

**DECLINING FERTILITY:  
 A GLOBAL ISSUE OF CONCERN**

UNFPA supports countries in using data for policies and programmes to address the complex linkages between population dynamics, poverty and **sustainable development**. Directing more resources to all of these issues is critical to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed framework to halve poverty by the year 2015.

Lower fertility and slower population growth temporarily increase the relative size of the workforce, opening an historic, one-time only demographic window. With fewer dependent children and older dependents relative to a larger, healthier working-age population, countries can make additional investments that can spur economic growth and help reduce poverty.

Population dynamics, including growth rates, age structure, fertility and mortality, migration and more-influence every aspect of human, social and economic development. In turn, other core areas of UNFPA’s work, including reproductive health and women’s empowerment, powerfully influence population trends.

**OUTCOME:**

To reduce the levels of poverty and income inequality in accordance with the MDG’s and PRSP (to contribute to socially-oriented and equitable economic growth by helping duty-bearers formulate and implement pro-poor policies and programmes)

**EXPECTED OUTPUT:**

Strengthened national capacity to implement poverty reduction policies that take into consideration population dynamics and gender

**FACING THE CHALLENGE**

**CURRENT SITUATION:** In Armenia, the TFR is still under the replacement level – 1.417 per women in 2007 compared to 2.620 in 1990. The number of live births within the same period had declined twice and the number of deaths has increased by 22.0%. The dramatic changes in migration flows soon after the split of the USSR and military conflicts caused a lot of population displacements and migration outflow. As a result the de jure population number decreased by 8.3 % and comprised 3230.1 thousand person as of 01.01.2008.

**To improve the current and future demographic challenges there is a need for a national demographic policy.**

The present demographic challenges:

- To increase TFR up to replacement level;
- To improve age-sex structure of the population;
- To control migration movements;

All of the mentioned conditions contribute to the improving demographic situation in the Republic.

**ENTRY POINTS:** Problems to be dealt with while ensuring national policies and strategies take account of the consequences of population dynamics (low fertility, migration, and aging) and of their linkages with poverty and gender issues in Armenia can be classified under five groups:

1. ***Lack of accuracy in registration systems;***
2. ***Lack of knowledge and awareness on population studies;***
3. ***Lack of legislation, policies and plans;***
4. ***Lack of institutional capacity to address Population and Development issues;***
5. ***Lack of coordination and cooperation on activities on Population and Development issues.***

## REACHING OUT

**ACTION:** To ensure national and sectoral policies and strategies take account of the consequences of population dynamics (low fertility, migration, and aging) and of their linkages with poverty and gender issues.

The project is striving to reach the defined goals through:

- ✓ Adoption and ratification of the State Demographic Policy of RA;
- ✓ Providing basic knowledge to and increasing awareness on population studies among the target groups of policy makers, civil servants and the population at large by introducing MA in demography at the Yerevan State University, as well as by introducing Course on Demography at the Civil Servants Council;
- ✓ Building networks and strengthening partnerships between multiple actors on the local and regional levels;
- ✓ Implementing sample surveys, researches, studies and in-depth analysis in order to obtain reliable and accurate data in the field of Population and Development.

### PDS PROJECT COMPONENTS: ARMENIA

- COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING;
- COMPONENT 2: AWARENESS RAISING;
- COMPONENT 3: LEGISLATION & POLICY;
- COMPONENT 4: RESEARCH/SURVEYS;
- COMPONENT 5: COORDINATION & INTER-COUNTRY COLLABORATION.

## PARTNERS

**INTERNATIONAL:** The project will build on the existing expertise and experiences in the field through promotion of synergies and cooperation with other international actors in Armenia including:

UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNDP), OSCE, Council of Europe, OSI, ILO, IOM, WHO, USAID, British Council, IREX, DFID, AEPLAC, UMCOR, World Vision, AUA Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis, American Bar Association/CEELI, Save the Children, CRS, CARITAS Armenia, Mission Armenia, and others.

### National Institutions:

National Assembly of RA, Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the RA, National Statistical Service of the RA, Ministry of Finance of RA, Ministry of Health of RA, National Institute of Labour and Social Research of RA

### NGOs including:

ICHD, WRC, AAWUE, Women's Republican Council, Akunk Centre for Ethno-Sociological Studies, Maternity Fund of Armenia, NGO Centre, CAA, "For Family and Health Pan Armenian Association", Education for Sustainable Development Fund, "SAMSA", "Open Medical Club", "Internews", "Woman and politics" newspaper, and others.

For more information please contact::

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