for demographic policy, a study named “Assistance to the National Program of Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia” was conducted in the scope of the program «Analysis and Evaluation of Demographic Policy Impact».

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT AND POVERTY IN ARMENIA, 2017

Statistical -Analytical Report

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