



PART III

ARMENIA – NON-MATERIAL
POVERTY

Chapter 7: Health and Poverty

A healthy population is not only crucial for a country's socioeconomic development, but also an important precondition for the well-being of households and individuals.

Albeit the relatively low levels of public expenditure compared to that in number of other countries in the Europe and Central Asia region, Armenia has achieved certain healthcare outcomes. The share of healthcare expenditure in the consolidated budget of 2018 was 5.4% (Table 2.4).

In 2018, life expectancy at birth was 72.4 years for men – an indicator higher than in many other Europe and Central Asia countries – and 79.0 years for women. Both indicators exceeded their 1998 and 2008 levels at, respectively, 69.1 and 75.2 years (1998), 70.0 and 76.3 years (2008).

According to the civil status records of the Ministry of Justice, which serve as a source for statistical data on mortality, there has been a declining trend in infant mortality among the age group below 1 year. In 2018, as many as 261 cases of under-one infant deaths were reported, and infant mortality rate (per 1.000 live births) was 7.1 per mille, against 14.7 per mille in 1998 and 10.8 per mille in 2008. Under-five mortality rate (per 1.000 live births) was 8.7 per mille in 2018, against 18.4 per mille in 1998 and 12.1 per mille in 2008.

Maternal mortality rate has also been decreasing over years. Maternal mortality rate (per 100.000 live births) was 21.9 per mille in 2018, against 23.0 per mille in 1998 and 38.8 per mille in 2008.

Box 7.1

Information on Measures Taken by the Ministry of Health in 2018 for Poverty Reduction and/or Mitigation (Including Drafting and Adoption of Legal Acts, Development Concepts and Strategies)

1. Legal acts

During 2018 the Ministry of Health developed 17 draft laws to provide for compliance with the requirements of the UN 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 3, Target 3.a (Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control), as well as 17 decisions and 60 orders.

2. The following measures have been taken to implement the public policy in the field of healthcare:

Certain measures stipulated for 2018 have been taken aimed at the development of the laboratory system, as approved by the Annex to the Government's Protocol Decree No. 33 of August 3, 2018.

The procedure for drafting the National Policy for the Formation and Enhancement of National Laboratory System, as well as the 2019-2023 Development Strategy was initiated and approved by Section 29.2 of the Annex 1 to the Government Decree No. 1030-L of September 6, 2018. To that end, a working group was set up by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 3226-A of December 13, 2018.

To support the development of the laboratory system of the Republic of Artsakh, a working group for the evaluation of the national laboratory system and individual laboratories in the Republic of Artsakh was formed, the group composition

and the assessment tool were approved by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 568-A of March 05, 2018.

Microbiological, chemical and radiological, parasitological and toxicological laboratories of the “Reference Laboratory Center” branch office of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention under the Ministry of Health was accredited as testing laboratories that comply with the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard (accreditation registration number (N°052/S-074). The virology laboratory was officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the National Influenza Center on May 9, 2018.

The licensing process of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention under the Ministry of Health has been completed.

The 2014-2020 Strategic Program for Promoting Healthy Lifestyle has been implemented (Government’s Protocol Decree No. 50 of November 27, 2014).

In two regions (Ararat and Armavir), a pilot methodology was introduced to promote physical activity among the population. In 2018, 7850 persons were consulted on promoting physical activity in the pilot regions.

The Orders of the Minister of Health No. 1993-A “On Approving the Methodological Guideline on the Basic Principles of Healthy Nutrition for School and Preschool Age Children” of August 6, 2018 and No. 2304-A “On Approving the Methodological Guideline on the Basic Food Ingredients” of September 7, 2018 were drafted and approved.

Under the 2015-2020 Research Program on the Impact of Behavioral Factors on the Health Status of 10-12 Year-Old Schoolchildren in Yerevan, as approved by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 3090-A of December 24, 2014, a survey on the prevalence of behavioral factors impacting the health status of 10-12 year-old schoolchildren in Yerevan has been conducted since 2015 with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

The 2015-2020 Action Plan for the Prevention of Traumatism has been implemented.

A working group to draft the Program for Sports Traumatism Prevention was set up by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 1949-A of July 30, 2018, followed by the development and approval of the 2019-2023 Strategic Program for Sports Traumatism Prevention by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 3135-A of December 4, 2018.

The Order of the Minister of Health No. 2999-A of November 18, 2018 approved the Strategic Program and the 2018-2023 Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention.

A pilot version of the System for Epidemiological Control of Industrial Traumatism was introduced by the Order of the Minister of Health No. 3144-A of December 5, 2018.

During 2018, quarterly discussions have been held on the prevention of non-communicable diseases at all regional administrations of Armenia.

Within the framework of the National Immunization Program, in 2018 preventive vaccinations were carried out in the country. Preventive vaccination coverage comprised 89.8% among 1-year-old children, 91.3% among 2-year-olds and 95.6% among 6-year-olds.

The measures envisaged in the 2016-2020 National Strategy for Tuberculosis Management as approved by the Government’s Protocol Decree No. 11 of March 24, 2016, as well as in the 2017-2021 Targeted State Program for HIV/AIDS Prevention as approved by the Minutes No. 25 of the Government’s Session of June 15, 2018 have been implemented.

The educational manual “The Basics of Medical Care for Schoolchildren and Teenagers, the Functions of School Nurses” was developed to train school nurses in Yerevan.

5 obstetricians-gynecologists, 5 anesthesiologists-resuscitation specialist and 5 neonatologists of regional and Yerevan maternity hospitals participated in the scientific-practical training “Basic Principles of Emergency Medical Assistance in Obstetrics” held in Moscow, Russia. Works have been implemented for the prevention of gender-driven abortions. As a result of the complex activities, some positive trends were observed in the process of overcoming the problem of

selective abortions. Particularly, whereas in the period 2008-2012 preceding implementation of the measures to combat selective abortions, the average female-to-male ratio at birth was 100: 115, then 100: 113 in 2014, 100: 112.7 in 2015, 100: 111.9 in 2016, and 100/109.8 in 2018, the same ratio was 100/111 in 2018:

32118 examinations under hypothyroidism screening were carried out, 5 children were identified and placed under specialized control for hormonal examination; 32828 examinations under phenylketonuria screening were carried out, 4 children were identified to receive special nutrition excluding phenylalanine; 29567 examinations under auditory screening were carried out, 40 children with hearing impairment were identified and placed under control for prosthetic hearing or cochlear implantation; 19689 examinations under retinopathy of prematurity were carried out, 179 children (311 eyes) underwent laser surgery, 106 children (186 eyes) received vitreoretinal injections, and 30 children (44 eyes) underwent vitreoretinal surgery.

Womb neck screening examinations to prevent cervical cancer were carried out in 2018 within the Program for the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases implemented together with the World Bank. Over the period 2015-2018 as many as 220500 women have undergone a Pap test, of which 50500 have done so in 2018.

Pursuant to the Order of the Minister of Health No. 650-A, readiness of regional maternity hospitals to provide emergency medical care were examined, monitoring visits were paid to all maternity hospitals in Yerevan, the volume of obstetric-gynecological medical care provided through state funding, as well as the justification and quality of Caesarean sections were assessed.

As a result of the measures taken, infant mortality rate has significantly decreased. According to data of the National Statistical Committee (hereinafter, NSC), over the period January-December 2018 infant mortality rate (0-1 years) was 7.1 per mille (a total of 261 cases), compared to 8.2 per mille for the same period of 2017 (a total of 311 cases).

Box 7.2

Description and Basic Indicators of Healthcare System

In 2018, the population received in-patient treatment services provided by 124 hospitals, primary healthcare (PHC) services provided by 501 facilities and 625 therapeutic-obstetrician stations (TOS). Healthcare facilities and potential are mainly concentrated in major towns of the country (primarily in Yerevan, which has 72.7% of physicians, 41.9% of hospitals and 64.9% of hospital beds).

Aggregate Indicators of Healthcare System, 2018

		Total
Number of physicians of all specialties (person)	Total	13 366
	Per 10.000 population	45.1
Population headcount, per physician (person)		221.8
Number of paramedical personnel (person)	Total	16 595
	Per 10.000 population	56.0
Number of hospitals (unit)		124
Number of hospital beds (unit)	Total	12 153
	Per 10.000 population	41.0
Number of hospitalized patients (person)	Total	406 393
	Per 100 population	13.7
Average annual bed occupancy rate (day)		238
Average duration of in-patient treatment (average number of bed-days per patient) (day)		7.1
Number of PHC facilities (except for TOS-s, private medical and dental clinics)	Total (unit)	501
	Per 10.000 population	1.7
	Number of visits (in thousands)	12 082.8
	Visits per person	4.1

Number of antenatal clinics, pediatric polyclinics, facilities with pediatric departments, family medicine offices (unit)		452
Number of beds for pregnant and parturient women (unit)	Total	1 277
	Per 10.000 women of fertile age (15-49 years)	17.0
Number of beds for child patients (unit)	Total	1 404
	Per 10.000 children	23.4
Emergency aid	Number of emergency aid stations (unit)	72
	Number of emergency aid calls (unit)	479 767
	Number of patients served by emergency call (per 1.000 population, person)	163.5
	Number of physicians (per 100.000 population, person)	4.2

Per Unit Indicators of Health Care System, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

	Number of hospitalized patients (per 100 population)	Number of hospital beds (per 10.000 population)	Average duration of in-patient treatment (day)	Average annual bed occupancy (day)	Number of PHC facilities (except for TOS-s) (per 10.000 population)	Number of visits PHC facilities (except for TOS-s) (per person)
Yerevan	27.0	72.9	6.9	254	1.3	5.0
Aragatsotn	4.1	12.1	4.8	164	1.8	2.9
Ararat	5.2	19.0	7.8	235	2.4	3.5
Armavir	4.9	13.5	5.2	189	2.3	3.4
Gegharkunik	4.8	32.0	18.4	275	1.8	3.1
Lori	8.3	22.3	6.1	228	1.9	4.3
Kotayk	5.7	19.4	7.8	230	1.9	3.4
Shirak	8.7	35.6	6.6	163	1.4	3.9
Syunik	7.2	31.1	7.7	180	1.2	3.7
Vayotz Dzor	3.8	17.3	5.0	111	1.6	3.7
Tavush	6.4	19.0	4.6	156	2.2	3.2
Total	13.7	41.0	7.1	238	1.7	4.1

Number of Physicians and Paramedical Personnel, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

(person)

	Number of physicians		Number of paramedical personnel	
	Total	Per 10.000 population	Total	Per 10.000 population
Yerevan	9 717	89.8	8 490	78.5
Aragatsotn	228	18.2	544	43.4
Ararat	439	17.1	988	38.5
Armavir	390	14.8	894	33.9
Gegharkunik	339	14.8	826	36.2
Lori	520	24.1	1 083	50.3
Kotayk	536	21.3	1 005	39.9
Shirak	584	25.0	1 304	55.9
Syunik	263	19.1	723	52.5
Vayotz Dzor	105	21.4	214	43.7
Tavush	245	20.0	524	42.9
Total	13 366	45.1	16 595	56.0

In 2018, primary healthcare services were provided by 501 facilities and 625 therapeutic-obstetrician stations (TOS).

Types of PHC Facilities, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

(unit)

	Total	Including									TOS
		Independent				Dispensaries	Dental clinics		Divisions within hospitals	Other	
		For adults	For children	Health centers	Rural ambulatories		For adults	For children			
Yerevan	144	22	2	44	-	5	22	4	35	10	-
Aragatsotn	23	-	-	1	15	-	1	-	6	-	92
Ararat	61	-	-	2	50	-	3	-	6	-	43
Armavir	61	1	-	1	52	-	4	-	3	-	39
Gegharkunik	40	2	-	-	30	-	2	-	6	-	54
Lori	41	4	-	5	18	1	7	1	5	-	94
Kotayk	47	2	-	5	30	1	3	-	6	-	29
Shirak	32	7	-	-	12	3	1	1	8	-	97
Syunik	17	-	-	-	10	1	1	-	5	-	103
Vayotz Dzor	8	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	35
Tavush	27	1	-	1	18	-	-	-	7	-	39
Total	501	39	2	59	240	11	44	6	90	10	625

Activity of hospitals: In 2018, as many as 406393 patients were admitted for in-patient treatment, which comprised 136.9 persons per 1.000 population. Among the admitted patients, 19.3% were children aged 0-14 years. Average bed occupancy rate was 238 bed-days, and average duration of in-patient treatment was 7.1 bed-days.

150241 surgical operations were implemented, of which 10.6% for children aged 0-17 years, including 85.9% for children aged 0-14 years. The share of endoscopic operations comprised 8.3%. The number of operated patients was 144486, of which 13372 (9.2%) were children aged 0-14 years and 2131 (1.5%) were children aged 15-17 years. 530 patients deceased due to the operation, of which 9.1% were children aged 0-14 years. During 2018, as many as 400655 persons (98.6%) were discharged from hospitals, and 5290 persons (1.3 %) deceased.

Types of Hospitals, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

	Independent hospitals	Merged hospitals	Health centers	Maternity hospitals without antenatal clinic	Maternity hospitals with antenatal clinic	Dispensaries with in-patient facilities	Total
Yerevan	18	26	-	2	2	4	52
Aragatsotn	-	3	3	-	-	-	6
Ararat	-	4	1	1	-	-	6
Armavir	1	3	-	-	-	-	4
Gegharkunik	1	4	1	1	-	-	7
Lori	1	5	-	-	-	1	7
Kotayk	3	4	1	-	1	1	10
Shirak	5	4	3	1	-	2	15
Syunik	1	5	-	-	-	1	7
Vayotz Dzor	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Tavush	-	4	3	-	-	-	7
Total	30	64	13	5	3	9	124

Operations Carried Out in Hospitals, by Type of Operation, 2018

	Number of operations (unit)	Of which, persons 0-17 years old		Number of operations by endoscopic method (unit)	Number of the deceased due to operation (person)	Of which, persons 0-17 years old	
		Total	Of which, persons 0-14 years old			Total	Of which, persons 0-14 years old
Nervous system	1 835	239	231	83	55	7	7
Endocrine system	1 458	3	1	1	-	-	-
Optical organs	10 170	516	474	-	-	-	-
Ear, nose, and throat	14 349	1 021	474	53	1	-	-
Respiratory organs	8 993	5 891	5 575	215	38	6	6
Cardiac	8 272	161	155	2 546	51	21	21
Vessels	7 816	24	13	1 087	39	-	-
Abdominal cavity organs	20 341	2 632	2 059	3 454	227	7	7
Kidneys and ureters	4 401	319	275	1 109	10	-	-
Prostate	1 684	2	1	728	1	-	-
Female genital organs	10 471	98	78	2 360	5	-	-
Obstetrical	29 397	29	-	172	2	-	-
Musculoskeletal system	12 348	2 682	2 450	363	41	2	2
Breast	2 205	2	2	-	5	-	-
Skin and hypodermic	4 846	658	507	-	2	-	-
Other	11 655	1 615	1 363	244	53	5	5
Total	150 241	15 892	13 658	12 415	530	48	48

Basic Indicators of Emergency Aid Service, 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Number of emergency aid stations (unit)	104	101	74	75	72	
Number of emergency aid calls (unit)	480 136	489 911	501 764	465 111	479 767	
Number of physicians (per 100.000 population, person)	7.0	5.0	5.0	4.2	4.2	
Number of teams (unit)	General profile	221	207	160	155	147
	Specialized	19	19	19	19	19
	First-aid	39	37	35	34	38
Number of patients served by emergency calls (person)	Total	486 110	495 959	507 519	471 156	485 555
	Per 1.000 population	161.3	165.1	169.6	158.1	163.5

7.1. Affordability of Healthcare Services

According to ILCS 2018, subjective assessment of health status shows that 90.4% of population describe their health as satisfactory, good and very good, while 9.6% describe it as bad or very bad. With regard to poverty profile of subjective assessment of health status, 9.2% of the non-poor, 8.0% of the poor and 17.1% of the extremely poor population reported about bad health status. 13.2% of the respondents had sickness during the month preceding the survey.

In 2018, as much as 32.7% of those, who reported sickness, consulted a primary healthcare (PHC) facility for advice or treatment, including residents of other urban (30.7%) and rural (39.4%) communities, as well as residents of Yerevan (29.1%). In comparison with the previous year, patients

in other urban areas and in Yerevan had less often applied for medical advice or treatment, while the same indicator among rural residents had been on rise (the relevant indicators in 2017 were, respectively, 33.5%, 35.7% and 34.3%).

In case of sickness, people visited primary healthcare facilities for advice or treatment on average 1.51 times per month; at that, the non-poor did it 1.53 times, the poor (excluding the extremely poor) – 1.42 times, and the extremely poor – 1.45 times per month. The distribution of population by the type of medical specialists visited for any reason as of the last interview within the survey month is presented below (data is calculated relative to all responses provided).

Table 7.1: Armenia – Visits to Primary Healthcare Facilities, by Type of Medical Specialists and by Poverty Status, 2018
(as of the Last Interview within the Survey Month)

(Percent)

Types of medical specialists	Non-poor	Poor (excluding extremely poor)	Extremely poor	Total
Family doctor	27.3	29.0	23.3	27.5
Pediatrician	6.5	5.8	37.1	6.8
Obstetrician/ gynecologist	1.8	1.8	0.0	1.8
Therapist	28.0	28.8	38.4	28.2
Sub-specialty consultant	24.6	23.0	0.0	24.0
Dentist	1.2	2.4	1.2	1.4
Private physician	3.6	3.0	0.0	3.5
Diagnostic center	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.7
Emergency aid	2.4	5.0	0.0	2.9
Other	2.5	1.2	0.0	2.2
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

In case of sickness, 28.2% of patients applied for consultation to a therapist, 27.5% – to a family doctor, 24.0% – to a sub-specialty consultant, and only 3.5% consulted a private physician.

Table 7.2: Armenia – Visits to Primary Healthcare Facilities, by Type of Medical Specialists and by Urban/Rural Communities, 2018
(as of the Last Interview within the Survey Month)

(Percent)

Types of medical specialists	Yerevan	Other urban	Rural	Total
Family doctor	1.2	33.5	49.0	27.4
Pediatrician	9.5	6.7	4.3	6.8
Obstetrician/ gynecologist	1.3	3.1	1.3	1.8
Therapist	37.7	26.0	20.7	28.3
Sub-specialty consultant	33.8	21.4	16.3	24.0
Dentist	0.8	0.9	2.3	1.4
Private doctor	7.8	1.5	0.6	3.5
Diagnostic center	0.0	3.2	2.2	1.7
Emergency aid	4.5	2.4	1.6	2.9
Other	3.4	1.3	1.7	2.2
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Patients visited most often therapists in Yerevan, and family doctors in other urban and rural communities.

**Table 7.3: Armenia – Payments for Primary Healthcare Services, by Type of Medical Specialists, 2018
(as of the Last Interview within the Survey Month)**

(Percent)

Types of medical specialists	Total payments	Including		
		Payment to personnel by price-list	Gifts or services	Consultancy-related payments (X ray, laboratory examination)
Family doctor	100	13.0	7.0	80.0
Pediatrician	100	25.9	21.9	52.2
Obstetrician/ gynecologist	100	46.5	2.4	51.1
Therapist	100	45.5	3.2	51.3
Sub-specialty consultant	100	58.4	0.2	41.4
Dentist	100	98.2	0.00	1.8
Private physician	100	81.3	1.1	17.6
Diagnostic center	100	62.8	0.2	37.0
Emergency aid	100	100.0	0.00	0.00
Other	100	32.8	0.00	67.2
Total	100	68.7	0.9	30.4

Source: *ILCS 2018*

As of the last interview within the survey month, patients having applied for assistance to the specialists of polyclinic facilities on average incurred expenses comprising 68.7% of payments to personnel by price-list, only 0.9% of gifts, and 30.4% of X-ray or laboratory examination payments.

The amount of payments differed by poverty status. On average, in polyclinics non-poor patients made 3.2 times more payments to personnel by price-list than poor patients did.

Payments by non-poor patients for consultancy (X ray, laboratory examination) were 4.4 times higher than those made by poor patients.

40.9% of patients who contacted polyclinics had hypertension. As of the last interview, 22.3% of patients underwent electrocardiography and 19.8% were checked for the level of cholesterol.

The main reasons for not applying to primary healthcare facilities were self-treatment (56.3%) and lack of finance (17.0%). The table below shows the proportion of population not applying for medical consultation or treatment, by reasons and by urban/rural communities.

**Table 7.4: Main Reasons for Not Applying to Primary Healthcare Facilities,
by Urban/ Rural Communities, 2018
(as of the Last Interview within the Survey Month)**

(Percent)

	Total	Yerevan	Other urban	Rural
Total, including:	100	100	100	100
Self-treatment	56.3	62.2	56.2	47.2
Lack of finance	17.0	11.0	20.3	22.8
Remoteness	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Problem was not serious	12.5	11.9	12.3	13.7
Help was not required	7.7	6.9	6.2	10.6
Relative or friend was a physician	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.8
Other	3.2	5.0	1.9	1.9

Source: *ILCS 2018*

When looking across urban/ rural communities, self-treatment as a reason for not applying for medical consultation or treatment was reported by 62.2% of surveyed population in Yerevan, 56.2% in other urban communities, and 47.2% in rural communities; lack of finance was reported by 22.8% in rural communities, 20.3% in other urban communities and 11.0 % in Yerevan. Lack of finance was reported as the second major reason in all types of communities.

Over the 12 months preceding the 2018 survey, population visited hospitals 2.5 times on average. At that, 44.7% of patients spent at least one night in hospital, and average stay in hospital per patient equaled 7.2 days. Treatment duration in hospitals was the following: 68.4% – less than 1 week, 22.8% – from 1 to 2 weeks, and 8.8% – more than 2 weeks.

**Table 7.5: Armenia – Patient Payments for Hospital Care, by Method of Payment* and by Type of
Medical Specialists, 2018
(as of the Last Interview within the Survey Month)**

(Percent)

	Total	Including			
		Payment to hospital cashier	Out-of-pocket payment to personnel (physician, nurse, etc.)	Gift (food, etc.) or service rendered to personnel	Other payments, including for laboratory and X-ray examination or medicaments
Surgeon	100	88.3	7.3	0.2	4.2
Resuscitation specialist	100	38.3	15.0	0.0	46.7
Therapist	100	60.2	14.2	0.4	25.2
Cardiologist	100	79.0	13.4	0.0	7.6
Obstetrician/ gynecologist	100	71.1	18.3	1.0	9.6
Urologist	100	62.2	17.0	0.4	20.4
Gastroenterologist	100	64.7	12.0	0.2	23.1
Oncologist	100	65.5	7.5	0.6	26.4
Endocrinologist	100	72.2	6.2	0.4	21.2
Neurologist	100	67.6	17.7	0.0	14.7
Other	100	69.1	21.0	0.2	9.7
Total	100	80.7	10.3	0.3	8.7

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Note: *Within the number of patients who made any payment*

As shown in the table above, out of the amount paid by each patient on average 80.7% went to the hospital cashier, 10.3% was paid directly to the medical personnel, the cost of gifts constituted 0.3%, that of other payments (for laboratory and X-ray examination, or medicaments) comprised 8.7%. Surgeons, cardiologists and endocrinologists received the largest share within payments made to the cashier. As to payments made directly to the medical personnel, obstetrician/ gynecologists, neurologists and urologists had the largest share. With regard to payments made for laboratory and X-ray examination or medicaments, the largest share went to resuscitation specialists, oncologists, therapists, gastroenterologists and endocrinologists.

According to ILCS 2018, health expenses comprised 6.0% of household consumption expenditures or an average monthly per capita amount at AMD 2770 (Table A6.1 of Annex 3), totaling 8.2% or AMD 3735 in case of non-poor households, 0.2% or AMD 113 in case of poor (excluding the extremely poor) households, and 0.1% or AMD 67 in case of extremely poor households.

According to ILCS 2018, health expenses comprised 16.6% of household total expenditures on services (Table A6.1 of Annex 3).

In Armenia, the importance of the state-funded free medical assistance for poor households is indisputable. Hence, given that eligibility for such assistance would depend on eligibility to family benefit, it is crucial not only to improve its targeting, but also to increase enrollment of poor and extremely poor population into it.

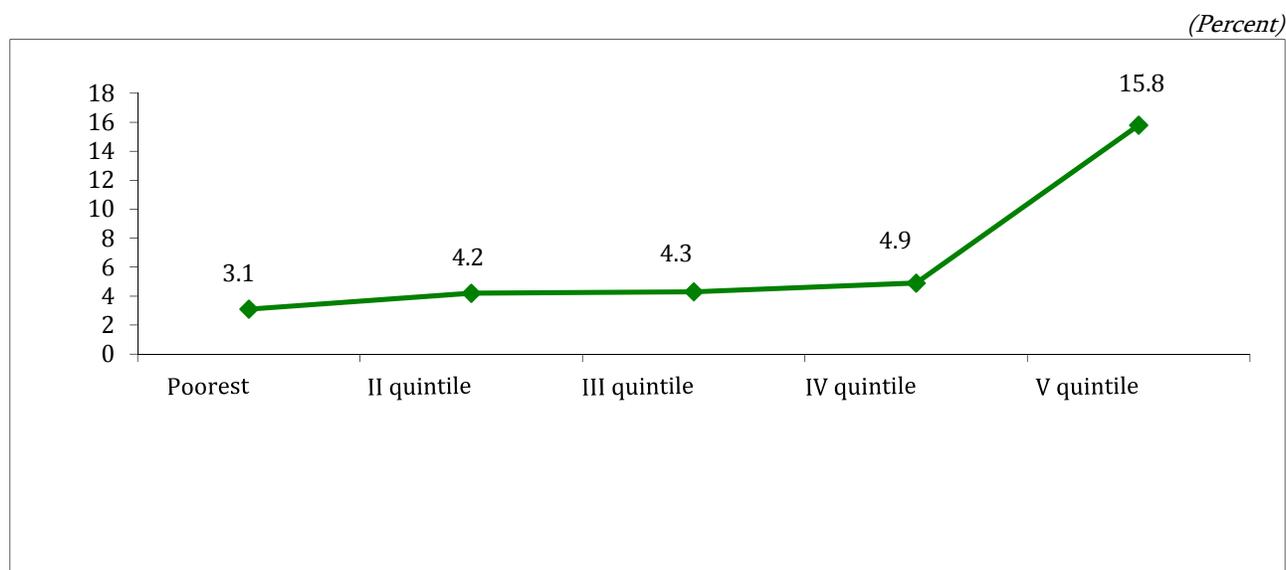
Only 8.3% of population was eligible for state-funded free medical assistance. The breakdown by poverty status shows that it was available for 5.0% of the extremely poor, 8.5% of the poor (excluding the extremely poor), and 8.2% of the non-poor population.

Then, only 12.6% of households receiving family benefit was eligible for state-funded free medical assistance, including 5.3% of the extremely poor, 13.5% of the poor (excluding the extremely poor), and 12.2% of the non-poor population.

Among households not registered in the family benefit system, 7.6% were eligible for state-funded free medical assistance, including 4.8% of the extremely poor, 6.7% of the poor (excluding the extremely poor), and 7.8% of the non-poor population. At that, 1.4% of households were not aware about their eligibility for the basic benefit package; i.e. there was unawareness issue.

Graph 7.1 depicts the share of healthcare expenditures in total consumption by quintile groups. The share of these expenditures relative to the total consumption aggregate was higher in the richest quintile group than that in the poorest quintile group (15.8% versus 3.1%). As clearly demonstrated in Table A3.9 of Annex 2, expenditures on healthcare services in the poorest quintile were 5.8 times lower than the average expenditures on those services, whereas for the richest quintile this indicator was 3.5 times higher than the average.

Graph 7.1 – Armenia: Share of Spending on Healthcare Services in Total Consumption Aggregate, by Quintile Groups, 2018



Source: *ILCS 2018*

The distance to the nearest healthcare facility is another important indicator. ILCS 2018 provided relevant data on rural communities only. According to available data, 73.5% of rural households reported that the nearest healthcare facility was within 1 km from their residence. However, 0.5% of households reported that the distance to the nearest healthcare facility was more than 10 km away from their residence. Table 7.6 presents relevant data by quintile groups. There were differences in accessibility of healthcare facilities in rural areas across quintiles. The share of households reporting that the nearest healthcare facility was more than 10 km away from their residence was 1.4% in the second quintile.

Table 7.6 – Armenia: Accessibility of Healthcare Facilities in Rural Communities, by Consumption Quintiles, 2018

(Percent)

Distance	Quintiles					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
0-1 km	71.0	71.8	72.4	75.2	75.3	73.5
1-3 km	25.3	26.9	26.8	24.2	24.0	25.3
4-5 km	-	-	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
6-10 km	2.8	-	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.6
>10 km	0.9	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5

Source: *ILCS 2018*

The share of spending on medicaments constituted 4.0% of total expenditures of surveyed households. Monthly expenditures per household member on medicaments averaged AMD 1842, varying by poverty status from AMD 2167 for the non-poor, AMD 797 for the poor, and AMD 533 for the extremely poor population. Monthly per capita expenditures on medicaments of non-poor

households were 2.7 times higher than those of the poor and 4.1 times higher than those of the extremely poor households.

While in urban communities pharmacy network is quite developed, there appear to be accessibility problems in rural communities. According to ILCS 2018, as much as 35.3% of rural households reported that the nearest pharmacy was within 1 km from their residence and 23.6% reported that the distance to the nearest pharmacy was more than 10 km away from their residence. Table 7.7 presents relevant data by quintile groups. Pharmacy accessibility for the richest fifth quintile was different than that for the poorest quintile, at 19.0% and 30.3%, respectively. The share of households, which reported that the nearest pharmacy to be more than 10 km away from their village, ranged between 19% and 30% for all consumption quintiles.

Table 7.7 – Armenia: Access to Pharmacies in Rural Communities, by Consumption Quintiles, 2018

(Percent)

Distance	Quintiles					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
0-1 km	30.7	34.7	35.6	34.2	39.5	35.3
1-3 km	20.6	19.5	17.8	19.0	17.1	18.6
4-5 km	9.2	9.7	9.4	6.9	4.3	7.6
6-10 km	9.2	10.5	13.0	17.7	20.1	14.9
>10 km	30.3	25.6	24.1	22.2	19.0	23.6

Source: *ILCS 2018*

30.1% of households having children under the age of 5 years took them to polyclinics for regular examination or post-natal consultancy during the month preceding the survey. The reasons for not visiting polyclinics were distributed as follows (relative to responses): services were not needed 93.0%, poor quality of medical services 0.2%, healthcare facility was too far away 1.3%, healthcare facility was closed down 1.5%, and other reasons 4.0%. Among households having visited polyclinics, 36.6% reported that their child was immunized, 94.8% said that the weight of the child was measured, 94.0% told that the height of the child was measured, 95.2% received consultancy on the child's growth and development, and 24.9% reported that blood examination was carried out.

Chapter 8: Education and Poverty

Education can help people to overcome poverty. It opens doors to employment and loans. Education provides knowledge and skills, which are necessary for increasing income and enhancing employment opportunities. When education is widely available and affordable for the poor, women, and vulnerable groups of population, it also has the potential for broader redistribution of economic growth. On the other hand, poverty forces parents to take their children out of school and send them to work, as they cannot afford educating the children.

Almost entire population of Armenia is literate. According to the results of Census 2011, only 0.3% of the population is illiterate. Access to general education is universal for both boys and girls, but not equally. In academic year 2018/2019, gender equality indicator (the ratio of gross enrollment of boys to that of girls) was 1.04; at that, it was 1.01 at elementary, 1.01 at basic, and 1.20 at high school.

In contrast to basic education, enrollment in upper secondary and in higher education is relatively low, with rather visible differences between the poor and the non-poor. High costs of higher education and specifically its affordability, relatively low perceived returns on education were cited as the main reasons explaining why teens from poor households drop out the educational system after completing basic education and, particularly, after graduating from general secondary school.

The share of spending on education in consolidated budget expenditures decreased in 2018 compared to 2008 (from 13.7% to 11.2%). In the sectorial composition of expenditures, the main emphasis was placed on secondary education.

Box 8.1

Information

On Educational Sector Performance in 2018

The activities of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports have been aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of education by modernizing the contents and methods of the system, strengthening the legal framework and enhancing the effectiveness of management.

General Education

The draft decisions “On Approving the Procedure for Identification and Referral of Children Left out of Compulsory Education” and “On Approving the Standards and Toolkit for Creating New Generation Textbooks and Educational Literature” have been developed and submitted to the Government. For the final adoption of the draft legal acts, it is necessary to make amendments to the relevant laws, after which those drafts will be approved by the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports pursuant to the requirements of Article 6 of the Constitution.

The draft decree of the Government “On Approving the Program for Introduction of Alternative, Cost-Effective Models of Preschool Education” has been developed and submitted to the Government.

Within the framework of the Education Improvement credit project, 17 preschool facilities enrolling 425 children were established in 2018, including 3 in Vayotz Dzor, 4 in Lori, 1 in Gegharkunik, and 9 in Yerevan.

The system of inclusive education has been expanded to include Armavir region, the teacher’s assistant position has been introduced in secondary schools, and the scale for enhanced funding for children with special educational needs commensurate to

the degree of severity of the child's need has been implemented.

The national program Sustainable School Feeding has been expanded to include Shirak region in 2018. As of September 1, 2018, approximately 13 thousand pupils enrolled in primary schools, 1-4 grades, and inclusive education system in Shirak region are receiving free meals. Implementation of the program has continued in Syunik, Vayotz Dzor, Ararat and Tavush regions. At the same time, the school feeding program implemented by the UN World Food Program continued, involving about 60 thousand pupils from Lori, Aragatsotn, Kotayk, Gegharkunik and Armavir regions.

“Your Art at School”, “Lesson A” projects and the School Subscription Program have been launched in general education institutions covering all schools in the country.

Approximately 7 thousand teachers were trained, 393 teachers were awarded first-level certification and 18 teachers were awarded second-level certification.

The draft Government Decree “On Making Amendments to the Government Decree No. 1262-N of August 24, 2006” has been submitted to the Government. The Government Decree “On Approving the Rules for the Formation of Classes at State Educational Institutions Implementing Basic Education Programs” has been approved.

In 2018, national school Olympiads on 16 general education subjects were held with participation of about 1.500 students, and Armenia took part in international Olympiads on the subjects “Mathematics”, “Physics”, “Chemistry”, “Informatics”, “Astronomy” “Biology” and “Geography”, winning 11 medals, including 4 silver and 7 bronze medals. On August 22, 2018, the Armenian-Chinese Friendship School was opened to host about 400 pupils in grades 5-12.

Extracurricular Education

Work has been done to study fundamental issues related to the development of youth sports, the promotion of outdoor sports, the development of disability sports, the subject of “Physical Culture” and healthy lifestyles.

A working group has been set up with the joint order of the Minister of Education and Science and the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs to review the standards and programs of the subject “Physical Culture”.

During the year a number of educational and training events were organized, including the “National Assembly Cup” tournament, in which 5245 schoolchildren of 1-6 grades of general education institutions in Armenia participated.

The 27th National Sports Games dedicated to the 27th anniversary of Armenia's independence were conducted with the participation of about 55 thousand schoolchildren.

Preliminary Vocational (Technical) and Secondary Vocational Education

In 2018, the draft Government Decree “On Approving the 2018-2022 Strategic Program of Preliminary Vocational (Technical) and Secondary Vocational Education, and the Timetable of Its Implementation Measures” has been further elaborated and submitted to the Government for approval.

The concept of social partnership in the sphere of preliminary vocational (technical) and secondary vocational education has been approved by the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and the draft legislative package for its implementation has been prepared for circulation.

The Government Decree No. N 686-N, “On Approving 2018/2019 Academic Year Admission Limits for Free Education (Compensation of Tuition Fee) at State Educational Institutions Implementing Preliminary Vocational (Technical) and Secondary Vocational Education Programs” of June 15, 2018 has been developed and approved.

Within the framework of the Financing Agreement ENP/2015/038-246 “Better Qualifications for Better Jobs” signed by the Government and the European Union, 24 state education (qualification) standards and relevant curricula in PVSVE on agriculture and related subjects have been developed with mandatory incorporation of the Entrepreneurship Module. Emphasizing the importance of interconnection between the labor market and the education system, works aimed at the development of the vocational guidance system have been continued.

To expand the dual education system, since the 2018-2019 academic year the system has been implemented in pilot mode at 8 vocational education institutions with the corresponding orders of the Minister of Education and Science. For the purpose of effective management, resource concentration (enlargement, optimization) and enhanced cost-effectiveness, mapping of preliminary vocational (technical) and secondary vocational education institutions in the country has been carried out.

The draft decision of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports “On Approving the Procedure for Organizing and Holding the Competition for Teacher Vacancies at Preliminary Vocational (Technical) and Secondary Vocational State Educational Institution” has been developed.

Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education

The draft “Law on Higher Education” has been amended to initiate the development of a new, unified draft “Law on Higher Education and Scientific-Research Activities”. The current version of the unified draft law undergoes the expert discussion phase.

According to the decision of the Accreditation Commission of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance, Goris State University and the European University have been granted conditional institutional accreditation for a term of 2 years.

The list of specialties and admission examinations for the 2019/2020 academic year under full-time Bachelor's and Continuing and Integrated Educational Programs at higher education institutions in Armenia has been approved.

According to the requirements for granting student allowance and state scholarship at higher education institutions, 50-100 percent compensation of tuition fees for students from socially vulnerable families, as well as for those from border or high-altitude areas have been provided by the state.

In 2018, around 3.300 students received compensation, and the amount of compensations totaled approximately AMD 700 million.

Full tuition reimbursement is envisaged for the full-time Bachelor's students of higher education institutions, who have two or more children.

Other

Works have been done to organize advanced teaching of the Italian language at general education schools. The pilot phase of the program is currently underway, and the draft curriculum for the advanced teaching of the Italian language is being developed for implementation in the 2019/2020 academic year.

For the purpose of organizing the 17th Francophonie Summit of Heads of State and Governments, 732 volunteer lecturers and students of Armenian educational institutions were recruited.

Within the framework of cooperation with the Diaspora, a one-month training program for Diaspora Armenian teachers was implemented, with the participation of 57 specialists from 16 countries.

Box 8.2

Preschool Education Facilities

In 2018, there were 884 community, public and non-public preschool education facilities (PSEF) operating in the country, including 686 kindergartens, 67 nursery-kindergartens and 131 school-kindergartens. Within the total number of PSEFs, 824 operated under community, 10 under public and 50 under non-public administration. Gross PSEF enrollment (children of the age group 0-5 years) was 32.6%, including 38.0% in urban communities and 22.6% in rural communities. The average number of children per group was 26, and the actual occupancy rate was 89.8%. The average attendance rate per PSEF was 89, and the average child/pedagogue ratio was 13. The area of PSEF buildings totaled 719.1 thousand square meters. The area of buildings attached (adjacent) to PSEFs totaled 632.8 thousand square meters.

Indicators of PSEF Activities, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

	Number of PSEFs (unit)	Including, by work regime			Number of groups (unit)		Number of seats (unit)	Number of children (person)	
		5-day	6-day	All-day	Total	Of which, groups for children 3 years and above		Total	Of which, girls
Yerevan	220	200	19	1	1225	1117	34557	33012	16207
Aragatsotn	30	30	-	-	86	81	2677	2439	1219
Ararat	78	78	-	-	227	217	7910	6742	3251
Armavir	103	103	-	-	228	210	7872	6525	3186
Gegharkunik	47	47	-	-	130	125	4284	3817	1813
Lori	94	94	-	-	198	191	5856	5149	2494
Kotayk	53	53	-	-	246	225	7593	6641	3157
Shirak	114	114	-	-	247	233	6107	5455	2613
Syunik	50	50	-	-	197	162	5019	4533	2184
Vayotz Dzor	31	31	-	-	59	59	1864	1367	636
Tavush	64	64	-	-	203	122	4312	3394	1637
Total	884	864	19	1	3046	2742	88051	79074	38397

Age structure of Preschool Education Enrollment, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

(person)

	Under 1.5 years		1.5-3 years		3-5 years		6 years		7 years	
	Total	Of which, girls	Total	Of which, girls	Total	Of which, girls	Total	Of which, girls	Total	Of which, girls
Yerevan	25	13	2709	1268	20712	10119	9558	4801	8	6
Aragatsotn	-	-	205	120	1644	752	584	343	6	4
Ararat	-	-	300	148	4329	2107	2043	958	70	38
Armavir	-	-	334	161	2393	1179	3770	1829	28	17
Gegharkunik	-	-	105	51	2289	996	1373	748	50	18
Lori	-	-	208	105	3259	1587	1682	802	-	-
Kotayk	-	-	452	213	4265	2049	1915	890	9	5
Shirak	-	-	292	134	2793	1325	2342	1137	28	17
Syunik	1	-	647	324	2636	1289	1240	568	9	3
Vayotz Dzor	-	-	-	-	878	403	485	229	4	4
Tavush	-	-	285	142	2008	976	1099	517	2	2
Total	26	13	5537	2666	47206	22782	26091	12822	214	114

Preschool Education Enrollment, by Gender and Age Group, 2014-2018

(person)

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Girls	Total	29.9	30.3	30.4	32.0	33.6
	Within 0-2 year old children	6.6	6.4	5.8	4.9	4.9
	Within 3-5 year old children	52.9	54.2	55.2	58.5	60.5
Boys	Total	27.7	27.2	27.6	30.0	31.7
	Within 0-2 year old children	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.7
	Within 3-5 year old children	49.2	48.9	50.0	54.5	56.5
Total		28.7	28.6	28.9	30.9	32.6
Within 0-2 year old children		6.2	5.8	5.5	4.8	4.8
Within 3-5 year old children		50.9	51.4	52.4	56.4	58.4

General Education Institutions¹

Key Indicators of General Education, 2018/2019 Academic Year

Number of schools (unit)	Number of pupils (person)		Gross enrollment rate (percent) ²			Number of awarded graduation certificates in 2018 (person)		Number of teachers (Person)	
			Total	Including, by education level		Basic education	Secondary education		
	Total	I grade		Elem.	Basic				High ³
1409	382378	38674	83.0	91.1	89.4	59.9	31064	9381	31371

Quantitative Distribution of General Education Institutions

1409 institutions implementing general education programs (hereinafter referred to as schools) operated in 2018/2019 academic year.

Number of General Education Schools, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year

(unit)

	Total	<i>Including:</i>		Urban communities			Rural communities		
		Public	Non-public	Total	<i>Including:</i>		Total	<i>Including:</i>	
					Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public
Yerevan	253	215	38	253	215	38	-	-	-
Aragatsotn	121	121	-	13	13	-	108	108	-
Ararat	112	112	-	21	21	-	91	91	-
Armavir	120	118	2	26	24	2	94	94	-
Gegharkunik	126	126	-	27	27	-	99	99	-
Lori	163	163	-	59	59	-	104	104	-
Kotayk	101	101	-	39	39	-	62	62	-
Shirak	166	161	5	52	48	4	114	113	1
Syunik	117	117	-	33	33	-	84	84	-
Vayots Dzor	48	48	-	8	8	-	40	40	-
Tavush	82	81	1	18	17	1	64	64	-
Total	1409	1363	46	549	504	45	860	859	1

¹ Information has been provided by the National Center for Educational Technologies of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

² Gross enrollment rate is the percentage share of the total number of pupils in all grades of the educational system to the total number of resident population of the officially determined age group in that educational system.

³ Enrollment in high school was low because only 14.9% of population of the relevant age group upon graduation from the basic school continued studies at preliminary vocational (technical) and secondary vocational education institutions.

Pupil numbers and distribution

In 2018/2019 academic year, the total capacity (number of available seats) in general education schools was 665416, the number of pupils was 382378, of which 47.7% were girls. Gross enrollment rate in schools was 83.0%, including 91.1% in elementary, 89.4% in basic and 59.9% in high school. Net enrollment rate was 88.2% in elementary and 87.8% in basic school. "Adjusted net enrollment" rate was 88.3% in elementary and 87.9% in basic school. Gender equality indicator was 1.04; at that, it was 1.01 in elementary, 1.01 in basic and 1.20 in high school.

Number of Pupils in General Education Schools, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year

(person)

	Public Schools			Non-public Schools			Total		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Yerevan	56777	61304	118081	3822	4418	8240	60599	65722	126321
Aragatsotn	8132	9549	17681	-	-	-	8132	9549	17681
Ararat	16725	18251	34976	-	-	-	16725	18251	34976
Armavir	16139	18718	34857	304	288	592	16443	19006	35449
Gegharkunik	13489	15767	29256	-	-	-	13489	15767	29256
Lori	14570	15532	30102	-	-	-	14570	15532	30102
Kotayk	17978	19085	37063	-	-	-	17978	19085	37063
Shirak	14688	16156	30844	137	210	347	14825	16366	31191
Syunik	8284	8658	16942	-	-	-	8284	8658	16942
Vayotz Dzor	2997	3438	6435	-	-	-	2997	3438	6435
Tavush	8116	8711	16827	67	68	135	8183	8779	16962
Total	177895	195169	373064	4330	4984	9314	182225	200153	382378

Pupil Drop-Outs by Reasons, by Regions and in Yerevan, as of the Beginning of 2018/2019 Academic Year

(person)

	Total	Including, by reason:						
		Poor social-economic conditions	Parents do not send (do now allow to go) to school	Disability				Deceased
				Auditory disorder	Visual disorder	Musculoskeletal system disorder	Mental retardation	
Yerevan	179	48	119	5	-	-	-	7
Aragatsotn	24	5	10	-	-	-	1	8
Ararat	35	7	12	-	-	-	1	15
Armavir	20	4	7	1	1	-	-	7
Gegharkunik	29	7	17	-	-	1	-	4
Lori	23	12	7	-	-	-	1	3
Kotayk	8	4	1	-	-	-	1	2
Shirak	33	11	17	-	-	-	1	4
Syunik	7	1	3	-	-	-	-	3
Vayotz Dzor	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tavush	7	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	367	105	196	6	1	1	5	53

Gross Enrollment in General Education Schools, by Gender, 2014-2018

(Percent)

	Total	Girls	Boys
2014	87.8	89.9	85.9
2015	86.4	88.3	84.6
2016	86.0	87.5	84.7
2017	85.7	87.0	84.6
2018	83.0	84.7	81.4

Gender Equality Ratio in General Education Schools (Ratio of Gross Enrollment of Boys to that of Girls), by Level of General Education Program, 2014-2018

	Elementary school	Basic school	High school	Total
2014	1.01	1.01	1.22	1.05
2015	1.00	1.01	1.20	1.04
2016	1.00	1.01	1.21	1.03
2017	1.00	1.01	1.17	1.03
2018	1.01	1.01	1.20	1.04

Preliminary Vocational (Technical) Education¹

In 2018/2019 academic year, there were 46 public educational institutions implementing preliminary vocational (technical) education programs, of which 23 provided preliminary vocational (technical) and 23 provided secondary vocational education. Students were trained on basic and secondary education curricula. The number of students totaled 6723, of which 27.1% were females. 99.2% of students were enrolled on tuition-free basis and 0.8% on tuition-paying basis. The gross enrollment rate was 6.7% (3.9% for females and 9.2% for males). Gender equality indicator (the ratio of gross enrollment of males to that of females) was 0.42.

Number of Students Admitted to Educational Institutions on Tuition-Free and Tuition-Paying Basis, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year

(Person)

	Number of admitted students		Including:			
	Total	Of which, females	Tuition-free basis		Tuition-paying basis	
			Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females
Yerevan	939	309	914	290	25	19
Aragatsotn	142	61	142	61	-	-
Ararat	159	49	159	49	-	-
Armavir	83	12	83	12	-	-
Gegharkunik	227	58	227	58	-	-
Lori	227	51	221	45	6	6
Kotayk	257	83	257	83	-	-
Shirak	526	224	505	214	21	10
Syunik	183	59	183	59	-	-
Vayots Dzor	48	14	48	14	-	-
Tavush	135	29	135	29	-	-
Total	2926	949	2874	914	52	35

¹ The general setup (the list of institutions implementing preliminary vocational (technical) educational programs) has been provided by the National Center for Educational Technologies of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

**Number of Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions on Tuition-Free and Tuition-Paying Basis,
by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year**

(Person)

	Number of institutions (unit)		Number of students (person)		Including			
	Preliminary vocational (technical)	Secondary vocational	Total	Of which, females	Tuition-free basis		Tuition-paying basis	
					Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females
Yerevan	7	2	2426	733	2401	714	25	19
Aragatsotn	2	1	290	109	290	109	-	-
Ararat	-	3	321	83	321	83	-	-
Armavir	1	1	230	39	229	39	1	-
Gegharkunik	-	4	523	80	523	80	-	-
Lori	2	2	533	105	526	99	7	6
Kotayk	4	2	662	147	662	147	-	-
Shirak	5	1	1003	356	980	346	23	10
Syunik	1	4	405	98	405	98	-	-
Vayotz Dzor	-	1	71	21	71	21	-	-
Tavush	1	2	259	51	259	51	-	-
Total	23	23	6723	1822	6667	1787	56	35

Number of Students Graduated from Educational Institutions on Tuition-Free and Tuition-Paying Basis, by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018

(Person)

	Number of graduates		Including:			
	Total	Of which, females	Tuition-free basis		Tuition-paying basis	
			Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females
Yerevan	553	190	539	189	14	1
Aragatsotn	106	56	106	56	-	-
Ararat	114	60	114	60	-	-
Armavir	38	7	38	7	-	-
Gegharkunik	139	53	139	53	-	-
Lori	151	47	149	47	2	-
Kotayk	210	110	210	110	-	-
Shirak	459	223	440	214	19	9
Syunik	161	70	161	70	-	-
Vayotz Dzor	37	16	37	16	-	-
Tavush	77	34	77	34	-	-
Total	2045	866	2010	856	35	10

Secondary Vocational Education¹

In 2018/2019 academic year, 7541 students (of which, females 50.3%) were admitted to 93 public and non-public secondary vocational education institutions (SVEI), the number of students was 23228 (of which, females 52.8%), and the number of graduates was 6066 (of which, females 57.0%). Students were trained on basic and secondary education curricula. The gross

¹ The general setup (the list of institutions implementing secondary vocational educational programs) has been provided by the National Center for Educational Technologies of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

enrollment rate was 11.7% (13.1% for females and 10.4% for males). Gender equality indicator (the ratio of gross enrollment of males to that of females) was 1.26.

**Enrollment Dynamics in Secondary Vocational Education Institutions,
by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year**

	Number of SVEI (unit)	Admitted (person)		Number of students (person)		Graduated in 2018 (person)	
		Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females
Yerevan	33	4100	2157	12794	7065	3105	1818
Aragatsotn	1	42	20	104	46	55	36
Ararat	4	381	197	1179	612	288	153
Armavir	5	388	197	1102	568	265	165
Gegharkunik	8	415	199	1209	616	330	197
Lori	11	640	325	1884	1020	499	310
Kotayk	6	459	173	1330	593	312	131
Shirak	11	502	258	1825	921	591	322
Syunik	7	324	142	998	482	337	168
Vayots Dzor	1	67	30	159	73	58	41
Tavush	6	223	97	644	273	226	118
Total	93	7541	3795	23228	12269	6066	3459

Higher Education¹

Activities of Educational Institutions Implementing First level Educational Programs

In 2018/2019 academic year, 56 public and non-public higher education institutions (HEI) and 12 branches provided professional education at the first level of higher education under Bachelor's programs. 9512 students (of which, females 46.6%) were admitted to these institutions, the number of students was 69622 (of which, females 51.6%), and the number of graduates was 15540 (of which, females 60.1%). The gross enrollment rate was 52.2% (56.6% for females and 48.2% for males). Gender equality indicator (the ratio of gross enrollment of males to that of females) was 1.17.

**First Level Enrollment Dynamics in Higher Education Institutions,
by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year**

	Number of HEIs (unit)	Number of branches (unit)	Admitted (Person)		Number of students (Person)		Graduated in 2018 (Person)	
			Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females	Total	Of which, females
Yerevan	45	-	8142	3702	59036	30217	12988	7707
Armavir	1	-	15	-	93	-	27	-
Gegharkunik	2	-	173	67	952	447	283	176
Lori	2	2	341	219	2901	1737	720	484
Kotayk	1	-	21	9	183	97	47	32
Shirak	3	5	445	231	3238	1826	816	520
Syunik	2	2	245	116	1582	751	329	188
Vayots Dzor	-	1	10	4	218	122	56	41
Tavush	-	2	120	81	1419	741	274	192
Total	56	12	9512	4429	69622	35938	15540	9340

¹ The general setup (the list of institutions implementing higher educational programs) has been provided by the National Center for Educational Technologies of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

Activities of Educational Institutions Implementing Second Level Educational Programs

In 2018/2019 academic year, 32 public and non-public higher education institutions and 9 branches, as well as 4 academic institutions provided professional education at the second level of higher education under Master's programs. 5732 students (of which, females 63.7%) were admitted to these institutions, the number of students was 10855 (of which, females 68.6%), and the number of graduates was 5483 (of which, females 66.2%). The gross enrollment rate was 14.1% (19.4% for females and 8.9% for males). Gender equality indicator (the ratio of gross enrollment of males to that of females) was 2.19.

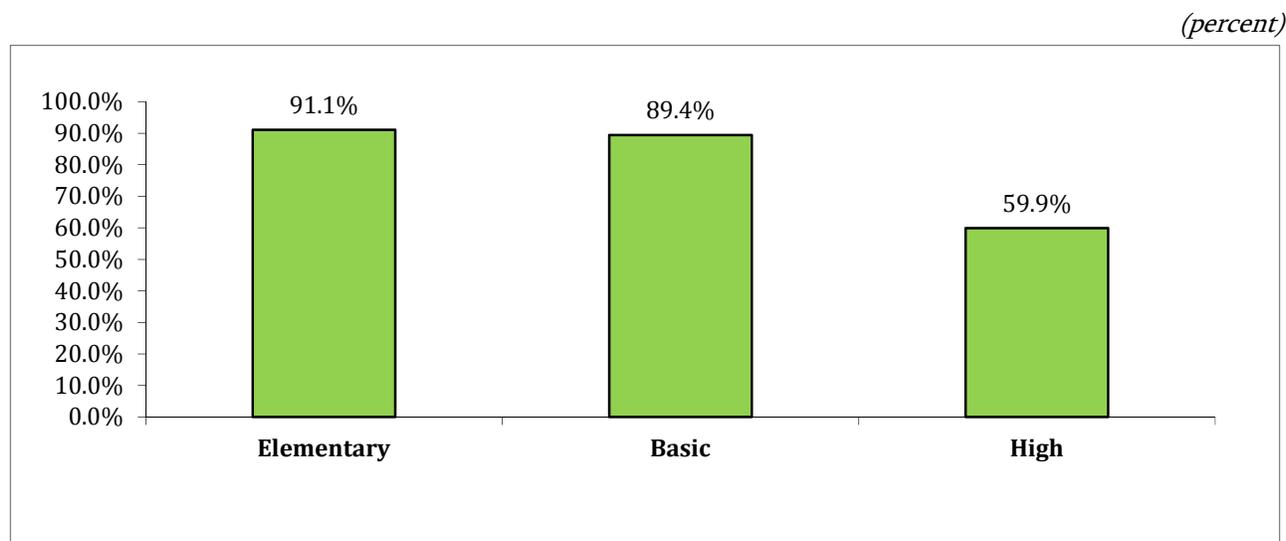
**Second Level Enrollment Dynamics in Higher Education and Scientific Institutions,
by Regions and in Yerevan, 2018/2019 Academic Year**

	Number of HEIs (unit)	Number of branches (unit)	Number of scientific institutions (unit)	Admitted (Person)		Number of students (Person)		Graduated in 2018 (Person)	
				Total	Of which, females	Total	Total	Of which, females	Total
Yerevan	27	-	3	5144	3227	9733	6617	4888	3185
Gegharkunik	1	-	-	40	-	40	-	-	-
Lori	1	-	-	84	64	154	100	67	40
Shirak	2	2	-	97	84	169	136	120	85
Syunik	1	5	1	262	199	551	429	310	249
Vayotz Dzor	-	1	-	87	73	178	155	70	57
Tavush	-	1	-	18	7	30	15	28	16
Total	32	9	4	5732	3654	10855	7452	5483	3632

8.1. Enrollment in Educational System

Gross enrollment rates in general education schools in the 2018/2019 academic year, by educational programs, are presented in Graph 8.1¹.

Graph 8.1 – Armenia: Enrollment in General Education Schools, by Educational Programs, 2018/2019 Academic Year



Source: RA SC 2018

According to official statistical data, in 2018 enrollment in preschool education facilities (children of age group 0-5 years) totaled 32.6%, including 38.0% in urban communities and 22.6% in rural communities; and enrollment in the age group 3-5 years totaled 58.4%.

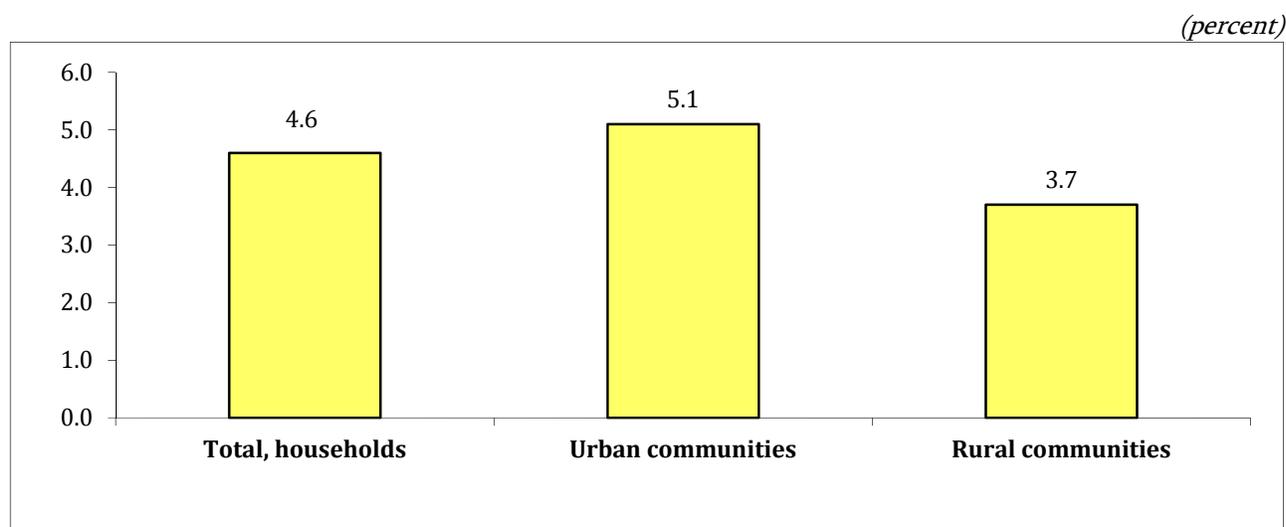
According to ILCS data, gross enrollment in preschool facilities (the age group 0-6 years) was 31% and varied depending on poverty status. Particularly, enrollment among non-poor households was 33%, among poor households (excluding the extremely poor) – 28%, and among extremely poor households – 0%. Gross enrollment in preschool facilities (the age group 0-6 years) varied by quintile groups of the consumption aggregate. Thus, it was 26% in the first quintile, 30% in the second quintile, 32% in the third quintile, 33% in the fourth quintile, and 43% in the fifth quintile.

Household Spending on Education

According to ILCS data, spending on education in 2018 comprised 4.6% of total household expenditures on non-food products and services (Table A6.1; Graph 8.2).

¹ Enrollment rates in the education system are estimated on basis of data received from administrative registers and may differ from those obtained through the ILCS.

Graph 8.2 – Armenia: Share of Spending on Education within Total Household Expenditures on Non-Food Products and Services, 2018



Source: *ILCS 2018*

According to ILCS data, in 2018 almost seven out of ten (68.5%) children in the age group 0-6 years did not attend a preschool facility. As indicated by respondents, the reasons for non-attendance were as follows: the child had a non-working mother – 39.5%, there was no kindergarten – 11.3%, the services were too expensive, or the preschool facility was closed down – 2.1% (Table 8.1).

Table 8.1 – Armenia: Reasons for Non-Enrollment in Preschool Education, 2018

(percent)

	Quintile					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Too expensive	2.5	3.8	0.3	1.8	1.1	2.1
Poor feeding	0.3	-	0.6	-	5.3	0.7
Risk of infectious diseases	-	0.3	0.9	0.6	-	0.3
Preschool facility closed down	2.9	3.5	0.7	-	2.4	2.1
Working hours not suitable	-	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.2
Low quality of services	0.3	-	0.8	0.7	-	0.4
Non-working mother	46.9	35.6	35.3	32.6	42.6	39.5
Other	38.0	43.3	46.3	49.7	41.0	42.9
No kindergarten	8.7	12.7	14.2	13.6	6.8	11.3
Child already at school	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

There was a difference between the poorest and the richest quintile groups. 2.5% of respondents in the poorest quintile reported that preschool education was too expensive, while this reason was reported by 1.1% of respondents in the richest quintile (Table 8.1).

The distance to the closest preschool facility from the household is considered as one of the key indicators of accessibility. According to ILCS 2018 data, 59.9% of rural residents reported that the preschool facility was up to 1 km away (55.3% and 67.1% of the poorest and the richest quintiles, respectively). Meanwhile, 5.4% of all households, including 4.1% of the richest and 7.5% of the poorest quintiles, responded that the nearest preschool facility was more than 10 km away. Table 8.2 presents these findings by quintile groups.

Table 8.2 – Armenia: Accessibility of Preschool Education Facilities in Rural Communities, by Consumption Quintiles and by Means of Transportation, 2018

(percent)

Rural communities	Quintile					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
<i>Distance to closest preschool facility</i>						
0-1 km	55.3	54.9	64.5	58.0	67.1	59.9
1-3 km	26.5	25.9	16.7	26.3	19.1	22.9
4-5 km	6.5	5.5	7.4	5.5	3.2	5.7
6-10 km	4.2	6.2	6.2	7.8	6.5	6.1
>10 km	7.5	7.5	5.2	2.4	4.1	5.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Transportation means used for reaching preschool facility</i>						
Car	10.2	15.1	11.9	12.2	17.1	13.2
Minivan/ bus	17.3	16.6	16.3	17.8	11.5	16.0
Passenger taxi	1.7	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.9
Train	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carriage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horse/ donkey	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycle	-	-	-	-	-	-
On foot	70.8	67.3	71.4	69.2	71.1	69.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: ILCS 2018

Elementary School (1-4 grades)

According to ILCS data, in 2018 gross enrollment in elementary education (1-4 grades) was 96% and did not significantly vary by poverty status. Gross enrollment in elementary education was 95% for non-poor households, 99% for poor households (excluding the extremely poor), and 89% for extremely poor households. It was 98% in the first and third quintiles, 96% in the second quintile, 92% in the fourth quintile, and 91% in the fifth quintile.

Average monthly per pupil expenditures of households with children in elementary school totaled AMD 2554, of which 32.3% was spent on textbooks, 8.2% – on tuition fees, 11.7% - on private lessons, and 47.8% - on other educational expenses. In comparison with the monthly average AMD 2554, these expenditures totaled

AMD 3003 for non-poor, AMD 1540 for poor (excluding the extremely poor), and AMD 1529 for extremely poor households.

Middle School (5-9 grades)

According to ILCS data, in 2018 gross enrollment in middle school (5-9 grades) was 96%. Gross enrollment in middle school was 96% for non-poor and poor households (excluding the extremely poor), and 121%* for extremely poor households. It was 96% in the poorest quintile, 98% in the second quintile, 94% in the third quintile, 101%* in the fourth quintile, and 92% in the fifth quintile.

Average monthly per pupil expenditures of households with children in middle school totaled AMD 3153, of which 39.0% was spent on textbooks, 16.7% – on private lessons, 3.6% – on tuition fees, and 40.7% – on other expenses. In comparison with the monthly average AMD 153, these expenditures totaled AMD 3517 for non-poor, AMD 2202 for poor (excluding the extremely poor), and AMD 1201 for extremely poor households.

After completing basic education (comprised of elementary and middle school), a part of children in the relevant age drops out of school.

As mandatory education in Armenia is free-of-charge, schooling expenses for elementary and secondary education are not a major problem for households. However, even these expenses are a burden, which is more significant for households with pupils at higher grades.

High School (10-12 Grades)

According to ILCS data, in 2018 gross enrollment in high school (the age group 15-17 years) was 72%. It was 74% for non-poor households, 67% for poor households (excluding the extremely poor) and 52% for extremely poor households.

Average monthly per pupil expenditures of households with children in high school totaled AMD 4624, of which 35.0% was spent on private lessons, 27.8% – on textbooks, 9.9% - on tuition fees, and 27.3% – on other expenses. At that, these expenditures varied by poverty status, as follows: for the non-poor households – AMD 5320, of which 38.7% was spent on private lessons, 24.3% – on textbooks, 11.6% - on tuition fees, and 25.4% – on other expenses; for the poor households (excluding the extremely poor) – AMD 2653, of which 48.3% was spent on textbooks, 39.0% – on other expenses, 12.7% – on private lessons; for the extremely poor households – AMD 1517, of which 54.6% was spent on textbooks, 45.4% – on other expenses, and nothing was spent on private lessons.

According to ILCS data, in 2018 as much as 7.8% individuals of the age group 15-17 years did not attend any educational institution. The majority of them, 68.1%, told that they had completed schooling or educational studies, 2.0% noted poor health as a reason for not attending a school, 7.5% was not willing to study anymore, and 16.9% reported that educational services were too expensive for them to continue studies. The rest did not attend school for other reasons.

* Gross enrollment rate is the percentage share of the total number of pupils in all grades of the educational system to the total number of resident population of the officially determined age group in that educational system.

Higher Education Institutions

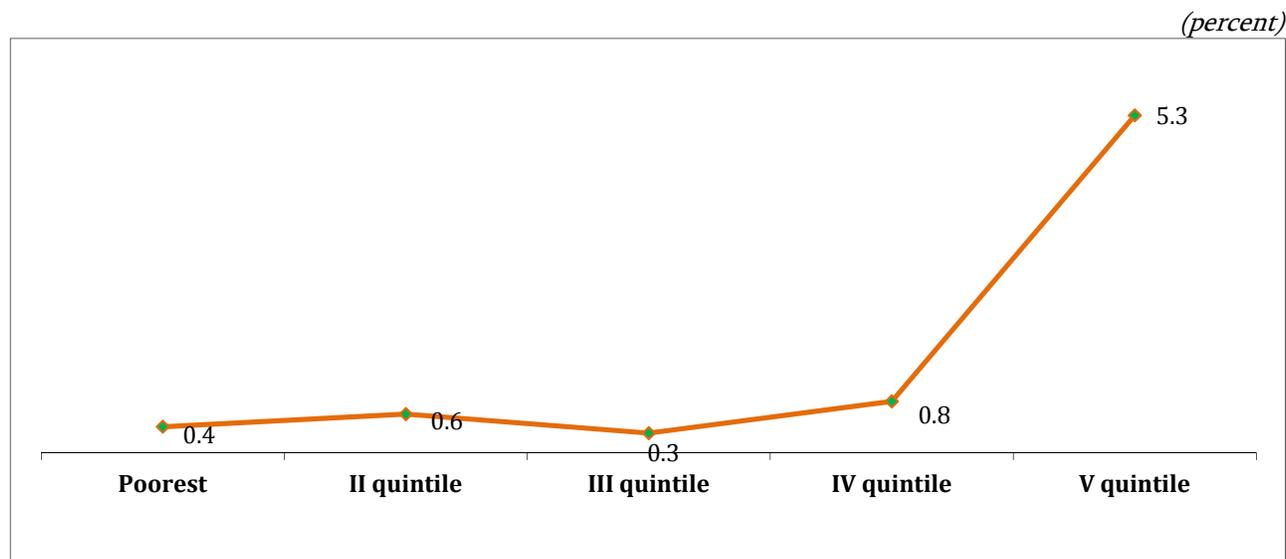
In contrast to basic education, enrollment in upper grades of the secondary school and in higher education is relatively low, with rather visible differences between poor and non-poor households. High costs of higher education and specifically its affordability, relatively low perceived returns on education were cited as the main reasons explaining why teens from poor households drop out the educational system after completing basic education and, particularly, general secondary education.

According to ILCS data, in 2018 gross enrollment in higher education (the age group 18-22 years) was 36%. Gross enrollment in higher education institutions was 39% for non-poor households, 26% for poor households (excluding the extremely poor), and 0% for extremely poor households. It was 19% in the poorest quintile, 28% in the second quintile, 36% in the third quintile, 32% in the fourth quintile, and 54% in the fifth quintile.

In 2018, average monthly per student expenditures of households with members in higher education institutions totaled AMD 31488, of which 89.7% was spent on tuition fees, 4.2% – on textbooks, 0.4% – on private lessons, and 5.7% – on other expenses.

Graph 8.3 presents the share of spending on education in the population's total consumption, by quintile groups. The data presented in Table A3.9 of Annex 2 suggests that the average expenditures on education for the poorest quintile were 11.4 times lower than the average (AMD 147 and AMD 1683, respectively), whereas the same indicator for the fifth quintile was 4.3 times higher than the average (AMD 7282 and AMD 1683, respectively).

Graph 8.3 – Armenia: Share of Spending on Education in Total Consumption, by Quintile Groups, 2018



Source: *ILCS 2018*

According to ILCS data, in higher education institutions 82.8% of students were from non-poor households, 17.2% – from poor households (excluding the extremely poor), and no students from extremely poor households.

6.4% of studying members of households reported that during the current and previous academic years they were requested to **give a gift to a teacher or a lecturer**. 13.7% of studying members of households reported that they gave a gift to the teacher or the lecturer at their own initiative or by others' request.

One of the most important indicators of **education accessibility** is the distance between the household and the closest school. According to ILCS 2018 data, 74.8% of respondents in rural communities reported that the secondary school was up to 1 km away. Meanwhile, 2.5% of households cited that it was more than 4 km away, including 0.1% of households which reported that the distance to closest secondary school was more than 10 km. Table 8.3 presents these findings by quintile groups.

Table 8.3 – Armenia: Rural Communities - Distance to Closest Secondary School and Transportation Means Used for Reaching School, 2018

(percent)

Rural communities	Quintile					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
<i>Distance to closest secondary school</i>						
0-1 km	71.9	73.1	79.9	75.1	73.8	74.8
1-3 km	25.9	23.6	16.8	23.4	24.3	22.7
4-5 km	1.9	2.1	1.8	0.9	1.0	1.6
6-10 km	0.3	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.8
>10 km	-	-	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Transportation means used for reaching school</i>						
Car	3.7	8.3	9.4	8.5	12.7	8.4
Minivan/ bus	5.1	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.6	3.3
Passenger taxi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Train	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carriage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horse/ donkey	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycle	-	-	-	-	-	-
On foot	91.2	88.7	87.9	88.3	84.7	88.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

For both boys and girls within the age group of 16-20 years, the **main reason for discontinuing education** was that they completed the secondary school (54.6% and 54.2%, respectively). At the same time, the high cost of education was reported by 9.0% of boys and 3.9% of girls. The data by quintile groups is presented in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 – Armenia: Reasons for Individuals of Age Group 16-20 Years Not to Go for Further Education, by Gender, 2018

(percent)

	Quintile					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Boys						
Illness	-	-	-	-	-	-
Has to work	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation problems	-	-	-	-	-	-
Too expensive	-	9.1	4.7	13.3	24.9	9.0
School closed down not for vacations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low quality of teaching	-	-	-	-	-	-
Does not want to study	3.0	-	7.3	-	-	2.2
Does not attend temporarily, but intends to continue studies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finished basic school (9 th grade)	10.9	-	31.0	4.8	12.5	11.7
Finished secondary school (12 th grade)	51.4	73.4	37.0	64.9	49.3	54.6
Finished educational studies (college, VEI, HEI)	34.7	17.5	20.0	17.0	10.0	21.9
Other	-	-	-	-	3.3	0.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Girls						
Illness	3.5	3.6	-	-	-	1.5
Has to work	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation problems	-	-	-	-	-	-
Too expensive	-	-	12.2	-	11.2	3.9
School closed down not for vacations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low quality of teaching	-	-	-	-	-	-
Does not want to study	2.1	-	-	-	-	0.5
Does not attend temporarily, but intends to continue studies	-	-	-	6.1	-	1.5
Family reasons	2.2	5.5	-	-	-	1.5
Finished basic school (9 th grade)	17.8	-	9.5	1.7	5.3	7.3
Finished secondary school (12 th grade)	54.9	67.3	52.2	54.3	40.4	54.2
Finished educational studies (college, VEI, HEI)	19.5	23.6	26.1	32.1	43.1	28.2
Other	-	-	-	5.8	-	1.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

8.2. Courses for Individuals (14 Years and Above) Not Enrolled in Educational Institutions

According to ILCS data, in 2018 only 0.3% of persons of the age 14 years and above not enrolled in an educational institution had attended any course within the 12 months preceding the survey. The composition of courses by duration was as follows: up to two weeks – 49.7%, from two weeks to one month – 15.8%, one month – 1.4%, more than one month – 33.1%. As in 2017, the state/ communities were the primary source of funding for such studies (50.9% and 48.7%, respectively). The main objective of the courses was reported as training – 40.4%, advanced studies – 31.1%, and retraining – 28.5%. The following courses were most often attended by the population: a foreign language – 22.0%, computer – 18.7%, accounting – 7.2%, and handicraft – 0.6%. Average monthly per course expenses of households over the last 12 months totaled around AMD 129 thousand (with a minimum AMD 15 thousand and a maximum AMD 440 thousand).

Chapter 9. Social Transfers in Armenia and Their Impact on Poverty Reduction

9.1. System of Social Transfers in Armenia

Social transfers include pensions and monetary social assistance. Pensions are an important source of income for the population, especially for pensioners, who often have it as the only source of income; therefore, the general welfare of this group is dependent on the pension size (Table A9.1 of Annex 4 presents the number of pensioners in Armenia by pension types). The largest monetary social assistance program in the Republic of Armenia is the Family Benefit program (FBP). It is the largest program both in terms of population coverage and funds allocated from the RA State Budget.

9.2. Impact Assessment of Social Transfers on Poverty Reduction

Although expenditures on social transfers from the consolidated budget increase year after year, they remain limited as a share of GDP (7.1% in 2018). Nevertheless, social transfers contribute considerably to poverty reduction. Estimates for 2018 show that if payments of all social transfers (including pensions and social assistance benefits) were to be stopped and households were to not be able compensate for this loss from other sources, the total poverty rate would increase by 21.4 percentage points (from 23.5% to 44.9%). The poverty gap and poverty severity would also be significantly higher.

Social transfers have a significant poverty reduction effect on beneficiary households, and although not all the beneficiaries manage to overcome poverty after receiving monetary assistance, both the poverty gap and poverty severity are significantly reduced. Pensions, as the biggest component of social transfers, have a more significant impact on poverty reduction than monetary social assistance, accounting for a reduction of 19 percentage points in poverty. However, the role of monetary social assistance, and particularly the effect of the income support provided by the FBP on poverty reduction is not negligible. In 2018, the Family Benefit program accounted for a reduction of 2.3 percentage points in poverty.

As opposed to 2017, when despite the reduction the FBP's coverage of the total population coverage among the poorest quintile increased, in 2018 the reduction in total coverage was also reflected among the poorest quintile (coverage fell from 12.9% in 2017 to 12.6% in 2018 among the total population and from 39.0% in 2017 to 37.9% in 2018 among the poorest quintile). In 2018, 76.5% of FBP beneficiaries belonged to the bottom two quintiles compared to 78.7% in 2017; similarly, 78.3% of all benefits went to the poorest two quintiles in 2018 as compared to 75.5% in 2017.

Methodology

The impact of social protection programs on poverty in the country is assessed through the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS). The analysis covers two main social protection programs – pensions and state monetary assistance, which include all types of monetary social assistance. With the exception of the FBP, all other types of social assistance are allocated to very narrow groups of the population; therefore, these beneficiaries represent a very small share of the ILCS and the number of observations is not enough to draw statistically significant conclusions.

The assessment of the poverty impact of social transfers (pensions and state monetary assistance) is based on the following methodology: poverty indicators observed in the survey (“post-transfer” poverty rate) are compared with those that would be obtained if the transfers would not have been paid (“pre-transfer” poverty rate). The “pre-transfer” consumption aggregate for households is calculated by subtracting the amount of social transfers (pensions, monetary social assistance, or both)

from the observed total consumption aggregate, assuming that the total amount of social transfers is consumed by the household (a situation that is very typical for low-income countries like Armenia). This methodology is especially important for the improved targeting of social assistance. The population that should be targeted by social assistance is the “pre-transfer” poor, since some poor households move out of poverty after they receive social assistance; therefore, the “post-transfer” population, as a target group for observation, would constitute significant inconsistencies.

The impact of pensions on poverty was estimated comparing the “pre-transfer” poverty rate with the poverty rate after receiving pensions, i.e. with “post-pension”, but without “pre-social assistance” poverty rate¹.

9.3. What is the Impact of Social Transfers on the Poverty Rate in Armenia?

In 2018, AMD 426.2 billion or 7.1% of GDP (as compared to AMD 207.9 billion or 5.8% of GDP in 2008 and AMD 411.1 billion or 7.4% of GDP in 2017) was allocated to social benefits and pensions from the state budget of Armenia. The largest social transfers are pensions that include age, military and social pensions.

Social transfers in 2018 constituted 15.5% of the gross average monthly per capita income of Armenian households (16.5% in 2008, and 16.1% in 2017) (Table 6.1). Social transfers made up 23.3% of the average monthly income per adult household member in the bottom consumption quintile, whereas for households in the top consumption quintile they made up 8.7% only (Table A.3.10, Annex 2). Looking across the types of communities, it’s evident that social transfers were an important source of income accounting for 17.0% of the average monthly income of urban households outside Yerevan, whereas for households in rural communities and in Yerevan they made up 13.4% and 12.1% of the average monthly income, respectively (Table A.3.10, Annex 2).

According to the ILCS, in 2018 transfers through the family benefit program were considered a source of income by 12.6%; pensions – by 52.8%; childbirth and childcare allowances – by 1.3%, and other benefits, including privileges – by 1.8% of respondent households (Table 9.1).

Table 9.1 – Armenia: Share of Household Members Considering Social Transfers a Source of Income, 2008-2018

(percent)

	Pension	Family benefit	Unemployment benefit	Childbirth and childcare allowances	Other benefits
2008	50.5	15.3	0.6	0.5	3.7
2009	51.9	12.2	1.1	0.7	4.2
2010	52.5	13.4	1.3	1.1	3.1
2011	53.3	10.2	1.2	1.1	3.2
2012	53.9	13.5	0.5	1.4	2.6
2013	53.7	12.2	0.4	1	1.6
2014	55.2	13.3	0	1.3	2.3
2015	54.0	13.5	0.1	1.7	2.1
2016	52.4	13.6	0	1.3	2.7
2017	55.5	12.9	0	1.4	0.3
2018	52.8	12.6	0	1.3	1.8

Source: ILCS 2008-2018

¹ Survey findings provide a picture of the Armenian population with certain statistical error (deviation). “Pre-transfer” and “post-transfer” poverty rates also contain such statistical error. The impact of social transfers on the poverty rate is statistically significant if the confidence intervals related to the average “pre-transfers” and “post-transfers” poverty rates do not overlap.

According to the 2018 ILCS findings, social transfers, although constituting a small share of GDP, remain an important tool for poverty reduction. If payments of social transfers (pensions and monetary social assistance) were stopped and the poor were not able to compensate for this loss from other sources, poverty and extreme poverty rates would increase significantly (Table 9.2). Poverty would increase from 23.5% to 44.9%; and the poor would become even poorer: the poverty gap, i.e. the shortfall of their average consumption relative to poverty line, would increase from 4.2% to 19.0%. Poverty would also become more severe, as the poverty severity index would increase from 1.1% to 12.8%. Such an unfavorable effect would be more significant for extremely poor households. If payments of social transfers (pensions and monetary social assistance) were stopped and the extremely poor were not able to compensate for this loss from other sources, the extreme poverty rate would increase from 1.0% to 19.1%; the extremely poor would also become even poorer: the poverty gap, would increase from 0.1% to 10.1%, and poverty severity index would increase from 0.0% to 9.4%.

Table 9.2 – Armenia: Poverty Mitigation Impact of Social Transfers, 2018

(percent)

	Poor			Extremely poor		
	Poverty rate	Poverty gap	Poverty severity	Poverty rate	Poverty gap	Poverty severity
Post-transfer (post-pension and post-social assistance)	23.5	4.2	1.1	1.0	0.1	0.0
Pre-transfer (pre-pension and pre-social assistance)	44.9	19.0	12.8	19.1	10.1	9.4
Prior to payment of pensions (pre-pension and post social assistance)	43.0	16.7	10.7	16.4	8.2	7.5
Prior to payment of all social assistance (pre-family benefits and other social assistance, post-pension)	25.9	6.0	2.2	3.8	0.9	0.3
Prior to payment of family benefit (pre-family benefits, post-pension and other social assistance)	25.8	5.8	2.1	3.6	0.8	0.3

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Pensions, as a larger component of social transfers, have a stronger impact on poverty reduction. However, the role of social assistance, and particularly the role of family benefits is not small either. For example, if payments of only the family benefits were to be terminated, extreme poverty would increase by 2.6 percentage points (from 1.0% to 3.6%), and the poverty rate would increase by 2.4 percentage points (from 23.5% to 25.8%). The poverty gap and severity would increase by 1.8 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively, whereas the extreme poverty gap and severity would increase by 0.8 and 0.3 percentage points, respectively (Table 9.2). These figures prove that family benefits have an especially essential impact on extreme poverty. Observations of the poverty rate impact of social transfers over 2010-2018 demonstrate the vital importance of social transfers. Non-payment of social transfers in 2010 would result in a poverty rate of 54.2% or 18.4 percentage points higher than the observed rate and in 2018 of 44.9% or 21.4 percentage points higher than the observed rate (Table 9.3).

Table 9.3 – Armenia: Poverty Mitigation Impact of Social Transfers, 2010 and 2018*(percent)*

Status	Poverty rate		Extreme poverty rate	
	2010	2018	2010	2018
Post-transfer (post-pensions and post-social assistance)	35.8	23.5	3.0	1.0
Pre-transfer (pre-pension and pre-social assistance)	54.2	44.9	20.9	19.1
Prior to payment of pensions (pre-pension and post-social assistance)	51.9	43.0	17.3	16.4
Prior to payment of all social assistance (pre-family benefits and other social assistance, post-pension)	39.4	25.9	6.8	3.8
Prior to payment of family benefit (pre-family benefits, post-pensions and other social assistance)	38.8	25.8	6.5	3.6

Source: *ILCS 2010 and 2018*

Table 9.4 presents pre-transfer and post-transfer poverty indicators only for the households receiving social transfers. Non-payment of social transfers would worsen the living conditions of those households significantly. Obviously, the situation in this case would look much worse than the impact of non-payment of social transfers assessed for the whole population in the previous table. If pensions were not paid, and households could not compensate the loss from other sources, the level of poverty among pensioners would considerably increase from 26.4% to 63.4%, while the share of extreme poverty among pensioners would increase from 1.2% to 30.4%. Poverty rates among households receiving family benefits are much higher than the average poverty rate in the country even after receiving FB: 47.3% as compared to 23.5%. Termination of payment of family benefits to such households would lead to an increase in the poverty rate from 47.3% to 65.6%, whereas the share of extremely poor households would increase from 3.3% to 23.7%.

Table 9.4 – Armenia: Poverty Reduction Impact of Social Transfers on Households Receiving Pensions and/or Social Assistance, 2018*(percent)*

	Extremely poor	Poor	Poverty gap (P1/P0)	Poverty severity
<i>Households receiving pension</i>				
After receipt of pension	1.2	26.4	4.7	1.2
Prior to receipt of pension	30.4	63.4	28.5	19.5
<i>Households receiving social assistance</i>				
After receipt of social assistance	3.0	45.4	9.8	2.9
Prior to receipt of social assistance	23.0	62.8	22.6	10.6
<i>Households receiving family benefit</i>				
After receipt of family benefit	3.3	47.3	10.4	3.1
Prior to receipt of family benefit	23.7	65.6	23.5	10.7

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Note: *Poverty gap (P1/P0) indicates the average shortfall of consumption of the poor or extremely poor population relative to the total or food poverty line.*

Termination of monetary assistance would not only increase the number of households below the poverty line, but would also lead to the intensification of the poverty gap and severity. Hence, social transfers have a significant poverty reduction effect on beneficiary households, and although not all beneficiaries manage to overcome the poverty burden after they receive monetary assistance, both the poverty gap and poverty severity significantly reduce among them.

Looking at the poverty reduction impact of the FB across regions also highlights its importance, especially for the extremely poor population. The extreme poverty reduction impact of the FB remains significant in Yerevan and in all regions. If family benefits were not paid and households could not compensate for the loss from other sources, the extreme poverty rate would increase in all of the 10 regions and in Yerevan. Family benefits are quite vital for the extremely poor population in Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Armavir regions of Armenia, as the proportion of the extremely poor population would increase by 2.1-6.5 percentage points in the case of non-payment of the family benefit.

Non-payment of family benefits would lead to an increase of the total poverty rate in Ararat region by 4.5 percentage points, in Tavush region by 6.2 percentage points, and in Shirak and Lori by 4.2 and 4.8 percentage points, respectively (Table 9.5).

Table 9.5 – Armenia: Poverty Reduction Impact of Family Benefit, by Regions, 2018

(percent)

	Post-transfer level (pensions and social assistance paid)		Prior to payment of family benefit (pre-FB, post-pension and other social assistance)		Impact of non-payment of family benefit, change, percentage points	
	Extreme poverty rate	Poverty rate	Extreme poverty rate	Poverty rate	Extreme poverty rate	Poverty rate
Yerevan	1.0	20.0	2.5	20.8	1.5	0.8
Aragatsotn	0.0	16.2	0.4	17.7	0.4	1.5
Ararat	0.0	19.8	3.1	24.3	3.1	4.5
Armavir	0.9	25.3	4.0	26.2	3.1	1.0
Gegharkunik	0.0	22.4	1.5	25.9	1.5	3.5
Lori	3.1	29.4	8.8	34.2	5.6	4.8
Kotayk	0.0	22.7	1.8	23.8	1.8	1.1
Shirak	2.6	42.2	9.1	46.5	6.5	4.2
Syunik	0.0	16.7	1.2	17.7	1.2	1.0
Vayots Dzor	1.6	18.6	2.6	20.9	1.0	2.3
Tavush	0.9	25.6	3.0	31.7	2.1	6.2

Source: *ILCS 2018*

9.4. Effectiveness of Social transfers

Who are beneficiaries of social transfers? In order to estimate the effectiveness of social transfers based on the findings of the household survey, inclusion of the “pre-transfer” poor, extremely poor, as well as non-poor population in social assistance programs has been examined. The higher is the coverage of poor and extremely poor population and the lower is that of non-poor population, the more effective is the social assistance and the better is the targeting of the most vulnerable population.

Results of the analysis of the FBP show that the coverage of the extremely poor by family benefits has increased. In 2018, 84.2% of the “pre-FB” extremely poor households received family benefits as compared to

77.5% in 2008 (Table 9.6). At the same time, in 2018, 5.9% of the “pre-FB” non-poor households received the FB, representing a decrease of 1.5 percentage points relative to 2008 (7.4%).

It should be noted that pensions, in contrast to family benefits, are paid to all eligible individuals irrespective of their poverty status. Therefore, pensions, unlike the FBP, are not meant to be targeted toward the poor.

Table 9.6 – Armenia: Coverage of Social Transfers, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

	Prior to receipt of social assistance		Prior to receipt of family benefit		Prior to receipt of pension	
Coverage of “pre-transfers” population by pension and social assistance programs						
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Moderate poor	37.6	24.9	33.8	23.8	70.9	65.3
Extremely poor	79.3	85.0	77.5	84.2	95.4	98.0
Non-poor	11.2	7.0	7.4	5.9	36.5	34.0

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

Note: “Moderate poor” refers to individuals below the poverty line but above the extreme poverty line.

Social Transfers and Inequality: ILCS estimates show that social transfers also contribute to the reduction of inequality across the consumption distribution. The pre-transfer Gini coefficient of the consumption aggregate distribution in 2018 falls from 0.388 to 0.312 when the consumption aggregate includes pensions; in the case of adding all social transfers the inequality of consumption falls to 0.298 (Table 9.7).

Table 9.7 – Armenia: Impact of Social Transfers on Inequality of Consumption Aggregate Distribution (Gini Coefficients of Consumption Aggregate), 2008-2018

	Pre-transfer (pre-pension and pre-social assistance)	Prior to payment of all social assistance (pre-family benefits and other social assistance, post-pension)	Post-transfer (post-pension and post-social assistance)
2008	0.316	0.258	0.242
2009	0.346	0.272	0.257
2010	0.359	0.282	0.265
2011	0.357	0.28	0.267
2012	0.359	0.282	0.269
2013	0.354	0.282	0.271
2014	0.377	0.289	0.277
2015	0.375	0.292	0.279
2016	0.362	0.302	0.286
2017	0.376	0.303	0.289
2018	0.388	0.312	0.298

Source: *ILCS 2008-2018*

9.5. Family Benefit

Table 9.8 presents the coverage rate of the FBP by “pre-social assistance” consumption quintiles and for people below the upper poverty line in 2016-2018. The coverage of the FBP continued to fall in 2018 reaching 12.6% of the total population. Between 2016 and 2017, the coverage of the FBP had already decreased from 13.6% to 12.9% of the total population. However, the coverage of the poor rose in 2018, though the increase was not as pronounced as that between 2016 and 2017. 32.1% of the poor (defined as those below the upper poverty line) are covered by the FBP in 2018, slightly higher than in 2017 (31.3%). While the coverage of the upper three quintiles decreased from 6.6% to 4.1% between 2016 and 2017, it rose to 4.7% in 2018. Coverage of all social assistance benefits including the FBP, child benefits and other social assistance benefits among the poor increased slightly (from 32.8% in 2017 to 33.3% in 2018); among the poorest quintile, there was a slight decline in coverage (from 14.4% in 2017 to 13.9% in 2018).

Table 9.8 – Armenia: Coverage of Family Benefit and All Social Assistance across “Pre-Social Assistance” Consumption Quintiles, 2016-2018

(percent)

	Quintile						
	Total	Bottom	II	III	IV	Top	Poor
<i>Family benefit</i>							
2016	13.6	35.3	12.9	10.3	6.4	3.2	24.3
2017	12.9	39.0	13.3	6.8	3.7	1.8	31.3
2018	12.6	37.9	11.1	7.1	4.6	2.5	32.1
<i>Social assistance (FB included)</i>							
2016	17.1	43.4	15.6	11.6	8.2	6.5	30
2017	14.4	40.4	14.7	7.6	5.3	4.0	32.8
2018	13.9	39.2	11.9	8.7	6.0	3.7	33.3

Source: *ILCS 2016-2018*

Table 9.9 presents the distribution of the total FB monetary transfers (benefits) and FB beneficiaries by “pre-FB” consumption quintile groups, based on the ILCS findings. The data show that in 2018 75.5% of beneficiaries were in the lowest two “pre-FB” consumption quintiles receiving 76.5% of total FB transfers, or resources. The factual “leakage” of FB funds is the benefits distributed to the beneficiaries in the upper consumption quintiles (the top two quintiles), i.e. 12.2% of the beneficiaries receive 11.2% of total FB transfers despite not being vulnerable.

Table 9.9 – Armenia: Distribution of Family Benefit and Other Social Assistance Recipients and Benefits across “Pre-FB” and “Pre-Social Assistance” Consumption Quintiles, 2018

(percent)

	Quintile				
	Bottom	II	III	IV	Top
<i>Family benefit based on “Pre-FBP” consumption quintiles</i>					
Benefits	57.0	18.5	12.3	7.9	4.3
Beneficiaries	58.1	18.4	12.3	7.6	3.5
<i>Social assistance (FB included) based on “Pre-Social assistance” consumption quintiles</i>					
Benefits	55.1	18.0	13.2	8.7	5.1
Beneficiaries	54.3	18.1	13.7	9.0	4.8

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Which groups of the population are more likely to be included or excluded from the FB system? According to ILCS estimates, households with no working member or income from wage employment, and especially households with 4 or more children, have the highest poverty rate; they are also more likely to be covered by the FBP (Table 9.10). Rural landless households or households with no migrant members also have poverty rates that are higher than that of the total population; their coverage by the FB, however, is lower.

Table 9.10 – Armenia: Poverty Rate and Coverage of the “Pre-FB” Poor, by Household Type, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

Household type	Extreme poverty rate		Poverty rate		Coverage of the “pre-FB” poor	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
HH with 4 or more children	23.1	27.7	56.7	62.6	76.7	75.3
HH with no working member	11.6	7.7	43.6	31.6	71.1	53.0
HH with no income form wage employment	8.3	6.7	37.6	28.5	69.4	57.1
Rural landless HH	4	4.0	28.3	27.2	65.8	30.3
HH with no migrant member	4.8	3.5	31.1	26.0	68.3	31.1

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

Chapter 10: Housing Conditions

Integrated Living Conditions Surveys (ILCS) provide a unique opportunity to collect data on the housing conditions of population, the accessibility of utility services, and other data related to housing issues. This chapter presents a comparative analysis of the main indicators of housing conditions for the period of 2008-2018, based on ILCS data.

10.1. Housing Conditions

As of 2018, most of the households in Armenia (91.2%) owned their homes. Multi-apartment buildings were most common in urban communities – with 72.7% share in total dwelling, whereas private houses with 94.6% share in total dwelling comprised a majority in rural communities (Table 10.1). The share of persons living in hostels was higher in Yerevan. The proportion of residents of hostels, temporary dwellings and other types of abode was 2.4% in urban and 1.0% in rural communities. Most of the people living in temporary dwellings were poor and belonged to the first quintile.

Table 10.1 – Armenia: Households, by Type of Dwelling, Type of Community, Poverty Rate, and Quintile Group of Consumption, 2018

(percent)

	Total	Including, by type of dwelling				
		House	Apartment	Hostel	Temporary dwelling	Other abode
<i>By type of community</i>						
Urban, <i>including</i>	100	24.9	72.7	1.2	1.1	0.1
Yerevan	100	23.3	74.7	1.7	0.1	0.2
Other urban	100	26.7	70.5	0.6	2.2	0.0
Rural	100	94.6	4.4	0.0	0.9	0.1
Total	100	49.2	48.9	0.8	1.0	0.1
<i>By poverty status</i>						
Non poor	100	48.9	49.7	0.5	0.8	0.1
Poor (excluded the extremely poor)	100	49.9	46.2	1.7	1.9	0.3
Extremely poor	100	67.6	22.2	3.5	6.7	0.0
<i>By quintile groups of consumption aggregate</i>						
First	100	51.8	44.0	1.9	1.9	0.4
Second	100	52.0	45.7	0.8	1.5	0.0
Third	100	49.3	49.2	0.4	1.1	0.0
Forth	100	50.0	49.1	0.4	0.5	0.0
Fifth	100	44.8	53.8	0.6	0.6	0.2

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Occupancy rates are a serious problem in the country. According to 2018 survey data, the average occupancy rate of a 1-room apartment was 2.03 persons. Occupancy rates differed by poverty status. Thus, according to survey data, occupancy rate of 1-room apartments in the bottom quintile was 2.1 times higher than in the top quintile. In 2018, this occupancy rate comprised 2.95 persons in the bottom and 1.74 persons in the top quintile. 507 out of 1000 households (against 877 in 2008 and 582 in 2017) living in a 1-room apartment had 2 or more habitants. Rural households in 2018 had more living space than urban ones (Table 10.2). However, in

terms of the availability of necessary amenities, urban housing was in a much better situation than the rural one. Only 12.4% of rural households reported having in-house (functional) kitchen, cold water supply, flush toilet and bathtub, whereas in urban communities such households comprised 87.6%.

Table 10.2 – Armenia: Availability of Living Space, 2018

(per household member, square meter)

Total availability of living space, including	25.8
Urban communities	22.9
Rural communities	30.4

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Survey findings also reflect on the households' subjective assessment of their dwelling conditions (Table 10.3). In 2018, most of the households, particularly 62.3%, rated their dwelling conditions as satisfactory (against 60.2% in 2008 and 63.4% in 2017). 16.8% of households rated their dwelling conditions as bad, and 2.6% – very bad. Only 18.3% considered their dwelling conditions to be good or very good (against 12.2% in 2008 and 15.4% in 2017). The subjective assessment of dwelling conditions was further decomposed by the type of community, poverty status, and quintile groups of consumption aggregate. In 2018, urban households were more satisfied with their dwelling conditions than comparable rural households (Table 10.3).

Poorer households in the lower quintile groups were less satisfied with their dwelling conditions than the non-poor, and the level of satisfaction was higher in upper quintiles. In the bottom consumption quintile 33.0% of households assessed their dwelling as bad or very bad, whereas in the top quintile such assessment was reported by 11.1% of households.

Table 10.3 – Armenia: Households' Subjective Assessment of Dwelling Conditions, 2018

(percent)

	Total	Subjective assessment of dwelling conditions				
		Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Bad	Very bad
<i>By type of community</i>						
Urban, including	100	0.5	21.2	63.2	12.6	2.5
Yerevan	100	0.5	18.3	67.4	10.6	3.2
Other urban	100	0.4	24.3	58.9	14.7	1.7
Rural	100	0.3	11.7	60.3	24.8	2.9
Total	100	0.4	17.9	62.3	16.8	2.6
<i>By poverty status</i>						
Non poor	100	0.4	19.8	63.1	15.2	1.5
Poor (excluded the extremely poor)	100	0.3	10.1	59.2	23.3	7.1
Extremely poor	100	0.0	0.0	39.1	38.4	22.5
<i>By quintile groups of consumption aggregate</i>						
First	100	0.4	9.9	56.7	25.2	7.8
Second	100	0.0	10.6	63.5	21.6	4.3
Third	100	0.1	15.4	67.3	15.5	1.7
Forth	100	0.2	19.3	64.3	15.4	0.8
Fifth	100	1.2	28.9	58.8	10.4	0.7

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Poor and, particularly, extremely poor households were more likely to reside in substandard dwelling. While 15.7% of non-poor households were not satisfied with the size of their living space,

the share of dissatisfied respondents was 29.6% among the poor and 64.0% among the extremely poor (Table 10.4). Similarly, the main complaints from the extremely poor were about poor heating, dilapidated walls and floor, as well as broken frames and doors, dampness, leaking roofs, and poor lighting.

Table 10.4 – Armenia: Household Complaints about Housing Conditions, by Poverty Status, 2018

(percent)

	Non poor	Poor	Extremely poor
Total	100*	100*	100*
Insufficient living space	15.7	29.6	64.0
Noisy neighbors and surroundings	2.9	5.1	9.2
Poor lighting	6.3	13.3	29.1
Poor heating	46.9	64.7	91.3
Dampness	21.6	30.6	46.3
Leaking roofs	10.7	16.6	40.7
Dilapidated walls and floor	16.6	34.8	75.2
Broken frames and doors	13.9	30.0	63.1
Heavy traffic	2.5	2.4	12.4
Industrial pollution	3.4	4.7	0.0
Frequent breakdowns of elevator	3.1	2.6	6.2
Poor water supply	11.2	13.8	25.3
Poor garbage disposal	17.9	25.7	29.4
Poor maintenance of public areas and yards of multi-apartment buildings	15.2	16.9	18.9
Lack of green zones	29.2	33.9	49.1
Other	4.9	7.2	23.7

Source: *ILCS 2018*

***Note:** *The total amount exceeds 100% as the households might have chosen several options of responses*

In 2018, only 2.9% or 23.3 thousand households reported to have renovated their dwelling in the year prior to the survey; at that, most of them, particularly 93.1%, were non-poor households, whereas the same indicator for poor households was 6.9% only, and none of the extremely poor households were able to renovate their dwelling.

10.2. Access to Drinking Water, Sewerage, and Garbage Disposal

Access to drinking water: According to ILCS 2018, overwhelming majority of households reported having access to a centralized water supply system. Such systems were available to about 99.7% of urban and 94.4% of rural households (Table 10.5).

Among the households with centralized water supply, 97.0% had in-house water supply, 2.8% had a water tap in the yard, and the remaining 0.2% used a tap on the street.

Table 10.5 – Armenia: Access to Drinkable Water, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

Main source of water	Country total		Urban communities		Rural communities	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Centralized water supply	97.1	97.9	99.5	99.7	92.4	94.4
Less than one hour	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.9	0.0
1-5 hours	31.3	8.4	31.2	2.7	31.4	18.4
6-12 hours	28.6	10.1	32.6	5.4	20.5	18.3

Main source of water	Country total		Urban communities		Rural communities	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
13-23 hours	5.7	9.1	5.9	9.8	5.3	7.9
24 hours	33.7	72.3	30.2	82.1	40.9	55.4
Spring water, well	1.2	0.9	0.1	0.3	3.1	2.2
Own system of water supply	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.3	2.5
Delivered water	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.0	0.0
Other sources	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.9

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

However, access to a centralized water supply system did not necessarily amount to appropriate water supply services. In 2018, water was available to households for about an average 20.3 hours daily. Only 72.3% of households with centralized water supply systems reported to have 24-hour supply. While this was an obvious improvement as compared to 2008, still 8.4% of households had water for 1-5 hours daily. Moreover, not all communities in the country had water supply on everyday basis. On average, households had water supply for 30 days within a month.

In 2018, 0.3% of urban households had water supply for 3 weeks within a month. In rural communities, 0.3% of households had water supply for 1-7 days, 0.9% – for 2 weeks, and 3.7% – for 3 weeks within a month.

Countrywide, 0.3% of households had water supply for 2 weeks, and 1.5% – for 3 weeks within a month.

Table 10.6 – Armenia: Availability of Water Supply Services, by Quintile Groups of Consumption Aggregate, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

	First quintile		Second quintile		Third quintile		Forth quintile		Fifth quintile	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Centralized water supply	96.6	96.3	96.4	96.8	96.0	97.7	97.8	98.7	98.2	99.0
Less than 1 hour	1.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
1-5 hours	35.5	10.2	33.8	7.1	28.6	8.4	30.1	7.4	29.4	9.0
6-12 hours	24.0	8.9	26.9	12.4	28.2	7.5	32.7	10.5	30.3	11.2
13-23 hours	4.5	6.1	6.5	10.3	6.2	9.9	5.1	9.5	6.1	9.8
24 hours	34.9	74.8	31.8	70.2	36.5	74.2	31.6	72.6	33.7	70.0
Spring water, well	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.3
Own system of water supply	0.5	1.5	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6
Delivered water	1.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0
Other sources	0.3	0.4	-	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

In 2018, availability of centralized water supply in households did not significantly differ across quintiles of consumption aggregate and ranged between 96-99%.

Nevertheless, 11.2% of non-poor households, 13.8% of poor households and 25.3% of extremely poor households reported poor water supply services (Table 10.4).

Centralized sewerage system: More households had access to a centralized sewerage system in 2018, as compared to 2008 (71.9% and 66.7%, respectively) (Table 10.7).

Table 10.7 – Armenia: Access to Centralized Sewerage System, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

	Urban		Yerevan		Other urban		Rural		Total	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Centralized sewerage system	91.1	98.1	96.5	98.6	85.5	97.5	19.0	28.6	66.7	71.9
Centralized sewerage system not operational	0.2	1.9	0.1	1.4	0.3	2.5	1.3	71.3	0.6	28.1
No sewerage system	8.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	14.2	0.0	79.7	0.1	32.7	0.0

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

With respect to the access to a centralized sewerage system, urban/rural differences were rather significant. Residents of Yerevan had almost universal access to a centralized sewerage system (98.6%). Other urban communities reported 97.5% accessibility of centralized sewerage systems, whereas in rural communities this indicator was 28.6% only. This is an important issue since availability of a sewerage system has strong implications in terms of proper sanitary conditions and healthcare.

Availability of a centralized sewerage system differentiated by quintile groups of consumption aggregate (Table 10.8) was within the range between 69% and 76%.

Table 10.8 – Armenia: Availability of Centralized Sewerage System, by Quintile Groups of Consumption Aggregate, 2018

(percent)

	Quintile groups of consumption aggregate				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Centralized sewerage system	72.3	72.9	75.8	69.0	69.5
Centralized sewerage system not operational	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
No sewerage system	27.7	27.0	24.2	31.0	30.5

Source: *ILCS 2018*

Garbage disposal: In 2018, the share of households using centralized garbage disposal services (garbage collector system, disposal by truck, garbage piled up for disposal) increased in comparison with 2008 (93.6% against 80.9%) (Table 10.9). Urban communities are better served in terms of garbage disposal than rural communities, where households often rely on burning or burying garbage. A certain part of the households, particularly 29.4% of the extremely poor, 25.7% of the poor, and 17.9% of the non-poor were dissatisfied with garbage disposal services (Table 10.4).

Table 10.9 – Armenia: Garbage Disposal, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

	Urban		Yerevan		Other urban		Rural		Total	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Garbage collector system and/ or disposal by truck, garbage piled up for disposal	98.0	99.4	99.5	99.1	96.5	99.7	47.4	84.2	80.9	93.6
Garbage burned	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.3	31.9	13.3	11.3	5.1
Garbage buried	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.1	10.4	2.0	3.8	0.8
Other	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.0	10.3	0.5	4.0	0.5

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

10.3. Heating

Most of the surveyed households both in urban and rural communities reported to have heated their dwellings. In 2018, the share of such households was 98.7% (Table 10.10).

Households used the following types of fuel for heating: natural gas – 46.4% (against 57.1% in 2010), wood – 36.0% (against 25.8% in 2010), electricity – 12.8% (against 11.7% in 2010) etc.

In comparison with the previous year, the share of households using wood for heating purposes decreased from 37% to 36%, along with the increased share of households using natural gas (from 45.6% to 46.4%) and electricity (from 11.2% to 12.8%) for the same purposes. Meanwhile, the share of households using other types of fuel for heating purposes decreased, from 6.0% to 4.6%. As of 2018, 99.9% of households had electricity supply and 86.7% had centralized supply of natural gas.

Table 10.10 – Armenia: Heating Options, 2010 and 2018

(percent)

	Urban		Yerevan		Other urban		Rural		Total	
	2010	2018	2010	2018	2010	2018	2010	2018	2010	2018
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not heated	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.3
Heated, including by the use of the following options	98.3	99.8	97.6	97.3	98.9	99.3	99.5	99.5	98.7	98.7
Central heating	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.2	-	0.0	0.3	0.1
Oil, diesel	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Electricity	17.2	20.1	23.2	23.8	11.0	15.9	1.0	1.0	11.7	12.8
Natural gas	69.4	64.9	70.1	69.6	68.7	59.7	33.2	16.2	57.1	46.4
Wood	12.0	14.4	6.0	6.3	18.2	23.3	52.5	71.3	25.8	36.0
Other	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.2	1.4	0.9	13.2	11.4	5.1	4.6

Source: *ILCS 2010 and 2018*

In 2018, natural gas was the main option for heating of household dwellings (46.4%). Overall, natural gas remains the main heating option both in Yerevan and in other urban communities (Table 10.10), whereas rural communities still rely on wood as the main option for heating purposes.

As far as the types of appliances used for heating are concerned (Table 10.11), in 2018 the most commonly used options were both home-made ovens (39.8%) and local/ individual boiler (25.5%). The population in urban communities preferred local/ individual boilers (36.4%), as opposed to rural population giving preference for home-made ovens (80.1%).

Table 10.11 – Armenia: Types of Appliances Used for Heating, 2018

(percent)

	Urban	Yerevan	Other urban	Rural	Total
Electric stove	7.2	8.3	6.0	0.1	4.5
Electric heater	12.4	15.0	9.7	0.6	7.9
Gas stove	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7
Home-made oven	15.0	6.9	23.8	80.1	39.8
Factory-made oven	27.6	24.2	31.2	8.7	20.4
Local individual boiler	36.4	44.4	27.8	7.8	25.5
Local collective boiler (for the whole building)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

	Urban	Yerevan	Other urban	Rural	Total
Central heating	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.1	1.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *ILCS 2018*

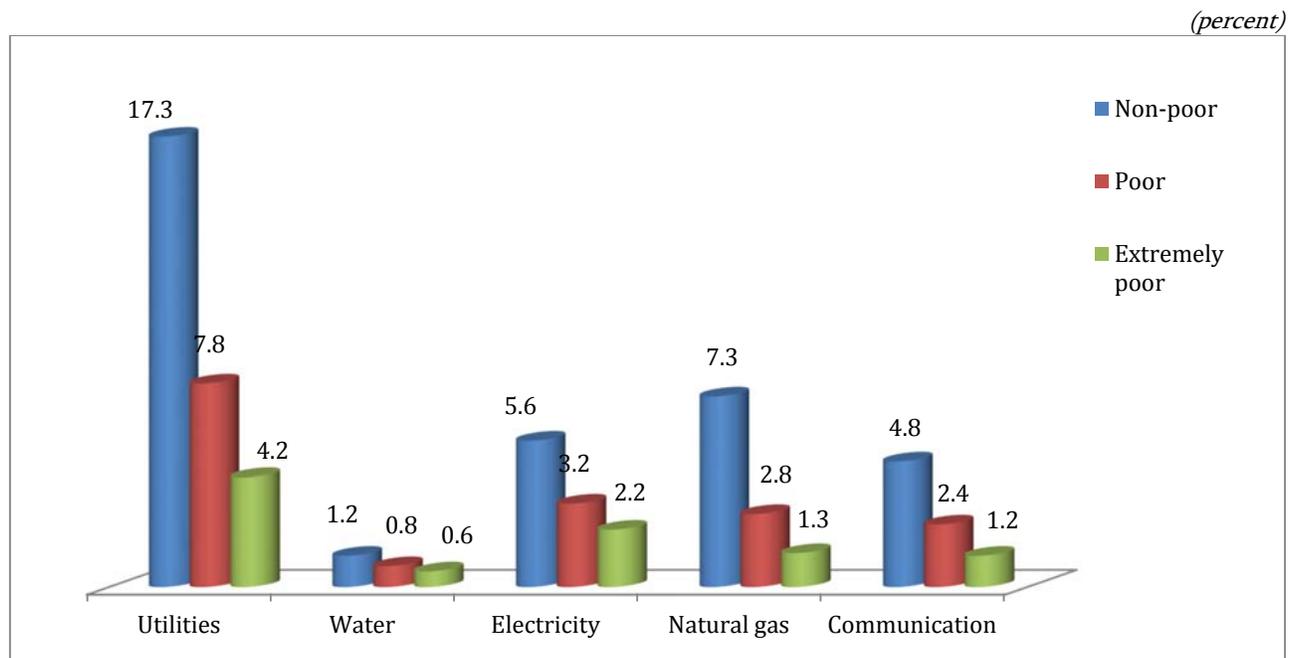
In general, spending on utilities made up 13.1% of the average monthly consumption expenditures of households, whereas that on natural gas and electricity comprised, respectively, 6.2% and 5.0% totaling 85.8% of all utility expenses (Table A6.1 of Annex 3). Communication expenses comprised 4.4% in the average monthly consumption expenditures of households.

Comparative analysis of the shares of spending on different services within the average monthly consumption expenditures of non-poor, poor, and extremely poor households is presented in Graph 10.1.

In 2018, expenditures of non-poor households on utility services (monthly average per capita) were 4.1 times higher, and those on natural gas were 5.4 times higher than the same of the extremely poor households. In the same period, expenditures of the non-poor households on communication services (monthly average per capita) were 3.9 times higher than those of the extremely poor households.

Average monthly per capita spending on natural gas only constituted AMD 3336 for non-poor households, AMD 1260 for poor households and AMD 615 for extremely poor households.

Graph 10.1 – Armenia: Household Spending on Different Services within Total Consumption Expenditures, by Poverty Status, 2018



Source: *ILCS 2018*

Note: Expenses on communication services include payments for telephone, telegraph, and Internet access

10.4. Availability of Durable Goods

Armenian households reported owning durable goods, most of which was acquired a long time ago. Nearly all households, regardless of the type of community, reported having a TV set, and a substantially large number of respondents had a refrigerator, mobile phone, gas stove and washing machine.

In 2018, the most frequently purchased durables were TV sets, mobile phones, refrigerators, washing machines, gas stoves, vacuum cleaners and computers.

Table 10.12 – Armenia: Availability of Durable Goods, 2008 and 2018

(Per 100 households, percent)

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
TV set	98	99	99	99	98	99
Refrigerator	91	97	94	98	85	96
Washing machine	79	95	82	95	73	94
Vacuum cleaner	46	76	52	82	33	63
Sewing machine	42	46	41	46	45	45
Gas stove	86	93	89	94	80	90
Satellite dish	7	24	6	18	9	34
Mobile phone	72	98	75	98	68	98
Video camera	3	9	3	12	1	5
Photo camera	22	26	21	28	23	23
Computer	10	62	14	64	2	57

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

In 2018, 98% of population had mobile phones and 41.1% of population had landline telephone.

Over the recent years, the number of households having mobile phones sharply increased, especially among rural residents, where the share of such households in 2018 reached 98% thus equaling with the respective indicator among urban residents.

According to the statistical reports of communication service providers, the number of active subscribers to mobile communication services was 3579.3 thousand in 2018, which was a 1.0% increase from the respective indicator of 2017 (3488.5 thousand). The number of subscribers with Internet access totaled 2894.0 thousand, of which 2455.1 or 84.8% had access through mobile connection. The number of subscribers with broadband Internet access totaled 2586.9 thousand in 2018, including the number of subscribers with mobile broadband Internet access totaled 2239.5 thousand, and fixed 347.4 thousand.

Table 10.13 – Armenia: Accessibility of Computer and Internet Connection for Any Household Member over Last 3 Months, 2008 and 2018

(percent)

	2018		
	Total	Urban	Rural
Total households; including	100	100	100
Computer accessibility for any household member at any place*	66.7	71.5	59.4
Including at home	65.2	69.9	57.6
Internet accessibility for any household member at any place	68.2	73.1	60.3
At home, permanently and non-permanently	60.4	64.4	53.9
Elsewhere*; including	32.1	37.8	22.7
At work	3.3	4.4	1.6
At an educational institution	1.5	1.3	1.7
At others' home	4.4	5.2	3.2
At a (free) Internet access point	0.2	0.4	0.0
At a (paid) Internet access point	0.2	0.2	0.2
Via mobile phone or elsewhere via mobile device	76.4	81.1	68.7

Source: *ILCS 2008 and 2018*

Note: * The sum total is greater than 100, since a household member might be using the computer both at home and elsewhere.

In 2018, availability of computers in households was 66.7%, including 71.5% in urban communities and 59.4% in rural communities. The share of households with a member having access to Internet connection was 68.2% (Table 10.13), including 73.1% of urban households and 60.3% of rural households. Internet was accessible both at home and elsewhere. Particularly, 60.4% of households had permanent or non-permanent Internet connection at home.

The key findings on accessibility of Internet connection for household members, by gender and age of household member, are presented in Table 10.14. In 2018, Internet was accessible for 68.2% of household members, including for 69.9% of males and 66.9% of females (Table 10.14). Persons within the age group of 15-24 years had better access to Internet connection (95.0%).

Table 10.14 – Armenia: Accessibility of Internet Connection over Last 12 Months, by Gender and Age of Household Member, 2018

(percent)

	Total population	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	<5	5-14	15-24	25+
Household members use the Internet	68.2	69.9	66.9	26.4	70.7	95.0	92.0
At home, permanently and non-permanently	60.4	62.4	58.8	25.1	62.4	74.6	61.0
Elsewhere; including	32.1	33.4	31.0	5.1	43.0	91.3	88.3
At work	3.3	3.5	3.2	-	-	2.8	4.3
At an educational institution	1.5	1.5	1.4	-	4.6	7.2	0.1
At others' home	4.4	4.1	4.7	3.1	5.7	6.7	3.9
At a (free) Internet access point	0.2	0.3	0.2	-	-	0.5	0.3
At a (paid) Internet access point	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	0.1	0.5	0.2
Everywhere, via mobile phone	28.3	29.9	27.1	1.2	17.2	56.3	28.6
Elsewhere, via mobile device	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.1	0.6	2.0	0.8

Source: *ILCS 2018*