



USAID
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ALLIANCES IN ACTION

ARMENIA EARTHQUAKE ZONE RECOVERY PROGRAM

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Following Armenia's devastating earthquake in 1988, over 500,000 lost their homes and were sent to live in temporary shelters. During this time, the reconstruction process was slow and the resources to support the rebuilding of homes inadequate. Throughout the 1990s, families continued to live in metal shelters, or *domiks*, which were only meant to house those displaced by the earthquake temporarily. By the end of the decade, the earthquake zone recovery effort had stalled completely, leaving thousands without a permanent residence or hope for the future.

PARTNER INTEREST

Private foundations, businesses, and diaspora community groups sought to implement a market-oriented approach to resettle households displaced by the earthquake after government efforts at reconstruction stalled.

APPROACH

USAID partnered with the All Armenian Fund, The Huntsman Foundation, The Jinishian Memorial Foundation and others to foster the regional recovery of earthquake-affected areas. The Armenia Earthquake Zone Alliance worked to address housing needs, by removing the *domiks*; restore public spaces; and encourage private investment in the northern region. USAID launched a \$35 million housing certificate program which provided vouchers to households for the purchase of houses anywhere in Armenia or grants to complete or repair unfinished or damaged houses. Partners conducted the needs-based surveys to select the households eligible to receive the vouchers; selected the houses designated to be demolished and determined those that were salvageable; and participated in site planning. In addition, local companies donated construction supplies for the new homes. By the end of the partnership, about 30,000 people were finally able to move out of temporary shelter and into permanent housing.

PARTNERS



RESULTS

- Over 6,800 families received permanent housing in Shirak and Lori regions and the town of Aparan.
- Over 120 municipal sites reclaimed by clearing temporary shelters in 5 cities.
- Since the end of the program, the Government of Armenia has replicated the use of the housing certificate and rural housing improvement grant models.
- In 2009, 515 families in urban and 226 families in rural areas of the Earthquake Zone received housing vouchers, and an additional 208 families will receive housing.

FAST FACTS

START: 2001 END: 2005

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$53,530,220