



“De-risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits” UNDP- GCF Project



CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED GENDER AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY DATA NEEDED TO SUPPORT A JUST TRANSITION IN ARMENIA

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HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE LARGEST CONSUMERS* OF ENERGY IN THE COUNTRY

- Households consume **36%** of the total energy in Armenia
- **68%** of the household's energy consumption is the natural gas
- Most substantial area of household's energy consumption is heating
- GHG emissions of households have increased in the last decade due to recovery of the gas network and growing income of households

[Armenia. Biennial update report \(BUR\). BUR 3. | UNFCCC](#)

**Note: The climate in Armenia is dry continental, with hot summers and cold winters; the average temperature in January is -6.8°C , and the absolute minimum air temperature is -42°C . Thus, the need for heating of the dwellings is required for ensuring normal human life conditions.*

PRIORITY OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN HOUSING SECTOR UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARMENIA

Updated Nationally Determined Contributions of Armenia 2021-2030 set target for GHG emissions reduction by **40%** from the 1990 level. To achieve the set up goal the Government has adopted the **“Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy for the period of 2022-2030”** where special mitigation measures for households are defined:

- promoting investments in alternative heating, energy-saving, "clean energy", etc.;
- transition from natural gas and other fuels to electricity;
- motivating apartment-owners to contribute to the energy efficient; renovation and thermal insulation of their buildings.

<https://e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/37978/>



BARRIERS AND RISKS FOR “JUST TRANSITION” IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOUSEHOLD SECTOR

The study has been conducted under the “**De-risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits**” UNDP-GCF project.

Steps undertaken:

- assessment of affordability and accessibility of energy efficient measures for households, in general;
- identification of most vulnerable households in terms of transition, in particular;
- development of a set of appropriate indicators for ex-ante social and gender impact assessment of transition;
- elaboration of appropriate instruments for supporting poor and vulnerable households in transition to energy efficiency and new energy sources;
- consultancy with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Armstat.

KEY SOURCE USED FOR ASSESSMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS' "JUST TRANSITION" AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Armstat collects data on households through regular **Integrated Living Conditions Surveys (ILCS):**

- Poverty level (poor households, their compositions, etc.)
- Heating of dwellings (heating devices, heating means by type of fuels, etc.)
- Household's expenses (on electricity, gas and other fuels by type, etc.)
- "Healthy heating" and "heating poverty" (multidimensional poverty, etc.)

Policy-oriented analysis of ILCS's qualitative and quantitative data helps decision-makers to follow up on the ways implemented policies affect households and whether the actions planned are, in general, pro-poor and socially-targeted.

[Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia, 2022](https://www.armstat.am/file/article/poverty_2022_en_3.pdf)

https://www.armstat.am/file/article/poverty_2022_en_3.pdf



ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS ON SOCIALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND HOUSEHOLDS

Administrative databases on vulnerable population and disadvantaged households are maintained by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA):

- Low-income families (sex-age composition, etc.);
- Pensioners (occupational, social, military, etc.);
- Persons with disabilities (by groups of disability, disabled children);
- Orphans (unilateral and bilateral).

The information stored in administrative registers of MLSA is not available for the public at large*.

**Note: once a year Armstat publishes statistics on socially vulnerable people and households in the yearbook [Social Situation of RA in 2021](https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2510) <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2510>*

TARGETED STUDIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF UNDP CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME IN ARMENIA

Conducted sociological surveys provide specific information on gender and social vulnerability at the community level, and serve, in some cases, as a unique source of data for evaluating gender and social impacts of climate change on different groups of population and different types of households typical for a given community:

- Households surveys on gender/social vulnerability and climate change cross-cutting issues;
- Focus group discussions with different clusters of the population;
- Deep interviews with community leaders and activists;
- Involvement of local NGOs dealing with social and gender issues in the fieldworks
- Collection of grassroots information through round tables with journalists, youth organizations, educational institutions, etc.

[Climate Change Information Center \(nature-ic.am\)](http://nature-ic.am)



CASE STUDY ON “FEATURES OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS’ HEATING BEHAVIOR”

The concept of “**energy-efficient heating behavior**” and its indicators:

- heating means, and fuel used (apartment level local heating system*, gas/electric stove, home-made stoves, etc.)
- heating mode/comfort level (assessed by residents at the percentages **100%**, **50%** and **30%** depending on the number of heated rooms and heating hours)
- average temperature of the apartment in the winter season

The behavior of the household, which used a local heating system, assessed the heating of the apartment as **100%** and provided the average temperature as more than **18°C** was considered as sufficient, affordable and up to sanitary norm.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gn9qrz_re6Bmg1hv_qrH9th78WnLLSGP/view

**Note: The district heating system has been demolished in Armenia since 2000*

SURVEY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF HOUSEHOLDS TO INVEST IN THE ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES IN ALAVERDI COMMUNITY

Key findings:

- over two-thirds of female-headed households (FHH) do not have an employed member
- on average, one male-headed household (MHH) has **3** times more employed members than one FHH (**1.17** vs. **0.4**);
- average monthly per capita income of over **90%** of FHHs and **53.2%** of MHHs is close to the top poverty line in the country;
- the economic situation of large MHHs with many minors is much worse - their per capita income slightly exceeds the food poverty line (or extreme poverty);
- overall, **66%** of MHHs have loans /debts, which is more than twice the same rate for FHHs (**32%**);
- only **51%** of FHHs and **61%** of MHHs are able and ready to invest in energy efficiency measures.

Main findings of the survey have helped to develop criteria of identifying the most vulnerable households to be supported in transition to energy efficiency – thermal insulation of buildings and installation of local solar systems.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CipKvAXAAoVzGTExBj53lsbRjennZyR2/view>

USE OF NATIONAL STATISTICS AND SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY DATA FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND SOCIAL-ORIENTED POLICY FORMULATION UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

Conducted studies were used for formulation of the special task under the draft Gender Strategy of Armenia and its **Action Plan for 2024-2026** (special section on mitigating gender and social impacts of climate change).

<http://www.nature-ic.am/en/news/Draft-2023-2025-action-plan-aimed-at-mitigating-gender-and-social-impacts-of-climate-change-in-Armenia-presented-and-discussed-in-the-frame-of-the-UNDP-GCF-NAP-project-/12875>

Social Protection Reforms initiated by the Government will be designed with the consideration of climate change negative impacts on the vulnerable people as well as with specification of climate change vulnerable regions/communities and their residents.

<http://www.nature-ic.am/en/>



THANK YOU



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