INSPIRE Strategies to End Violence Against Children

Country Factsheet

ARMENIA
INTRODUCTION

This factsheet is largely based on the inputs and observations of 50 organisations working in child protection in Armenia. As the survey was shared through child protection national coalitions, most of the respondents are coalition members (39 organizations); almost half of them state that they are part of a national level INSPIRE working group (21 organizations).

This entails that they do conduct activities that deal with key aspects that INSPIRE aims to tackle, and in some cases actually apply solutions that are perfectly in line with the INSPIRE approach. Indeed, a number of organisations working in Armenia that took part to the survey conduct activities that directly relate to one or more of the INSPIRE strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of organisations working on INSPIRE strategies in Armenia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Results based on information provided by 50 organisations which took part to ChildPact's INSPIRE mapping survey</td>
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<td>33 organisations</td>
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<td><strong>Strategy 2: Norms and values (gender, social, community)</strong></td>
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<td>40 organisations</td>
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CROSS - CUTTING ASPECTS

The section below point at cross-cutting aspects that are relevant for all INSPIRE strategies. Examples of activities relevant to the different strategies will be outlined separately in the following section.
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NGO SECTOR AND STATE AUTHORITIES

A large group of organizations, gathering World Vision Armenia, UN children’s fund, Save the Children International Armenia Country office, SOS Children’s Villages Armenia, Children of Armenia Fund, Civil Society Institute, Child Protection Network, Family and Community NGO, Children’s Support Centre of Fund for Armenian Relief, Staff of Human Rights Defender united their efforts in February 2017 to implement the five years “Share Love, Not Violence” public campaign to combat violence against children, aimed at contributing to prevention and elimination of violence against children and comprehensive rehabilitation of a child exposed to violence in the republic of Armenia, marking the links with the global campaign with similar aims.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PART OF A NATIONAL LEVEL INSPIRE WORKING GROUP

- Collection and presentation of cases of violence to the public, with the purpose of informing about the consequences of violence and developing intolerance towards the cases of violence,
- Dissemination of examples of positive parenting and healthy relations in the family among the public following the examples of prominent Armenians and historical traditions, as well as influential people currently living around
- Development and popularization of a module on positive parenting.
- Incorporation of knowledge, capacities and skills on positive discipline in the curricula of current and future educators,
- Introduction of an educational material on conflict management in general education programs,
- Improvement of legislation and mechanisms related to violence against children, particularly getting the child recognized as a legal subject bearer of rights in the draft Law “On Domestic Violence”, setting mechanisms under law for the protection of those exposed to violence, review of envisaged punitive measures, setting-up mandatory rehabilitation services, etc.,
- Engagement of Church in combating violence against children,
- Presentation of the evidence-based situation to major donors with the purpose of directing their attention and resources to the gaps existing in the child protection system.

Recently the network and its member took part in the adaptation of INSPIRE strategies to socio-cultural context of Armenia. The coalition members reacted to several cases of child maltreatment. Some members have participated in training course dedicated to the introduction of the strategies and international best practices. Currently the operation team is preparing several advocacy initiatives dedicated to the Child Protection Day.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Only 23 out of 50 organizations have responded that they are implementing preventive actions dedicated to the child sexual abuse, such as:
- Development and advocacy towards enactment of referral mechanisms for all kind of violence against children.
- Collaboration with and capacity development of local specialists on early identification and timely response to the cases of sexual abuse and exploitation.
• Development of educational manuals, guidelines for the child protection specialists on adequate response and prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation.
• Provision of temporary shelter.
• Direct response to the cases of violence; provision of services to those who have been sexually abused.
• Organization of trainings for parents and professionals
• Advocacy for increasing sensitivity for the issue

Examples of practices

Among the good practices across the country we can mention the model of Crisis intervention centre being established, preventive measures implemented at the community level (capacity development of parents, local specialists, awareness raising of school-age children and youth on the phenomenon of violence and response mechanisms) and also activities aimed at the development of foster care in Armenia.

The local level advocacy activities are conducted to promote the idea of inclusive education and the necessary steps for obtaining the status of inclusive school, while home education is advised only in cases when children have prolonged illnesses and are physically unable to attend school for a long period of time.

The national level advocacy focuses on school budget transparency, participatory planning and reporting, which is seen as one of preconditions for quality education and accountability.

The Ministry of Education and Science, in the framework of Open Government Partnership (OGP), has initiated a working group where Word Vision Armenia advocacy team has been heavily involved and had a very important role in including transparency and accountability of the educational process in the 2nd Action Plan of the OGP. This has resulted in the development of legal acts endorsed by the Ministry of Education ensuring transparent election of school governance bodies and accountability of school budget to service users.

Peace Road for Children operates permanently established community–based clubs, which aim to build five core competences in life skills among children: critical thinking, emotional management, communication, relationship–building, and social responsibility. The learning process is organized through games, discussions and other activities.

Trainings on positive discipline among parents and teachers are also provided by the Arevamanuk NGO, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), Family and Community NGO and World Vision Armenia, in order to achieve the desired behavioural change and resulting in a decrease in the proportion of parents practicing physical punishment as well as in an increase among teachers who think that a child should never be beaten.

Reporting and referral (R&R) is a community child protection mechanism implemented by Fund for Armenian Relief, which forms abilities aimed at proper identification, reporting, referring and responding to the cases of children’s rights violations. The adopted approach capacitates child protection actors on formal and non-formal mechanisms to respond to situations whenever a child is being abused, exploited or neglected and to provide relevant assistance to them and their family members. Within this approach both formal and informal get together in a workshop to look at the strengths and the problems with the adopted ways of reporting and referral of cases to better address child protection violations.
Celebrating Families model implemented by World Vision Armenia aims to support vulnerable families to create an environment of care and love for their children. This support is provided through strengthening parenting skills, while also promoting spiritual nurture of their children. In certain cases the “Celebrating Families” methodology is led by faith leaders to make use of their active contribution to child protection.

Innovations in and reforms of the social work system in Armenia is the subject of discussion and debate by several organizations and the Armenian Government. Among the suggested changes we highlight: quality services provided by the government across the continuum of child care, with clear standards, feasible plans and adequate funding; strong social protection mechanisms including community-based social services; laws and policy solutions shaped by the specificities of the local context and child protection evidence; inclusion of children’s voices in the policy processes, the establishment of state paid community level specialists/social workers, etc. Armenia’s government in consultations with CSOs has finally developed a Master Action Plan that ensures a holistic approach for child protection reforms and serves as platform to coordinate all the contributions of the partners. As a partner, World Vision Armenia continues to further support the institutionalization of “community social work” institute, as well as the provision of technical support for the development of regulatory/policy framework to ensure that policy documents are in line with the UN child protection Guidelines and best practices from the field.

Deinstitutionalization efforts are focusing on restructuration of the Special Education System into a totally Inclusive Educational System with particular focus on the adoption of Draft Law on “Mainstream Education” and supporting government efforts to transform all schools into accessible facilities for all children, including physical and professional dimensions.

The Training on Child Rights are provided by World Vision Armenia, Fund for Armenian Relief, Armenian Caritas, Save the Children and Children of Armenia Fund as series of lectures and trainings designed for children and aimed at awareness raising of children on their rights and duties. Its primary objective is to transfer knowledge and skills on the rights and duties and prepare children to act as trainers for their peers to conduct similar lectures in the future.

The Training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) delivered by Save the Children Armenia and the World Vision Armenia aims to provide knowledge and skills necessary to plan and implement DRR activities, including first medical assistance in schools.

Cooperation with the Church is an important aspect in Armenia, due to the influence of the Church as an institution. World Vision Armenia considers the Church as an effective partner in addressing child protection issues at local and national levels. Through its programming children are engaged in Spiritual Nurture initiatives, such as Christmas celebration, schools and meetings with the community priests on regular bases as well as organising Christian Summer Camps where they have an opportunity to spend time with their peers, participate in games and recreational activities.
INSPIRE STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENTS OF LAWS

Laws banning violent punishment of children by parents: 34 organisations
Laws banning violent punishment of children by teachers: 24 organisations
Laws banning violent punishment of children by other care givers: 21 organisations
Laws criminalizing the sexual abuse and exploitation of children: 23 organisations
Laws that prevent alcohol misuse: 7 organisations
Laws limiting youth access to firearms and other weapons: 6 organisations

More than 10 of respondent NGOs have participated in law amendment working groups and presented their recommendations related to law and its implementation acts' development. Public awareness raising as well as advocacy actions were organised by the World Vision Armenia, CARITAS Armenia, Save the Children Armenia, Fund for Armenia Relief and Armenian Association of Social Workers.

STRATEGY 2: NORMS AND VALUES (GENDER, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY)

Changing adherence to restrictive and harmful gender norms: 38 organisations
Changing adherence to restrictive and harmful social norms: 33 organisations
Community mobilization programmes: 33 organisations

Bystander interventions [* Bystander intervention is a model of sexual violence prevention based on evidence that community norms play a significant role in the perpetration of violence.]: 2 organisations

- public campaigns dedicated to the reduction of gender-specific abortions (FAR, WVA, Women Support centre, Family and Community NGO, Arevamanuk NGO)
- girls/women leadership school, community mobilization projects(Women support centre, Family and Community NGO, WVA, FAR)\(^1\)

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• Replace violence with love public campaign (coalition of NGOs acting in the field (UNICEF, WVA, Child Protection Network, Save the Children, Fund for Armenian Relief, etc.))
• Public opinion making actions by various organisations (FAR, COAF, WVA, Community and society NGO)
• Village social workers’ awareness raising and education activities (World Vision Armenia)
• Funds for Armenia Relief implements projects in Aragatsotn and Tavoush regions aimed at the prevention of violence against children through capacity development of caregivers, local specialists and through mobilization of youth initiatives, based on the belief that through changing of restrictive and abusive norms and values it's possible to reduce violence against children in communities and families.

**Strategy 3: Safe Environments**

Reducing violence by addressing “hotspots”: 28 organizations
Interrupting the spread of violence: 38 organizations
Improving the built environment (interior planning): 22 organizations

• FAR Children’s Support Center (FARCSC) as a safe environment for children in difficult life situation providing 24/7 care and rehabilitation services. The centre’s specialist work towards strengthening the capacities of families to take care of their children and developing family-based alternatives for the children in difficult life situation. In collaboration with the Government, World Vision Armenia and Bridge of Hope, with the financial support of the EU funding, FARCSC develops foster care alternatives in Armenia.
• Rural social workers' service provision. (World vision Armenia).
• Awareness raising actions on referral and intervention in cases of violence. (FAR, WVA, Armenian Association of Social Workers).
• Prevention of violence against children through teaching parent alternative methods of positive parenting. (Child protection network has adapted and translated a “Families make difference” INSPIRE tool which was shared with member and partner organisations (45 participants) the tool was implemented in the regions of Armenia among professionals and parents, other training methodologies have been used by the SOS Children villages, World Vision Armenia, COAF, FAR, Arevamanuk NGO and Fund for Armenian Relief).
• Research, rapid intervention, referrals. (WVA and FAR)
• Promotion of best practices among professionals and parents. (Child Protection Network, FAR, WVA, Caritas, COAF, Astghatsolk NGO, etc.)
**Strategy 4: Parent and Caregiver Support**

Delivered through home visits: 38 organizations  
Delivered in groups in community settings: 27 organizations  
Delivered through comprehensive programmes: 31 organizations  
Parenting training and support programmes for parents: 38 organizations  
Parenting training and support programmes for other care givers: 21 organizations

- Positive discipline trainings among parents and teachers to achieve the desired behavioral change and resulting in a decrease in the proportion of parents practicing physical punishment as well as in an increase among teachers who think that a child should never be beaten. (Arevamanuk NGO, Child Protection Network, WVA, Child Development foundation, Shogh Day-care Centre )  
- Building the capacity of social workforce for early identification and prevention of violence against children and the quality of services for children with disabilities. (WVA, Armenian Association of Social workers, CARITAS Armenia)  
- Teaching parents how to prevent sexual violence against their children.  
- In the framework of the village social workers’ service provision: individual social work and parenting clubs. (Women Support Centre, WVA)

**Strategy 5: Income and Economic Strengthening**

Cash transfers: 8 organizations  
Group saving and loans combined with gender equity training: 9 organizations  
Microfinance combined with gender norm training: 6 organizations

- Graduation model - sustainable solution to overcome poverty is implemented  
- Provision of livelihood means to families in Armenian communities (working tools, domestic animals, etc.)  
- Provision of business grants and counselling on business plans. (Fund for Armenian Relief and WVA)  
- Small financial assistance to the families (transportation fee, food) . (Fund for Armenian Relief and WVA)  
- Family budget management trainings and consultations. (Fund for Armenian Relief and WVA)  
- Within the framework of the project «Step-by-step poverty eradication» implemented by WVA, families are supported by teaching new professions / crafts, providing necessary tools to help them find a job; In parallel, the family is taught to be able to save, to have income and be able to be competitive in the labour market (http://www.wv.org/armenia/economic-development)
**STRATEGY 6: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Counselling and therapeutic approaches: 34 organizations
Screening combined with interventions: 16 organizations
Treatment programmes for juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system: 6 organizations
Foster care interventions involving social welfare services: 26 organizations

- Building the capacity of social workforce for early identification and prevention of violence against children and the quality services for children with disabilities. (Child Development Foundation, Yerevan My Love Foundation’s Luse rehabilitation Center, Arevamanuk NGO, Astghatsolk NGO)
- FAR CSCF together with partner organizations and with the financial assistance of the EU implements a project aimed at the development of alternative care solutions such as foster care for children in difficult life situations.
- Provision psycho-social support. (Arevamanuk NGO, Child Development Foundation, Social Justice NGO, Women Support Center)

**STRATEGY 7: EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS**

Increase enrolment in pre-school, primary and secondary schools: 24 organizations
Establish a safe and enabling school environment: 31 organizations
Improve children’s knowledge about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves against it: 19 organizations
Life and social skills training: 39 organizations
Adolescent intimate partner violence prevention programmes: 6 organizations

- FARCSCF works towards identification of school dropouts and bringing them back to the general education system.
- «Action for Children Health and Education» project contributes to the construction of Early Childhood Development centres in rural communities.
- In the framework of Children of Armenia Fund, Child and Family, Education and Health programs implemented by WVA there are after school clubs at village schools, health/reproductive education for students, and awareness raising and education seminars by social workers.
- Peace rode, Impact, Sky training programs have been implemented in schools aimed at child awareness raising and reinforcement. (WVA https://www.worldvisionphilanthropy.org/hubfs/resources/Reports/World%20Vision%20Child%20Protection_FY17%20Annual%20Report.pdf)
## LINKS AND REFERENCES

For a list of all NGOs that are members of child protection national coalitions, check out their official website: [http://armeniachildprotection.org/en/our-members](http://armeniachildprotection.org/en/our-members)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the organisation</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 &quot;Bari mama&quot; NGO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.barimama.org">http://www.barimama.org</a></td>
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<td>2 Fund for Armenian Relief Children’s Support Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.farusa.org/child-protection">http://www.farusa.org/child-protection</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Save the Children Armenia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.savethechildren.org">http://www.savethechildren.org</a></td>
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<td>4 Sexual Assault Cirsis Center Armenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Children’s Support Centre of Abovyan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amap.am">http://www.amap.am</a></td>
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<td>6 AMAP Human development NGO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.womennet.am">http://www.womennet.am</a></td>
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<td>7 Association of Women with the University Education</td>
<td><a href="https://www.coafkids.org/">https://www.coafkids.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Children of Armenia Fund (COAF)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amaa.am">www.amaa.am</a></td>
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<td>9 AMAA/ Armenian branch of Armenian Missionary Association of America:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%D5%AC%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%BD%D5%A7%20%5ADF%5D%A5%5D%B6%5D%BF%5D%80%5D%B8%5D%62%20%2F%20%20%9Clous%C3%A9%20%80%9D%20center&amp;epa=SEARCH_BOX">https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%D5%AC%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%BD%D5%A7%20%5ADF%5D%A5%5D%B6%5D%BF%5D%80%5D%B8%5D%62%20%2F%20%20%9Clous%C3%A9%20%80%9D%20center&amp;epa=SEARCH_BOX</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Lusen Social-Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities of Yerevan my Love Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.loribeerdhamaynq.am">www.loribeerdhamaynq.am</a></td>
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<td>11 Center for public initiatives</td>
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<td>12 Foundation Against Violation of Law</td>
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<td>13 Social Justice NGO</td>
<td><a href="http://arevamanuk.ghost-services.com">http://arevamanuk.ghost-services.com</a></td>
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<td>14 “AREVAMANUK” Family and Child Care Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cdf.am">www.cdf.am</a></td>
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<td>15 Child Development Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.loriberdhamaynq.am">www.loriberdhamaynq.am</a></td>
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<td>16 Lori Berd municipality</td>
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21 Stepanavan Municipality
22 "Independent" Analyses Institute NGO  
   www.Independent.am
23 Coalition of school centers  
   http://dkm.am/
24 Astghatsolk NGO  
   http://www.astgh.com/about_us.html
25 Charentcavan Community centre  
   https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100023291715172
26 “Civil Society Institute” NGO  
27 “Tatevik” NGO  
28 “Return and protection” social – legal NGO  
29 Social-psychological and statistical center NGO  
30 “Union of School-Centres”  
31 “SOS Children’s Villages” Armenian Charity foundation  
32 “Let’s Create Smile” NGO  
33 Armenian Association of Social Workers  
34 Women’s Resource Center NGO of Meghri  
35 Child Development Foundation  
36 FAR’s Children’s Support Centre Foundation  
37 Human Dignity and Peace Fund  
38 Nagashyan Child Support Centre  
39 “Armenian Caritas” NGO  
40 “Center for Community Mobilization and Support” Community-Based NGO  
41 Women’s Resource Center NGO  
42 Women’s Resource Center NGO of Kapan  
43 “Khariskh” NGO  
44 “Charisma” NGO  
45 “Luysi ashxarh” NGO  
46 “Aravot” NGO  
47 “Areguni” NGO  
48 “Foundation Against the Violation of Law” NGO  
49 “Family and Community” NGO  
50 “Zangakatun” NGO  

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https://hkdepo.am/en/org/tatevik-ngo
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This factsheet is produced by ChildPact and The Network of Organization for Children of Serbia (MODS) in the frame of two regional projects funded by Oak Foundation and INSPIRE Fund. The two projects include complementing initiatives to map the activities that are currently being conducted in line with the INSPIRE framework in the extended Black Sea Region with the objective of better understanding the current efforts and improving synergies between existing actors working on the implementation of INSPIRE strategies.

The data was collected between April and July 2019. The Mapping Survey is available in English at this link.

We would like to thank all the organisations who have participated to this important mapping exercise during the last months.