

Ms. Hasmik Kirakosyan from Armenia



My name is Hasmik Kirakosyan, and I am a Visiting Researcher at the ADRC from Armenia. I am the main specialist of the Department of Seismic Disaster Risk Reduction of the “Survey for Seismic Protection” Agency (Armenian SSP) in the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Republic of Armenia. I started my career as a psychologist in the Centre of Activities with Population of the Western Survey for Seismic Protection of the MES.

Armenia is a sovereign state in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. Located in West Asia on the Armenian Highlands, it is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan to the south. Armenia is a country that faces numerous natural hazards and man-made emergencies, but the most devastating are earthquakes. The last and the most catastrophic disaster in Armenia was the Spitak earthquake (December 7, 1988), which caused massive destruction and killed more than 25,000 people. Disaster education and tasks related to addressing the social and psychological vulnerabilities to earthquakes are the responsibility of Armenia's Survey for Seismic Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situation. I am employed by the Survey for Seismic Protection Agency, whose activities are mainly targeted at disaster risk reduction and management. The Survey for Seismic Protection Agency also develops laws and juridical acts of seismic protections field such as Government Resolution N 140 of 16 February 2012 on “Approving Pilot Program on Training of Impacts and Behavioral Impacts in Strong Earthquakes in Public Schools, Hospitals and Other Medical Institutions in Yerevan City.” The department where I am employed carries out psychological research on stress resistance and anxiety in the population.

ADRC's mission is to enhance disaster resilience of its member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. Armenia needs up-to-date world expertise in any scientific area which is likely to contribute to its sustainable development. My participation in the VR program at ADRC is therefore of great importance to my country. I am confident that I will be able to apply all the knowledge and skills in disaster management

that I'm gaining through the VR Program in relevant fields of practice in Armenia, allowing me to serve as an asset in efforts to achieve the millennium development goals.