



2020-2025 Country Development Cooperation Strategy

Overview

USAID's [Country Development Cooperation Strategy](#) (CDCS) for 2020-2025 serves as the strategic roadmap for how USAID will design and implement its projects and activities in Armenia for the next five years. To develop the CDCS, USAID conducted a rigorous process to examine past programming and assess impact to date. The Mission also consulted with key stakeholders, including Government of Armenia counterparts, the donor community, Implementing Partners, and regional beneficiaries. This CDCS is designed to support Armenia on its journey to self-reliance.

What's changing & why?

USAID will continue to support Democracy & Governance and Economic Growth initiatives, which were hallmarks of its previous CDCS. But going forward, USAID will engage differently, leveraging the opportunities made possible by the Government's commitment to reform. The new CDCS will utilize a comprehensive approach to address systemic issues challenging the country and is closely aligned with the development priorities outlined by the Government of Armenia, including a focus on **anti-corruption, judicial reform, electoral and political reform, an improved business enabling environment and economic growth.**



USAID will also integrate inclusive development across its portfolio, recognizing the power of citizens in moving their country forward. Additionally, the new CDCS incorporates analysis of Armenia's Capacity and Commitment as outlined in the [Journey to Self-Reliance Roadmap](#). It also builds on a renewed partnership with the Government, through key bilateral funding activities, that will reinforce the nation's strengths and focus on areas to improve the government's capacity in implementing their planned reforms.

CDCS Relevance in a time of Crisis

The national priorities around which the CDCS was developed will continue to be critical for Armenia's stability, sovereignty and development as the country emerges from a challenging year of crises, particularly the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. USAID remains **committed** to supporting Armenia and is confident that the CDCS is **flexible** and **dynamic** and can **adapt** to new development priorities should they arise in the coming months and years.

Strategy Goal and Objectives

USAID's goal for the 2020-2025 CDCS is to build Armenia's capacity and further its commitment to self-reliance so that it seizes the opportunity to strategically transition to a more inclusive, democratic, and economically resilient partner.

The new strategy will work in two main directions: **advancement of democratic transition** and **enhancement of economic security.**

Advancing Democratic Transition

What: To support Armenia's path to democratic reform, USAID will build the capacity of government, civil society and citizens to strengthen rule of law, political representation and competition, implement democratic reforms, as well as strengthen independent media to engage and inform citizens. These efforts will help to institutionalize effective and accountable governance and will promote enhanced citizen engagement and participation. USAID will advance inclusive development and empower citizens, particularly women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized populations, to effectively engage and participate in the governance of their country.

How: USAID will partner with the executive, legislative, and judicial bodies of the Government of Armenia; political institutions; civil society; media; and the private sector to ensure that political will and citizens' optimism translate into meaningful, institutional reforms that promote effective, accountable, and inclusive governance.

Enhancing Economic Security

What: To support Armenia's economic growth and security and ensure more Armenians are able to participate in and benefit from the economy, USAID will strengthen economic governance, empower competitive sectors and support improved natural resource management. USAID will ensure Armenia is resilient to external malign influences, expand capacity-building efforts in sectors with high growth potential, and support the development of a competitive labor market. USAID will also continue to support energy market liberalization and competitiveness.

How: USAID will partner with key government institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholders to build on the political will for reform and capitalize on investment opportunities in Armenia. The CDCS will reinforce the government's priorities by strengthening institutions, policies, and systems; promoting greater energy independence; bolstering export sophistication; and cultivating a qualified workforce to fuel Armenia's key sectors.

Cross-Cutting Themes

What: USAID will integrate several cross-cutting themes that support peacebuilding and disaster prevention, preparedness and response. The CDCS will also strengthen Armenia's democratic, social, and economic resilience to foreign or domestic influence that might impede reforms or development.

How: USAID will integrate these cross-cutting themes into its programming and will focus on strengthening the resilience of the Armenian people, particularly young and emerging leaders, the government, and the private sector so they can better adapt to the changing domestic and international context. Programs and activities will also support Armenia's post-2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict landscape, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

DO 1: Democratic transition advanced

IR 1.1: Effective and accountable governance institutionalized

- 1.1.1: Rule of law strengthened
- 1.1.2: Political representation and competition strengthened
- 1.1.3: Capacity and commitment for targeted transformational reforms strengthened

IR 1.2: Citizen engagement for democratic consolidation increased

- 1.2.1: Civic and political participation increased
- 1.2.2: Civil society sustainability improved
- 1.2.3: Media integrity increased
- 1.2.4: Voice and agency of women, youth, and vulnerable groups amplified

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES: Increasing resilience through peacebuilding, strengthening resistance to malign influence, and improving disaster response

DO 2: Economic security enhanced

IR 2.1: Economic governance strengthened

- 2.1.1: Public sector economic stewardship formalized
- 2.1.2: Enabling environment for private sector growth improved
- 2.1.3: Capital for productive investment unlocked

IR 2.2: Competitiveness of targeted sectors increased

- 2.2.1: Access to diverse markets improved
- 2.2.2: Export sophistication increased
- 2.2.3: Capacity of human capital improved to meet market demand

IR 2.3: Sustainable management of natural resources improved

- 2.3.1: Energy security increased
- 2.3.2: Access to and management of water resources improved

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES: Increasing resilience through peacebuilding, strengthening resistance to malign influence, and improving disaster response

