

Sustainable Development Goals & Water
Preparedness Facility (SDG Water-PF

ARMENIA

Sustainable Development Goals & Water Preparedness Facility (SDG Water-PF) Armenia

Summarizing the commitment towards Millennium Development Goals 8, UN – member countries, including Armenia, have launched the implementation of more ambitious and comprehensive **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) program** in January, 2016. **SDG** implementation is another chance for addressing the existing challenges and poverty reduction.

If compared to MDG, having 8 Goals and 21 targets, addressed to poor countries and leading to development, SDG has 17 Goals and 169 targets and refers to all countries and has more universal approaches and principles.

SDG new targets are a part of the ambitious sustainable development agenda, which is going to be based on 3 interconnected components of sustainable development: economic growth, social integration and environment protection.

The Sustainable Development Goal № 6 is on the availability of Water, longing

“to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

The goal has 8 targets, 6 of which refer to water and sanitation availability, and 2 others are on the capacities for achieving the targets.

The 2030 Agenda for SDG №6 can be seen below:

- Target 6.1** - achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- Target 6.2** - achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
- Target 6.3** - improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- Target 6.4**- substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
- Target 6.5** - implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
- Target 6.6**- protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- Target 6.a**- expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
- Target 6.b** -support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

In the framework of Sustainable Development Goals & Water Preparedness Facility (SDG Water-PF) Armenia, National experts' group has conducted a research in several disciplines:

- ✓ Study on the activities implemented by the International Financial Institutions (IFI) and programs, which can foster the implementation of SDG N°6,
- ✓ Study on National Development Projects, also Ministries' short-term, mid-term and long-term projects was conducted and activities were defined, which can foster the implementation of SDGN°6,
- ✓ For each ministry, depending on its policy towards SDGN°6, a questionnaire was developed and surveys were conducted with employees of the relevant agencies, departments and divisions of ministries (9 Ministries in total) to identify their role in the implementation of SDGN°6.
- ✓ Study was conducted on the legal aspects fostering/hampering (National Codes, Laws, Bylaws) SDGN°6 implementation,
- ✓ Raise the awareness of all beneficiaries and distribute information on SDGN°6.

The results of all the conducted studies were analyzed and reports were developed.

The results of the studies were introduced to the beneficiaries at the round - table discussion held on the 28th of April, 2016.

The reports were updated considering the remarks and additions made by the beneficiaries.

The National Experts' group had meetings to the expert of corresponding UN agency, dealing with SDG localization issues. It was found out, that RA Prime Minister's Office is the local SDGN°6 focal point. The employees of UN, RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and RA Prime Minister's Office should define the National Priorities by Goals and Targets, also localize the indicators, during the next 1-2 months.

At this stage, the progress made towards the MDGs at country level was summarized.

MDG N° 7, includes:

- ✓ Target 9 – Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources, the national indicators are the number of the cities served by the waste water treatment plants.
- ✓ Target 10 – Ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water – the National indicators are the daily average centralized water supply duration in urban (out of Yerevan) households, the proportion of the inhabitants in rural communities not having access to safe drinking water, if compared to those living in urban communities, and the proportion of rural community population using transmitted water towards the total number of water users in rural communities.

If compared to the indicators highlighted in the MDG National Progress Report, Armenia has not only achieved the MDG targets, but exceeded the planned figures in some areas.

Target 9 – waste water treatment: At present, there are 6 wastewater treatment plants in Armenia. Only mechanical treatment is being implemented in 5 of the newly constructed wastewater treatment plants in t. Vardenis, t. Martuni and t. Gavar (constructed in the framework of Lake Sevan Basin Environmental Project) and in t. Dilijan and t. Jermuk. Besides, a wastewater

biological treatment plant was constructed in RA Armavir marz Paraqar community, which combines natural and traditional ways of wastewater treatment (the plant construction had two phases and was implemented in the framework of UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and Global Water Partnership WACDEP Programme).

In accordance to MDG indicators set for 2015, the country should have five wastewater treatment plants. Armenia has exceeded the goal, already having 6 treatment plants. Country Water Partnership, as well as Global Water Partnership also contributed in achievement of the goal.

Target 10 – Ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water – This target is measured with 3 indicators in Armenia,

- ✓ Daily water supply duration in households,
- ✓ Centralized water supply in rural communities,
- ✓ Proportion of population, using transmitted water.

Armenia achieved progress for all the indicators.

The water supply companies' reports show, that the daily water supply in households, located in communities out of Yerevan, has sustainably grown, reaching to 17 hours daily (the target for 2015, was 16 hours).

The proportion of the population (in rural communities) not having centralized water supply is 36%, which has already reached to 4% in 2013. If considered, that no progress was made for this indicator until 2015, it should be noted as a progress, because the planned target for 2015, was less than 5%. In 1999, only 18% of the population in rural communities used transmitted water. If considered the data in 2013, there is no community using this source for water (the target for 2015 is less than 1%).

Although, the MDG targets for water supply and sanitation were met, the water sector of the country is still challenging and the existing issues are included in the RA Prospective Development Strategic Plan (PDSP) for 2014-2025. It contains warnings on environmental risks (in 4 sectors), including over-exploitation of water resources, as a result of the rapid development of subfields using underground water resources and Climate Change. The issue on Lake Sevan management is also highlighted among others.

Although the PDSP does not refer the sustainable environment protection as a national priority, however the issue deals with all the sectors and can become an inseparable part of it. The PDSP contains 15 key priorities, including improvement of water basin management capacities and continuation of Lake Sevan basin environmental projects implementation.

Armenia has not set indicators for addressing SDG, yet. However, priorities were set and based on current situation in Armenia, later complied with 17 SDG.

Water was not set as a separate goal among these priorities. Aiming to better address the environment protection issue, “Sustainable development” was taken as a separate goal, and several directions and approaches were initiated for 17 SDG localization, including:

- ✓ Improvement of legislation and technical norms, reinforcement of management system and institutional capacities,
- ✓ Monitoring of mining, fisheries and forestry, management of their exploitation and influence on natural resources,
- ✓ Reduction of energy, water and land use as per GDP unit.
- ✓ Development of appropriate payment and financial mechanisms for ecosystems assessment and evaluation,
- ✓ Prevention of deforestation, desertification and water resources overexploitation trends and recovery,
- ✓ Preservation of Lake Sevan and underground water resources.
- ✓ Education and sharing knowledge on environment protection and human influence on environment.

Association “For Sustainable Human Development” NGO developed a strategy under “The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* “Program, which was approved and adopted during the regular session of the National Council for Sustainable Development chaired by the Prime Minister held on May 6, 2016.

Country Water Partnership NGO contributed into the development of the strategy, by developing “Water Resources Protection” Section. Exploring the challenges in water sector, we proposed the following solutions, the implementation of which will contribute to the achievement of SDG №6. The proposed solutions are as follows:

- ✓ Preservation of water resources of Armenia,
- ✓ Application of the principles of integrated water resources management,
- ✓ Sustainable management of national water resources,
- ✓ Management of floods and draughts, remove the consequences,
- ✓ Establishment of household and industrial wastewater removal and treatment system, construction of new treatment plants,
- ✓ Development of appropriate infrastructures and management system round o’clock and quality water supply,
- ✓ Preserve water,
- ✓ Sustainable management of water ecosystems,
- ✓ Application of basin management plans etc.

RA Minister of Foreign Affairs introduced “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” Programme at Government meeting, which will replace the “Millennium development” Programme.

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the new agenda for development and noted, “we should begin and complete the localization process of sustainable development goals, as soon as possible, by developing appropriate standards”. He also instructed all government departments to take the issue as a priority and support the activities of the working group.

UN plans to present the MDG National Progress Report for specialized discussions and to introduce the objectives for SDG localization at the end of May.

CWP Armenia is included in UN “Environment” Program and in RA MNP EPIU SI “Assessment of Needs of Technologies” program, where the assessment of needs of technologies in water sector intended for adaptation of negative effects of global climate changes were discussed with stakeholders.

Issues on waste water treatment, improvement of water use efficiency, improvement of water resources management were included in the assessment process as a priority. By meeting these technological needs, we will contribute to SDG №6 implementation.

Country Water Partnership works with corresponding institutions and specialists to ensure the water sector was involved in SD National Goals and targets.

Please find attached the reports developed on the bases of the results of studies conducted under the program, as well as information materials on SDG.

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**Donor Organizations' Activities towards Sustainable
Development Goal № 6: Armenia
Overview**

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Introduction

The goal of the report is the analysis of the international donor organizations' activities towards Sustainable Development Goal №6 (SDG №6) “to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.

The document involves the current and implemented programs towards SDG №6 by the key donor organizations in Armenia.

The International donor organizations (in Armenia), that currently operate towards SDGN№6, are as follows:

1. Asian Development Bank,
2. World Bank,
3. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,
4. The Global Environment Facility,
5. European Union/ European Commission,
6. U.S Agency for International Development,
7. KfW Entwicklungsbank:

1. Sustainably Development Goal №6

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals placed at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially entered into force on the 1st of January 2016.

The Sustainable Development Goals are building on the Millennium Development Goals focusing on poverty reduction ensuring that no one is left behind.

At the core of the 2030 Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. The Sustainable Development Goal № 6 is on the availability of Water and Sanitation, longing

“to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

The SDG №6 consists of a few sub- targets, which can be seen below:

Target 6.1 - “By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”,

Target 6.2 - “By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”

Target 6.3 - “By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”.

Target 6.4 - “By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity”.

Target 6.5 - “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”,

Target 6.6 - “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”,

Target 6.a - “By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water-and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies”,

Target 6.b - “Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management”.

It is supposed, that the Goals can be reached by ensuring the following principles:

- 1) drinking water sources protection from pollution by sewage,
- 2) drinking water availability and treatment, which is necessary for removal of chemical and biological contaminants from water,
- 3) Restoration and protection of Ecosystems having freshwater resources,
- 4) guarantee the water accessibility and right to water use. ¹

¹ http://www.un.am/up/file/Goal%206%20-%20Justin%20Brookes%20Word%20FINAL_RUS.pdf

2. Donor organizations' activities towards SDG №6

2.1. Asian Development Bank

ADB supports Armenia in its economic regional integration and in re-balancing to more flexible, inclusive and environmental sustainable growth.

ADB -Armenia: Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2014-2018 ² document was developed and now is in the force.

CPS aims to support Armenia in its economic regional integration and in re-balancing to more flexible, inclusive and environmental sustainable growth. Several documents on separate sectors of partnership have been developed in addition to CPS, specifically, assessment of **Water Supply and other Municipal Infrastructure Services** and **Ecological Assessment**, which involve the brief analysis of the current situation and planned activities towards *SDG № 6.3-“to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally” and SDG №6.1 and № 6.2 – to improve the quality of water supply and sanitation services.*

Below, Table 1 presents ADB programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6.

Table 1: ADB programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG № 6</i>	<i>Source</i>
1. Armenia: Infrastructure Sustainability Support Program	Water and other urban infrastructures and services – development of urban strategy and institutional capacities	SDGNº 6.6a SDGNº 6.6b	http://www.adb.org/projects/46220-005/main#project-overview http://www.adb.org/projects/46220-001/main http://www.adb.org/projects/46220-003/main
2. Armenia: Urban Development in Secondary Cities	Water and other urban infrastructures and services – other urban services- development of urban strategy and institutional capacities – Solid waste management	SDGNº 6.6a SDGNº 6.6b	http://www.adb.org/projects/45415-001/main#project-overview

² Source: <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/158364/cps-arm-2014-2018-hy.pdf>

3. Armenia: Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project - Additional Financing	Urban water supply	SDGN ^o 6.1 SDGN ^o 6.4	http://www.adb.org/projects/45299-001/main#project-overview
4. Armenia: Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project	Urban water supply and sanitation	SDGN ^o 6.1 SDGN ^o 6.2 SDGN ^o 6.6	http://www.adb.org/projects/40296-013/main
5. Armenia: Municipal Services & Infrastructure Development Sector	Water and other urban infrastructures and services – development of urban strategy and institutional capacities	SDGN ^o 6.6a SDGN ^o 6.6b	http://www.adb.org/projects/40296-022/main#project-pds

ADB also conducts field research, provides technical assistance to the correspondent governmental institutions, and publishes guidelines and analytical reports. Specifically, *“Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Armenia. Challenges, Achievements and Further Directions”*³ report, which introduces the ADB involvement in Armenia and in implemented programs on water supply and sanitation.

2.2. World Bank

The World Bank Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Armenia was developed considering the global economic crisis and its influence on Armenia. It focuses on reduction of social vulnerability and negative impacts of crisis in a short time period⁴.

Now a new CPS 2014-2017 has been developed for the World Bank.

The World Bank Armenian active portfolio contains 14 operations, including 5 loan programs in infrastructures (transport, energy, water and irrigation), 4 in social sectors (health, education, social protection and social investments fund), 3 in public sectors (judicial reforms, public sector modernization and tax administration) and 2 in economic growth sources (IT and agriculture)⁵.

The World Bank strategy sectors correspond to SDG N^o 6 and are included in CPR developed for Armenia, are as follows:

³ Source: <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/29892/armenia-water-supply-sanitation.pdf>

⁴ Source: USAID Clean energy and water project: Water and energy related donor projects in Armenia.

⁵Source: COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FY2014 - FY2017

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/10/17/000456286_20131017113417/Rendered/PDF/816470CASOAMOC00Box379845B00PUBLIC0.pdf

Water: The bank cooperating to the public- private sectors has actively been involved in water supply sector, which corresponds to SDG №6.1 and SDG № 6.6b. The additional financing of sector, designed in the CPS framework, tends to support the development and implementation of further quality criteria.

Irrigation and Drainage (as an IWRM component, SDG №6.5). The improvement of irrigation and drainage system continues to stay as the one of the key challenges in development for the Armenian Government. Despite the results achieved so far, the investments for improvement of irrigation system continue to be high. The further projects will continue with already achieved changes, with focus on water resources management issues, including the modern irrigation technologies and more efficient use of water resources.

Below, Table 2 presents WB programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6.

Table 2. WB programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG № 6</i>	<i>Source</i>
1. Armenia: Local Economy and Infrastructure Development Project	Water supply, sanitation, flood protection	SDGNº 6.1 SDGNº 6.2	http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/12/23/090224b083fe73d3/2_0/Rendered/PDF/Armenia000Loca00Development0Project.pdf
2. Additional Financing for the Municipal Water and Wastewater Project	Water supply, sanitation, flood protection	SDGNº - 6.1 SDGNº 6.2	http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P107614/additional-financing-municipal-water-wastewater-project?lang=en
3. Municipal Development Project: Clean, Constant Water in Yerevan	Water supply, sanitation, flood protection	SDGNº 6.1 SDGNº 6.3	http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P035805/municipal-development-project?lang=en
4. Yerevan Water & Wastewater Project	Water supply, sanitation, flood protection	SDGNº 6.1 SDGNº 6.3 SDGNº 6.6b	http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P087641/yerevan-water-wastewater-project?lang=en
5. Municipal Water and Wastewater Project	Water supply, sanitation, flood protection	SDGNº 6.1 SDGNº 6.6a	http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P063398/municipal-water-wastewater-project?lang=en&tab=overview

The WB also conducts field research, provides technical assistance to the correspondent governmental institutions, and publishes guidelines and analytical reports. Specifically,

“Integrated Water Resources Management in Armenia”⁶ report, which presents the current situation of the IWRM system in Armenia, the challenges and opportunities, also suggestions on reinforcement of integrated water resources efficient management system (corresponds to SDG № 6.5).

2.3. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development focuses on financial sector, improvement of transport infrastructure, improvement of business environment and strengthening the corporate management, also supports projects on sustainable development of energy infrastructure and environment and social protection projects with high mining standards.

In 2015 EBRD approved its **Country Strategy for Armenia**⁷, where the following challenges on water supply and sanitation are included:

- ✓ Strengthen the institutions leading to reforms,
- ✓ carry out tariff reforms in order to achieve cost recovery;
- ✓ improve the operational (focusing on the reduction of commercial and technical losses) and financial sustainability, and
- ✓ improve contractual relations.

Below, Table 3 presents EBRD programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6.

Table 3: WB programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG №6

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG № 6</i>	<i>Source</i>
1. Yerevan Water Supply Improvement Project	Municipal and Environment infrastructures	SDG№ 6.1	http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/yerevan-water-supply-improvement-project.html
2. Armenian Small Municipalities Water Project	Municipal and Environment infrastructures	SDG№ 6.1 SDG№ 6.2	http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/armenian-small-municipalities-water-project.html
3. Armenia Lake Sevan Basin Environmental Project	Municipal and Environment infrastructures	SDG№ 6.2 SDG№ 6.6	http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/armenia-lake-sevan-basin-environmental-project.html

⁶ Source: http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDS/IB/2015/07/07/090224b082df91ef/1_0/Rend ered/PDF/Toward0integro0anagement0in0Armenia.pdf

⁷ Source: [file:///C:/Users/Comp/Downloads/Armenia+Country+Strategy+\(Armenian\).x.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Comp/Downloads/Armenia+Country+Strategy+(Armenian).x.pdf)

2.4. UNDP/ Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme

Officially GEF SGP has started to operate in Armenia since November, 2008 appointed by the Country Coordination Authorities. In May, 2009 the Country Program Strategy and operation frameworks have been approved. The current operation phase (2011-2014) the Country Program the core sectors of GEF are as follows:

- ✓ Protection of biodiversity and sustainable use,
- ✓ Fight against land degradation,
- ✓ Mitigation of Climate Change,
- ✓ Protection of International water resources,
- ✓ Elimination of persistent organic pollutants and other harmful chemicals.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Armenia tends to strengthen the local capacity by community-based approaches and actions towards global environment issues by:

- ✓ Helping to improve the sustainability of **the existing and newly developed protected areas** by community- based approaches,
- ✓ Supports the rural communities in **biodiversity protection and sustainable use of industrial landscapes and sectors,**
- ✓ Strengthens the capacities of the local communities on **low carbon technologies,**
- ✓ Invests in **conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks** in forest and non- forest areas,
- ✓ Introduces the existing experience on **Integrated natural resources management and sustainable land use** to mitigate the land degradation,
- ✓ Strengthens the capacity of the local communities for **transboundary water resources preservation,**
- ✓ Contribute to the improvement of **local capacities for persistent organic pollutants and other harmful chemicals safe management,** and
- ✓ Strengthens the capacity of community and civil society to **implement the Global Environment convention guidelines.**

The SGP longs to implement the “Enhancing the Environment Management by developing the means of civil society” initiative, financed by the EU. It aims to foster the sustainable development and to improve the environment management by more efficient civil participation.

The goals of GEF SGP operations correspond to the both National priorities of Armenia and sustainable development goals. Specifically, SGP OP 5th phase Goal № 8 – Support transboundary water management by community initiative, corresponds to SDG № 6.

GEF fifth Operation phase country project planned to achieve to the following result in Armenia, in accordance to the SDGN^o 6.5 - **To strengthen the local communities capacities for transboundary waters provision.**

With OP – 5 SGP Armenian program supported the community activities and civil initiatives addressed to the issues on mitigation of transboundary rivers/waters nutrient flows and surface pollution. Meanwhile, the Country Program supported the activities on knowledge management in dealing with the issues on transboundary water resources / water basins sustainable management and development of the stakeholders’ capacities. The implemented activities correspond to SDG N^o 6.5, 6.6 and 6.6b.

This SGP achievement was supposed to be beneficiary for the international water resources, including the sustainable management of water resources, mitigation of transboundary water resources nutrient flows and surface pollution, protection of critical habitats and species for economic benefits ecosystems functioning.

Now the SGP 6th Operation Phase 2015-2018 - Country Program Strategy is being developed.

In its 6th Operational Phase (OP6) which will be under implementation during 2015 to 2018, SGP has the following objective: *“to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action”*.

Below, Table 4 presents GEF SGP programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG N^o6.

Table 4. GEF SGP programs implemented in Armenia and the programs towards SDG N^o6

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG N^o 6</i>	<i>Source</i>
Rehabilitation of agricultural lands through application of biological ponds for domestic wastewater treatment in Parakar community of Armavir region	International waters, sanitation services, community water resources management	SDGN ^o 6.2 SDGN ^o 6.5 SDGN ^o 6.6b	http://www.sgp.am/am/Projects?id=16
Restoration of the wetland ecosystem in the old riverbed of the Akhuryan river upper stream	Eco system approach, restoration of water ecosystem, protection of biodiversity	SDGN ^o 6.6	http://www.sgp.am/am/Projects?id=30
Preventing pollution of Voghji river with heavy metals through restoration of riparian ecosystem in Kapan	Restoration of water ecosystem, chemical pollution of water resources	SDGN ^o 6.3 SDGN ^o 6.6	http://www.sgp.am/am/Projects?id=39

Introduction of integrated land and water management practices to sustain livelihoods in Basen community	Integrated water resources management	SDGN ^o 6.5	http://www.sgp.am/am/Projects?id=65
Reusing discharge waters from fish-farms for irrigation and reclamation of saline soils in Ararat valley	Integrated water resources management, reuse of water resources	SDGN ^o 6.3 SDGN ^o 6.5	http://www.sgp.am/am/Projects?id=68

2.5. European Union/ European Commission

The EU is seeking an increasingly close relationship with Armenia by collaboration, gradual economic integration and political cooperation.

Armenia is a priority partner country within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The European Commission puts forward certain ideas on eastern neighbors, including the enhancement of its relations with Armenia. The Eastern Partnership plans new association agreements.

The partnership will also promote the democracy and good governance, strengthen energy security, reforms in the sector and environment protection, encourage human contact, support the economic and social development, also will offer additional funding to projects aimed at increasing stability and reducing socio-economic inequalities.

The EU projects towards SDG N^o 6 implemented in Armenia mainly correspond to SDGN^o 6.5 – Integrated water resources management, including fostering the transboundary cooperation. Specifically:

1. Transboundary River Management for the Kura River- Phase II – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia (2008–2011)⁸

The Project reinforces regional cooperation in monitoring and managing water resources in the Kura river basin, through training, capacity strengthening, streamlining data collection, information and know-how exchanges.

2. Transboundary River Management for the Kura River- Phase III (2012–2013)⁹

The EU financed project aimed to foster the trans-boundary cooperation in Kura River basin water quality monitoring and assessment through cooperative field research, trainings and capacity development. The Phase III Project is built on the results and experiences of the successful EU Kura Phase II project completed in December 2011 to the

⁸ Source: http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=200&id_type=10

⁹ Source: http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=438&id_type=10

satisfaction of the European Commission and the beneficiary countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.

3. Environment Protection of International River Basins (2012 – 2016)¹⁰

The project aims to reinforce current actions on environmental protection and water resources management, supported by previous EU funded trans-boundary projects in the region in terms of cooperation as well as convergence towards the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), by joint development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in selected pilot river basins of the wider Black Sea region. The project beneficiary countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

2.6. U.S Agency for International Development

Since 1995, USAID collaborating with Armenian Government and other local and international partners has shift its focus from direct humanitarian assistance provision to more direct engagement, contributing to the creation of macroeconomic bases, legislation development and institutions establishment necessary for the effective functioning of a democratic society, the legislative framework the development and establishment of institutions. USAID's ongoing and new projects focus on the implementation of existing legislation, strengthening organizational capacities of partner institutions, the creation of a favorable business and investment climate and improved service delivery.¹¹

USAID helps Armenia to achieve measurable progress in the energy and water sectors. Physical infrastructure upgrades were accompanied by processes of institutional and regulatory reforms, especially in the energy sector, which brought to transparency, accountability and self-growth. Today the USAID programs are aimed at:

- ✓ completion of the next phase of reform,
- ✓ institutional development of Government and Regulatory Bodies, and
- ✓ safe, reliable, affordable and accessible services provision.

USAID activities in the water sector contributed to the development of water resources effective and sustainable management systems, as well as the restoration of the water supply systems through infrastructure renovation small pilot projects in target rural areas. USAID's ongoing and new projects implemented that correspond to SDG №6 are as follows:

¹⁰ Source: http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=546&id_type=10

¹¹ USAID Clean energy and water program. WATER AND ENERGY RELATED DONOR PROJECTS IN ARMENIA.

1. Revive the River (2009-2013)¹²

As a part of the Global Development Alliance, USAID, together with Dilijan Municipality, Coca-Cola Corporation and RA Government, installed a wastewater treatment plant on Aghstev River. Additionally, the project resulted in renovation or reconstruction of the existing sewerage network and the collectors. The project also cooperated to the community aiming at environmental protection and cultural heritage provision along the river.

The project corresponds to SDG № 6.2 and 6.6b.

2. Collection and Reuse of Plastic Refuse (2011-2013)¹³

The goal of this public-private partnership is to improve the drinking water sources quality in Armenia by collecting and mechanical recycling of the plastic waste, specifically, the PET (polyethylene terephthalate), which significantly pollute the water sources of Armenia.

The project corresponds to SDG № 6.3 and 6.6b.

3. Clean Energy and Water Program (2011 - 2015)¹⁴

The goal of the program is to support energy and water sectors of Armenia to foster the country's energy and water security.

The main objectives of the project are:

- 1) promote capacity building for integrated energy and water resources management,
- 2) improve clean energy, water, sanitation and hygiene situation, as well as water resources management procedures at the local level,
- 3) improve hydropower and water sector legislation,
- 4) coordinate donor activities and provide public awareness and participation in the water sector.

Below can be seen projects implemented in USAID Clean Energy and Water Program framework, that correspond to SDG № 6.1 - “to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”¹⁵:

- 1) *Water supply improvement project in Artsvaberd village,*
- 2) *Water supply improvement project in Berqaber village,*
- 3) *Water supply improvement project in Lukashin village,*
- 4) *Water supply improvement project in Arazap village,*
- 5) *Water supply system improvement project in Hartavan village,*

¹² <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/TUR/Final%20Review%20Reports.pdf>

¹³ http://www.am.undp.org/content/armenia/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/_collection-and-reuse-of-plastic-refusewaste-management-and-publ.html

¹⁴ <http://cew.am/>

¹⁵ <http://cew.am/am/projects/water-efficiency-projects>

The project implements activities under river basin planning component in correspondence to SDGN^{6.5} – “to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”. Specifically, *the South water basin management plan* was developed on the bases of the study conducted on Vorotan, Voghji and Meghri river basins.

“Clean Energy and Water” program experts developed an *Improved methodology for assessing the ecological flow of rivers in Armenia* in the framework of assistance to the RA Government, which corresponds to SDG N^o 6.6a - effective management of water and energy resources.

2.7. KfW Entwicklungsbank

Financial cooperation between Germany and Armenia was initiated in 1995 and is carried out by KfW Entwicklungs Bank representing the Federal Ministry of Economic Partnership and Development. KfW Bank finances the complimentary consultation services and investments in financial sector and economic infrastructures¹⁶.

Beginning from 2001, the bilateral partnership with Armenia was supplemented by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Regional Caucasus Initiative.

The bank’s activities include the following four priority sectors:

1. Development of Financial Sector;
2. Investments in Energy Sector ;
3. Urban development and
4. Environment protection ¹⁷.

The activities in the urban development sector are implemented with a focus on water supply and sanitation sector development, which corresponds to the SDG N^o6.

Water the both clean and accessible for all. Being leaded by the goal KfW Bank supports the Armenian Government in the National Water Supply Project implementation, which corresponds to SDGN^o6.

With German financial cooperation, KfW Bank invested about 72mln Euro in improvement of water supply network of Armavir, Metsamor, Gyumri and Vanadzor towns, nearby villages and communities. As a result, about 333.000 citizens of Armenia were the beneficiaries of the implemented projects.

The German financial partnership also focuses on strengthening the privet sector and service provision in economics, in order to cover the water supply and sanitation institutions exploitation costs, which corresponds SDG N^o 6.6a and SDG N^o 6.6b.

¹⁶ USAID Clean energy and water program. WATER AND ENERGY RELATED DONOR PROJECTS IN ARMENIA.

¹⁷ <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/Local-presence/Europe/Armenia/>

During the last few years KfW Bank has significantly improved the water supply quality in project implementation areas. Specifically, it provided with guaranteed 24-hour continuous water supply to the residents of Metsamor and Armavir towns and nearby communities, also in certain zones of town Vanadzor, thus achieving the provision of the fundamental right of people to have access to clean drinking water (SDGN°6.1).

**The Republic of Armenia Politics and Institutions' Activities towards
Sustainable Development Goal № 6
Overview**

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Introduction

The goal of the report is the analysis of the Republic of Armenia (RA) Government and Ministries' activities towards Sustainable Development Goal №6 (SDG №6) “to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.

The document involves the Republic of Armenia (RA) Government and ministries' activities, implemented and the current projects towards SDG №6.

The ministries that currently operate towards SDG№6 are as follows:

8. RA Ministry of Nature Protection,
9. RA Ministry of Agriculture,
10. RA Ministry of Health,
11. RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources,
12. RA Ministry of Economy,
13. RA Ministry of Urban Development,
14. RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development
15. RA Ministry of Finance,
16. RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Aiming to implement an analysis of the Institutions' activities, CWP NGO representatives conducted surveys with the representatives of the institutions; also reports on the implemented activities were analyzed.

1. Sustainable Development Goal № 6

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals placed at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially entered into force on the 1st of January 2016.

The Sustainable Development Goals are building on the Millennium Development Goals focusing on poverty reduction ensuring that no one is left behind.

At the core of the 2030 Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. The Sustainable Development Goal № 6 is on the availability of Water and Sanitation, longing

“to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

It is supposed, that the Goals can be reached by ensuring the following principles:

2. drinking water sources protection from pollution by sewage,
3. drinking water availability and treatment, which is necessary for removal of chemical and biological contaminants from water,
4. Restoration and protection of Ecosystems having freshwater resources,
5. guarantee the water accessibility and right to water use.¹⁸

2. RA Prospective Development Strategic Plan for 2014-2025 and SDG №6

Considering the world financial – economic crisis current developments and new situation, RA Government reviewed the “Sustainable Development Program” (SDP) and developed the RA Prospective Development Strategic Plan for 2014-2025, in correspondence to Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda 17 Sustainable Development Goals¹⁹.

The revised project aims to ensure a coordinated post –crisis strategic framework for Government Policies. The project will enable the government to unite the national capacities to form a long-term vision for the country development, considering the existing experience, current conditions and global development challenges.

Below are presented the fields and the activities designed to be implemented in strategic development framework towards SDGN^o 6 implementation.

2.1. Infrastructures: Fresh water

2.1.1. Current situation

With SDP, the further improvements of water supply and sanitation systems aimed to foster the reliability and efficiency of the systems’ exploitation, minimize water leakages and improve the quality of water supply and sanitation services²⁰.

¹⁸ http://www.un.am/up/file/Goal%206%20-%20Justin%20Brookes%20Word%20FINAL_RUS.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.gov.am/files/docs/1322.pdf>

²⁰ http://www.edrc.am/images/National_Strategies/Comprehensive/sdp_arm.pdf

The centralized water supply availability water improved during the SDP implementation (2008-2012), specifically, in the rural residential areas. So, the Table 1 shows that if compared to 2008, the centralized water supply availability was improved by 1.3% reaching to 93.7% in 2011.

The problem of households, using portable water, was solved in 2011. So, if in 2008 1.1%of households used portable water, in 2011 the share of such households has reached 0.

Table 1. Fresh water availability 2008-2011, %²¹

<i>The main source of water</i>	<i>Total (Armenia)</i>				<i>Urban residential areas</i>				<i>Rural residential areas</i>			
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Centralized water supply	97.0	97.5	97.5	97.5	99.4	99.6	99.5	99.5	92.4	93.6	93.5	93.7
less than 1 hour	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.9	1.0	0.9	0.1
1-5h	31.3	30.0	26.6	18.6	31.2	26.8	23.7	16.4	31.4	36.5	32.4	23.3
6-12h	28.7	17.5	20.1	22.6	32.5	19.3	22.5	24.0	20.5	13.8	15.2	19.6
13-23h	5.7	3.8	4.3	5.5	5.9	4.9	3.9	5.3	5.3	1.4	5.2	5.8
24h	33.6	48.3	48.5	53.2	30.2	48.8	49.6	54.2	40.9	47.3	46.3	51.2
Well, spring	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.2	4.3	3.6	3.6
Private Water Supply System	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	1.2	1.3	2.5	2.6
Portable water	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.6	0.4	0.0
Other sources	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	0.2	-	0.1

According to the research results, if compared to 2008, in 2011 the water supply average duration was improved with around 3.6 hours, forming 16 hours, reaching the SDP goal set for 2012.

Meanwhile, water supply duration is now can be characterized with areal inequalities. So, in 2012 the daily water supply average duration was 12 hours in 9 out of 36 towns served by Armwatersewerage CJSC.

Daily water supply average duration in rural residential areas can also be characterized with evident inequalities. So, in 2012 daily water supply average duration was 14.6h, meanwhile, the as it can be seen in upper mentioned Table 1, daily water supply average duration for ¼ of population living in rural residential areas was less than 5 hours.

2.1.2. The main directions of the planned actions

RA prospective strategic projects plans to continue with the improvements of water supply systems, aiming to raise the reliability and efficiency and to improve the quality of water supply and sanitation service, in accordance to SDGN⁶6.1-6.2, focusing on mitigation of the areal inequalities.

²¹ Source: Integrated research on Households (IRH) 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Investment policy: Fresh water system will remain a priority for state investments. The level of annual investments in the system for the entire project period will be 0.4% of GDP.

The investment policy will target the duration and the quality of provided services, including mitigation of the existing areal inequalities. The investment policy will also target the improvement of fresh water systems, with specific focus on minimizing of water leakages. Sanitation sector involves also the reconstruction of towns' and big communities' sewerage systems and construction of waste water treatment plants.

The investment policy will have a separate approach to around 560 rural communities, where water supply is not provided by the specialized water services provision agencies.

Tariff Policy: The tariff policy will focus on gradual increase of the level of cost recovery during the project implementation period, considering its affordability for lowest income households. Tariff threshold²² will be set for water supply and sanitation services, above which the service provision to low income families will be subsidized by the state.

Management Reforms: The management reforms in fresh water sector will continue fostering the private sector participation. The government will encourage the area extension of specialized water supply and sanitation services provision authorized organizations, also the development of new specialized water supply and sanitation organizations in rural communities beyond the service areas. For the reason a total evaluation of water supply system, including the non-served rural areas, will be conducted.

2.2. Environment Protection

The cornerstone of environmental sustainable development component is the balanced environment protection through resource efficient economy. This also refers to the water ecosystems and corresponds to SGD N° 6.6.

For 2009-2011 period activities in environment sector were, mainly, held in the scope of sustainable development priorities and in correspondence to the second National Action Plan for Environmental Protection approved by RA government.

During 2009-2011, progress was noted in several directions.

More than 15 environment protection sector regulation laws, as well as the following strategy programs towards SDGN°6 were approved or adopted by RA Government:

- 1) The activities schedule developed and presented by the coresponding inscriptions in accordance to the 2009 Working Program of Committee on Lake Sevan Issues near RA President (RA Government Decision of 24.06.2010թ. N 876-Ն),
- 2) Beginning from 2001 RA Government approves the “Annual Project on Lake Sevan Ecosystems’ Rehabilitation, Preservation, Reproduction and Usage”, every year,

²² Towards the consumables of the poorest population group 2.5%:

- 3) “Project (2014-2023) on Cultivation of New Forests Near Lake Sevan Area” was approved by RA Government decision of November 15, 2012, under N1441-Ն,
- 4) “2011-2015 Activities Developed under the Environmental Education, General Awareness and United National System Concept” Program.

The public awareness raising procedure and the public participation in decision –making was improved, which corresponds to SDGNº 6.

Remarkable progress was noted in development of **Biodiversity conservation** and specially protected areas sector, which corresponds to SDGNº6.6, stating by 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”. By RA Government decision the specially protected areas have been expended, including establishment of “Arpi Lake” National park, “Jermuk Hydrology” and “Hanqavan Hydrology” state sanctuaries. Replenishment of fish stocks in Lake Sevan was continued, in accordance to SDGNº 6.6. The NAS Hydrology and Ichthyology Institute data show, that indices and growth rates of fish are satisfactory. 6 public beaches were established in Lake Sevan littoral zone, aiming to increase the efficiency of Lake Sevan recreational resources.

Water quality and environment water releases measurement norms (including all the water basins) have been developed in **National Water Project Framework**, considering the European Union Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) regulations. A stable trend of water level rising can be seen in Lake Sevan. Cleaning works are been held in flooded areas. Over 1231 hectare flooded forest area was cleaned for the period of 2007-2011. Meanwhile, activities are being held towards SDG N° 6.3 to ensure water quality. So, wastewater treatment plants were constructed and currently exploited in Gavar, Martuni and Vardenis towns. 283 water meters were installed and sealed tending to ensure efficient use of underground waters in Araratyan valley.

2.2.1. Environmental Issues and Planned Actions

Despite the progress made, environment issues are still relevant and should remain as a priority for the Government. In the coming years there is an intention jointly with Government's efforts reduce the arising environment risks to secure high rates of economic growth. Specifically, it refers to **water resources overexploitation, as a result of rapid growth of underground water resources use and climate change.**

Environment sector priorities towards SDGNº 6 , are going to be based on the following key provisions:

- 1) The corresponding activities will continue to be implemented in accordance to Lake Sevan Issues Committee 2009 Working Program towards SDG N° 6.6.
- 2) Integrated Water resources management basin plans will be developed and management functions will be decentralized, in accordance to SDG N° 6.5.

1. Water resources strategic reserves will be replenished, specifically, by the means of river flow regulation and mitigation of leakages, underground water resources usage monitoring and control system upgrades.
2. The Government will take measures to mitigate water resources pollution (SDGN^o 6.3) – actively involving international cooperation mechanisms to both improve economic mechanisms and rehabilitate the infrastructures.
- 3) Complex activities will be implemented for environment education, public awareness and public participation, in accordance to SDGN^o 6.6b.

3. Ministries' Activities Towards SDG № 6

3.1. RA Ministry of Nature Protection

RA Ministry of Nature Protection implements activities towards SDGN^o 6, mainly, through RA MNP Water Resources Management Department and RA MNP Environmental Inspection, also cooperation with international donor organizations.

RA MNP water resources management department serves water resources/ surface and underground/ management sector, specifically, in the framework of National Water Program it deals with water resources management and preservation, formation of water resources quantitative and qualitative monitoring demand, provision of water resources state cadaster etc.

Basin management plan development is included in National Water Program, as one of the key issues of phase activities of the program, thus meeting **SDGN^o6.5**. Aiming to develop water basin management plans, RA Government approved the decision №4 on “Approvement of Water Basin Management Modeling Plan Concept” , as for February 3, 2011, which acted as a terms of reference for development of management plans for 6 water basins in the republic.

At present, a management plan was developed for Araratyan water management area, which was funded by State. RA Government approved the “**Bylaw on RA Government approvement on Araratyan water basin management area Governance Plan for 2016-2021 activities Program**”. The Second part of the management plan on “**Draft of RA Government Decision on Araratyan water basin management area 2016-2021 Plan Approvement**” was developed by Water Resources Management Agency and should be submitted for Government Approval.

Besides, USAID “Clean Water and Energy” program developed a **Draft for South Water Basin Management Plan**, which includes Vorotan, Voghji and Meghri river basins management plans. The later was agreed with the beneficiary state entities and institutions and will be submitted for RA Government approval.

Another project financed by an international organization “**Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project**”²³ (financed by UN) developed a management plan for Akhuryan water basin management, which is now submitted to be reviewed and discussed by WRMA.

Implementation of activities towards **Araratyan valley underground fresh water resources rehabilitation** is one of the activities held by RA Ministry of Nature Protection towards **SDGN^o 6.6**.

Activities on termination and/or conservation of illegally exploited wells in Araratyan valley, also water quantity review will be held in entities having permission for water use. 701.5mln m³ / year fresh water was saved as a result of the termination and conservation or lock mode activation of artesian wells in Araratyan marz during 2014-2015.

In 2015, according to RA Government decision N^o1111 on “Management of Water Scarcity and Droughts in Araratyan, Hrazdan and Akhuryan Basin” regulations water use volumes and (or) regimes of the existing water exploitation were reviewed and new volumes were set, as a result 19 623.5 l/sec water, which annually makes around 618.8 mln m³ was saved.

As a result of the upper mentioned activities 41867.8 l/sec or annually 1320.3 mln m³ was saved in total.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Nature Protection regularly implements activities towards **Lake Sevan Ecosystems Rehabilitation, provision, recreation and exploitation**, meeting **SDG N^o6.6**.

At present, the Alternative Energy Sector is rapidly developing in Armenia. Particularly, the quantity of HESs is growing, which highly affects the water ecosystems. Thus, aiming to preserve and recover the national water ecosystems, USAID “Clean Water and Energy” Program has developed a new methodology for river ecological outlet calculation, which is now being discussed within the corresponding departments of the Ministry of Nature Protection, for further use and investment.

In the framework of UN “Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project” (SDGN^o 6.6a) the following activities were implemented:

1. Digital water meters were installed in 3 Fishery wells located in RA Armevir Marz Jrarat, Metsamor and Araqs communities.
2. A new underground water monitoring observation wells, equipped with modern automatic devices, were initiated in RA Armavir Marz Aknashen community.

SDGN^o 6.6b is met within **State Water Cadaster Information System**²⁴, which regulates the procedures of the database on water resources qualitative and quantitative characteristics, natural and anthropogenic impact on water resources, water resources and ecosystems preservation, exploitation and recovery.

²³ <http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/en/pilot-basins/akhuryan-basin-akhuryan-and-metsamor>

²⁴ <http://www.wrma.am/4.php>

Installing State Water Cadaster Information and country information systems **the State Water Cadaster Information System**, mainly aims to:

- Improve the efficiency of water sector management regulation, ensuring water resources sustainable use for ecology and economy reasons,
- Raise public awareness and participation level in water discussion making process.

Aiming to preserve and monitor water quality in surface water objects, RA Ministry of Nature Protection “Environmental Impact Monitoring Center” SNCO implements environment – surface water and ambient air (atmospheric precipitation) quality monitoring and assessment²⁵ in accordance to “RA Environmental Monitoring ” State Program. Monthly and annual reporting is made on regularly implemented monitoring results, which are public and thus foster the later participation in water resources efficient preservation procedure. The upper described activities meet **SDGN^o6.3 and 6.6b**.

The Nature Protection State Inspection of RA Ministry of Nature Protection also implements activities towards **SDGN^o6.3**. The later controls the water use permission regulations provision, including the waste water quantitative and qualitative standards preservation within industrial enterprises.

RA MNP Nature Protection State Inspection aiming to meet its goals and targets, controls the water resources preservation and use regulations and requirements implementation by water users, preservation of regulations on water withdrawal volumes from water objects, preservation of waste water volumes inflow to water objects and inspection of permitted quantities of harmful substances, and implementation of corresponding environmental activities approved by the National Water Program.

The main activities of the Inspection are focused on Water use Permissions Regulation and Control, which meets SDGN^o 6.3 and 6.1, 6.4, 6.6.

3.2. RA Ministry of Agriculture

RA Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter RA MA) meets SDG N^o 6, mainly, through its State Committee on Water Economy, Land Use and Melioration and Veterinary and Livestock Agriculture Departments.

The State Committee on Water Economy is assigned as water systems management authorized entity within RA Water Code.

The objectives and issues of the Committee²⁶

- provision of the management and safe use for the state-owned water and non-competitive water supply systems,
- provision of the National Water Program within the frameworks of its eligibility,
- development and implementation of investment policy on water systems, as well as the organization of investment project assessment.

²⁵ <http://www.wrma.am/4.php>

²⁶ <http://www.scws.am/am/committee/overview>

It implements projects having the both state and international funding, tending to achieve its targets.

State Committee on Water Economy managed to implement various types of activities during the reporting period. It has implemented activities by imputing constructive changes in the system, adding water supply duration and improving water quality, controlling private management contracts , fostering institutional improvements, raising water supply taxes collection rate, mitigating water leakages volumes in the system, ensuring the WSS service provision companies efficiency, installation and replacement of water meters, efficient use of budgets, loans and grants, attracting new grants, exploitation of waste water treatment plants etc.

The goal of the implemented program is to improve water supply and sanitation services quality in RA different urban and rural communities, ensure trust and sustainability by improving living conditions and public health standards and fostering the economic growth (SDG № 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4).

During 2014-2015 time period the companies operating in the system managed to provide sustainable and reliable water supply, an acceptable water quality, lengthen the average water supply duration, thus meeting **SDG № 6.1**.

Particularly:

1. Within the framework of “Community Water Supply Program” financed by the World Bank, water supply system improvement activities were implemented in town Masis and 4 near rural communities, in town Echmiadzin and 4 near rural communities, in town Ashtarak and 4 near rural communities.
2. Within the framework of “Armenian Small Communities Water Program” financed by EBRD (**SDGNº 6.1 and 6.2**)water supply and sanitation systems improvement activities treatment plants were constructed in Jermuk and Dilijan towns, as a result of which (**SDG № 6.3**) natural water ecosystem inflow water quality was improves and untreated community waste water volume was mitigated.
3. Within the framework of “Community Infrastructures II” Investment program, financed by KfW, water supply and sanitation systems rehabilitation activities were implemented in a line of communities located in Lori marz. As a result, a round o'clock water supply was provided in the newly rehabilitated zone²⁷, meeting **SDGNº6.1**.

Regular activities are implemented towards “irrigation water supply and efficient use component”, tending to meet Integrated Water Resources Management requirements (**SDGNº 6.5**).

The programs are as follows:

1. “Rehabilitation of Irrigation system Program” financed by the World Bank,

²⁷ <http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/8/geraka.pdf>

2. “Irrigation Systems Reconstruction” program, approved by RA Government decision № 218, as for 27.02.2014.

One month activities “Collector- drainage networks cleaning and recovery, collector-drainage network preservation and exploitation, ground water levels and quality definition programs” are implemented towards **SDG № 6.6**, aiming to achieve main goal of potable water sources preservation and recovery²⁸ .

A line of activities are implemented towards development of strategy programs on water economy sector further development, to input a universal tariff policy by fostering structural and institutional improvements in water supply sector, strengthening international cooperation. Particularly:

1. “Armenia- Water Sector Tariff Study” program was implemented by financial aid of the World Bank,
2. Sanitation and waste water treatment strategy was developed within the “Waste water management Strategy” consultation program, implemented by Economic Partnership and development organization.
3. RA Government approved “RA Potable Water Sector Improvement Activities Program towards State- Private Sector partnership further development” decision №883-№²⁹, as for 14.08.2014, aiming to foster state- private sector partnership in water supply and sanitation sectors.

Below, Table 2 shows the programs implemented by the financial aid of International donor organizations towards **SDG № 6**³⁰.

Table 1. Programs implemented by RA MA State Committee on Water Economy by financial aid of International Donor Organizations towards SDG №6

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG № 6</i>
1. Arpa- Sevan Tunnel Reconstruction Program financed by Abu- Dabi Development Fundation	Preservation and rehabilitation of Natural Water Ecosystem	SDGN ^o 6.6
2. “Armwatersewerage” CSJC, “Nor Akunq” CSJC, Shirak-water & sewerage CJSC, Lori-water & sewerage CJSC water supply and sanitation infrastructures reconstruction Program , financed by KfW Development Bank, Second Phase	Communities Water supply and sanitation	SDGN ^o 6.1 SDGN ^o 6.2 SDGN ^o 6.4
3. Water Supply and sanitation Project , financed by Asian Development Bank , Second phase ³¹	Urban water supply and sanitation	SDGN ^o - 6.1 SDGN ^o - 6.2 SDGN ^o - 6.4

²⁸ <http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/8/geraka.pdf>

²⁹ <http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/23/hashvetvutyun-2015.pdf>

³⁰ <http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/23/hashvetvutyun-2015.pdf>

³¹ http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/49/Works_Implementation_ADB_2015.pdf

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Correspondence to SDG № 6</i>
4. “Armwatersewage” CSJC, “Nor Akunq” CSJC, Shirak-water & sewerage CJSC, Lori-water & sewerage CJSC water supply and sanitation infrastructures reconstruction Program , financed by EBRD, Third Phase ³²	Water and other community infrastructures and services - Reconstruction of water supply and sanitation network	SDGN ^o 6.1 SDGN ^o - 6.2 SDGN ^o 6.4
5. “Armwatersewage” CSJC, “Nor Akunq” water supply and sanitation infrastructures reconstruction Program , financed by KfW and EU Eastern Neighbors – European Investment Bank , Third Phase ³³	Water and other community infrastructures and services – Reconstruction of water supply network. Construction of a waste water treatment plant	SDGN ^o 6.1 SDGN ^o 6.2 SDGN ^o 6.3 SDGN ^o 6.4
6. Irrigation Systems Efficiency Program, financed by the World Bank	Integrated water resources management. Sustainable irrigation.	SDGN ^o 6.5
7. “Integrated water resources management of Akhuryan river ” project , financed by KfW	Integrated water resources management	SDGN ^o 6.5
8. Vedi water reservoir construction project, financed by French Development Agency	Integrated water resources management, improvement of irrigation systems	SDGN ^o 6.5
9. Irrigation systems development project, financed by Eurasian Development Bank	Integrated water resources management, improvement of irrigation systems	SDGN ^o 6.5

RA MA Land Use and Melioration Department

The department mainly deals with raising the agricultural land use efficiency and ensuring of complete and efficient implementation of corresponding capabilities towards melioration. The department develops activities towards raising the agricultural land use efficiency, by preliminarily studying and identifying the reason for non- usage. It also develops and presents proposals on Araratyan valley secondary salinated and alkalized soil salinization, raising the irrigation efficiency through new technologies.

The department also deals with the issues on Improvement of irrigation systems and meliorative state of the lands, including perfection of irrigation system management structure and improvement of technical state, replacement of the mechanical irrigation water with an automatic, governanace of irrigation water, adding of irrigated plots through construction and exploitation of new water infrastructures (specifically, by small wells). Another issue, that should be highlighted, is the **Implementation of collector-**

³²

http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/49/Statement_EBRD_Armenian_Small_Municipalities_Water_Project.pdf

³³ http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/49/Statement_for_Phase_3_KfW_EIB_project.pdf

drainage network cleaning and recovery program for 2010-2020 aiming to ensure crop yields sustainability.

The list of implemented and in progress programs towards SDGN^o 6 is as follows:

RA Project on State medium-term expenditure framework for 2014-2015. RA Government Program for 2012-2017.

RA MA Veterinary and Livestock Agriculture Department

Beekeeping and Fishery Department of RA MA mainly deals with the activities towards **SDG N^o 6**. The department particularly touches upon **SDG N^o 6.3, 6.4 and 6.6a**, referring to efficient water use in fisheries, using of covered fishery systems and fishery water treatment. At present, RA MA Veterinary and Livestock Agriculture Department reviews the possible activities plan towards mitigation of water quantity used in fisheries located in RA Araratyan valley.

Negotiations are held with Food and Agriculture organization aiming to initiate new pilot projects on installation of new technologies providing higher water use efficiency in fisheries.

The question on using fisheries' water for irrigation is being discussed, which will bring to efficient management of water resources and will promote the sustainable use of resources, meeting **SDG N^o 6.5**.

3.3. RA Ministry of Health

RA Ministry of Health State Health Inspection activities are mainly directed to **SDG N^o 6.1 and SDG N^o 6.2**.

RA Ministry of Health (RA MOH) Staff State Health Inspection implements supervision activities as assigned by RA Law and enforces health, safety and labor code regulations³⁴.

The main goals of the inspection are as follows ³⁵:

1. Provision of RA sanitary standards,
2. Provision of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Control in RA,
3. Organize sanitary and anti-epidemic activities towards sanitary safety measure provision to prevent infectious and non-infectious diseases and poisoning among population,
4. Sanitary measures provision in RA territory and state borders etc.

³⁴ http://www.moh.am/?section=static_pages/index&id=634&subID=27

³⁵ <http://www.moh.am/OrengGorcox/N%20857-N.pdf>

The State Health Inspection carries out the assigned control through thematic inspections and study. The later refers also to the activities implemented by drinking water industry, water supply, exploitation and service provision companies, including drinking and irrigation water quality provided to population.

As for irrigation water, season (April- October period) microbial and parasitic research is conducted in a monthly bases aiming to ensure sanitation safety for population.

Potable water quality control is implemented through *Survey list №34 - Water collection, treatment and distribution*³⁶, approved by RA Government and is conducted by RA MOH State Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection.

The quality of the supplied water is regularly monitored from water source to consumer, where the study is conducted with various frequencies depending to the water supply circle component. Particularly, in the case of underground water sources, water quantity microbial control is implemented once in three months. As for surface sources, a parasitic research is also carried out. Chemical research of water quality in water source, is being held once a year, in accordance to water quality regulations. Water quality research in Daily Regulation Reservoirs is conducted once a month, in the distribution networks – twice a month. Water sampling is made from preliminary certified stationary objects. In case of discovering deviations in water quality, administrative proceedings are filed, the water quality is double checked and a list of recommendations for water quality regulation is directed to the water supply service provision company. The latter is also is subjected to administrative sanctions.

The Inspection also checks the public toilets condition, in correspondence to “Sanitation Regulations № 2- III- 2.13 on Public toilets” sanitary regulations and norms³⁷, thus meeting **SDG № 6.2**.

3.4. RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

At present, the Energy sector is one of the most actively developing sectors in RA. The activities are implemented in the framework of *RA National Program on Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy*, in correspondence to UN Conference on Environment and Development, 21st Century Agenda “Global Program on Sustainable Development Activities” held in 1992, Strategy Program on Combating Poverty approved by RA Government and Development Strategy on Energy Concept Note.

Within the program implementation framework, renewable energy types (RET) develop most actively. Hydro energy is the most developed direction, and includes the both large (e.g. exploiting Lake Sevan water) and recently constructed small hydro stations on rivers (SHS)³⁸. Specifically, the SHSs are considered to be the most successful RET during the

³⁶ https://www.e-gov.am/u_files/file/decrees/kar/2013/10/1101_4.pdf

³⁷ <http://www.arlis.am/>

³⁸ <http://r2e2.am/2011/06/%D5%B0%D5%AB%D5%A4%D6%80%D5%B8/>

recent 10 years. At present the SHSs provide the 5% of energy in Armenia and tend to develop during the next 10 years. A line of environmental and ecosystem issues raise related to this. Specifically, issues on water ecosystems preservation and resources' efficient use should be highlighted.

RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources cooperates with RA MNP Water Resources Management agency, the state authority issuing the use permit for SHSs and any other water using authority, to efficiently address the upper mentioned issues. Besides, any SHS construction plan includes environmental impact assessment component, which is presented and discussed with the society, specifically, with the local affected community dwellers.

As a result meets **SDG №6.5, 6.6 and 6.6b** – water resources efficient management and public participation in the process.

3.5. RA Ministry of Economy

The Tourism Development Department of RA Ministry of Economy indirectly implements activities towards SDGN^o 6.

If considered the development pace and the results, tourism is the most dynamically developing branches in the country. The goals of the State Policy on tourism are described in RA Law on Tourism and Hospitality and the Concept on Tourism Development³⁹, approved by RA Government on February 13, 2008.

Although the registered rates of development of tourism in recent years, there are still a number of problems that hamper the sustainable tourism in the republic. One of the most vital issues is the absence of the appropriate public toilets in touristic zones.

The issue is partially covered by RA Law on Trade and Services, stating that the liquid fuel, compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas retail stations, including retail centers, stationary and agriculture products and animal markets should be equipped with paid or free of charge public toilets⁴⁰.

RA Ministry of Economy actively cooperates to RA Ministry of Nature Protection to find most appropriate solutions for the problem, and presents the existing issues and steps to be taken, meeting **SDG № 6.2**.

3.6. RA Ministry of Urban Development

The Urban Housing Policy and Communal Infrastructure Department of the RA Ministry of Urban Development is mainly implemented activities towards SDG № 6.

The department ensures proper conditions for communal infrastructure development meeting **SDGN^o 6.1 and SDGN^o 6.2**.

³⁹ <http://www.mineconomy.am/uploads/conceptpaper.pdf>

⁴⁰ <http://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=80483>

The Ministry designs and takes adaptive measures on urban development towards public health, which include provision of proper water supply and safe water availability and installation of potable water fountains in the most crowded zones of communities, meeting **SDG 6.1**.

As a result of international cooperation, particularly, RA Government and Asian Development Bank cooperation, in the framework of Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program a technical assistance (TA) towards policy development and consultation is provided to develop urban development/ investment projects (UDIP) in four towns of Armenia- Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan and Jermuk. The UDIPs will focus on policy development challenges related to urban sectors, including water supply and sanitation.

RA Ministry of Urban Development has developed a *Guideline on Territorial Activities Coordination Parallel to Raising the Water Level of Lake Sevan*⁴¹, which was approved by RA Government in February, 2012.

It meets RA Law on “Approvement of Annual and Complex Projects towards Lake Sevan Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Provision, Recreation and Exploitation”, also meet **SDG № 6.6** “protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”.

Besides, in 2010-2011, the RA Ministry of Urban Development developed the *General Outline on Landfills Placement in Lake Sevan Basin*⁴², as a part of urban development program, which was approved by the RA Government decision № 22 on June 10, 2011.

3.7. RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development

SDG № 6 is implemented by Local Self-Government Bodies (LSGB) in community level. Local governance, also LSGB activities are regulated by the RA Law on Local Self-Government.⁴³ In accordance to which, LSGB:

1. In environment protection sector, ensures provision of water areas, considered as Community’s property, also handles the procedures on water area exploitation and provision, in correspondence to **SDG № 6.6**.
2. Organizes and manages water supply, sanitation, irrigation networks and other institutions’ exploitation, considered as a Community’s property, fostering integrated water resources management.

At present, around 560 rural communities are left out of WSS service provision companies’ service zones. In these communities water supply and sanitation is implemented by LSGB or other affiliated community authorities, meeting **SDGN° 6.1 and SDGN°6.2** in community level.

⁴¹ http://www.minurban.am/lows/files/SEVAN_JRACACKUM_TEXT_HRAMAN_HASTATVAC.pdf

⁴² «HABITAT III» state report

⁴³ <http://www.parliament.am/legislation.php?sel=show&ID=1305&lang=arm>

LSGB is authorized to control and sustain the public toilets and potable water fountains of the community administrative area, acting towards **SDGN^o 6.6a**, residents' participation in efficient management of water resources in community level.

3.8. RA Ministry of Finance

Mainly the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety, Environment and Water Management Sector Budget Planning for Current Expenses of the Ministry implements activities towards SDGN^o6.

The MF Staff Financial Control Inspectorate oversees the financial discipline of state authorities necessary for the execution of the state budget. In the water sector the issues related to financial planning unit current budgetary expenditures are concerned with the water supply and sanitation systems development opportunities through RA Budget and international financial organizations that meets SDG N^o6.6a.

The Government decisions N^o 1111 – N as of 18.09.2014 on “Water Scarcity and Drought in Araratyan, Hrazdan and Akhuryan Basin Management Areas” and RA Laws on National Water Program and National Water Policy, can be considered as implemented projects by the department.

1.8 RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

The Department of Social Support of the Ministry mainly deals with the activities towards SDGN^o 6. The Social Support Department mainly deals with the issues related to definition of potable and irrigation water differentiated tariffs for various vulnerable social groups and inhabitants of the border settlements, in correspondence to SDG N^o 6.1, 6.2 “to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”. The Government decisions N^o271 as of March 21, 2013 and N^o 338- A as of March 27, 2014 on allocation of finances to individuals and legal entities located in border settlements and use irrigation water, can be considered as program implementation activities. However, the activity is insufficient for provision with access to potable water for vulnerable groups.

Republic of Armenia Legislation, Implemented Programs and
Sanitary Norms towards SDG№6
Overview

Republic of Armenia Legislation, Implemented Programs and Sanitary Norms towards SDGN ^o 6		
Legislative normative act	Normative Act: Goals and Subjects	Correspondance to SDG N ^o 6
RA Constitution Approved as for 06.12.2015	<p>Article 10. Guaranteeing Ownership</p> <p>1. All forms of ownership shall be recognized and equally protected in the Armenia.</p> <p>2. The state shall have exclusive ownership of subsoils and water resource</p> <p>Article 12. Preservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development</p> <p>1. The state shall promote the preservation, improvement and regeneration of the environment, the reasonable utilization of natural resources governed by the principle of sustainable development and taking into account the responsibility towards future generations.</p> <p>2. Everyone shall take care of the preservation of the environment.</p>	SDG N ^o 6.6
RA Codes		
RA Water Code ՀՕ-373 As of 04.07. 2002	<p>The Code aims to ensure preservation of National water resources. Satisfy citizens' and economy needs by efficient management of water resources, provision of ecological sustainability, also by provision of legal basis for the issues under the Code.</p> <p>The Code regulates the issues on water use permits, exploitation and management of state-owned water resources, regulation of transboundary water resources use, water quality standards, the preservation of water resources, the state control and HTS security.</p>	SDG N ^o 6.6a SDG N ^o 6.4 SDG N ^o 6.5 SDG N ^o 6.3 SDG N ^o 6.3 SDG N ^o 6.6 SDG N ^o 6.6b
RA Land Code ՀՕ-185 As of 02.05. 2001	<p>The Code regulates the issues on land preservation - water and wind erosion of soil, flooding, mooring, double salination, contamination, pollution with industrial, domestic waste and chemical and radioactive substances, mud sliding, desertification and other things affecting land. Water land can be used for public water supply, household, health and other purposes, as well as water economy, agricultural, environmental, industrial, fishing, energetic and for construction and operation of facilities ensuring state and municipal needs. The legislation defines appropriate sanitary zones with special land –use restrictions fixed in land and urbanization legal documents, aiming to preserve natural and artificial water facilities requiring sanitary protection and population.</p>	SDG N ^o 6.1, SDG N ^o 6,2 SDG N ^o 6,6
RA Law on Subsoil ՀՕ-456-Ն As of 06.11. 2002	<p>This Code establishes principles and the procedure for using by the subsoil in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the relations connected with preservation of water basins in case of use of the subsoil.</p> <p>Sanitary zones are established around water reservoirs and sources, aiming to protect the underground water sources (fresh water and artesian) and water mains from pollution and excluding possible contamination of soil, water, atmosphere and green areas.</p>	SDG N ^o 6.1, SDG N ^o 6.3, SDG N ^o 6.4, SDG N ^o 6.6,
Forest code of RA ՀՕ-211-Ն As of 24.10. 2005	<p>This Code regulates relations connected with sustainable forest management - guarding protection, rehabilitation, afforestation and rational use of forests and forest lands of the Republic of Armenia as well as with forest stock-taking, monitoring, control and forest lands.</p>	SDG N ^o 6.6,

RA Code On Administrative Offences As of 06.12. 1958 <i>Last amendments, as of 24.07. 2004</i>	This Code regulates the issues on water resources provision, water supply and water use, water systems exploitation, sanitary condition provision, water use without permission or failure to fulfill the requirements of the permit, violation of the rules of safety of hydraulic structures, reduction of their rates.	SDG №6.3 SDG №6.1 SDG №6.4
RA Laws		
RA Law About the Lake Sevan ՀՕ-190 As of 15.05. 2001	This Law regulates the relations connected with protection, recovery, reproduction, natural development and use of ecosystems of the Lake Sevan, its catchment basin and the zone of economic activity.	SDG № 6.6
RA Law on Fundamental Provisions of the National Water Policy ՀՕ-96-Ն As of 03.05.2005	The purpose of this Law is to assure that water resources of adequate quantity and quality are available now and in the future to meet welfare, Republic's socio-economic development, ecological and economic needs. The Law regulates the national principles on water policy, water resources provision and exploitation priorities, water basin management and strategic management of water resources.	SDG №6.1, SDG №6.4, SDG №6.5 SDG №6.6
RA Law on National Water Program as of 27.11.2006	The law regulates the relations on Republic of Armenia National Water Program definition and implementation, including assessments of national water reserves, strategic water reserve, usable water resources, water supply and demand, the main issues and prospects for conservation and development of the water sector, as well as the National Water program activities, based on limited water, human life and health, flora and fauna preservation preconditions.	SDG №6.1 SDG №6.2 SDG №6.3 SDG №6.4 SDG №6.5 SDG №6.6
RA Law on Flora ՀՕ-22 As of 23.11. 1999	The Law regulates the state policy towards flora preservation, protection, use and reproduction. The legislation ensures the prevention of the negative impact on plant species (flora) and their their coexistences diversity, habitat and ecosystems balance. Law on flora, ensure the habitat protection, as well as the conservation of the flora. The Law ensures flora, its gene pool and species diversity, habitat quality and quantity, as well as flora preservation.	SDG №6.6,
RA Law on Fauna As of 03.04. 2000	The law regulates the state policy on maintenance, protection, reproduction and use of wild species the fauna. The main issues are development of methods for fauna maintenance and protection and ensure the vanishing animal species reproduction.	SDG №6.6,
RA Law "On the environmental impact assessment and expertise" ՀՕ-144-Ն As of 11.09.2014	The Law regulates public relations concerning environmental impact assessment in the Republic of Armenia, including state expertise of transboundary and environmental impact. The Law is clear about the concept of assessment expertise standards and regulations.	SDG №6.6, SDG №6.5,
RA Law on Environmental Control ՀՕ-82-Ն As for 11.04. 2015	This Law regulates the organization of monitoring the implementation of environmental legislation of the Republic of Armenia, and defines the legal and economic basis for environmental legislation and related issues environmental control.	SDG №6.6
RA Law on	The Law defines the legal, economical and administrative notions, as	SDG №6.2

Sanitary and Epidemiological Provision of Population ՀՕ-43 As of 12.12.1992	well as state regulations for a state of health, life style where there is no negative and dangerous action and factors that affect human health, thus offering favorable life conditions for human life and health of the present and next generation. The Sanitary and epidemiological notice of the document confirms the correspondence of development projects of normative acts, construction, reconstruction and renovation projects regulations.	SDG № 6.6a
RA Law on Trade and Services ՀՕ-134-Ն As of 01.01.2005	The Law regulates the trade, state governance in catering and household services sector, the liabilities of the self- governed and state entities in the Republic of Armenia. It is focused on regulation of activities implemented in the trade and service provision sector, as well as consumer rights protection. It also regulates the requirements for domestic service facilities and the liabilities of state and self- governed entities in trade and services provision sector.	SDG №6.1
RA Law on Population Protection in Emergency Situations ՀՕ-265 As for 02.12.1998	This law defines the bases and the arrangement of population protection in emergency situations, the rights and responsibilities of state and local authorities, enterprises, institutions, organizations, irrespective of the organizational-legal type, as well as officials and the citizens in this sphere.	SDG №6.1 SDG №6.2 SDG №6.6a
Ra Law on Nature Protection and Nature Utilization Payments ՀՕ-270 As for 28.12.1998	This law defines concepts of nature protection and nature utilization payments in the Republic of Armenia, payers, types of payments, procedure of calculation and payment, liability for violation of this law and regulates other relations related to payments, as well as nature utilization payments' types.	SDG №6.4
RA Law on water user associations and federations of water user associations ՀՕ-374 As for 04.06.2002	The objective of this law is to specify (define) the operational basis of Water Users' Associations and Federations of Water Users' Associations, which being leaded by public interests, ensure irrigation system maintenance and exploitation. The entities are established aiming to provide irrigation water to water consumers.	SDG №6.1 SDG №6.6
RA Government Decisions		
Decision N-864 On Nature Utilization Payments As for 30.12.1998	The decision defines the payments for underground fresh water, mineral waters and fresh water operating wells utilization.	SDG №6.4
State oversight bodies and their functions on water resources protection and water systems maintenance Decision N-315-Ն As of 20.03.2003	Aiming to raise efficiency of state control over water resources and water systems, the decision defines - State control over National Water Program and water basin management plans implementation, water resources management, preservation of water use permissions regulations, water withdrawal and registration of harmful substances inflow, wastewater inflow to water resources, as well as regulation of harmful substances quantity, preservation of water withdrawal norms, regulations for water resources preservation and water ecosystems maintenance zones, and regulations on leakages in water systems.	SDG №6.1 SDG №6.6 SDG №6.4 SDG №6.2 SDG №-6.3 SDG №6.6a

RA Government National Program on Actions towards Desertification in Armenia Extract from the Minutes (Part 1) Approved by RA Government As for 28.03. 2000	<p>The National Program regulates water resources utilization. Timely detection, termination and further prevention of pollution sources are the key perspectives in the State water resources preservation.</p>	SDG №6.6
		SDG №6.2 SDG №6.4
RA Government decision N 111-Ն on Activity Plan for 2015 and Priorities , as for January 15, 2015	<p>The goal of the decision is to approve “The Annual Program for 2016 for Lake Sevan Ecosystems Recovery, Manitenance, Reproduction and Use” and to present Government decision draft “The Ararat Valley Basin Management Plan” for RA Government approval.</p> <p>Objectives: Provision of Lake Sevan ecosystems recovery, manitenance, reproduction and use, including monitoring of Lake Sevan and its basin rivers pollution rates and development of Ararat Valley basin management plan. The latter is implemented by RA state means.</p>	SDG №6.6 SDG №6.5
RA Government decision h1111-Ն on Ararat, Hrazdan and Akhuryan basin water water scarcity and drought , as of 18.09.2014	<p>The decision regulates the issues on Ararat, Hrazdan and Akhuryan basins water scarcity, which can be addressed on the basis of information provided by RA Minister of Nature Protection.</p>	SDG №6.5 SDG №6.6
Annex of RA Government Bylaw N 35, as for 08.09. 2011, where amendments were made on HESs, however the termination is not settled by Law.	<p>The Bylaw regulates the requirements described under RA Law National Water Policy Article №20 – regulation of hydro electric stations construction procedure, and observation of the technical condition of hydro electric stations to increase their effectiveness.</p>	SDG №6.4 SDG №6.6
RA Government Decision N 1110-Ն on the Procedure for Assessment of Economy Activities Impact on Water Resources, as for 14.08. 2003	<p>The procedure regulates the assessment characteristics and procedure for the impact of economic activities on water resources. The impact depends on the quantity of pollutants, the level of harmful substances and the period of their impact. The assessment of polluted water impact includes the compensation costs for quantitive and qualitative losses of products, as a result of water, forest and land resources decrease, additional services required for polluted water resources recovery and the rehabilitation of population, as a result of pollution.</p>	SDG №6.4 SDG №6.6

Regulations		
RA Government Decision N 354-Ն on Procedure for Water Consumptions and the Regime As for 13.03. 2003	The regulation states the principles and standards, as well as water use normative for quantity of water intake to be provided to water consumers and regime, depending to water use goals. The decision regulates the standards for water intake quantity and water intake regime.	SDG №6.4 SDG №6.1
RA Government Decision N-416-Ն on Drainage Water Use, as for April 17	The regulation defines the relations among state, self-governed, legal entities and individuals on drainage water use. It regulates the drainage water use, as for water use permit, with exceptions for non-regulated water use cases. Fee is required to be paid for drainage water use.	SDG №6.4 SDG №6.6
RA Government Decision N 523-Ն on Ground Water Use in Private Plots, as for 17.04. 2003	The regulation defines the procedure of ground water (water resources located in the upper layer of the earth and drainage water resources) use in private plots.	SDG №6.4
Providing information on transboundary water resources Approved by RA Government N 612-Ն , as of 08.05. 2003	The regulation defines the qualitative and quantitative indicators for transboundary water resources, their use conditions, transboundary impacts prevention, restriction and reduction measures, as well as providing information on the use and maintenance of water systems, ensuring publicity.	SDG №6.5
Wastewater and drainage water absorbing wells, depleted mines, shafts and open quarries and outlet use permit	The regulation states the authorization procedure for wastewater and drainage water absorbing wells, depleted mines, shafts and open quarries and outlet use.	SDG №6.3 SDG № 6.6
Ministerial orders		
Order by RA Minister of Health N 06-Ն As of April 16, 2009 “Sanitation Regulations № 2- III-2.13 on Public toilets” sanitary regulations and norms	The sanitary regulations and norms are developed for legal entities and individuals, that develop designs, conduct and exploit public toilets. The regulations refer to the sanitary norms for the both stationery (permanent) public toilets and mobile (temporary) public toilets.	SDG №6.2 SDG №6.3 SDG №6.6a SDG №6.6b

<p>RA Minister of Health Order N 876 As of December 25, 2002 “Drinking Water: Sanitary Regulations towards Water Supply Centralized Systems. Quality Control” 2-III-U2-1 Sanitary Norms and Regulations</p>	<p>The order regulates the requirements set for water quality of water supply centralized systems. The quality control sanitary norms regulate the hygiene requirements for drinking water quality, as well as the quality of drinking water, that is produced and supplied to residential areas with centralized systems.</p>	<p>SDG №6.2 SDG №6.3 SDG №6.6a SDG №6.6b</p>
Programs		
<p>Medium-Term Public Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia For 2015-2017</p>	<p>The main objective of the Medium-Term Public Expenditure Framework is to raise the efficiency of State expenditure management system. The program also sets the description of the expenditure programs (commitments), the main issues, the priorities during MTEF period.</p>	<p>SDG № 6.1 SDG №6.5 SDG № 6.6</p>
<p>RA Government Program for 2012-2017 (http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/39/2012-2017.pdf)</p>	<p>The Government program inhales the idea, that the State is obliged to create the best opportunities for human well being and prosperity. The Program plans to implement projects on water supply, irrigation, reservoirs construction, modernization of infrastructures and preservation of hydrotechnical facilities. The program plans to implement facilitation projects for communities located near the borders and the vulnerable communities. Lead appropriate policy towards renewable and alternative energy development. Improve medical services accessibility for the poor and socially disadvantaged groups. As well as ensure balanced environment, researching the environmental and economic benefits and harms.</p>	<p>SDG № 6.1 SDG №6.2</p>
<p>Republic of Armenia 2014-2025 Strategic Program of Prospective Development (http://www.scws.am/uploads/files/39/2014-2025.pdf)</p>	<p>1. «Sustainable Development Program» (SDP) three group of goals 1) In the period of 2008-2021, reduce the poverty to the extent that the issue on poverty will stop being a priority for economic development of the country, and the extreme poverty will be eliminated as a phenomenon. 2) Overcome poverty and ensure progress, as a result, the country will move from the group of countries with medium human development to the group of countries with high human development in few years. 3) Control the economic development disparities and accelerating progress in areas left behind, by developing and implementation of an appropriate policy The Program also defines the issues on infrastructures, regulates the issues on potable water and irrigation.</p>	<p>SDG №6.2 SDG № 6.1 SDG №6.6b</p>

Transboundary Cooperation with Iran http://www.kura-aras.org/Welcome.html	<p>Our project was designed to assist the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to reduce transboundary degradation in the Kura – Ara(k)s River Basin.</p> <p>Between 2005 to 2007 the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia participated in the preliminary Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to identify the main transboundary issues in basin. These issues are: 1. variation and reduction of hydrological flow; 2. deterioration of water quality; 3. ecosystem degradation in the river basin; and, 4. Increased flooding and bank erosion. The project aimed to support countries to develop standard measurements for river rehabilitation. The program implemented demonstrative projects.</p>	SDG №6.5 SDG №6.6
Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/	<p>The project targets the improvement of water quality in the transboundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus. Key goals of the project are: Improve the quality of ecological, chemical and hydro morphological data for transboundary river basins, including underground waters and develop river basins/ sub-basins management plans in accordance with the EU Water Framework directives.</p>	SDG №6.6 SDG №-6.6
SNIPs		
SNIP 2.04.02.-84*	<p>These standards should be met while development of designs for external centralized systems and water supply centralization in residential areas and economic facilities. When the designs are operated, the water supply should be implemented in accordance to RA Water Code and RA Ministry of Nature Protection and RA Ministry of Natural Resources efficient use regulations.</p>	SDG №6.4 SDG №6.3
SNIP 3.05.04-85*	<p>The normative are related to water supply and sewerage external networks and facilities. Reconstruction and extension of newly designed engineering networks, as well as the existing sections should be implemented on the basis of the complex development projects of the communal infrastructures of the area, in accordance to ՀՕ-373-Ն requirements. Construction of multi- stored dwelling houses in the residential areas, which are not equipped with a centralized water supply and sewerage, is forbidden.</p>	SDG №6.3 SDG №6.6a