



ARMENIA

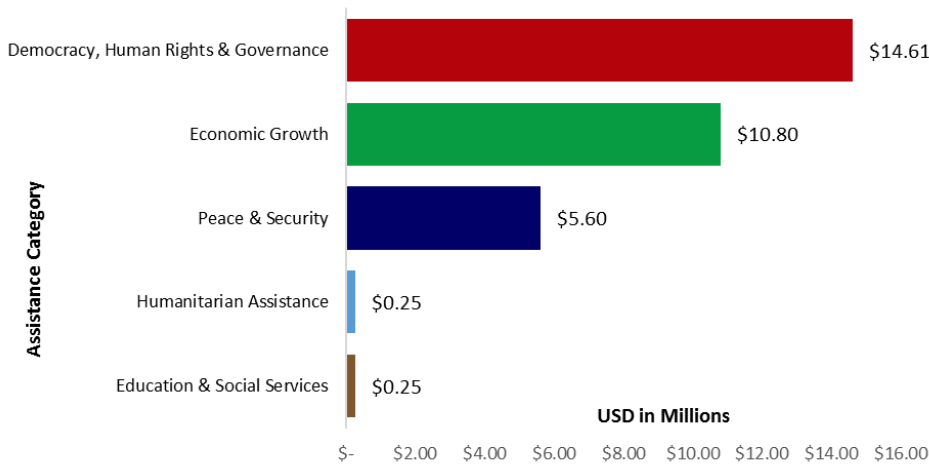
U.S. government (USG) foreign assistance aims to support Armenian efforts to advance the country's democratic and economic development and create the conditions for regional peace and stability. Following the spring 2018 Velvet Revolution, Armenia launched an ambitious reform program to advance democratic, transparent, and responsive government institutions that can address corruption and rule of law challenges. The United States is partnering with Armenia to improve governance and political processes, combat corruption, generate economic growth, and lay the groundwork for a more transparent, accountable, and effective justice sector. The United States signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with Armenia in 2015 and, in November 2017, Armenia signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union. Armenia has contributed to NATO and United Nations peacekeeping operations. Following the outbreak of COVID-19 and intensive fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2020, the humanitarian needs of the country and the region have also been at the forefront of assistance efforts.

over \$2.9 billion
USG assistance since 1992

\$31.5 million
State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*

\$13.9 million
COVID-19 assistance**

FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Armenia by Category* (\$31.5m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include regional or centrally managed funds or \$6.09 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.



ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is providing assistance to help Armenia set up a new anti-corruption court and the Anti-Corruption Committee (an independent anti-corruption investigative agency), both key national initiatives that will help Armenia fight transnational organized crime and strengthen the rule of law. INL assistance also provides legal education curriculum development and distance learning resources for prosecutors, investigators, and judges across Armenia. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) assistance is promoting a whole of society approach to preventing corruption by building public demand for accountable governance and developing integrity systems across public sector institutions, with a focus on the Corruption Prevention Commission that will ensure candidates for public positions undergo standardized and transparent integrity checks.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance supports Armenia's ambitious police reform agenda to foster a rights-respecting, civilian police force. INL is supporting Armenia's effort to establish a new patrol police service and, in late 2020, launched tactical and scenario-based police training in Armenia using community policing methodologies that will improve public confidence in law enforcement at the local level. INL is also assisting in the development of a new civilian ministry to oversee Armenian law enforcement and promote further INL-supported reforms of law enforcement education, practices, and facilities.

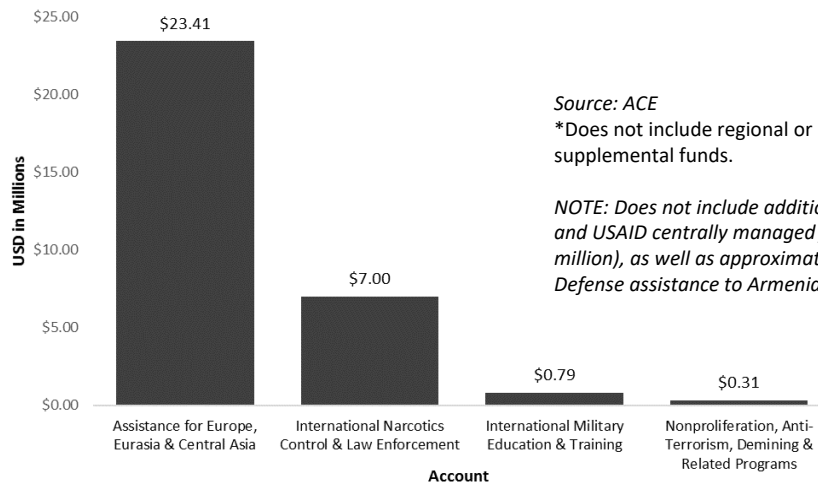


CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance works to support Armenian civil society and government institutions to improve their accountability and responsiveness to Armenia's people. For example, USAID is supporting Armenia's decentralization reform through municipal capacity-building. Through this assistance, 13 pilot communities have improved their infrastructure and increased local revenues by an average of 30 percent, creating the conditions for local political empowerment and economic development. Under the Strengthening Electoral Processes and Political Accountability (SEPPA) project, USAID partners have helped the National Assembly's Working Group on Electoral Reform develop a new Electoral Code; supported efforts to help political parties and the National Assembly become more responsive to citizen needs; and in 2020 trained nearly 200 government and National Assembly participants in policy research, data analysis, and communication skills. USAID also supports Armenian civil society organizations to generate and use reliable data better and to communicate effectively to decision makers and the public. U.S. Embassy Yerevan's Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) assistance, through the Democracy Commission Small Grants program, led to the development of a new online platform for the Public Defender's Office (PDO) of Armenia, which has emerged as a resource for Armenians in need of legal advice and a conduit for institutional data sharing, and has helped raise public awareness about open governance and transparency. In partnership with counterparts in the region, PDS has also been funding "Track II" initiatives that bring together people from the region representing a range of professions and interests, for joint activities and confidence-building exercises increasing mutual cross-border understanding as well as conflict resolution programs.



FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Armenia by Account* (\$31.5m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include regional or centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: Does not include additional FY 2020 assistance from State and USAID centrally managed funding (approximately \$18.05 million), as well as approximately \$8.9 million in Department of Defense assistance to Armenia.



INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Recognizing the important role that free and open debate plays in a democracy, USAID’s Media for Informed Citizen Engagement project enhances Armenian access to independent fact-based news, increases media literacy among consumers, strengthens media practitioner skills and professionalism, and promotes an enabling environment for independent media. PDS supports media exchange programs and fellowships and conducts outreach as well as media literacy and English language skills training to help Armenians recognize false or misleading information and access different views and sources of reporting. PDS grants to media institutions aim to professionalize and expand the investigative journalism industry and social responsibility in Armenia, prepare future generations of journalists, and establish an environment conducive to independent media.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance supports Armenia’s efforts to advance energy security and diversification through its work on regional energy integration, regulatory reform, and renewables. USAID is making Armenia’s energy system more transparent, accountable, and independent, while making the sector more attractive to western investors and supporting integration with Georgia’s electricity grid. USAID’s Market Liberalization and Electricity Trade activity informed Armenian decision-makers about the benefits of renewables in preparing a Least-Cost Energy Development Plan, positioning the government to issue its own Energy Strategy Action Plan to guide energy sector development through 2040. The U.S. Department of Energy is working with Armenia to enhance safety and security at the dated, Soviet-era Metsamor nuclear power plant, which generates a large portion of the country’s electric power.



EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

In addition to after-school programs and English language training for students and teachers, funding from PDS is helping to set up a new graduate-level (masters) American Studies program and an American Studies research center at Yerevan State University. Separately, USAID has supported reform efforts in Armenia in the areas of education, rights of the disabled, and social work. Efforts since 2013 have led to more than 86 communities now having a social worker; training for over 90 professionals; and the reunification of 205 institutionalized children with their biological families.



TRADE & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The United States funds activities in Armenia to support economic growth, increase workforce skills, and foster rural development. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, USAID’s My Armenia tourism project developed a technical assistance relief program that allowed 36 small regional museums in five regions to open their doors safely to the public. Under the Advanced Science and Partnerships for Integrated Resource Development project, USAID helped the government and the private sector to utilize groundwater resources more sustainably in the Ararat Valley, the breadbasket of Armenia. USAID assisted in developing tools for informed decision-making on water allocation and implementation of water saving technologies to restore functionality to drinking and irrigation systems benefiting 27,000 residents in local communities that had lacked reliable access to water for more than 20 years.



COVID-19 ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Since the onset of COVID-19, the United States has provided approximately \$14 million in COVID-19 assistance to Armenia, including over \$6 million in State and USAID COVID-19 supplemental resources, more than \$835,000 in Department of Defense (DoD) funds, and more than \$4.3 million in State and USAID new and existing funding. Among other activities, USAID has used this funding to create COVID-19 communications materials that have reached over half a million people, mobilize 1,500 Red Cross Society volunteers, offer psychosocial support to over 12,000 people, and provide food and hygiene packages to over 8,000 vulnerable households throughout Armenia. Separate programs provide health and other services to vulnerable migrants in Armenia; support civil society’s response to community needs; and help entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises, supporting the economic recovery in rural areas and mitigating COVID-19 impacts on Armenia’s tourism industry. [NOTE: Supplemental and DoD funds are not reflected in the assistance totals or graphs above.]



CONFLICT-RELATED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In November 2020, the USG announced \$5 million in new humanitarian assistance to support the operations of international and non-governmental organizations in assisting people affected by the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh. These funds were provided through the State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), and USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). In addition, several bilateral USAID activities took immediate action to respond to the needs of displaced populations. In total the U.S government has supported 74,000 individuals in Armenia with food, shelter, cash assistance, hygiene kits, critical medical supplies, and other key items, and has mitigated the spread of COVID-19 among displaced populations. The United States continues to assess urgent humanitarian needs and possible future engagement on an ongoing basis. [NOTE: These centrally managed funds are not reflected in the assistance totals or bar graphs above.]