



**NATIONAL STATISTICAL  
SERVICE REPUBLIC OF  
ARMENIA**



Report

# **Children's Social Protection System in the Republic of Armenia**

Prepared by

Lilit Petrosyan

*This report is prepared within the MONEE project of  
UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS*

Yerevan 2014

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## Country Analysis Report

### Children's Social Protection System in the Republic of Armenia

## INTRODUCTION

The wellbeing of any society depends on the wellbeing and protection of individual members of that society. The need for protection is particularly significant for the vulnerable groups of the society, such as children, and especially children without parental care. In this regard, the role of the state in child protection, development and application of the legal framework towards addressing the social issues of children without parental care, adoption of improvement mechanisms of the living environment of children without parental care, as well as selection of more preferable forms of care of those children is big.

As a rule, the policy of support to children without parental care, that is to say children in especially difficult circumstances, is aimed at provision of guarantees of social protection of those children, development of the network of alternative services provided to them, as well as improvement of the quality of services rendered in child care and protection institutions, creation of favorable conditions for care, upbringing, education, physical development and integration into the society of the children under their care.

National security and that of the country's future, as well as the necessity of fulfilling the obligations assumed by international documents require to pursue a policy that is targeted at the interests of children as meeting the basic needs of children is the most expedient and long-term capital investment that can be made by the society and the state. In June 1992, the Republic of Armenia (RA) ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child thus proving once again its willingness to prioritize issues of child protection. State policy towards children has deep legal roots and long history. In the recent years specific activities have been initiated by the state authorities, principles of state policy to the benefit of children have been developing in accordance with the principles of social state. A whole range of legal acts has been adopted for the provision of life conditions for children, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia related to this area is being improved, and targeted projects are being developed and implemented.

## SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS MATRIX

Table 1. Definitions of key terms

Term	UNICEF working definition/explanation	<u>Your country: definitions/explanation/legal references/data collection</u>
		<i>Explain if your country's understanding of this expression is different. Please answer all questions and provide details with examples. Please indicate clearly where data are not available or of poor quality and the reasons for this. Please refer to</i>

		appropriate legislation. Please provide additional comments on your country context and other remarks, if possible.	
		<b>English</b>	<b>National language</b>
<b>Children</b>	Every human being below the age of 18 years (CRC Art 1)	A child is considered anyone under 18 years except when he or she acquires functionality prescribed by law or is recognized functional earlier. (RA Law on child's rights, 29.05.1996).	Երեխա է համարվում 18 տարին չլրացած յուրաքանչյուր անձ, բացառությամբ այն դեպքերի, երբ նա օրենքով սահմանված կարգով գործունակություն է ձեռք բերում կամ գործունակ է ճանաչվում ավելի վաղ: («Երեխայի իրավունքների մասին» ՀՀ օրենք, 29.05.1996):
	<b>Formal family-based care</b>		
<b>Foster care</b>	<p>Situations where children are placed by a competent authority for the purpose of alternative care in the domestic environment of a family other than the children's own family, that has been selected, qualified, approved and supervised for providing such care.(para 29.c.ii) (source: 2009 UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children)</p> <p>How is data collected on foster care? Who/which ministry is responsible? Please explain what definitions/ classification systems are used to collect data. Please define all terms used in your country, and common English translations if relevant (e.g. "maternal assistants")</p>	Custody and guardianship body discovers children deprived of parental care, which conducts a research on children's life conditions within 3 days after receiving information about children deprived of parental care from officials of preschool, educational, secondary, medical or other similar organizations and ensures the protection of child's rights and interests before the solution to the accommodation problem in case of confirming the fact of lack of care by child's parents or relatives; implements the initial registration of children deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of children deprived of parental care and within 3 days after the registration of children deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the	Առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաներին բացահայտում է խնամակալություն և հոգաբարձություն մարմինը, որը նախադպրոցական, կրթական, հանրակրթական, բժշկական կամ այլ նմանատիպ կազմակերպություններին պաշտոնատար անձանցից առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների մասին տեղեկություններ ստանալու պահից 3 օրվա ընթացքում անցկացնում է երեխայի կյանքի պայմաններին հետազոտություն և նրա ծնողներին կամ ազգականներին կողմից խնամքի բացակայության փաստի հաստատան դեպքում ապահովում է երեխայի իրավունքներին և շահերին պաշտպանությունը՝ մինչև նրա տեղավորման հարցի

		<p>number of children deprived of parental care the information sends to the Regional administration (Yerevan Municipality); takes child from parents or guardian in case of immediate danger threatening the child's life or health, immediately ensures child's temporary accommodation and appeals the Court in 7 days with the claim to deprive parents (one of them) of parental rights or to restrict their parental rights; conducts life research of the person(s) aspiring child's upbringing and presents the research act and based on that the conclusion about the essence of the dispute to the Court; appoints and dismisses guardians and trustees prescribed by law, gives relevant certificates to guardians and trustees.</p> <p>The general registration of children under 18 years deprived of parental care including children in foster families is implemented by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p>	<p>լ ու ծ ու մ ը , իրականացնում է առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների և առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների թվին պատկանող անձանց սկզբնական հաշվառումը , առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների և առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների թվին պատկանող անձանց հաշվառումից հետո 3 օրվա ընթացքում տեղեկություններն ուղարկում է մարզպետարան (Երևանի քաղաքապետարան), երեխայի կյանքին կամ առողջությանն անմիջական վտանգ սպառնալու դեպքում երեխային վերցնում է ծնողներից կամ խնամակալից, անհապաղ ապահովում է երեխայի ժամանակավոր տեղավորումը և 7-օրյա ժամկետում դիմում դատարան՝ ծնողներին (ներանցից մեկին) ծնողական իրավունքներից զրկելու կամ նրանց ծնողական իրավունքները սահմանափակելու հայցով, անցկացնում է երեխայի դաստիարակությանը հավակնող անձի (անձանց) կյանքի հետազոտության և դատարան ներկայացնում հետազոտության ակտն ու դրա հիման վրա վեճի էության մասին եզրակացությունը., օրենքով սահմանված կարգով նշանակում և ազատում է խնամակալներին</p>
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			<p>ու հոգաբարձ ունեցի, խնամակալ ունեցի և հոգաբարձ ունեցի ու տալիս է համապատասխան վկայագրեր:</p> <p>Առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած 18 տարի չլրացած երեխաների, այդ թվում նաև խնամատար ընտանիքի հանձնված երեխաների ընդհանուր հաշվառումն իրականացնում է Հայաստանի Հանրապետության աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարությունը:</p>
<b>Guardian</b>	<p>A guardian is a legally appointed adult representative for a child. The guardian's function is to ensure that a child's rights are upheld and the child's best interests are protected. The existence, process and duties of a guardian will vary from country to country. <i>(Source: The Better Care Network website).</i></p> <p><b>For the purposes of the present CAR, guardianship refers only to situations where the child is looked after on a day-to-day basis in the guardian's own home,</b></p> <p><i>How is data on guardianship collected? Who/which ministry is responsible? Please explain what definitions/ classification systems are used to collect data?</i></p>	<p>In the Republic of Armenia custody or guardianship is defined for children deprived of parental care in order to take care, rear and educate them as well as to protect their rights and interests. Custody and guardianship towards children is appointed and terminated prescribed by Civil Legislation.</p> <p>Guardian's (trustee) civil rights and obligations are defined by the Civil Code.</p> <p>As in the case of a foster family institute, the initial registration of children deprived of parental care is implemented by custody and guardianship bodies which choose the ways of placement of such children in families based on specific circumstances of being deprived of parental care (referring childcare and rear to the foster family,</p>	<p>Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունում այն երեխաների նկատմամբ, ովքեր մնացել են առանց ծնողական խնամքի սահմանվում է խնամակալ ունեցող և հոգաբարձ ունեցող նրանց պահելու, դաստիարակելու և կրթություն տալու, ինչպես նաև նրանց իրավունքները եւ շահերը պաշտպանելու նպատակներով:</p> <p>Երեխաների նկատմամբ խնամակալ ունեցող և հոգաբարձ ունեցող նշանակվում է դադարեցվում է քաղաքացիական օրենսդրությամբ սահմանված կարգով:</p> <p>Խնամակալի (հոգաբարձ ունեցող) քաղաքացիական իրավունքներն ու</p>

		<p>appointment of a guardian, a trustee).</p> <p>The centralized registration of children in difficult life circumstances including children deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of children deprived of parental care is conducted by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p>	<p>պարտականության ներքո ներդրում անվճար անցնող քաղաքացիական օրենսգրքով:</p> <p>Ինչպես խնամատար ընտանիքի ինստիտուտի պարագայում, առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների սկզբնական հաշվառումն իրականացվում է խնամակալության հոգաբարձության մարմինների կողմից, որոնք էլ ներկվածն ունենալիս ծնողական խնամքի գրկվելու որոշակի հանգամանքներից՝ ընտրում են նման երեխաներին ընտանիքներում տեղավորելու ձևերը (խնամատար ընտանիքում խնամքի և դաստիարակության հանձնելը, խնամակալ, հոգաբարձու նշանակելը):</p> <p>Կյանքի դժվարին իրավիճակում հայտնված, այդ թվում առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների և առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների թվին պատկանող անձանց կենտրոնացված հաշվառումն իրականացնում է ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարության կողմից:</p>
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Term	UNICEF working definition/explanation	<u>Your country: definitions/explanation/legal references/data collection</u>	
		<p><i>Explain if your country's understanding of this expression is different. Please answer all questions and provide details with examples. Please indicate clearly where data are not available or of poor quality and the reasons for this. Please refer to appropriate legislation. Please provide additional comments on your country context and other remarks, if possible.</i></p>	
		English	National language
<b>Patronat (patronage care)</b>  <i>No data on patronat care is currently collected as part of TransMonEE. There is a separate line in the TransMonEE template (at the end of the section on guardian care) for "Other type of family based care". Data on informal kinship care arrangements are usually presented in that line.</i>	<p>Family based placement concept by which children are placed in "patronat" families while remaining under the guardianship of the director of their residential institution « of origin » – through a tripartite agreement between institution-family-guardianship agencies. Children and potential "patronat" parents are prepared, selected and accompanied by the institution. The institution retains legal power and financial resources to manage this process and intervene as much as needed.</p> <p><i>Do you have patronat care in your country? How is data collected on patronage care? Who/which ministry is responsible? Please explain if children in patronage are counted as living in "foster care", "residential care" or other in your country; Please explain what definitions/ classification systems are used to collect data.</i></p>	<p>Out of biological family, other forms of families taking care of child are not yet developed in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In Armenia the groups of children deprived of family care are differentiated. Only children deprived of parental care receive assistance guaranteed by the State, for the rest State guarantees mainly relate to education rights.</p> <p>Children unrecognized as children deprived of parental care receive guaranteed assistance only within the framework of the provision of compulsory education.</p>	<p>Կենսաաբանական ընտանիքից դուրս երեխայի խնամքն իրականացնող ընտանիքի այլ ձևերը Հայաստանի Հանրապետության մեջ չեն գրագրվում:</p> <p>Ընտանեկան խնամքից դուրս մնացած երեխաների խմբերը Հայաստանում տարբերակված են: Միայն առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաներն են պետության կողմից երաշխավորված աջակցություն ստանում, մյուս երեխաների համար պետական երաշխիքները հիմնականում առնչվում են կրթության իրավունքներին: Առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած չճանաչված երեխաները երաշխավորված աջակցություն են ստանում միայն պարտադիր կրթության ապահովման շրջանակներում:</p>
	<b>Informal care arrangements</b>		
<b>Kinship care</b>  <i>There is a separate line in</i>	<p>Any private arrangement provided in a family environment whereby the child is looked after on an ongoing or indefinite basis by relatives or friends (para</p>	<p>Information sources on other informal childcare forms do not exist.</p>	<p>Խնամքի այլ, ոչ պաշտոնական ձևերի մասին տեղեկատվական աղբյուրներում բացակայում է:</p>



the TransMonEE template (at the end of the section on guardian care) for "Other type of family based care". Data on informal kinship care arrangements are usually presented in that line.	29.b.i) - 2009 UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children  How is data collected on informal kinship care? Who/which ministry is responsible? Please explain what definitions/ classification systems are used to collect data.		
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Term	UNICEF working definition/explanation	<u><b>Your country: definitions/explanation/legal references/data collection</b></u>  <i>Explain if your country's understanding of this expression is different. Please answer all questions and provide details with examples. Please indicate clearly where data are not available or of poor quality and the reasons for this. Please refer to appropriate legislation. Please provide additional comments on your country context and other remarks, if possible.</i>	
	<b>Residential care</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>National language</b>
<b>Residential care</b>	<p>All care provided in a non-family-based group setting, such as places of safety for emergency care, transit centres in emergency situations, and all other short- and long-term residential facilities, including group homes (para 29.c.iv) 2009 UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children.</p> <p><i>How is data collected on public and non public</i></p>	<p>One of the major problems of the current childcare system for children in difficult life circumstances in the Republic of Armenia is the severe lack and in most areas the absence of community-based and family-based services for organizing the Care of children in difficult life circumstances including children deprived of parental care. For this reason the most</p>	<p>Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունում կյանքի դժվարին իրավիճակում հայտնված երեխաների խնամքի ներկայումս գործող համակարգի ամենագլխավոր հիմնախնդիրներից մեկը կյանքի դժվարին իրավիճակում հայտնված, այդ թվում՝ առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների խնամքի կազմակերպման</p>

	<p>(private) residential care facilities as a whole? Who/which ministry or ministries is/are responsible?</p>	<p>suitable form of organizing the Care of children in difficult life circumstances especially of those deprived of parental care continues to be considered the childcare in public social protection institutions.</p> <p>Childcare institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• orphanages, including Specialized orphanages</li> <li>• Child Care and Protection Boarding Institutions</li> </ul> <p>An orphanage is an institution that works 24 hours and ensures comprehensive care to children who have been deprived of parental care (even in cases when the biological family still exists). Specialized orphanages ensure comprehensive care to children with special needs and children deprived of parental care.</p> <p>In 2013 there have been operating 8 orphanages in RA, 6 out of which in the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs State system. In the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs system operate 8 Child Care and Protection Boarding Institutions as well, which organize the childcare and rearing of children of vulnerable families at school age (6-18 years old) registered in</p>	<p>համայնքատեղում և ընտանիքատեղում ծառայություններին խիստ պակասն է, իսկ տարածքներին մեծ մասում՝ դրանց բացակայությունը: Այդ իսկ պատճառով կյանքի դժվարին իրավիճակում, հատկապես առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաներին մեծ մասի խնամքի կազմակերպման առավել հարմար ձև է շարունակվում դիտվել բնակչության սոցիալական պաշտպանության հաստատության ներքո մ երեխաների խնամքը:</p> <p>խնամքի հաստատության ներքո</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Մանկատներ, այդ թվում՝ մասնագիտացված</li> <li>• երեխաների խնամքի և պաշտպանության գիշերօթիկ հաստատության ներքո</li> </ul> <p>Մանկատունը 24 ժամ գործող հաստատություն է, որն ապահովում է ամբողջական խնամք այն երեխաներին, ովքեր փաստացի գրկվել են ծնողական խնամքից (նույն իսկ այն դեպքերում, երբ կենսաբանական ընտանիքը դեռևս գոյություն ունի): Մասնագիտացված մանկատներն ապահովում են հատուկ կարիքներ ունեցող և առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած երեխաների ամբողջական խնամքը:</p>
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		<p>vulnerability family assessment system.</p> <p>The information on children's' sex and age composition and logistics in orphanages is collected semi-annually by the RA National Statistical Service and the information related to children in institutions of childcare and protection is summarized by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p>	<p>2013 թվականին ՀՀ-ում գործել է 8 մանկատուն, որոնցից 6-ը պետական՝ ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարության համակարգում: ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարության համակարգում գործում է նաև 8 երեխաների խնամքի և պաշտպանության գիշերօթիկ հաստատություն, որոնք իրականացնում են ընտանիքների անապահովության գնահատման համակարգում հաշվառված սոցիալապես անապահով ընտանիքների դպրոցահասակ (6-18 տարեկան) երեխաների խնամքը և դաստիարակությունը:</p> <p>Մանկատներում երեխաների սեռատարիքային կազմի, մանկատան նյութատեխնիկական անապահովվածության վերաբերյալ տեղեկատվությունը կիսամյակային կտրվածքով հավաքագրվում է ՀՀ ազգային վիճակագրական ծառայության կողմից, իսկ խնամքի և պաշտպանության համակարգի հաստատություններում երեխաներին ամենօրյա տեղեկատվությունն ամփոփվում է ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարության կողմից:</p>
<b>Family Type Home / Family</b>	Personalised residential care, provided by one or more staff in a house that is	There are 2 non-governmental orphanages in the RA:	<p>Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունում</p>

<p><b>Care Group</b></p> <p>Family-type homes could be public or non-public. There is a separate line for <u>public family-type homes</u> under public residential care in the TransMonEE template while non-public family-type homes are included under “Other non-public institutional care”</p>	<p>not their own, looking after a group of children (typically 10-15) in a home-like environment. <i>UN Study on Violence Against Children, p. 178</i></p> <p><i>How is data collected on “family type homes”? Who/which ministry is responsible? Please explain if children in family type homes are counted as living in “foster care”, “residential care” or other in your country; Please explain what definitions/ classification systems are used to collect data.</i></p>	<p>“SOS - children’s villages” Armenian charitable social foundation, which is a family-type orphanage and organizes childcare of children 3-23 years old deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of these children. In “SOS - children’s villages” orphanages the information on children’s sex and age composition and facilities in orphanages is collected semi-annually by the RA National Statistical Service.</p>	<p>գործում է ոչ պետական 2 մանկատուն՝ «ՍՕՍ» Մանկական գյուղեր» հայկական բարեգործական հասարակական հիմնադրամը, որն ընտանեկան տիպի մանկատուն է և իրականացնում է 3-23 տարեկան առանց ծնողական խնամքի մնացած և նրանց թվին պատկանող անձանց ընտանեկան խնամքի մոտ խնամք: «ՍՕՍ» Մանկական գյուղեր» մանկատներում երեխաների սեռատարիքային կազմի, մանկատան նյութատեխնիկական ապահովվածությունը վերաբերյալ տեղեկատվությունը կիսամյակային կտրվածքով հավաքագրվում է ՀՀ ազգային վիճակագրական ծառայություն կողմից:</p>
<p><b>Institutions</b></p>	<p>“Large” residential care facilities (para. 23) <i>2009 UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children</i></p> <p>Generally viewed as any public or private facility staffed by salaried carers or volunteers working pre-determined hours/shifts, and based on collective living arrangements with a large capacity – 2012 <i>Identifying Basic Characteristics of Formal Alternative Care Settings for Children: Discussion Paper of the NGO Working Group on Children without Parental Care, Geneva.</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Add if you wish to include</p>	<p>Add if you wish to include additional terms</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

additional terms			
Add if you wish to include additional terms	Add if you wish to include additional terms	N/A	

## SECTION 2: SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

### ***NATIONAL CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN ARMENIA***

Pursuant to the Armenian legislation a child without parental care is considered the one who is under the age of 18 whose parents (or a sole parent) died, were deprived of parental rights, were recognized as incapable, avoid upbringing of their children or protection of their rights and interests, as well as have been recognized as dead, missing as prescribed by law or are unknown.

Besides, persons belonging to the number of children without parental care are considered those at the age of 18-23 whose parents (or sole parent) died, were deprived of parental rights, were recognized as incapable, avoided upbringing of their children or protection of their rights and interests, as well as have been recognized as dead, missing as prescribed by law before they reached the age of 18, or are unknown.

The state policy of social protection of children without parental care in Armenia is aimed at ensuring the protection of the rights and legal interests of the children without parental care pursuant to the RA Constitution, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the RA Civil and Family Codes, RA Laws on Child Rights and Social protection of children without parental care, and other legal acts, stipulating the main guarantees of rights and legal interests of children without parental care, restoring their rights in case they have been violated, not allowing any discrimination against them, developing legal foundations for the social protection of children without parental care, as well as preventing emergence of social difficulties.

Social protection and social security of children without parental care is one of the priority issues of any state policy. It should be targeted at organization of care and upbringing of children without parental care in families, support of families which bring up and take care of children without parental care, determination and maintenance of minimum state social standards for the quality of life of children without parental care who are or reside in rearing, medical and residential care institutions, irrespective of their legal-organizational form, etc.

The RA Government determines minimum state social standards (guarantees) of the key indicators of life quality of children without parental care which include free medical care and service, food provision of children without parental care in accordance with minimum food standards, organization of child health rehabilitation and recreation, social assistance, provision of free legal assistance, provision of housing right, public education, vocational and higher education on competitive basis as prescribed by RA legislation. In order to ensure and

enhance the quality of care and upbringing of orphanage alumni 21 standards have been set forth. Application of the standards towards the children under the care of the institutions ensures prerequisites for further independent life of the child. The standards guarantee the child's protection from psychological and physical abuse, sexual exploitation and perversion, cruel attitude, work exploitation, indifference and crimes, injustice, health-threatening agents, life-threatening conditions. Minimum standards required for the provision of child care, food, clothing, health education and other needs are also regulated.

Children without parental care who are or reside in medical, rearing and residential care institutions, irrespective of their legal-organizational form, or their legal representatives have the right to demand periodic reviews of the compliance of the services provided to children with the minimum state social standards of key indicators of quality of life. The reviews are conducted by national and local self-governmental bodies authorized by the RA Government, based on the applications of children without parental care or their legal representatives, as prescribed by RA legislation.

Children in especially difficult circumstances and without parental care are entitled to special care and protection from the national administration and local self-governmental bodies who should contribute to the full-scale life activity and development of the children as well as ensure their participation in public life.

With the purpose of protecting the rights of children in especially difficult circumstances and without parental care, territorial centers of social services, rearing, residential care and medical institutions, irrespective of their legal-organizational form, design community-based programs of social-psychological rehabilitation of children in compliance with minimum social standards of children's life quality. The individual social-psychological rehabilitation program includes the assessment of the child's condition, including assessment of the child's health condition, psychological and other anti-crisis measures, which are carried out by the territorial centers of social services independently or jointly with educational, medical or other organizations.

In case of violating the rights and legal interests of children without parental care, compensation of the damage caused to children without parental care is levied from guilty persons by the ruling of the court taking into consideration conduction of activities necessary for the social adaptation and social-psychological rehabilitation of children without parental care.

Implementation and coordination of a unified state policy of protection of children's rights and interests is carried out through a three-level system of child protection.

The following types of child care institutions and special schools function in Armenia:

- **Assessment center**, where assessment of special educational needs (SEN) of a child is conducted prior to referring the child to a general education school. Assessment is conducted by the state-accredited Medical-psychological-pedagogical assessment (MPPA) center. Through the assessment of a child's SEN special conditions are determined, and through provision of consultation on the necessity of effective organization of conditions for education and pedagogical methods the child's abilities and capabilities are identified. There are only three MPPA centers in Armenia – in Yerevan, Sisian and Lori marz (region). For the determination of special conditions for education a child can be presented for SEN assessment based on the application of the parent (other legal representative) or the decision of the court in effect. Education of any child with SEN is organized by individual curricula, which are prepared a month after the child's admission to the educational establishment. It is

prepared by the teachers, special and social pedagogues and psychologist who work with the pupil. Based on it the academic performance of the child with SEN is evaluated and a decision is made on changing the grade level. The center also has the capacity to keep the children for a longer period of time.

• **Educational establishment for children with special educational needs** – an institution where children (at the age of 6-21) receive “special” pre-school, general secondary or high school education or specialization which is tailored to their needs. Pursuant to the Republic of Armenia “Law on Education,” the special education system includes the system of schooling and education of children with special educational needs as well as with anti-social behavior. For the organization of the education of children with special educational needs and with anti-social behavior there are special institutions of general education (extended-day and boarding schools) in the country. Not all alumni constantly stay in those institutions. It can be both simply a special school and an educational complex. For convenience of reference “special school” term is used in this report. Special general education schools of children with anti-social behavior work with children with anti-social behavior and educational gaps.

Children with special educational needs who may also have disability are registered by the RA Ministry of Education and Science. Meanwhile, pursuant to the current regulations of the Republic of Armenia, there is a large group of children with disabilities who do not have special educational needs. As for the registration of children with special educational needs, it has been accurate since 2007 when pursuant to the Republic of Armenia “Law on Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs” adopted in 2005 “Yerevan Medical-Psychological-Pedagogical Assessment Center” SNCO was established. Educational needs of a child are assessed in Yerevan medical-psychological-pedagogical assessment center according to the parent’s application, therefore, the data regarding 4,000 children with special educational needs registered in Yerevan Medical-Psychological-Pedagogical Assessment Center do not give the full picture of the country.

Currently there are two types of special schools in Armenia: schools that are under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Science and are financed from the state budget, and schools that are under jurisdiction of local authorities (Regional Administrations) and are financed from the regional budget. In the academic year of 2013-2014, there were 27 special schools in Armenia, one of which was intended for children with anti-social behavior and educational gaps (Annex 1, Table 1).

In the academic year of 2013-2014, 2247 pupils studied in these educational institutions, 823 of which were girls. In structural terms in the total number of pupils in special schools children with mental retardation (58.6% or 1317 children) prevail (Annex 1, Table 2).

Besides, pursuant to the RA “Law on the Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs,” the RA program of inclusive education adopted in 2005 gives children with special educational needs an opportunity to receive their education also in general education schools.

Probably, there are some successful and inspiring examples of inclusive education achieved in Armenia during the last decade; nevertheless, in terms of making inclusive education universal, there still remain numerous obstacles: In order to create a favorable environment for inclusive education, it is necessary to introduce legislative changes and effective re-distribution of resources from special schools to inclusive ones. Special schools

possess valuable professional expertise that can be re-channeled for the beneficiaries to utilize it. Raising the level of awareness among teachers and training of teachers are among the important components; nevertheless, the experience of other countries demonstrates that training of teachers is mostly useful in cases where children with special needs already attend schools, since the art of teaching often depends upon hands-on experience, and teachers are able to meet the individual needs of a child through finding resourceful solutions. In addition, it is highly necessary to increase the level of awareness among parents as the ones bearing primary responsibility for children's rights (the state bears the main responsibility).

- **Care institutions**

- Orphanages, including specialized ones
- Boarding institutions of child care and protection

An orphanage is a 24-hour institution which provides full care to those children who have actually been deprived of parental care (even in cases when biological family still exists). Specialized orphanages secure full care of children with special needs and without parental care. In 2013 there were 8 orphanages in the country, 6 of which were state-run within the system of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (2 in Yerevan, 1 in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak marzes each), and 2 were non-state (1 in Yerevan and 1 in Kotayk marz) (Annex 1, Table 3).

Three of the state-run orphanages are of general type, and three are specialized. Orphanages of general type carry out 24-hour care and nurturing of children without parental care – social-psychological rehabilitation activities, protection of their rights and legal interests, provision with food, clothing and household items, organization of education and medical aid, either before they turn 18 or before they are returned to their biological families or adoption or determining guardianship and trusteeship or placement in a foster family. Specialized orphanages carry out 24-hour care and nurturing of children with special needs (children with disorders of central nervous system, congenital and acquired physical and mental disorders).

There are 2 non-state orphanages in the Republic of Armenia – “SOS” *Children’s Villages*” *Armenian Charity Foundation*, which is a family-type orphanage and provides care similar to family care to children without parental care and persons belonging to their number of 3-23 age, as well as *Armenian Branch of Missionaries Charitable Organization*, which is a specialized orphanage and provides care and nurturing to specially vulnerable children (children with disorders of central nervous system, congenital and acquired physical and mental disorders).

As of the beginning of 2013, pursuant to the statistical reports provided by the National Statistical Service of Armenia, around 909 children were under the care of orphanages of Armenia (against 898 children in the previous year and 1109 children in 2008), of which 448 were girls (Annex 1, Table 4). The vast majority of children were under the care of state orphanages (736 children). As of the end of the year, the number of children decreased by 18 and amounted to 927 children. During the year, 212 children were discharged from the orphanages (as compared to 231 in the previous year) and 230 children were admitted (as compared to 210 in the previous year).

Moreover, while observing the number of children by age groups one can state that as of the end of the year, in comparison with previous years, the number of children under 1 year of age and those of 10-15 years old has significantly decreased, and sharp variation of indicators in other age groups have not been recorded (Annex 1, Table 5).



The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia considers boarding institutions as a type of family support services. The reason of their classification as residential institutions is that many children (10% by official data) do not go home on weekends, and those who do not have families are moved from these institutions during summer to summer camps organized by various charity organizations. Child care in institutions is separated from education which is organized in general education schools with the purpose of child integration into the society. According to the officers responsible for this area, children residing in child care institutions are children in difficult situations who are from vulnerable families. The state provides temporary support to these children in the form of care, assistance to the family, provision of general education in schools and free of charge access to health care services, etc. In contrast to this approach, in the view of experts representing non-governmental and international organizations, after parents take their children to a child care institution, the majority of them do not attempt to return their children back. According to them, employees of institutions for residential care also do not try to preserve the child-parent link, and children who stay in such institutions for long years lose their connection with the family. Meanwhile it has to be emphasized that in accordance with the Republic of Armenia legislation, if a parent at least once a year visits his/her child who resides in a child care institution, it is prohibited to legally recognize such a child as deprived of parental care and register with the aim of adoption. As a result, "In orphanages envisaged for children with no disabilities, the ratio of children who were abandoned by parents comprises only one percent" (an expert from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs), and, in general, children stay in residential institutions until the end of their childhood.

The next major reason for taking children to institutions of residential care or other child care institutions is disability. And although there are also adults in these institutions, because of absence of an alternative they stay in orphanages until there are other resources in the country for their separate placement in appropriate institutions. The lack of alternatives largely contributes to the phenomenon of abandoning children with disabilities and placing them in child care institutions. Children with disabilities require a lot of attention and professional effort. While parents, perceiving that it is going to be difficult or he/she will not be able to take care of the child, and having no alternatives, believe that the best option for the child would be his/her placement in a special school or in a special institution. In addition, the institutions where the children are placed also do not encourage the parents to keep the children. The experts are confident that it would be possible to significantly reduce the number of cases of placing children with disabilities in child care institutions if child day care centers were established and developed in communities, if children were provided with an opportunity to study right in their own communities.

Children admitted to orphanages mainly have psychological and numerous other difficulties and mental health-related issues. Medical-social rehabilitation institutions of children organize the treatment of children with special needs, treat speech impairments, carry out other complex rehabilitation activities, provide psychological support. There are two social care institutions within the system of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues where relevant services are provided to 200 children.

Pursuant to the RA Government Decision No. 1735-N, dated 9 November 2006, "On establishing the order of child placement in child care and protection institutions (orphanage, boarding school)," there are eight boarding institutions of child care and protection in the system of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs which carry out care and nurturing of

school-age children (6-18 years old) of socially vulnerable families registered in the family vulnerability assessment system. These institutions emerged in September of 2007 when the program of deinstitutionalization entered implementation stage. As a result of the program 17 boarding schools either ceased to exist as such and transformed into ordinary schools, or closed down or changed their profile. The majority of them were boarding schools of general type, but some of them were so called “specialized boarding schools for children with special needs”, and some were “boarding schools for orphan, homeless children and children without parental care.” Check-up of all the children of the institutions selected for deinstitutionalization showed that in case of most children in specialized boarding schools “developmental problems” that they had were poverty and social neglect. After deinstitutionalization general boarding schools ceased to exist, and only a few boarding schools for children with special needs remained. As for the children, the majority of them had to return to their own families, but the families often did not have the necessary means to accept them back. In order to support the re-integration of children into their families the Government of Armenia launched financial support program of re-united families. However, even with the financial assistance allocated by the Government, some families were in such difficulties that were not able to take care of their own children. For such families and children the Government established the so-called system of boarding institutions of child care and protection where, as reported, school-age children spend five nights a week, whereas they spend the weekends and holidays with their families. Families of such children are allowed to retain the benefit allocated for taking the child back even if the child spends most time in a boarding institution of child care and protection.

Straight after deinstitutionalization of boarding schools, the number of children in boarding institutions of child care and protection reached 950. In 2009, their number reduced to 710. As of 2013, according to the data provided by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to the National Statistical Service, 595 children of socially vulnerable families are taken care of in boarding institutions of child care and protection.

- **2004-2015 Project on Deinstitutionalization of Child Care and Protection Institutions**

The policy addressing the issues of children in especially difficult circumstances, and, in particular, deinstitutionalization of orphanages continues to be a priority direction of activities aimed at strengthening of the child care and protection system, reduction of the number of children residing in institutions providing child care and protection, prevention of inflow of children into these institutions, improvement of child care and protection institutions, integration of the children in such institutions in the society, and introduction of alternative services for care provision.

With the purpose of changing the existing situation in Armenia, in 2004 the RA Government elaborated and adopted a national strategy for the protection of children up to year 2015. “Deinstitutionalization of Child Care and Protection Institutions” was one of the processes envisaged in that programme; the implementation of this component has started since 2006. One of the bases for these processes is the fact that Armenia has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that all the state parties that have ratified the Convention shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the right of the child to live in family is respected, and the placement of children in special institutions shall be considered as an exceptional measure: it shall be temporary and shall last as short as possible.

Since 2006, the “Services for Family Reintegration of Children in Child Care and Protection Institutions in the Republic of Armenia (Deinstitutionalization)” project is implemented in Lori marz. The project goal is to ensure the provision of child care and protection services in their biological families, instead of services rendered in institutions, by creating sustainable guarantees for the child’s full life in his/her family.

The project is implemented by Aravot non-governmental organization, which operates in RA Lori marz, on the basis of social partnership principles and funded through the RA state budget. From 2006 until today, around 270 children have returned to their families from child care institutions operating in Lori marz only, while the entry of 80 children into these institutions was prevented (see Annex 1, Table 6).

Nevertheless, it has to be noted that the Project’s shortcoming is that it is implemented only in Lori marz and, in addition, the entrance of new children into the emerged “vacant places” is not being restricted: as a result, the number of children in institutions does not decrease.

In addition, in the framework of the following service – “Provision of financial assistance package to the families of children returned to biological families”—each year families of 50 children receive support from Republic of Armenia state budget funds. This support includes a food package, stationery and textbooks, monetary compensation for energy consumption.

Unfortunately, however, despite the fact that these projects are very well elaborated in documents, in practice those have not been effective yet, and the number of children in residential and other child care institutions has not been reduced. In particular, according to various experts, the transformation of orphanages has not resulted in substantial changes and, for example, the change of the word “orphanage” to “boarding institution of child care and protection” has not brought about any change in its content: children continue to spend nights there being deprived of their parents and families. In case of real deinstitutionalization the child must reside either in his/her biological family or in a foster family, or under care on the basis of another family, while a family environment must be ensured for the child.<sup>1</sup>

In Armenia, since 2008, child day care and support institutions operate in the framework of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs system for the organization of educational and personal development activities and social and psychological rehabilitation of children in especially difficult circumstances and members of their families, as well as for the satisfaction of material needs and household requirements of such children.

**Child support center** provides temporary care services to children in especially difficult circumstances, carries out activities aimed at social and psychological rehabilitation of these children and members of their families before the child is returned to his/her parent or appointment of a foster family or a guardian for the child, while in case this is impossible, placing the child in an orphanage (residential institution).

**Day care centers for socially vulnerable children:** The National Strategy on Reforms in Social Protection of Children in Difficult Situations for 2006-2010 defines day care centers as community-based services that provide professional socio-psychological, pedagogic and legal services to children in difficult situations and their families. These institutions are also places for children in need of temporary care during the day. The National Plan of Action of the Republic of Armenia for the Protection of the Rights of the Child calls for the establishment of

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<sup>1</sup> Findings of a study conducted in April-June 2011 in the framework of “Every child needs a family” project.

25 community day care centers for children in Armenia by the year 2015. There are currently three such state-funded centers in Armenia, which provide services to children at risk aged 6-18 and to their families.

**Day care centers for children with disabilities and socially vulnerable children:** At day care centers for socially vulnerable children and day care centers for children with disabilities/socially vulnerable children, there are fixed visiting hours for children with disabilities, and the treatment usually lasts no longer than 1-2 hours. In contrast, socially vulnerable children can stay in day care centers for all day long. In addition, day care centers for socially vulnerable children work with children in groups, while the rehabilitation of children with disabilities requires individual treatment for each child. Because of limited visiting hours, children that visit day care centers for children with disabilities are not normally fed there, while at day care centers for socially vulnerable children food supply is an important expenditure item.

In 2013, in four day care centers operated by Bridge of Hope NGO in Tavush marz/region (in Dilijan, Ijevan, Noyemberyan, Berd towns and adjacent villages), around 540 children with disabilities, children with social-psychological issues and children with special needs were provided with various types of social services (Annex 1, Table 7).

The introduction of **foster care family scheme** largely contributes to the resolution of the issue of children who were moved out of orphanages. Number of steps were taken in this direction during the recent years through both improvement of the legislative framework and implementation of pilot projects. Under Article 139 of the Republic of Armenia Family Code, children deprived of parental care are given to a foster family for rearing. In 2004, based on a proposal made by UN Children's Fund, jointly with the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the concept of foster family scheme was developed, and a working group was established for the realization of the above mentioned idea. Since 2006, in Lori and Gegharkunik regions of Armenia, the "Foster Family" pilot project was being implemented. In the framework of this project, with support from the UN Children's Fund, and thanks to joint activities carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia and Fund for Armenian Relief Children's Support Foundation Center that performs children's reception and orientation, 18 children who formerly resided in orphanages are currently reared in foster families. Until 2008, the expenses for their care were covered by funds provided by the UN Children's Fund. Since January 2008, foster families are funded by the Republic of Armenia state budget resources. The Children's Support Foundation Center (operational since year 2000, formerly known as the Children's Reception and Orientation Center) established by the Fund for Armenian Relief has also been cooperating with the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues throughout years. As of 2013, 19 children left without parental care are reared in foster families (Annex 1, Table 8).

- **Program of State Assistance to Graduates of State Child Care Institutions of RA:** In Soviet times, the state was dealing with the issues faced by graduates of orphanages. Such a graduate was being provided with an apartment, a job and an opportunity for free of charge education. After independence, sufficient life conditions were ensured in orphanages; nevertheless, after leaving the orphanage, no structured solution was being offered for the problems faced by orphanage graduates. Since 2003, the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs implements the "Program of State Assistance to Graduates of State Child Care Institutions of RA" in Armenia. Under this Program, individual projects are elaborated for each graduate, social patronage of beneficiaries is carried out, graduates are provided with housing spaces, they receive professional orientation, education, training, income sufficient to

meet basic needs, the state also provides in-kind support (provision of property), medical help and legal counseling: And although this program started in 2003, graduates of orphanages from years 1991-2003 were also covered by it. During the first years of the Program implementation, it was mainly aimed at persons who had graduated from orphanages by 2003, homeless persons, persons with serious psychological and health problems, as well as convicted persons. In the period of 2003-2005, Armenian Democratic Forum non-governmental organization implemented this Program, while from 2006 until today, the Armenian Relief Society non-governmental organization was in charge of the Program implementation. In the course of 2003-2013, 436 graduates of orphanages (including 17 – in 2013) have become Program beneficiaries.

The “State assistance to alumni of RA child guardianship organizations” program also, according to experts, is rather contradictory.<sup>2</sup> On the one hand, it is positive because it gives these children an opportunity to have at least some start-up opportunities and a place to go to, while, on the other hand, this program has become the basis for a number of abuses that have caused the RA Prosecutor’s Office to file criminal cases with regards thereof. Because of these and other abuses the program was suspended in 2009 and re-started in 2011-2012 after making certain changes to it. Besides the legal aspect, the program has also other shortcomings that are connected with the selection of alumni and especially related to the fact that the apartments are provided for a period of 10 years, and, if an apartment is not privatized during this period, it is taken back: it is rather difficult to imagine that alumni from residential institutions would have become financially viable in such a short period of time.

In order to compile comprehensive data on children in especially difficult circumstances, who live in orphanages, families, medical institutions, on children subject to adoption and adopted children, as well as on children deprived of parental care and registered by guardianship and trusteeship bodies, on children who are considered to be deprived of parental care, and also on persons in need of an apartment, in 2004 the database of “Manuk” (“child”) information system was created in “Nork” Information-Analytical Center of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia. Nevertheless, the input of data in the system on children under care in boarding institutions of child care and protection and in private orphanages was carried out since 2011.

### ***THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF CHILD’S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA***

In the course of the last decade, the Government of Armenia has developed and implemented a number of programs aimed at the enhancement of the rights and protection of children.

Yet in 2003, based on its commitments assumed in the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the outcome document of the UN Special Session on children, “A World Fit for Children,” as well as guided by the provisions of the RA “Law on Child Rights,” the RA Government has approved the 2004-2005 National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Armenia.

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<sup>2</sup> Findings of a study conducted in April-June 2011 in the framework of “Every child needs a family” project.

In the process of elaboration of the national program, information contained in the RA national report submitted in 2002 to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child was used as a basis. In addition, data presented in the RA summary report submitted to the United Nations after acceding to the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, as well as the fundamental principles of the final outcome document, "A World Fit for Children," adopted at the UN Special Session on children held in 2002 in New York were taken into consideration. Issues defined in the national program were in line with Poverty Reduction Strategic Program (PRSP) approved by the RA Government and with Sustainable Development Program that later replaced the PRSP.

To strengthen international cooperation in the area of child protection, the Republic of Armenia has acceded to a number of international documents; the following documents are especially important in the context of legal protection of children deprived of parental care:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (entry into force on 30.07.2005);
- Agreement on Cooperation of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues (entry into force on 04.09.2006);
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention) (entry into force on 01.09.2007).

The Republic of Armenia has also acceded to a number of conventions adopted by the International Labor Organization, including the Convention on Forced Labor (NO. 29), the Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor (No. 105) and the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

In 2005, by the Decision of the RA Prime Minister, the National Commission on the Protection of Children's Rights was established and became operational. The main direction of the Commission's activities is the coordination of implementation of a joint state policy, as well as coordination of efforts aimed at the protection of children's rights and ensuring guarantees for advocacy and cooperation among state bodies, non-governmental, political, scientific and other organizations engaged in implementation of protection of and advocacy for the rights of the child.

The legislative framework in force in the Republic of Armenia covering the area of children's protection is presented in Annex 2.

Unfortunately, there are numerous factors, including financial, hampering the successful establishment and subsequent development of these programs. Nevertheless, according to various experts, the main factors hampering the advancement of the program are the absence of a political will, poor lobbying and reluctance to initiate a public discussion on the topic. The insufficient political will is especially evident in the efforts of the Government aimed at redistribution of resources. According to studies conducted by UNICEF, no additional financial resources are necessary for the whole Deinstitutionalization project as well as for the development of the scheme of foster families. It is simply necessary that the funds today

allocated for the care of children in residential institutions be channeled toward family-based programs.<sup>3</sup>

The next problem, reluctance to initiate public discussions on the mentioned topic, has brought about a situation where large strata of population, potential caretakers and other beneficiaries have no idea about the existence of such programs. Whereas in case they are aware and in case there is an appropriate conscience (culture) these persons would also be able to exert certain pressure and contribute to the increase in the effectiveness of programs implementation and to the growth of the number of foster families.

The successful implementation of deinstitutionalization is also hampered by a strong opposition practiced by people who have lived in that system for years and have become used to it; especially, the employees of residential institutions oppose who are afraid to lose their job places. Therefore, time needs to pass before they are able to admit that their knowledge and capacities will be necessary in the transformed centers for family support, in day care centers, emergency and rehabilitation institutions, in schools implementing inclusive education, etc.

Another weak aspect of the Deinstitutionalization program is that the above mentioned projects being implemented so far are not combined with toughening of criteria for the placement of children in residential institutions. As a result, on one hand, children leave institutions, while on the other, new children enter these institutions.

Another problem is the fragmentation of the implemented projects. In particular, in various parts of Armenia different organizations implement numerous projects aimed at deinstitutionalization. And although these projects are aimed at solving the same problem, those projects are not inter-linked and mutually agreed and adjusted. Consequently, although these projects bring about local and short-term successes, in terms of long-term and systemic prospects, those are ineffective.

For the solution of all these problems and for the successful implementation of the deinstitutionalization process, according to experts, it is necessary to have a clearly elaborated plan of activities where all the actions envisaged for implementation will be stipulated in detail, the timetable and expected results of activities, required resources and ways to mobilize resources. It is important to take into consideration the following aspects: preventive measures, issues of re-placement of children from residential institutions, and issues of re-employment of staff members employed by child care institutions. Moreover, it is important to adopt a distinctive approach regarding each child, each institution and each employee.

**Table 2. Qualitative data: description of formal family based care system**

Questions	Answers
	<i>(If not data is available, please indicate this and explain why. If data is available, but of</i>

<sup>3</sup> Toward alternative child care services: Appraisal of expenses made by child care institutions and community services. Yerevan, Asoghik Publishing House, 2010, page 61.

	<i>poor quality, please indicate this and explain why)</i>
<b>Foster care</b>	
<p>1. Has foster care been established in your country, if so how? (e.g. by law, decree, regulation or other measure – pls specify details and year of establishment)</p> <p>Explain clearly how foster care is regulated by law. If more than one system of foster care exists (e.g. in Russia), then please provide details for all systems. Please explain if other terms (e.g. maternal assistants) are used in your country.</p>	<p>According to the RA Family code child's (children's) upbringing can be implemented in a foster family based on the contract on child transfer to the family. The contract on child (children) transfer to the family is concluded between custody and guardianship body and foster parents (spouses or individual citizens who want to take children to their family for upbringing purposes).</p> <p>The list of organizations that deal with placement of orphan or children deprived of parental care and the placement procedure defines the RA Government. Currently, according to the RA Family Code the ways of organization of upbringing of children deprived of parents including abandoned children, as well as children having parents but not receiving proper care and upbringing are: adoption, custody and guardianship, child transfer to another family on the basis of Contract (foster family).</p>
<p>2. Has specialized foster care been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For children below three years</li> <li>▪ For children with disabilities</li> <li>▪ For emergency care (placement of children at short notice).</li> </ul>	<p>According to the Code only a child deprived of parental care under 18 years can be transferred to a foster family for childcare purposes whose parent or parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. died</li> <li>2. is/are deprived of parental rights</li> <li>3. avoid from their proper parental responsibilities</li> <li>4. is/are recognized incapable by Court decision.</li> <li>5. is/are recognized died or missing person by Court decision.</li> </ol> <p>Children suffering from acute or chronic infectious diseases cannot be transferred to a foster family if the foster family does not insist.</p> <p>Moreover, it is prohibited to give siblings to different foster families except if it is in their benefit. Besides, when transferring a 10 year old child (children) to a foster family his/her opinion should be asked.</p>
<p>3. Who has responsibility for the placement of children into foster care? Have the persons responsible for the placement of children in foster care received professional or appropriate training?</p>	<p>According to the RA Family Code in case of parents' death, their deprivation of parental rights, the restriction of parental rights, recognition of parents as incapable, parents avoiding from childcare or protection of their rights and interests including the cases when parents refuse to take their children from educational, medical, social protection or other similar organizations as well as in other cases of the lack of parental care, children's rights and interests protection is put on local</p>



	<p>self-government bodies- custody and guardianship bodies. Custody and guardianship body discovers children deprived of parental care, registers children, and chooses the ways of placement of children based on specific circumstances of being deprived of parental care (109 Article of the RA Family Code 1 point). By the way, besides custody and guardianship bodies activities of juridical and physical entities towards placement of children deprived of parental care are not allowed.</p>
<p>4. What type of <u>state obligations</u> exist with regards to fostering, e.g. is the state obliged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ establish criteria for screening/selection of foster parents?</li> <li>▪ provide training of foster parents?</li> <li>▪ carry out supervision of quality of care?</li> <li>▪ establish periodic contact with foster parents?</li> <li>▪ periodically review the continuing need for, and appropriateness of the placement in the light of any developments or of changes in family circumstances?</li> <li>▪ have a centralized database to monitor children being fostered</li> </ul>	<p>According to the RA Government decision N 459-N of 8 May 2008 on "Procedure of child transfer to a foster family, monthly allowance to a foster family for taking care of each child and the procedure and amount of payment for remuneration of foster parents for childcare and upbringing, the form of Contract for transferring child to a foster family" represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs the State ensures the child's right to live in the family mentioned in UN "Child Rights" Convention and the RA Law "On the Rights of the Child"; regulates the process of living in a foster family of the child deprived of parental care, the allocation of the necessary funds for the full life of the child in the family and the implementation of the foster parent remuneration functions. Custody and guardianship body is obliged to provide necessary assistance to the foster family, contribute to the creation of conditions of life and upbringing of child (children) as well as to implement monitoring towards the responsibilities of foster parents.</p>
<p>5. In terms of the <u>functioning of the actual system</u> of fostering, please identify at what level these obligations are to be effectively met (e.g. central, regional/provincial, local/municipal), (please explain details of any problems):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ established criteria for screening/selection of foster parents</li> <li>▪ Provision of training of foster parents</li> <li>▪ Supervising quality of care</li> <li>▪ Ensuring periodic contact with foster parents</li> <li>▪ Ensuring periodic reviews of the continuing need for, and appropriateness of the placement in the light of any developments or of changes in family circumstances</li> <li>▪ A centralized database to monitor children being fostered</li> </ul>	<p>Custody and guardianship body provides necessary assistance to the foster family for the creation of conditions of life and upbringing of the child as well as implements monitoring towards the responsibilities of foster parents prescribed by the Contract, adopts decisions on the transfer of the child to the foster family, concludes a contract with the foster parents (parent) on the transfer of child to the foster family prescribed by the RA Legislation, implements monitoring towards the responsibilities of foster parents.</p>
<p>6. How is <u>data</u> on children in foster care collected? If a central database exists, who has responsibility for it?</p>	<p>The registration (initial, regional and centralized) of children deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of children deprived of parental care is implemented accordingly by custody and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is the unit of data collection the number of placements or children?</li> <li>▪ Apart from the number of children entering foster care (inflow), does the country also monitor the number of children leaving foster care (outflow) and the number of children in foster care (stock data)?</li> <li>▪ Is it possible that in the situation of temporary foster care (e.g. child taken on holiday by foster parents) that the child is counted twice, both as being in residential care and foster care (please explain the problem of double counting if relevant to your country).</li> </ul> <p><i>Please explain if there are children classified as living in “foster care” but who mainly live in institutions.</i></p>	<p>guardianship bodies (initial registration), RA Regional administrations (Yerevan Municipality) (regional registration) and the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (centralized registration).</p>
<p>7. Specify if there is any provision of <u>financial support</u> by the state to foster parents (please specify what and the amount in local currency per month)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ cash benefits</li> <li>▪ salary</li> </ul> <p><i>If other incentives exist, such as housing, please provide details.</i></p>	<p>According to the RA Government decision N 459-N of 8 May 2008 the monthly allowance to a foster family for taking care of each child and the procedure and amount of payment for remuneration of foster parents for childcare and upbringing have been approved. The approved procedure regulates issues related to the amount and payment of monthly allowance to a foster family for taking care of child and the procedure and amount of payment for remuneration of foster parents for childcare and upbringing. According to the 2nd point of the procedure the foster parent is paid an allowance the amount of which is determined by the Contract concluded between the foster parent and the regional governor of his/her residence. The above mentioned procedure defines the amount of payment for remuneration of foster parents for childcare and upbringing as well. Thus, one of the foster parent is paid the minimum monthly wage for childcare and upbringing of one child, the 150% of the minimum monthly wage for 2 children, and 200% of the minimum monthly wage for 3 and more children (5th point). The amount of money for taking care of the child and the amount of payment for remuneration of foster parents for childcare and upbringing provides the RA Ministry of Finance within three days based on the bid-request received from Regional Administration (Yerevan Municipality) to which are attached all the necessary documents. The staff of the relevant Regional Administration (Yerevan Municipality) transfers the amount to the bank account of</p>

	the foster parent within two banking days after receiving the resources allocated for this purpose.
<b>Guardianship</b>	
<p>8. How has guardianship been established in your country? (e.g. by law, decree, regulation or other measure – pls specify details and year of establishment)</p> <p>Explain clearly if guardianship is regulated by law.</p> <p><i>If more than one system of guardianship exists then please provide details for all systems.</i></p>	<p>According to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia custody can be defined towards juveniles under 14 years. Guardians are by law the representatives of wards and sign all necessary transactions on behalf of them and in their interests.</p> <p>Guardianship is defined towards juveniles from 14 to 18 years old.</p> <p>Custody or guardianship is defined towards children deprived of parental care: in case of absence of their parents or adopters, deprivation of parents from parental rights by the Court as well as in cases when juveniles are deprived of parental care for other reasons, particularly when parents avoid from childcare or protection of their rights and interests in order to take care of them, educate as well as to protect their rights and interests.</p>
<p>9. Who has responsibility for overseeing guardianship care? Have these persons received professional or appropriate training?</p>	<p>Custody and guardianship bodies are the community leaders. Custody and guardianship commissions are established</p>

	<p>under the custody and guardianship bodies in order to carry out their tasks the individual membership of which (not less than 3 persons) approves the community council presented by the head of the community. Custody and guardianship commission functions on a voluntary basis. Custody and guardianship commission includes specialists of territorial offices of social services, educators and lawyers from community staff as well as representatives from NGOs (by agreement).</p>
<p>10. What type of <u>state obligations</u> exist with regards to guardianship, e.g. is the state obliged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provide training of guardians?</li> <li>▪ carry out supervision of quality of care?</li> <li>▪ establish periodic contact with guardians?</li> <li>▪ periodically review the treatment provided to the child and other circumstances relevant to his or her placement?</li> <li>▪ have a centralized database to monitor children in guardianship care</li> </ul>	<p>State, represented by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, implements the centralized registration of children in difficult life circumstances including those deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of children deprived of parental care, ensures the childcare of children in difficult life circumstances placed in foster families, conducts the activities for the establishment of database of children in difficult life circumstances and ensures the operation and development of the information system on children's issues.</p>
<p>11. In terms of the <u>functioning of the actual system</u> of guardianship, please identify at what level these obligations are to be effectively met (e.g. central, regional/provincial, local/municipal), (please explain details of any problems):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ providing training of guardianship parents</li> <li>▪ supervising quality of care</li> <li>▪ ensuring periodic contact with guardians</li> <li>▪ Ensuring periodic reviews of the continuing need for, and appropriateness of the placement in the light of any developments or of changes in family circumstances A centralized database to monitor children in guardianship care</li> </ul>	<p>Custody and guardianship bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the protection of children's rights and interests in case of violation of child's rights and interests, child's life and health-threatening, non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of child's upbringing, the obligation to provide education by parents or one of them or in case of abuse of parental rights.</li> <li>• in case of danger to the life or health of children take the child from the parent or foster parent care, immediately ensure the temporary placement of the child and appeal the Court in 7 days with the claim to deprive parents (one of them) of parental rights or to restrict their parental rights.</li> <li>• conduct life research of the person(s) aspiring child's upbringing and presents the research act and based on that the conclusion about the essence of the dispute to the Court;</li> <li>• appoint and dismiss guardians and trustees prescribed by law</li> <li>• give relevant certificates to guardians and trustees</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement monitoring towards the responsibilities of guardians and trustees.</li> </ul>
12. Specify if there is any provision of <u>financial support</u> by the state to guardians – give amount in local currency per month.	Custody and guardianship duties are implemented free of charge, except the cases prescribed by law. Guardians and trustees are obliged to care for their wards, ensure their care and treatment, education and upbringing, and protect their rights and interests.
13. How is <u>data</u> on children in guardianship care collected? If a central database exists, who has responsibility for it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the unit of data collection the number of placements or children?</li> <li>Is disaggregated data collected on children who are personally cared for by guardians on a daily basis in their own home and children who have legally appointed guardians but are cared for elsewhere?</li> <li>Is it possible that the child is counted twice, both as being in residential care and guardianship care (please explain the problem and impact of double counting if relevant to your country).</li> </ul> <p><i>Please explain if there are children classified as being in “guardianship care” but who actually reside in institution, in other type of care or with their parents.</i></p>	Guardians and trustees are appointed by the custody and guardianship body from the residence of the person needing guardianship and trusteeship within one month from the date when the mentioned body discovers the need to impose custody or guardianship towards the citizen. Before appointing guardian or trustee for the person needing guardianship and trusteeship the responsibilities of the guardian or trustee implements the custody and guardianship body.

### Table 3. Quantitative data

[illegible]

<b>3. Financing of formal family-based care</b>	Proportion of children in <b>formal family based care</b> that are funded wholly or primarily by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The State (central) %</li> <li>- Provincial or local authorities %</li> <li>- Non-State entities in-country (NGOs, religious groups) %</li> <li>- Foreign entities %</li> </ul>										
	<b>Total public expenditure on all forms of formal family-based care</b> (in national currency)  <i>Currently data only on "total public expenditures on foster/guardian allowance" are collected in TransMonEE. Explain the reason for differences between two figures, if any.</i>						49679.0	49679.0	50601.0	74622.5	In thousand Armenian drams.
	<b>By type of care:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster care</li> <li>- Guardianship</li> <li>- Patronat</li> <li>- Other (please add and specify if appropriate)</li> </ul>						28207.0	28207.0	29129.0	36073.9	Financial support to foster families. The remaining sum is for the children in emergency moved from residential institutions to biological families.
							-	-	-	-	
							21472.0	21470.0	21470.0	38548.6	

	<b>By source of financing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central</li> <li>- Sub-regional or local authorities</li> </ul>					49679 .0	49679 .0	50601 .0	74622 .5	The source of financing is the state budget of RA.
	<b>Total non-public expenditure on all forms of family-based care</b> (in national currency)					na	na	na	na	There is no available source of information about the non-governmental expenditures.
<b>4. Financing of Residential care</b>	Proportion of children in <b>residential care facilities</b> that are funded wholly or primarily by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The State (central) %</li> <li>- Provincial or local authorities %</li> <li>- Non-State entities in-country (NGOs, religious groups) %</li> <li>- Foreign entities %</li> </ul>									
	<b>Total public expenditure on residential care</b> (national currency):					29122 10.2	28361 62.6	29860 99.1	34209 65.7	



Currently data only on "total public expenditures on residential care institutions" (mln US\$) are collected in TransMonEE. Explain the reason for differences between two figures, if any.										
<b>By source of financing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central</li> <li>- Sub-regional or local authorities</li> </ul>						29122 10.2	28361 62.6	29860 99.1	34209 65.7	The source of financing is the state budget of RA
<b>Total non-public expenditure on all forms of residential care</b> (in national currency)										There is no available source for information about the non-governmental expenditures.

### SECTION 3: DESCRIPTION OF DATA SYSTEM

The information collection process in Armenia for statistical purposes is formed and regulated by the RA Law on “State Statistics” (adopted in 04.04.2000), which determines the order of the organization of State Statistics of the Republic of Armenia and regulates the relationship related to the social-economic procedures of the country, statistical database collection, development, storage, evaluation, maintenance as well as analysis, exchange and statistical information provision (publication) on population and its vital sectors.

The majority of indicators included in the information database of the TRANSMONEE project are the indicators developed during observations and surveys implemented by the RA National Statistical Service (RA NSS), (such as household survey, Labour force survey and more). The other part of the basis for the development of indicators are the data derived from administrative records handled by state and local government bodies (such as demographics, education, health, human rights, and more). Moreover, the official statistics as a provider of statistical information is authorized to use and modify the information derived from administrative records in order to ensure the compliance and comparability of statistical definitions and classifications.

For regular updating of the information database of the TRANSMONEE project the RA NSS addressed relevant letters to the RA Ministry of Finance in the context of indicators collection (on total public expenditures related to social protection, health care, education), to the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (on child protection: care and protection of children in difficult life situations), to the RA Ministry of Education and Science (on the number of children needing special conditions for education), the Penitentiary Department of the RA Ministry of Justice (on the number of children in closed institutions at the end of the year by reasons / evidence or suspicion of crime), to the RA Judicial Department (on the number of children involved in judicial processes: criminal or civil during the year and on registered crimes against children during the year), to the RA Police of the RA Government (on the number of children having dealt with the Police during the year because of their own behavior).

Answer-letters have been received from all institutions on the existence or absence of presented indicators.

Particularly, the Penitentiary Department of the RA Ministry of Justice provided the requested information comprehensively.

The RA Ministry of Education and Science informed that they do not have information on the number of children with disabilities involved in education field. Within the framework of the services provided by the RA Ministry of Education and Science are Children with special educational needs which may also have disabilities. At the same time, according to the regulations of the Republic of Armenia there is a great group of children with disabilities who do not have special

educational needs. As for the registration of children with special educational needs, it is valid since 2007, when the “Yerevan Medical-Psychological Assessment Centre SNCO collected information according to the RA Law on “education of persons needing special educational conditions” adopted in 2005. The educational needs of children in medical-psychological-pedagogic assessment center are evaluated in accordance with the parent application therefore the data of 4000 registered children needing special educational conditions in Yerevan medical-psychological-pedagogic assessment center do not complete the image of the Republic.

However, The RA Ministry of Education and Science provided the RA NSS with information presented by the “National Center of Educational Technologies” SNCO of the RA MES on the number of children needing special educational conditions of Secondary educational institutions and children studying in Secondary educational institutions of Armenia, which are the result of the summary of primary information derived from schools.

The RA Police of the RA Government provided with information on registered crimes against juveniles as well as information about children maliciously evading study and juveniles using alcohol. However, registration according to age groups is not implemented for children who are victims of offenses, as well as for persons committing offenses towards children. The information on children arrested in the Police is missing as well.

The RA NSS is informed by the RA Judicial Department that there is no statistics of the indicators on the number of children involved in judicial processes: criminal or civil during the year and on registered crimes against children during the year, this means that even despite the fact that these indicators are present in the system their summary, development and design of electronic databases is not implemented.

The information source presented by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is “Manuk” information system for the registration of children deprived of parental care and persons belonging to the number of children deprived of parental care, which is the personal data recording system of children cared in orphanages of the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, adoptions and children deprived of parental care; is formed from orphanages and in case of adoption from relevant authorized body (RA Ministry of Justice) and in the basis of information received in hard copies by the Children's Rights Department of the child's residence Municipality. The information database established in the basis of 3 subsystems of “Manuk” information system: “Orphanages”, “Adoption” “Foster Family” are included in one system, through which is implemented the registration of children cared in orphanages, children to be adopted and adoption candidate data, suspension or termination of adoption prescribed by law and data unit of adopter, register subtraction of adoption candidate not adopting child under the age of one year prescribed by law of children

According to the letter presented by the RA Ministry of Finance the indicators of the state budget in the format required by TRANSMONEE project do not exist. However they provided the data on the state budget by sectors of works done by functional classification. It should be noted that till 2008 the classification of the RA state budget was in line with the classification of the "Government Finance Statistics -1986» (GFS-1986) manual. Since 2008 the classification of the State budget and since 2009 the classification of the indicators of community budget have been implemented in line with "Government Finance Statistics -2001» manual (GFSM-2001).

A considerable part of the information collected in the framework of TRANSMONEE project is included in the field of statistical publications in different levels of aggregation (demographics, social sector statistics, macroeconomic statistics). The information database TRANSMONEE is also available on the NSS official website. The improvement of the information collection and its further development and analysis is closely related to the problem of the use of common definitions and classifications which will enable to avoid misinterpretations and false comments. On the other hand, the contribution of the common definitions and classifications system is consequential and is in the process of formation of interconnected administrative registers as the strategy of the developments with regard to the sources of information adopted in the field of statistics shall be entirely based on the use of information in administrative registers.

## **Annex 1. STATISTICS ON NATIONAL CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN ARMENIA**

**Table 1. Number of special general education schools by track/type, Republic of Armenia marzes (regions) and the city of Yerevan, 2013-2014 academic year**

*units*

	<i>For children with speech impairment</i>	<i>For children with hearing impairment</i>	<i>For children with visual impairment</i>	<i>For children with mental retardation</i>	<i>For children with impairment of musculoskeletal system</i>	<i>For children with anti-social behavior</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yerevan city	1	1	3	6	1	1	13
Aragatsotn	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ararat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armavir	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Gegharkunik	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Lori	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Kotayk	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Shirak	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Syunik	1	-	1	2	-	-	4
Vayots Dzor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tavush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total in RA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>

**Table 2. Number of pupils in special general education schools by track/type, Republic of Armenia marzes (regions) and the city of Yerevan, 2013-2014 academic year**  
**a) total**

*person*

	<i>For children with speech impairment</i>	<i>For children with hearing impairment</i>	<i>For children with visual impairment</i>	<i>For children with mental retardation</i>	<i>For children with impairment of musculoskeletal system</i>	<i>For children with anti-social behavior</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yerevan city	111	132	334	612	62	74	1 325
Aragatsotn	-	-	-	48	-	-	48
Ararat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armavir	-	-	-	171	-	-	171
Gegharkunik	-	-	-	56	-	-	56
Lori	-	-	-	219	-	-	219
Kotayk	-	-	-	47	-	-	47
Shirak	-	-	-	123	-	-	123
Syunik	129	-	88	41	-	-	258
Vayots Dzor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tavush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total in RA</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>1 317</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2 247</b>

**b) of which girls**

*person*

	<i>For children with speech impairment</i>	<i>For children with hearing impairment</i>	<i>For children with visual impairment</i>	<i>For children with mental retardation</i>	<i>For children with impairment of musculoskeletal system</i>	<i>For children with anti-social behavior</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yerevan city	29	47	140	210	22	25	473

	<i>For children with speech impairment</i>	<i>For children with hearing impairment</i>	<i>For children with visual impairment</i>	<i>For children with mental retardation</i>	<i>For children with impairment of musculoskeletal system</i>	<i>For children with anti-social behavior</i>	<i>Total</i>
Aragatsotn	-	-	-	19	-	-	19
Ararat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armavir	-	-	-	57	-	-	57
Gegharkunik	-	-	-	21	-	-	21
Lori	-	-	-	83	-	-	83
Kotayk	-	-	-	16	-	-	16
Shirak	-	-	-	43	-	-	43
Syunik	58	-	38	15	-	-	111
Vayots Dzor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tavush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total in RA</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>823</b>

**Table 3. Number of orphanages by Republic of Armenia marzes (regions) and the city of Yerevan,**

*2008-2013*  
*unit*

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Yerevan city</b>	total	3	3	3	4	4	3
	state-run	3	3	3	3	3	2
	non-state	-	-	-	1	1	1
<b>Ararat</b>	total	1	1	1	1	1	1
	state-run	1	1	1	1	1	1
	non-state	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Gegharkunik</b>	total	1	1	1	1	1	1
	state-run	1	1	1	1	1	1
	non-state	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lori</b>	total	2	2	2	1	1	1
	state-run	1	1	1	1	1	1
	non-state	1	1	1	-	-	-
<b>Kotayk</b>	total	1	1	1	1	1	1
	state-run	-	-	-	-	-	-
	non-state	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Shirak</b>	total	4	4	4	2	1	1
	state-run	2	2	2	1	1	1
	non-state	2	2	2	1	-	-
<b>Total in RA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>State-run</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Non-state</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 4. Number flow of children, 2008-2013**

**a) total**

*person*

	<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of children at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>1 109</b>	<b>1 243</b>	<b>1 225</b>	<b>1 102</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>448</b>
Discharged	270	249	316	254	231	212	137	111	150	132	106	106
including												

	<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Returned to their relatives	52	41	83	56	85	53	29	23	26	31	39	27
Moved to other orphanages	22	18	44	26	57	64	8	9	19	13	23	28
Moved to social service organizations of elderly people and people with disabilities	22	6	1	5	5	-	9	2	1	1	1	-
Adopted	118	72	77	74	56	50	59	38	50	47	32	28
Died	18	20	17	18	16	15	10	7	11	7	4	6
Other reasons	38	92	94	75	12	30	22	32	43	33	7	17
Admitted	414	230	331	267	210	230	179	122	161	159	104	96
Of which those who were moved from other orphanages	26	15	18	17	25	32	10	6	7	8	8	12
<b>Number of children at the end of the year</b>	<b>1 253</b>	<b>1 224</b>	<b>1 240</b>	<b>1 115</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>438</b>
Of which												
Bedridden	211	244	203	198	194	186	87	112	88	91	92	86
With chronic mental disorders	133	110	307	293	297	358	52	33	138	129	130	155
Attending school	321	406	312	128	139	327	182	217	161	80	61	161
With disabilities	402	425	425	466	461	475	176	195	197	207	210	213

**b) state-run**

	<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of children at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>351</b>
Discharged	256	191	247	197	222	185	128	91	116	105	101	90
including												
Returned to their relatives	50	41	83	49	83	42	28	23	26	26	38	21
Moved to other orphanages	22	18	44	26	57	61	8	9	19	13	23	26
Moved to social service organizations of elderly people and people with disabilities	22	6	1	5	5	-	9	2	1	1	1	-
Adopted	118	72	77	71	53	49	59	38	50	44	30	27
Died	18	20	17	16	12	14	10	7	11	7	2	5
Other reasons	26	34	25	30	12	19	14	12	9	14	7	11
Admitted	228	188	250	179	185	184	93	102	123	99	88	84
Of which those who were moved from other orphanages	26	15	18	17	22	31	10	6	7	8	6	12
<b>Number of children at the end of the year</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>345</b>
Of which												
Bedridden	211	238	203	198	194	186	87	109	88	91	92	86

	<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
With chronic mental disorders	126	109	284	293	297	358	48	32	123	129	130	155
Attending school	283	304	145	88	138	208	148	155	71	43	60	103
With disabilities	381	404	403	444	440	452	162	181	183	195	200	204

**c) non-state**

	<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of children at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>97</b>
Discharged	14	58	69	57	9	27	9	20	34	27	5	16
including												
Returned to their relatives	2	-	-	7	2	11	1	-	-	5	1	6
Moved to other orphanages	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2
Adopted	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	3	2	1
Died	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Other reasons	12	58	69	45	-	11	8	20	34	19	-	6
Admitted	186	42	81	88	25	46	86	20	38	60	16	12
Of which those who were moved from other orphanages	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Number of children at the end of the year</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>93</b>
Of which												
Bedridden	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
With chronic mental disorders	7	1	23	-	-	-	4	1	15	-	-	-
Attending school	38	102	167	40	1	119	34	62	90	37	1	58
With disabilities	21	21	22	22	21	23	14	14	14	12	10	9

**Table 5. Number of children by age groups, 2008-2013**

**a) at the beginning of the year**

		<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Under 1 year of age</b>	total	77	67	56	69	53	45	41	34	28	36	33	25
	state-run	77	67	56	65	46	40	41	34	28	34	29	23
	non-state	-	-	-	4	7	5	-	-	-	2	4	2
<b>1 - 6 years old</b>	total	226	318	308	324	227	202	90	120	129	136	93	99
	state-run	204	186	198	195	200	173	84	68	82	80	80	84
	non-state	22	132	110	129	27	29	6	52	47	56	13	15
<b>7 - 9 years old</b>	total	177	185	170	148	151	180	83	86	80	67	72	84
	state-run	140	146	143	125	119	141	63	66	67	57	54	61
	non-state	37	39	27	23	32	39	20	20	13	10	18	23
<b>10 - 15 years old</b>	total	383	408	370	289	267	263	198	208	190	160	137	128
	state-run	266	292	263	217	215	204	134	144	129	113	110	95
	non-state	117	116	107	72	52	59	64	64	61	47	27	33
<b>16 - 18 years old</b>	total	246	265	321	272	200	219	132	134	159	132	94	112
	state-run	218	179	207	200	200	178	112	83	93	90	94	88
	non-state	28	86	114	72	-	41	20	51	66	42	-	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 109</b>	<b>1 243</b>	<b>1 225</b>	<b>1 102</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>448</b>
	<b>State-run</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>351</b>



		<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	<b>Non-state</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>97</b>

**b) at the end of the year**

		<i>Total</i>						<i>Of which girls</i>					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		<i>person</i>											
<b>Under 1 year of age</b>	total	85	79	93	99	81	52	43	40	48	52	44	25
	state-run	85	79	93	92	70	42	43	40	48	47	39	22
	non-state	-	-	-	7	11	10	-	-	-	5	5	3
<b>1 - 6 years old</b>	total	347	318	304	319	214	230	137	128	123	136	96	108
	state-run	213	205	186	195	186	192	84	81	72	77	83	91
	non-state	134	113	118	124	28	38	53	47	51	59	13	17
<b>7 - 9 years old</b>	total	171	195	186	163	159	175	77	98	89	90	74	79
	state-run	135	153	153	120	123	142	58	75	74	62	52	61
	non-state	36	42	33	43	36	33	19	23	15	28	22	18
<b>10 - 15 years old</b>	total	403	414	355	299	250	266	204	213	193	165	127	130
	state-run	284	295	240	207	191	191	139	146	128	105	94	94
	non-state	119	119	115	92	59	75	65	67	65	60	33	36
<b>16 - 18 years old</b>	total	247	218	302	235	173	204	125	114	144	115	86	96
	state-run	160	135	198	170	173	168	75	64	84	77	86	77
	non-state	87	83	104	65	-	36	50	50	60	38	-	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 253</b>	<b>1 224</b>	<b>1 240</b>	<b>1 115</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>438</b>
	<b>State-run</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>345</b>
	<b>Non-state</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>93</b>

**Table 6. Number of children who avoided the risk of being enrolled in state orphanages and special institutions of public education<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children, in total	411	112	210	346	520	237

**Table 7. Number of children enrolled in Child day care and protection centers<sup>5</sup>**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children, in total	787	789	334	462	515	540

<sup>4</sup> "Food Security and Poverty, January-June, 2014" statistical bulletin, Republic of Armenia National Statistical Service, page 17

<sup>5</sup> Only the number of children enrolled in day care institutions funded by the RA state budget was included in this indicator. "Food Security and Poverty, January-June, 2014" statistical bulletin, Republic of Armenia National Statistical Service, page 17.

**Table 8. Number of children in foster families<sup>6</sup>**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children, in total	24	23	23	25	23	19

**Table 9. Changes in number of children enrolled in special general education schools, 2009-2013**

*person*

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Yerevan city	1 506	1 605	1 473	1 454	1 325
Aragatsotn	-	59	60	44	48
Ararat	-	-	-	-	-
Armavir	197	190	193	149	171
Gegharkunik	87	78	74	49	56
Lori	315	309	304	265	219
Kotayk	62	58	60	47	47
Shirak	198	171	171	128	123
Syunik	452	355	314	265	258
Vayots Dzor	-	-	-	-	-
Tavush	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total in RA</b>	<b>2 817</b>	<b>2 825</b>	<b>2 649</b>	<b>2 401</b>	<b>2 247</b>

<sup>6</sup> "Food Security and Poverty, January-June, 2014" statistical bulletin, Republic of Armenia National Statistical Service, page 17.

## **Annex 2. THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (RA) LEGISLATION COVERING FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

### **1. RA laws**

- RA Family Code (Adopted by the RA National Assembly on November 9, 2004);
- RA Labor Code (Adopted by the RA National Assembly on November 9, 2004);
- RA Civil Code (Adopted by the RA National Assembly on May 5, 1998);
- RA "Law on Child Rights" (Adopted by the RA National Assembly in 1996);
- RA "Law on Acts of Civil Status" (Adopted by the RA National Assembly on December 9, 2004);
- RA "Law on the Social Protection of Children Left without Parental Care (Adopted by the RA National Assembly on May 3, 2005).

### **2. Decisions/Decrees of the Government of Armenia and the Prime Minister**

- RA Government Decision No. 962-N of 22 June 2006 "On establishing the procedure of registration of children without parental care and persons belonging to their number and on declaring Decision No. 917-N on making a supplement to the RA Government Decision No.111 of 13 March 2000 as void".
- RA Government Decision No. 1324-N of 5 August 2004 "On recognizing the RA Government an authorized state government body and approving the minimum state social standards necessary of child care and upbringing in orphanages".
- RA Government Decision No. 158-N of 17 February 2005 "On establishing the procedure of providing lump-sum monetary assistance to orphanage (irrespective of their legal-organizational form) alumni".
- RA Government Decision No. 381-N of 24 March 2005 "On approving the list of the types of institutions implementing child care and protection in RA, approving the criteria of children's placement in those institutions, and on making changes and amendments in the RA Government Decision No. 2179-N of 26 December 2002".
- RA Government Decision No. 517-N of 5 May 2005 "On establishing the diseases in the presence of which a person cannot adopt a child, accept him/her for guardianship (trusteeship), accept in the family for nurturing".
- Decision of the RA Prime Minister No. 1295-N of 28 December 2012 "On establishing a National Commission for Child Protection, approving the by-laws and composition of the Commission, and declaring the RA Prime Minister's Decision No. 835-N of 28 October 2005 void".
- RA Government Decision No. 835-N of 5 October 2005 "On establishing a National Commission for Child Protection, approving the by-laws and composition of the Commission".
- RA Government Decision No.1877-N of 7 December 2006 "On establishing the procedure of providing day care to children".
- RA Government Decision No. 1735-N of 9 November 2006 "On establishing the procedure of placement of children in institutions implementing child care and protection (orphanage, boarding institution)".
- RA Government Decision No. 815-N of 31 May 2007 "On approving the minimum standards of child care and service in the orphanage (irrespective of its legal-organizational form)".

- RA Government Decision No. 1288-N of 8 November 2007 “On establishing the procedure of development of individual social-psychological rehabilitation program for a child in especially difficult circumstances and the form of preparing an individual social-psychological rehabilitation program for a child in especially difficult circumstances”.
- RA Government Decision No.459-N of 8 May 2008) “On the Procedure of assigning the child into a foster family, the amount and form of monthly compensation to be paid to foster parents for caring after and upbringing the foster child, the form of contract for assigning the child for upbringing in a foster family”.
- RA Government Decision No. 269-N of 18 March 2010 “On establishing the procedure of adoption and the procedure of registration of a child who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia adopted by foreign citizens, stateless persons and citizens of the Republic of Armenia residing beyond the borders of the Republic of Armenia in diplomatic missions or consular offices of the Republic of Armenia, on making an amendment in the Government Decision No. 1919-N of the Republic of Armenia of 28 November 2002 and declaring a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia void”.
- RA Government Decision No. 164-N of 24 February 2011 “On approving the By-laws of guardianship and trusteeship bodies and declaring Government Decision No. 922-N of the Republic of Armenia of 22 June 2006 void”.
- 2014 Annual program for protecting children’s rights.
- 2013 Annual program for protecting children’s rights.

### **3. Decrees of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia**

- Joint order of RA Minister of Labor and Social Issues No. 67-a/1 of 20 July 2012 and RA Minister of Education and Science No. 726-A/p of 20 July 2012 “On approving the action plan for ensuring integrated management and social protection for children with special needs in special educational institutions”.
- Joint order of RA Minister of Labor and Social Issues No. 47-a/1 of 23 April 2012 and RA Minister of Health No. 1174-A of 22 May 2012 “On approving the list of temporary medical contraindications for the placement of children in an orphanage”.

### **4. International legal instruments**

- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992);
- European Social Charter (Revised) (2004);
- ILO Convention on Minimum Age (No. 138) (2007);
- Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2004-2006);
- UN Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention) (2007);
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2003).