

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Armenia
Program Title:	Social and Health Sectors
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	111-0340
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$7,270,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,754,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,900,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's program to improve social protection includes training and technical assistance to strengthen Armenia's social assistance and insurance programs. Beginning in CY 2004, a vocational training program specifically targeting out-of-school youths and unemployed adults will be introduced and coupled with a labor development program. Through the introduction of the vocational program, USAID support will contribute to the overall reduction of extreme poverty while increasing the number of people participating in the labor market.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Social Assistance and Insurance (\$5,520,000 FSA, \$2,453,730 FSA carryover). Soup kitchens offer immediate alleviation of hunger for Armenia's vulnerable elderly population, which has been struggling to find adequate sources of income to cover basic needs after the collapse of the Soviet pension system. USAID support for the Soup Kitchen program will expand in 2004 from 21 to 24 soup kitchens and will increase the number of beneficiaries from 3,531 to an estimated 4,010. In addition, social programs will continue to be offered to an estimated 4,750 vulnerable elderly people through community centers for the elderly that will operate in tandem with the soup kitchens. The Armenian Social Transition program will assist Armenia to develop an integrated legal, regulatory, service, and information framework that supports sustainable social insurance and social assistance programs. In 2004, an additional one million Armenians will receive their Social Security cards as the result of a three-year program to overhaul the social insurance system. Additionally, more than 100 government workers will receive computer training, which will complement the introduction of Integrated Social Services Centers. Social worker training will continue in 2004 with 629 public sector and NGO social workers receiving training in order to complete the total design and implementation of national standards for social work. The NGO Training and Resource Center (NGOC) will focus on larger, longer-term grants, and sector-specific training for NGOs. Principal contractors: PADCO (Prime), Armenian Assembly of America (Prime), and others to be determined.

Vocational Training and Labor Development (\$1,750,000 FSA, \$300,000 FSA carryover). USAID will provide training and technical assistance for a four-year vocational training program targeting out-of-school youth and unemployed adults. The program will merge with the public works program in FY 2004/2005 to create an integrated vocational training and labor development program. The number of direct beneficiaries of the labor development program will increase from 815 to 902. Principal contractor: to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Social Assistance and Insurance (\$4,900,000 FSA). USAID will continue support for The Soup Kitchens program, which will continue to expand from 24 to 27 soup kitchens and will increase the number of beneficiaries from 4,010 to 4,500. Social and health programs will be offered to 5,000 vulnerable elderly people through the social and health outreach programs offered in tandem with the soup kitchens at community centers for the elderly. Work in pension and poverty benefit reform will continue. USAID will support the deinstitutionalization and safe placement of children residing in orphanages and evaluation of

the legal and administrative framework addressing elderly and disabled care. Principal contractor: to be determined.

Vocational Training and Labor Development (\$2,000,000 FSA). In FY 2005 the program will be fully operational and the number of people trained will increase from 800 to 2,000 and the number of people engaged in labor development will increase from 902 to 1,350. Principal contractor: to be determined.

Performance and Results: Significant progress was achieved in establishing the legal and regulatory framework necessary for efficient operation of social insurance and assistance programs. Information management systems, critical for improved targeting of the poverty family benefit program and other social assistance and insurance programs, are in place. The NGOC provided intensive management training to 15 NGOs to improve overall operations and service delivery. Areas covered in training included personnel management, budget and finance, fundraising, human resources management, and proposal writing. With USAID support, eight parent councils received grants totaling \$54,557 and administered school lunches to 11,391 schoolchildren, covering 30% of daily recommended caloric intake per child. A new undergraduate program in actuarial sciences was created at Yerevan State University. Legislation was introduced to allow the introduction of Armenia's Social Security card and subsequent rollout. The social insurance personification (PARNAS) prototype software was developed and accepted by the Social Insurance Fund. Three pilot projects on Government/NGO partnerships and 15 micro public works projects created short-term employment for 815 vulnerable persons were completed.

At the conclusion of this program, USAID expects that most of the core design work for sustainable social insurance programs will be complete. USAID support will allow Armenia to continue to develop and refine the legal and regulatory framework for sustainable social delivery systems. In addition, workers with outdated or limited work skills will receive training and employment opportunities through a labor development program.