



UN BULLETIN

United Nations Office in the Republic of Armenia

Nº1

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Editor's Corner

Dear readers,

This is a new version of the Quarterly UN Bulletin jointly produced by the UN family in Armenia. In 1946 one of the first UN Resolutions emphasized that "The United Nations cannot achieve the purposes for which it has been created unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities." Life and time continue to dictate us the necessity to tell the story about objectives, principles, programmes and documents of the UN, "the most indispensable force in the world". How does this Organization work and how is it changed? What do the UN agencies do in Armenia and how do they live together, in fact under one roof? What do the acronyms UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, etc. mean? What are the contents of the main UN documents...etc.?

For us it is a challenge to meet expectations of the educational institutions, NGOs, media as well as rural residents in Armenia to learn more about our activities and targets. The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan stressed that "Telling the story is as important as making the story!"

We try to do our best. We will be glad if the contents of the UN Bulletin prove helpful and useful for your activities as well as an effective tool for our further cooperation.

Best wishes,

50-th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

"While the United Nations Charter may be seen as a reflection of our experience, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights an expression of our ideals, the Geneva Conventions have for half a century represented humanity's determination to ensure, even in the midst of war, a minimum of respect for humanitarian principles.

Where we fear conflict, we must seek to prevent it. Where we witness conflict, we must seek to end it. And where we help end conflict, we must seek to prevent its recurrence. To these sacred duties of the United Nations, the Geneva Conventions have added the obligation to respect international humanitarian law.

By making palpable the concepts of accountability and individual criminal responsibility for war crimes, the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda have invested the Geneva Conventions with new life and new relevance.

But they have done more. They continue to remind us that in every conflict where civilians are targeted -- whether in Bosnia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Kosovo or Sierra Leone -- there are violators and there are victims. The creation of the International Criminal Court is further evidence of the commitment to ensuring global justice, and it is my hope that its statute will be ratified swiftly and universally.

As the United Nations enters a new century, our commitment to ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and ending the culture of impunity will be at the heart of our efforts to promote peace and security.

As we do so, we will continue to find guidance, inspiration and courage in the principles of the Geneva Conventions."

From the address of the Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Geneva, 12 August 1999.





- Is a multilateral institution of development of United Nations System.
- Promotes participation of civil society and strengthening of governance systems.
- Implements projects and programmes of technical cooperation in 175 countries, through 136 local offices.
- Provides technical support to national regional and global programmes in a broad array of its SHD mandate.
- Provides support to the UN global agenda for development and promotes coherent UN operational activities for development through the Resident Coordinator's System.
- Provides support services to the Government and international agencies.

UNDP opened a Country Office in Armenia in December 1992. In cooperation with the Government of Armenia and in coordination with other UN agencies and the international donor community, the Country Office elaborated the blueprint of the technical assis-

tance to Armenia—the first **Country Cooperation Framework (CCF)**, covering the period 1997-1999. While the projects delineated in the CCF are just beginning to yield tangible results and outputs, their general impact will be felt only through the decade to come.

In Armenia

Besides its core programming activities, UNDP provides operational support to the implementation of projects of the non-resident UN agencies, such as UNESCO, UNIDO, FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, ICAO, UNDP, IAEA, in the areas and domains where these agencies are specialized, ranging from industrial and agricultural development, to education and drug control, civil aviation and atomic energy.

Three thematic areas of the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF):

- qGovernance and development management at the national, regional and local levels;
- qSustainable livelihoods in selected areas, including strengthening of social sectors;
- qEnvironmental issues in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Strengthening of Institutions, Processes and Practices of Democracy

The *Project Support to Democracy and Good Governance* aims at comprehensive assistance for the consolidation of democratic principles and furthering good governance practices in the country. In its first stage, it focuses on *support to the electoral processes*.

GOVERNANCE

Sustainable Development of Information Infrastructure -Internet

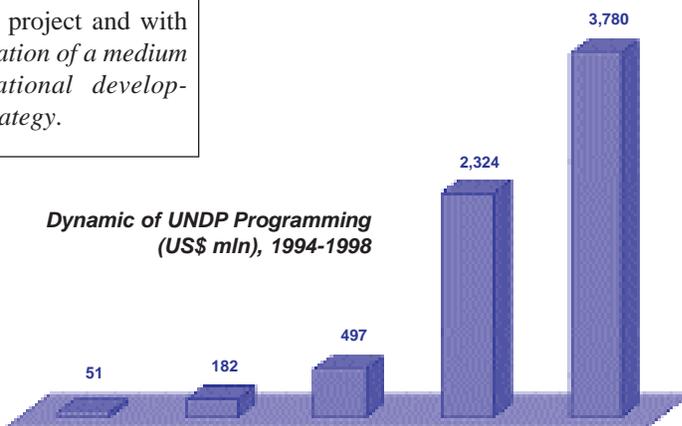
The Internet Project has pioneered information technology in Armenia through:

- the establishment of the first-in-the-region FREENET, a space for free information exchange and WWW resources that now brings together thousands of people in Armenia and worldwide,
- technology training for over 1,000 people ranging from the Government to NGOs,
- the establishment of the Yerevan Internet Exchange, i.e. an optimized architecture for electronic data networks within the country,
- the creation of official websites, such as those of the Government of Armenia and the Central Electoral Commission,
- the promotion of the Armenian language in globally accepted computer systems.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

National Development Agenda - Blueprints of Armenia's Development project mobilized a team of national experts under the umbrella of UNDP project and with technical support from WB *for the formulation of a medium term national development strategy.*

Export Promotion and Development Project, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, aims at identifying and developing new approaches *for the enhancement of the export of the selected enterprises.*



Integrated Support to Sustainable Human Development

- Within its six elements of (a) *building governance capacity*, (b) *restoration of social services*, (c) *micro-enterprise development*, (d) *agricultural development*, (e) *urgent forestry rehabilitation*, and (f) *enhancing human security*, the programme attained important results during its first one and half years of operation:
- Full rehabilitation of 10 schools and 20 health facilities in 4 regions;
- Establishment of 3 tree nurseries;
- Training and capacity building in Management and Leadership, taxation and community budgeting for the staff of local self-governance bodies and communities in 17 major cities and about 200 communities;
- Disbursement of loans to most vulnerable population (mostly refugees and internally displaced persons).

Rehabilitation and Development of Health Infrastructure

UNDP provides operational and administrative support to UNFPA, UNAIDS and the WHO in the implementation of their projects.

- UNFPA's Strengthening Reproductive Health Services in Armenia has provided for a large training programme for health professionals and strengthening of reproductive-health-related capacities of the Ministry of Health.

- UNDP executes the UNAIDS-approved initiatives for Armenia, centering on assistance to the National Center for AIDS Prevention at the Ministry of Health.

Support to Education Reforms

UNDP, along with UNICEF, UNHCR and other organizations, supported the *Armenia's Educational Reform* which the country implements with financial and technical assistance from the **World Bank**. UNDP contributed to a textbook rental scheme, training of trainers, pilot training of school headmasters on legal and administrative issues, and providing micro-grants to selected schools.

Environmental Protection

UNDP's contribution to the environmental sector has been:

- formulation of the first *Country Study on Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Inventory*,
- development of the *National Biodiversity Report, Strategy, and Action Plan*;
- structural *re-organization of the Ministry of Environment*,
- organization of an *International Conference on Lake Sevan*,
- implementation of *emergency forestry rehabilitation*.

ADVOCACY TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

UNDP Country Office in Armenia has published four *National Human Development Reports*, designed to stimulate debate on significant issues relating to the country's political and economic transition:

- 1995 - The Human Cost of Transition*
- 1996 - Poverty*
- 1997 - Social Cohesion*
- 1998 - The Role of the State.*

The fifth report NHDR 1999 - Five years of Transition is to be published in September, 1999.



UNHCR IN ARMENIA: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

What is UNHCR?

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was created by the UN General Assembly in 1951 to become one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies. UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the world-wide protection of refugees and resolution of refugee problems. UNHCR has the mandate to supervise the implementation of the *1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* by the states parties.

PROGRAMMES IN ARMENIA



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees started operation in Armenia in 1992, when the government of the country invited UNHCR to help it address the problems of refugees, who arrived in Armenia between 1988-1992 as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. At present there are over 300,000 refugees registered in Armenia, most of whom are of ethnic Armenian origin.

UNHCR's task world-wide is to find durable solutions for refugees. In Armenia, the durable solution for the ethnic Armenian refugees is their *integration culminating in naturalisation*. These refugees, many of them having arrived more than ten years ago, are presently well integrated in the Armenian society. Therefore, UNHCR views their naturalisation as a natural step towards full integration. To encourage ethnic Armenian refugees become citizens of the country, UNHCR, in close co-operation with the government and support by the NGO community, has conducted an intensive naturalisation campaign leading to an increasing number of naturalised refugees.



UNHCR provides support for basic survival to elderly

Starting with the opening of the UNHCR office in Armenia in 1992, *humanitarian programmes* (such as kerosene, food, clothing distribution) were geared towards promotion of integration of the ethnic Armenian refugees. Recently, along with the naturalisation campaign, UNHCR office in Armenia started a gradual shift from humanitarian to development programmes. Currently, UNHCR implements programmes in a number of sectors, including housing construction, infrastructure rehabilitation, health and education.

Housing problem remains one of the urgent ones as over 10, 000 families are still in need of permanent shelter. UNHCR is currently implementing "**Shelter**" programme under which refugees, living in container-type houses, basements, hostels and condemned buildings are provided with housing. UNHCR sponsored the construction of housing for refugees in Zvartnots, Martuni, Artik, Spitak, Stepanavan and other regions of the country.

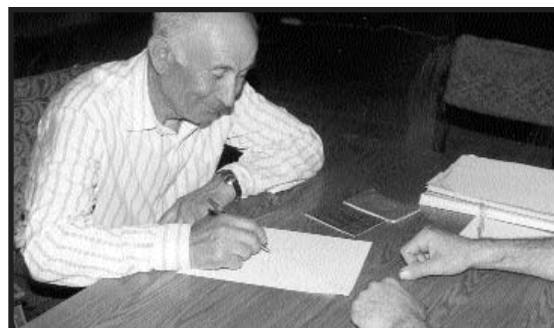
Besides, UNHCR helps the most vulnerable among refugees (disabled, elderly, female-held households) through *provision of basic medical care, nutrition and income-generating projects*.

UNHCR has played an important part in developing the **Armenian Refugee Law**. The Law which will act as a main tool in the implementation of the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in Armenia. The Law defines the concept of a refugee, establishes the Refugee Status Determination procedure, creates the legal framework for refugee related activities, formulates the rights and responsibilities of refugees vis-a-vis the country of asylum and the responsibilities of the Armenian government towards the refugees. The Law bears particular importance for the non-CIS asylum-seekers. Although their overall number remains low, in the course of the last two years they came increasingly from such countries as Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan. UNHCR will continue to co-operate with the Government of Armenia in ensuring the implementation of the Law through development of procedures and training of relevant government agencies.

COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

UNHCR continues to work closely with the Armenian government in *supporting central and local authorities* through training, technical assistance and an ongoing co-operation aimed at enabling the government to take full responsibility for and deal effectively with refugee issues.

Recently UNHCR Armenia Office and the **Ministry of Social Security/Department of Migration and Refugees** signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* which puts the contents of the UNHCR-Government co-operation into a formal framework that facilitates further co-operation in promoting the solution to refugee problems.



Naturalisation is viewed by UNHCR as a natural step towards local integration (A refugee, applying for Armenian citizenship)

However, in the years to come the assistance programme of UNHCR in Armenia will be gradually phased out and the Office will focus on *legal protection of refugees* and implementation of the 1951 Convention and the Refugee Law.

UNICEF in Armenia

Principle Objectives

- Achieve the national targets for children's health, education, and welfare resulting from the World Summit for children
- Improve the quality and relevance of health and education services provided to children and women
- Ensure universal access to basic health, education and social services
- Give children and adolescents information about healthy life styles
- Promote early childhood development activities
- Develop alternatives to institutionalization for disabled children and children from socially vulnerable families
- Promote understanding and support for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Armenia Law on the Rights of the Child



In 1993, UNICEF's Executive Board approved a first two-year programme of cooperation. The programme, by necessity an "emergency" programme, provided a bridge for longer-term development assistance and helped to secure the funding required. The Executive Board adopted a new five-year programme in 1995.

The next country programme of co-operation for the period 2000 to 2004 is already under preparation.

Programmes in Armenia

Health

UNICEF has focused its assistance in the health sector, on the introduction of appropriate technologies and cost-effective strategies to ensure that basic health services are available for children and women in the country. In 1994, UNICEF helped to launch the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. Hospital staff across the country is being trained in baby-friendly practices. UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Health (MoH) on a policy to make selected essential drugs available through the primary health-care system. Outpatient health facilities for children are supplied with medicines and equipment to provide the necessary services at this level. About 40% of pediatricians and 10% of nurses have been trained to date in correct case management for ARI and diarrhoeal diseases.

"The global programme of polio eradication which has been implemented in Armenia since 1995, is already yielding results. Thanks to the joint effort of the MoH, WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, CDC, etc., today the results are obvious in Armenia."

"Respublika Armenia" daily, 21 April 1998

In 1998, UNICEF, together with the MoH, produced 100,000 brochures, aimed at mothers of children under one, on the management of ARI and DD. Considerable efforts were undertaken to sustain immunization services and to control diphtheria and polio. Mass immunization campaigns were conducted from 1995 to 1998 to increase the immunity level against these diseases and to control morbidity. A special campaign to increase coverage of measles was also implemented. Medical supplies and equipment were provided to all maternities in Armenia to ensure that emergency obstetric care was available to all women and to improve the quality of newborn care.

Nutrition

Reliable data regarding the nutritional

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- **Expanded** Programme of Immunization, safe immunization practices and cold chain management.
- **Evaluation** of the National Expanded Programme of Immunization
- **Strengthen** supervision of cases of acute respiratory infections (ARI) and diarrhea.
- **Increase** mothers' knowledge of benefits of breastfeeding and immunization and correct home care for ARI and diarrhea.
- **Advocate** for controls on imported iodized salt.
- **Follow-up** on the findings of the reproductive health and nutrition surveys conducted in 1998.
- **Support** introduction of integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) and improved management of well-child care and child development screening.

EDUCATION

- **Improve** the quality of education through curriculum development and improved teaching methods.
- **Support** education reforms towards decentralization of school management and involvement of parents and the community in promoting, sustainable, cost-effective education.
- **Improve** parent knowledge on early childhood development.

UNICEF 1999

UNICEF 1999

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION

- **Work closely with the Ministry of Social Welfare and other Ministries on development of alternatives to institutionalization.**
- **Promote the integration of children with disabilities into the society and the improvement of educational opportunities for children with disabilities.**
- **Support to "Children in Distress" project.**

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- **Support to AREG Children's News and Broadcasting Agency, promote other child-led initiatives.**
- **Promote participation of Armenian broadcasters in International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB).**
- **Support government and NGO initiatives to implement and monitor the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**
- **Promote participation of Armenia's children in "Voices of Youth" UNICEF Internet Forum.**
- **Strengthen the capacity of NGOs and media as advocates and monitors of child rights.**
- **Build the capacity of government bodies in charge of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the CRC.**
- **Assist in creating independent expert system (e.g. ombudsperson) for monitoring and protection of child rights.**

status of mothers and children has not been collected for some time and major efforts have been made to fill these gaps in information. In 1998, UNICEF sponsored an extensive study on the nutritional status of children and women. Together with WHO, UNICEF is assisting the Ministry of Health in the formulation of a nutrition policy and strategies for the country. In 1995, UNICEF began helping the country to reach its objective to iodize locally produced salt and eliminate iodine deficiency disorders. Armenia has achieved universal iodization of locally produced salt. However, the 1998 survey found that 30% of households were consuming non-iodized imported salt.

Education

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to develop a "life skills" curriculum including subjects like health education, nutrition, conflict resolution, and information to help prevent unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and tobacco or drug abuse. UNICEF has also sponsored the training of school nurses in 52 schools to instruct students in basic hygiene. In 1997, UNICEF jointly with UNDP, World Bank and the Ministry of Education and Science initiated a school headmaster training project based on the results of a needs assessment. Training materials for management and leadership skills have been developed to help school directors respond to new responsibilities imposed by decentralization.

Children in Need of Special Protection

During the emergency years, UNICEF monitored the status of children's institutions to ensure that the basic needs of this particularly vulnerable population for heating, clothing, educational supplies and food were met. As the emergency has alleviated, UNICEF has shifted its focus to support the development of alternatives to institutionalization, including strengthening of adoption systems and introduction of foster care systems. UNICEF is also supporting efforts by the Ministry of Education to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. UNICEF has also sponsored a study

assessing the situation of children in prison in Armenia and projects to provide psychological support and improvement of living conditions for children in institutions.

Promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1996, the government adopted the *Child Rights Law* and the *Family Law*. UNICEF's co-operation with ministries has ensured that these laws closely reflect the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. UNICEF has sponsored the printing and distribution of Armenia's Report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and also an NGO dialogue on the Report. In addition, UNICEF acted to promote understanding of the Convention by developing and printing an illustrated book of poems to demonstrate the

"On December 13 - International Children's Day of Broadcasting - radio and TV broadcasting companies in Armenia, just like worldwide, provided time for trained children to broadcast. The event was sponsored by the Children and Youth Programs Editorial Board of the National Radio of Armenia and the UNICEF Office."

Noyan Tapan "Highlights", 17 Dec 1998

Convention to primary and pre-school children. UNICEF has also promoted participation of children in the public life of Armenia through young journalist training, support for a children's news service, and participation in UNICEF's "Voices of Youth" and Sweden's "Future Vessel" projects.

UNICEF Partners for Children

The Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare are UNICEF's three main counterparts. They have assumed a leadership role in implementing the programmes. Partnerships with other UN agencies and NGOs have also complimented UNICEF's work. Co-operation with the media has grown over the years.

Funding Sources and Needs

During the past two years, UNICEF has received the support of the Swedish and of the Netherlands Governments, USAID, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, Coca-Cola Bottlers of Armenia as well as the National Committees in France, Italy, Japan and Spain.


UNFPA

PROGRAMME IN ARMENIA

UNFPA has been working in Armenia since November 1995, when the Government of Armenia (GoA) and UNFPA approved the Strengthening of Reproductive Health (RH) Services sub-programme with budget of USD 725,000. The sub-programme addressed several nation-wide concerns such as: high prevalence of unsafe means of fertility control, high maternal mortality and infertility rates, lack of knowledge among the population on family planning, STDs and HIV/AIDS.

UNFPA works in close cooperation with other UN Agencies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs, including USAID, John Hopkins University, UMCOR and others.

Major activities, results and impact of the sub-program:

The UNFPA-funded sub-program addressed several nation-wide concerns outlined in the *National RH Program*, which was adopted in 1994, following the recommendations of *International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)* (Cairo 1994).

Activities	Results	Impact
· Conduct of Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) survey	Updated information on RH situation	· More effective policy and strategy planning · Better targeted assistance programs by donors
· Establishment of 77 FP units · Supply of contraceptives · Training of FP providers	Provision of RH/FP services and contraceptives are available and accessible throughout the country	· Interruption of unwanted pregnancies decreased by 1/3 · Use of contraceptives increased 3.8 times · Maternal mortality rate decreased by 1/3
· Establishment of RH MIS	Sustainable RH situation monitoring and reporting system	· More effective and efficient management of RH · Improved planning and strategy development in RH field

Throughout 1997-99 UNFPA and UNDP have been assisting the GoA in preparation of an important national endeavor, the Census 2001. The co-funded Pilot Census project helped the Government conduct a pilot mini-census during which the methodologies were tested and tuned, part of the required maps was updated, relevant government officials were trained. US Bureau of Census provided technical assistance in the framework of the above project.



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The World Food Program (WFP) started in Armenia at the end of 1993 to address urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups.

Agriculture/Major Crops

- Armenia has traditionally been dependent on imports. Domestic cereal production covers only half of the country's requirements.
- In 1997/98, the country imported some 367,000 tons of cereals of which 156,000 tons were food aid. Cereal imports in the 1998/99 marketing year are expected to be almost the same, with the volume of imports depending on the availability of credits and food aid.
- The climatic conditions during the 1998/99-winter period were most unfavorable. Average temperature was the highest and precipitation the lowest in 30 years, destructive for the winter crops.

WFP History/Program Value

Since the beginning of 1994, WFP assistance has helped improve the nutritional status of people at risk-pensioners, orphans, large families with monthly incomes less than US\$5.00. Since its inception, WFP distributed 48,180 MT of emergency food with a value of 30.2 million dollars.

Monthly food aid coordination meetings chaired by WFP bring together humanitarian partners and the Humanitarian Assistance Commission (HAC) of the Government for consultations and joint planning.

Food Aid in 1999

In 1999 the overall WFP target population in 170,000 beneficiaries. WFP is continuing to use PAROS for targeting assistance under emergency distribution with a focus on the earthquake zone. WFP implemented two distributions: February/March and May/June reaching some 113,000 and 84,600 vulnerable people respectively. The February/March food basket was 12 kg wheat flour and 0.75l vegetable oil, the May/June - 12 kg wheat flour and 1.5 l vegetable oil.

In April WFP launched a six-month pilot project for 8,500 vulnerable women of reproductive age with anomalies of the Body Mass Index. These women were identified in June 1998 by a National Nutritional Survey carried out by UNICEF and co-funded by WFP. The project is implemented in two distribution cycles. The first cycle was completed in April; the second cycles will begin in 15 July. The daily ration is 200 g wheat flour, 25 g vegetable oil and 40 g canned fish.

Logistics and Railroad Support

Humanitarian aid comes mostly through Black Sea ports and then via railroad to Armenia.

WFP has two extended delivery points (EDPs), Yerevan and Vanadzor, to handle the delivery and storage of food commodities.

In 1994-1997 the WFP-funded Caucasus Advisory Logistics Unit provided assistance worth US\$1.8mln to the Armenian Railways to improve its infrastructure.

WFP operates a light aircraft providing regional transport to the humanitarian/donor community.

In 1998, the aircraft flew 256 flights carrying, 1,243 passengers.

Donors

WFP's major donors have been Japan, USA, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom

Other donations have come from Denmark, EC, Finland, Canada, and Ireland.

As of end-June, in-country stocks were 951 MT.



WORLD BANK GROUP

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),

The International Development Association (IDA),

The International Finance Corporation (IFC),

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA),

The International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

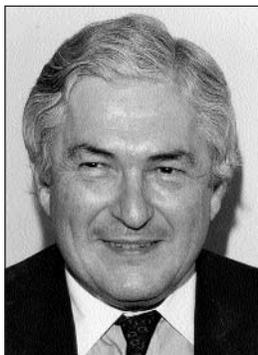
For more than 50 years, the World Bank has been providing loans, technical assistance, and a policy guidance to help reduce

poverty and enable sustainable growth in developing countries. With 181 member countries, almost every country in the world is a member of the World Bank Group, either as a donor or a borrower. The Bank is based in Washington D.C. and maintains a network of more than 100 offices in over 75 countries. Since the bank's first loan of \$250 million in 1947 to help reconstruct post-war France, billions of dollars have been provided to developing countries around the world for such diverse needs as biogas production in India, vocational training in the Republic of Korea, and tree-farming in Costa Rica.

How it operates today?

The World Bank operates under the authority of its Board of Governors, with each member-country represented by one Governor, usually a government minister. The governors delegate decisions on policy, operations, and loan approvals to 24 executive directors based in Washington

D.C. The Bank's largest shareholders: France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States - each appoint one executive director, while the other 19 directors are each elected by a constituency, or a group of countries.



WORLD BANK

Armenia has applied for membership in January and joined the World Bank Group in September 1992. The World Bank Resident Mission in Armenia was opened in July 1995.

"The World Bank will loan Armenia US\$ 240 million over the next three years," WB President James Wolfensohn said during his visit to Armenia in June 1999. According to Wolfensohn, US\$ 120 million will be used to reconstruct a highway between Yerevan and Tbilisi, Georgia. He said loans will also be used to fund an irrigation project, transportation infrastructure and the legal system in Armenia.

in Armenia

for Armenia

"I came here to meet my friends again and find out what is going on. We have very good relationships with this country and I'm looking forward to strengthening them".

*James Wolfensohn,
The President of the WB*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



- ◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations system.
- ◆ The objective of WHO, which has 191 Member States, is the attainment by all peoples of the best possible level of health.
- ◆ The Constitution of WHO was approved in 1946 and came into force on 7 April 1948. That date is commemorated each year as World Health Day.
- ◆ WHO has two main constitutional functions:
 - 1) *to act as the directing and coordinating authority on interna-*

tional health work;

2) *to encourage technical cooperation for health with Member States.*

- ◆ WHO performs its functions through three principal bodies - the *World Health Assembly*, the *Executive Board* and the *Secretariat*.

- ◆ WHO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland. There are six regions, each of which has its own Regional Committee and Regional Office. The WHO Regional Office for Europe has 51 Member States, including Armenia, and is located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Armenia became a Member State of the WHO on 4 May 1992. Following the collaborative agreement signed between WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and Armenia, the WHO Liaison Office was established in Yerevan in August 1994.

Since 1990, the EUROHEALTH programme has formed the basis for EURO's collaboration with the newly independent states (NIS) and the countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE). It sets the framework for the development of all technical cooperation activities delivered by EURO at country level and integrates country and intercountry activities and the participation of countries in European networks. It aims to support national efforts towards health development and sustainability in line with the European HEALTH 21 strategy.

COOPERATION PRIORITY AREAS:

1. *Health policy development.*
2. *Health care reform.*
3. *Health of women and children.*
4. *Communicable diseases.*
5. *Noncommunicable diseases and promotion of better health.*
6. *Environment and health.*



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

What is UN OCHA?

UN OCHA is the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (former United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs), which was established in April 1992, following a request by the General Assembly to strengthen coordination for humanitarian assistance in emergencies and disasters.

UN OCHA's Mission Statement

OCHA is mandated to mobilise and coordinate the collective efforts of the international community, in particular those of the United Nations system, to meet in a coherent and timely manner the needs of those exposed to human suffering and material destruction in disasters and emergencies. This involves reducing vulnerability, promoting solutions to root causes and facilitating the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development.

What does UN OCHA do?

- Facilitate the coordination of UN agencies' humanitarian programmes, as well as assist in promoting a smooth transition from relief to development;
- Act as a disseminator of information on humanitarian issues for the donor/humanitarian community;
- Liaise with host governments, donors, international and non-governmental organisations to facilitate resource mobilisation;
- Promote coordination linkages between humanitarian and developmental international and non-governmental organisations.

in Armenia

UN OCHA, at the request of the Armenian Government, established a presence in Armenia in August 1994, at a time of humanitarian crisis in the country.

UN OCHA Field Coordination Unit in Armenia led by UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, has been facilitating humanitarian coordination, working closely with the Government, UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organisations, acting as a link between those humanitarian partners to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to Armenia and supporting the UN agencies and other partners in their fund-raising efforts for humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes.

Coordination of Response to Natural Disasters

OCHA assists the Armenian Government in times of natural disaster to coordinate internal response to natural disaster. OCHA coordinated the response from the international community to the emergency in the South of Armenia caused by floods in

1997. OCHA also made a quick response to the natural disasters occurred in the different regions of the country in 1997/98 and prepared a series of reports relating to the damage.

Coordination of Humanitarian Response to Complex Emergencies

OCHA has launched three UN Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals for Armenia covering the period 1994-1997, which have raised some US\$ 56 million for humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes implemented by the UN agencies and their partners. A document Post-Appeal Framework: Linking Humanitarian Needs and Development Strategies has been formulated in 1997, which highlighted the end of the humanitarian emergency situation in Armenia while indicating the fact that outstanding humanitarian needs remain and continue to need to be addressed by the international community as the country undergoes transition. On a monthly basis humanitarian situation reports are compiled and circulated to the government and international community. OCHA supports the UN team in elaboration of a UN document on residual humanitarian needs in Armenia.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



What is IOM?

International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM, although not a UN agency, closely cooperates with UN Organizations in over 70 countries of the world, where it has its offices. Sixty-nine countries are IOM member states and forty-nine are observers. IOM activities and programmes throughout the world are in four main areas:

- Humanitarian Migration (organized transfer of migrants, return and integration activities)
- Migration for Development (return programs for the transfer of qualified human resources)
- Technical Cooperation
- Migration Debate, Research and Information.

In 1996 UNHCR, IOM and OCSE initiated and convened the CIS Conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in CIS and relevant neighbouring states. This is a multi-year process which will be concluded in the year 2000.

The three projects carried out by the organization in the republic are:

Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme (CBMMP)

Since 1996, IOM and the Government of Armenia have been working together in the framework of IOM's Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme (CBMMP) to establish a unified system and the operational capacity for the management of migration processes in Armenia. In the absence of an identified state migration entity, the CBMMP has provided a rudder for guiding the development of the migration management structure by facilitating the decision-making process, preparing and gathering support documents for Government review, drafting laws and training staff on migration-related issues. The CBMMP has laid much of the groundwork to establish a unified system and corresponding operational capacity for the management of migration processes and migratory flows in the RoA.

Migration Sector NGO Development Project (MSDP)

IOM's NGO Migration Sector Development Project seeks to develop the institutional capacity of migrant sector NGOs through capacity building initiatives that develop both institutional and administrative capacity.

Micro-Enterprise Development Project (MED)

The Micro-Enterprise Development Project seeks to increase the economic self-sufficiency of low income groups and women as well as enhance the self-sufficiency and integration of returnees, refugees and displaced persons through the provision of micro-enterprise training, credit and employment opportunities. Since its start the MED project has disbursed 270 loans amounting to US\$ 533,930. This has served 500 direct beneficiaries, loan recipients and persons employed in supported businesses, in and around Yerevan and Gyumri. The MED Project is an initiative of IOM and UNDP.



UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

What is DPI?

As part of the UN Secretariat, DPI is the principal source of public information about the UN system in the country. DPI provides up-to-date public information materials on the aims and activities of the UN in political, economic, social and humanitarian fields to a diverse local audience. At present the work of the DPI Yerevan Office is headed by the DPI Representative.

In Armenia

United Nations Department of Public Information is one of the founding UN entities of the UN Armenia Office in 1992, soon after Armenia became a member of the United Nations.

Principal functions:

- Promotion of an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the UN;
- Planning, programming and coordination of information activities related to the priority issues and special events of the UN in consultation with the departments and offices concerned;
- Seeking support and cooperation from external organizations for the public information activities of the UN;
- Establishing productive working relationships with mass media organizations, government information services, NGOs and educational institutions;
- Translating into local language, printing and more widely distributing materials originally produced at Headquarters.
- Organizing the celebration of UN Observances.

OUR PUBLICATIONS:

Department of Public Information Yerevan Office has initiated the preparation and dissemination of a wide range of information materials:

- The **UN News - Weekly Highlights** is issued both in English and Armenian and disseminated to UN House staff, to the information departments of Armenian authorities, to mass media and interested NGOs.
- **UN Bulletin** is issued quarterly with joint efforts of all UN agencies.
- The **Kosovo Update** is a weekly compilation of UN information about the situation in Kosovo.
- **Press releases** are issued upon necessity and importance of events.

DPI will continue to publish such materials in the future as well.

TRANSLATIONS:

To make original UN materials more accessible to wider audience DPI initiated **TRANSLATION OF UN PUBLICATIONS INTO ARMENIAN**. Among them:

- *UN Charter*
- *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- *1948-1998 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (brochure)*
- *Everything you always wanted to know about the UN*
- *UN in Brief*

United Nations Reference Library:

UN Reference Library is a vital source of information on the work of the United Nations. It maintains complete texts of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies. The collection is continuously updated with current United Nations reports and other documentation such as UN periodicals, reports, reference books and publications of DPI and United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and other organizations.

The current library bibliography entries show the number 1726. A separate special collection of audio/video-cassettes is an unseparable part of the library core collection.

...In the first half of 1999:

Visitors - 1069

Disseminated materials - 4317

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of UDHR, DPI initiated and organized a series of presentations under the general title "Article 19 in the World". The speakers were Ambassadors and other representatives of almost all the Embassies accredited in Armenia, local mass media figures both from the capital and the regions. Each speaker discussed the situation of freedom of expression and of the press, that is the main contents of Article 19 of the Declaration, in their country and/or region. The outcome of the series was a publication, which was launched on the World Press Freedom Day (May 3, 1999).

DPI will soon launch its Web Site and all the above-mentioned materials will be placed therein.

Our Address: UN Armenia House, 14 K. Liebknecht St., 375010 Yerevan.

UNDP:

*Tel: 52-93-41/58-31-94/151-453
registry@undp.am*

UNICEF:

*Tel: 58-01-74/58-05-16/151-698
unicef@arminco.com*

UNFPA:

*Tel: 56-03-40/56-60-73
karend@unfpa.am*

UNDPI:

*Tel: 56-02-12/151-647
dpiarm@arminco.com*

UNHCR:

*Tel: 56-47-71/58-48-92/151-451
unhcr@arminco.com*

WHO:

*Tel: 56-43-67/56-53-24
who@lx2.yerphy.am*

OCHA:

*Tel: 56-23-55/151-749
ocha@arminco.com*

WFP:

*Tel: 58-05-38/56-49-04/151-572
wfp@arminco.com*

IOM:

*Tel: 58-56-92/151-793
iom@arminco.com*

The materials of the UN Bulletin are based on information received from UN system organizations and the UN Department of Public Information.

For comments and/or more information please contact: DPI Yerevan Office.