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REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



1. General Information

Official name	Republic of Armenia (RA), briefly - Armenia
Name in official language	Hayastani Hanrapetutyun, briefly - Hayastan
National flag	a tricolor with horizontal lines of red, navy and orange evenly distributed from top to bottom. Red symbolizes Armenian Highlands, Armenians' incessant struggle for survival, Christian faith, liberty and independence. Navy symbolizes the aspiration of the Armenian nation to live under the peaceful sky. Orange symbolizes the talent for creative work and diligence of the Armenian people.
Head of the State	President
Legislative power	one-chamber National Assembly
Official language	Armenian (is part of Indo-European family of languages)
Capital	Yerevan
Administrative and territorial unit	Marz (11 Marzes in all including Yerevan city)
National currency	Dram (international currency code - AMD)

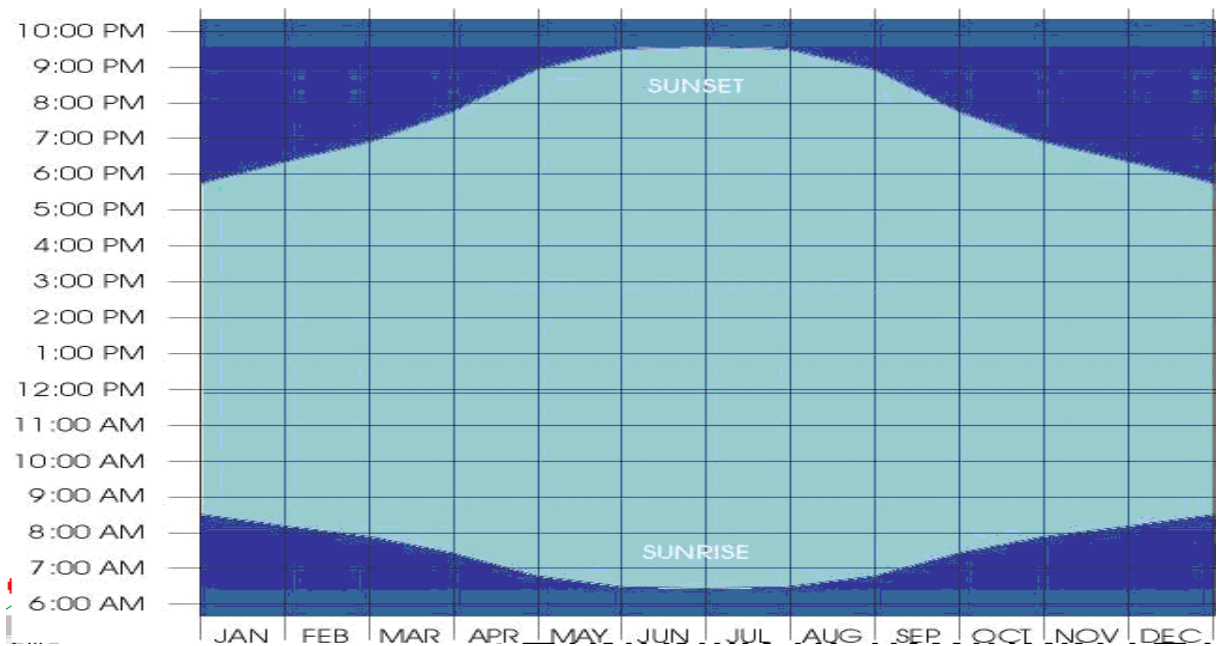
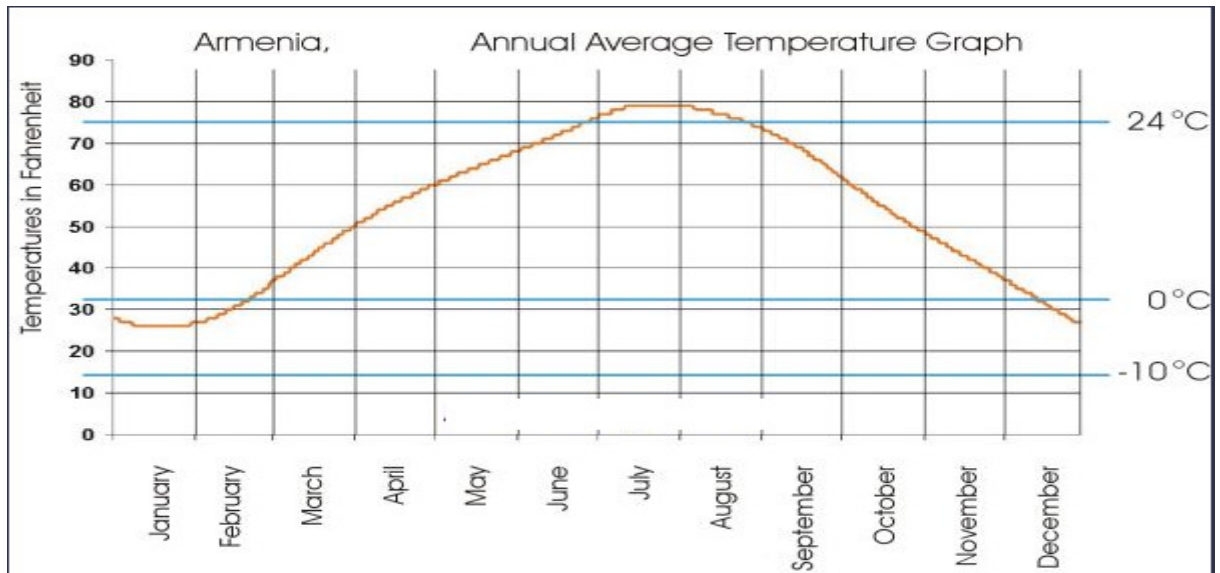
1.1. Geographical information

Territory	29.74 thousand square km (is comparable with the territory of Belgium or Albania)
Neighbouring countries	north- Georgia south- Iran east- Azerbaijan south-west- Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan) west- Turkey
Average elevation above sea level	1800 m
The highest peak	Aragats mountain - 4090 m
The lowest altitude	Debed river canyon - 380 m
The greatest extent	365 km
Time zone	Greenwich mean time + 4 hours

1.2 Climate information

Region	north latitudes of subtropics
Climate	dry, continental
Average temperature	in January - -6.8 °C, in July - +20.8 °C

Human settlement	Height	Precipitation (mm)	Daily mean °C	Average snow depth	Minimum snow depth	Maximum snow depth	Days of snow	Humidity %
Bagratashen	453	444	11,7	—	—	—	—	72
Idjevan	732	563	10,6	10	28	1	38	73
Vanadzor	1350	586	7,4	17	38	3	72	71
Stepanavan	1397	683	6,6	19	53	4	73	73
Tashir	1507	713	5,8	17	37	2	72	75
Spitak	1552	439	7,1	12	56	2	63	69
Chambarak	1861	557	4,8	16	37	5	102	74
Meghri	627	259	13,8	5	27	0	21	61
Kapan	705	544	11,5	10	32	2	34	71
Artashat	829	235	11,1	10	44	0	39	65
Armavir	861	244	11,3	10	42	0	45	60
Erevan	942	316	11,4	12	46	0	44	60
Eghvard	1317	407	9,8	28	68	0	74	62
Areni	1009	357	11,8	14	—	—	40	56
Eghegnadzor	1267	398	10,8	18	—	—	50	66
Sisian	1580	365	6,6	12	34	3	73	68
Gumri	1556	477	5,8	26	61	4	96	70
Talin	1582	435	7,9	24	64	2	82	59
Artik	1750	516	5,8	22	51	5	95	66
Fontan	1798	640	6,0	50	79	13	124	66
Aparan	1291	651	4,3	56	92	10	125	69
Sevan	1936	556	4,0	36	83	3	136	74
Mets Mazra	1940	390	4,2	21	35	7	109	69
Martuni	1995	457	5,6	26	75	2	98	67
Yankh	2334	488	2,7	64	102	33	160	72
Pakhakn (Shurabad)	2004	574	1,8	53	81	17	138	74
Aragats (mount)	3329	1065	-2,7	166	235	66	252	73



1.3. Demographic data

Population	3.2 Million, population of the capital - 1.1 Million
Ethnic breakdown	Armenians (98%), Russians, Yezidis, Kurds, Assyrians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Jews and representatives of other nationalities
Religion	Christianity (Armenian Apostolic Church), professed by the vast majority of the population

1.4. Historical Information

IV-III thousand years B.C.	origin of forearmenian tribal unions on the territory of the Armenian Plateau
782 B.C.	establishment of Yerevan city
VI-V centuries B.C.	completion of the Armenian people's ethnic forming on the Armenian Plateau territory and development of the Armenian language
189 B.C.	formation of independent Armenian state
301 A.D.	official acceptance by Armenia of Christianity as a state religion
405 A.D.	creation by Mesrop Mashtots of the Armenian Alphabet - the basis of written language
428 A.D.	partition of Armenia between Rome and Persia
VII century	Armenia is in the power of Arabs
884 A.D.	liberation of the northwestern part of Armenia and recovery of Armenian State system
1080-1375	Armenian State system established in Kilikia (Mediterranean area)
1639	partition of Armenia between Turkey (Western Armenia) and Persia (Eastern Armenia)
1828	Eastern Armenia joins Russia
1915	deportation and genocide of Armenians in Western Armenia
1918	Armenian State system recovery in Eastern Armenia-Declaration of the Republic of Armenia
1920	establishment of the Soviet rule in Armenia
1922-1991	Armenia is a part of the USSR
1991	collapse of the USSR and declaration of Independence of the Republic of Armenia
1991	Armenia is a founding member of the Commonwealth of Independent States
1992	Armenia is a member of the U.N.O.
1999	signing of partnership agreement between Armenia and the European Union
2001	Armenia is a full member of the Council of Europe
2002	Armenia enters into the World Trade Organization (WTO)

2. Natural Hazards

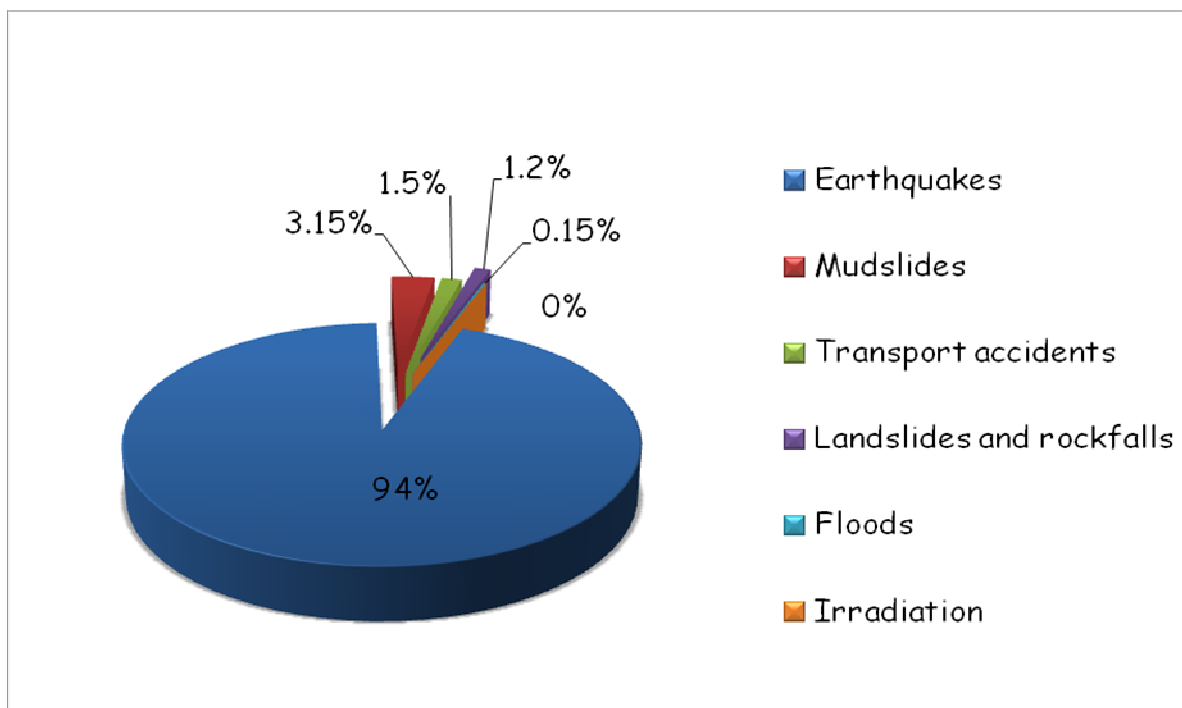
2-1. Natural Hazards Likely to affect the country

Armenia is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world (except the sea disasters), but In Armenia the earthquake disaster is the most harmful for people and property.

Armenia is located in a region where seismic activities are active.

Earthquakes	94%
Mudslides	3,15%
Transport accidents	1,5%
Landslides and rockfalls	1.2%
Floods	0.15%
Irradiation	0%

The disasters in Armenia



2-2. Recent Major Disaster

Spitak (1988)

Destructive Earthquake

December 7, 1988 at 7.41.22.7 GMT (11.41.22.7 local time). The epicenter by the records of seismographs has the following coordinates: latitude 40.92°N, longitude 44.23°E. The depth of the hypocenter, measured by various methods and means, varies from 2.5km to 10-15km. It is natural as the earthquake source as a spatial. The magnitude of the earthquake was 7.0. The intensity at the epicenter was 10 value on MSK-64 intensity scale.

The earthquake hit 40 % of the territory of Armenia, densely populated region with 1 ml people. The affected area, where the intensity of the earthquake was ≥ 8 , involved 30002 km area. 21 towns and 342 villages were destructed, 514.000 people were left without shelter, 20.000 people were injured and 12500 people were hospitalized. Number of victims was about 25.000. Particularly in Gyumri (15.000-17.000) and in Spitak (4000) number of victims was more than anywhere else. 17% funds of dwellings were destroyed, the work of 170 industrial companies were halted, the great losses were caused to villages and agro industrial complexes as well as to the architectural, historical and cultural monuments, 917 public buildings were destroyed.

The rescue activities were systemized only two or three days later. From the first second the earthquake strike, the population carried out restless rescuing works. Anyhow the absence of their experience and sometimes the lack of basic knowledge on actions in emergency caused real difficulties for the efficiency of rescue operations. Even there were cases when the public unawareness brought to life losses. Also there was a need of rescue equipment. With the efforts of population and the rescuers 45.000 dead or alive people were brought out from the rubble and 12.5000 people were hospitalized.



3. Disaster Management System

3-1. Administrative System

Chair Person: President (Oversee the observance of the Constitution, shall ensure the natural functioning of legislative, executive and judicial powers.)	
Vice Chairman: Prime minister (Oversee the Government's regular activities and coordinate the work of the Ministers)	
Government of RA (Executive power is vested in the Government of the Republic of Armenia)	
Territorial Administration (RA Vice Prime Minister)	Finance
Emergency Situations	Foreign Affairs
Culture	Healthcare
Defense	Justice
Diaspora	Labor and Social Affairs
Economy	Nature Protection
Education and Science	Sport and Youth Affairs
Agriculture	Transport and Communication
Energy and Natural Resources	
Agencies by Government of RA	
National Security Service	State Property Management Department
State Committee on Immovable Property Cadastre	General Department of Civil Aviation
State Revenue Committee	RA Police

3-2. Legal System and Framework

Armenia is prone to natural disasters. Eight out of every 10 persons face the probability of experiencing a natural disaster such as an earthquake, landslide or flooding. But thanks to recent efforts of the Government, Armenia has shifted from reactive relief to proactive risk reduction.

Seismic Protection activities are regulated by a number of laws and legislative acts and national programs of the Republic of Armenia:

Law of Republic of Armenia	
The Law of the Republic of Armenia on Seismic Protection	2002
Resolutions of Government	
The Complex Program of Seismic Risk Reduction in the Territory of Armenia	1999
The complex program of seismic risk reduction in Yerevan city	1999
The Resolution of the Government of RA on establishment of the list of critical important and general facilities in the field of seismic protection	2003
Regulation	
"National Survey for Seismic Protection" Agency	2008

3-3. Structure of the Disaster Management

Armenia is located within a zone particularly prone to earthquakes and other natural disasters like landslides and floods frequently occurring on a small scale. Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia created by presidential decree in 2008. It is a republican body of executive authority, which in line with such competences as are vested in it by laws and other legal acts, develops, implements and coordinates RA government's policy in the area of civil defense and protection of the population in emergency situations.

Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA					
Rescue Service	National Survey for Seismic Protection (NSSP) (takes various measures for earthquake disaster management)	Hydro-meteorology and Monitoring State Service	National Technical Safety Center	Atmospheric Phenomena In Active Service Impact	State Of Emergency Crisis Management Academy

Since the day of its foundation the Armenian NSSP made close links with international organizations well known in the field of seismic hazard and seismic risk assessment and reduction, giving importance to the experience of these organizations and aiming to adjust it to local conditions.

Scientific and technical relations of the Armenian NSSP:

Institution/Organization	
	US Geological Survey
	European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre, France
	International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Iran
	GeoforschungsZentrum-Postdam, Germany
	Geophysical Survey of the Russian Academy of Sciences
	Japan Meteorological Agency
	Institute for the Physics of the Earth RAS
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
	Seismic Monitoring Center of Georgia
	Asian Risk Reduction Center
	Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Istanbul, Turkey
	University of Athens, Greece
	Japan International Cooperation Agency
	Republican Center of Seismological Survey at the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan
	National Institute of Geophysics, Rome, Italy
	Kazakhstan National Data Center, Institute of Geophysical Research

and other institutions working in the field of seismic risk assessment and seismic risk reduction.

4. Disaster Management Strategy, Policy, and Plan

Natural and technological hazards threatening Armenia urge the need of development and strengthening of DRR system in Armenia. This process implies involvement of all the potential of the country, which can be achieved through elaboration of Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform (DRR NP). DRR system is a framework of functions and processes with the aim to reduce population's vulnerability to disaster risks. It is aimed at prevention or reduction of negative impacts of hazards and contributes to sustainable development of the society. Fund for DRR NP was

established in 2010. The Head of the Board is Minister of Emergency Situations. The goal of the DRR NP is to establish a multi-spectral mechanism with involvement of all stakeholders.

MES of RA has established a Crisis Management Center as the main body for planning, co-ordinating and implementing measures related to natural and other forms of disasters (complementary to a National Platform on Disaster developed in cooperation with UNDP).

The main goal of "Seismic Risk Assessment and Risk Management Planning Project" is to reduce vulnerability to large-scale earthquakes in the capital city of Yerevan, where a third of the country's population is concentrated, by providing assistance in preparing risk management plans which cover all viewpoints surrounding disaster management cycle from prevention, emergency response to recovery/reconstruction. This project was started from August 2010 with the cooperation of the MES of RA.

5. Progress of the implementation of Hyogo Framework for action (HFA)

Armenia is at high risk of natural and technological hazards, owing to high levels of exposure and vulnerability.

There are many issues and concerns in the country, which increase the vulnerability and exposure of the Armenian population to the above mentioned hazards. These include:

1. Need of a Comprehensive approach to Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Absence of DRR strategy.
3. Imperfection of DRR legislative field.
4. Lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities of DRR stakeholders.
5. Poor coordination among various stakeholders in DRR sector.
6. Insufficient level of cooperation in DRR sector.
7. Agency interests are a priority.
8. Insufficient level of knowledge and education in DRR sector.
9. Imperfection of awareness raising process.
10. Inefficient use of resources.
11. Insufficient level of analytical capacities.
12. Absence of DRR common methodology.
13. Imperfection of monitoring system in DRR.
14. Lack of comprehensive understanding of DRR in the development perspective.
15. Need of multi-stakeholder partnership on DRR.

The national platform states that DRR implies joined actions by the Government, state bodies, communities, civil society, scientific organizations, private sector, as well as the mass media.

DRR NP in Armenia is a structure elaborated and administered by the country with the involvement of stakeholders. It aims to promote DRR implementation at all levels, coordinate, analyze and consult in main sectors which require joined, participatory and coordinated actions.

Together with the UNDP, MES of RA developed a national disaster risk reduction strategy based on the Hyogo Framework of Action, a 10-year, UN-backed plan to make the world safer from natural hazards. The strategy will promote the further institutionalization and sustainability of the DRR system in Armenia.

6. Recent Major Projects on Disaster Risk Reduction

6.1. The Real Time Seismic Intensity Display System (Joint MES of RA- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project)

Based on Japanese earthquake experiences, JICA has been supporting Armenian earthquake disaster prevention through "Seismic Risk Assessment and Risk Management Planning Project" by utilizing Japanese technology.

One of the project goals is to formulate a system for citizens to use their own self-discretion to act properly in case of emergency. Real Time Information System on Seismic Intensity was installed at the Risk Management Center of the MES of RA which aims to promote disaster prevention actions of the citizens through publicity of disaster information and to raise public awareness towards disaster prevention. The demonstration of the system was made in the presence of the Minister of Emergency Situations and project counterparts. Based on a lesson from the Great East Japan Earthquake on the importance of citizens' capability for proper evacuation actions based on their own decision, the project also focuses on awareness raising activities for citizens.

The following plans will be completed by October 2012:

1. Formulation of Earthquake Disaster Management Plan for Yerevan City
2. Formulation of Evacuation Plan based on Earthquake Disaster Management Plan for Yerevan City
3. Formulation of Business Continuity Plan for MES RA.

6.2. Strengthening of National Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Capacities - II phase (Joint MES of RA- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia project)

The project second phase is a continuation of the implementation plan contained in the Programme Framework for Strengthening of National Disaster Management Capacities, developed jointly by UNDP and Armenian Government in 2007. The project provides support in strengthening of legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in Armenia, including development of comprehensive disaster risk reduction national strategy. Risk identification and assessment as well as its reduction measures and further monitoring are considered as four major dimensions for the national strategy formation. The project is aimed at strengthening of legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in Armenia, including development of national disaster risk reduction strategy and enhancement of risk identification, assessment and monitoring system in Armenia.

Project activities include: National risk assessment and establishment of national data observatory for disaster statistics; strengthening of legal and institutional framework and inter-agency coordination for disaster management in Armenia.

Expected Results

Disaster Risk Reduction project implementation will contribute to strengthening of DRR capacities of the country and more systematized coordination and management of the disaster management system having a functional National Platform and DRR strategy as a basis for sustainable development of the country. The project will continue to pay special attention to gender sensitive issues in DRR.

“National Survey for Seismic Protection” Agency

Ministry of Emergency Situations

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3 September 2012