REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CONDITIONS OF THE "EU SUPPORT TO EDUCATION IN ARMENIA" FINANCING AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

(OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ACT-61467, CRIS number NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/448-501)

THIRD variable tranche

➢ 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout 2026, educational reform remained a top priority for the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In recent years, reform initiatives have been aiming to elevate the quality of education, improve infrastructure, increase accessibility and availability of education, as well as enhance safety measures.

The ultimate goal of the extensive reform initiated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia is to design an efficient and internationally competitive educational system based on national and universal values which will provide each and every person with access to quality education appropriate to their needs and capabilities at all stages of their life and promote education as public good by developing competitive professional competences among key educational stakeholders, shaping active civil attitudes and social cohesion based on participatory democracy. The strategic directions established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia up to 2030 encompass: creating a universal, inclusive, student-centered and participatory learning environment; enhancing efficiency of education; driving the digital transformation of the educational system and responsible and effective use of modern technologies, engaging artificial intelligence; advancing the internationalization and export of educational services and products. These objectives could be achieved through mitigating and gradually neutralizing the impacts of still existing barriers to equal opportunities for high-

quality education for all, without restrictions, diversifying educational services, enhancing targeted financing, cultivating public solidarity and using other possible means.

➢ **2. GENERAL CONDITIONS /FIXED TRANCHE/**

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Satisfactory progress in the implementation of "The Action Plan based on the law "On Approving the Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia 2030" approved by the decision N-351-L of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 16 March, 2023

Public policy

Throughout 2026, the reform initiatives[1] have progressed, at all educational levels, in line with state policy targets and timelines[2] under the Action Plan derived from the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Approving the State Program for the Development of Education in the Republic of Armenia until 2030," approved by the Government N-351-L decision, dated 16 March 2023.

Pre-school Education

As of 2026, the number of licensed non-state institutions across all the regions of the Republic of Armenia and the city of Yerevan came to 212, equivalent to around 60% of community preschool educational institutions operating in urban areas. The number of students enrolled in licensed non-state institutions reached approximately 10,800. Private kindergartens accounted for 22.3% of all preschool enrolment in urban areas.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Making Amendments and Additions to the Law on Education" N HO-103-N, dated 12 May 2025, prescribes the licensing requirements for operating preschools, general/public and vocational educational institutions, as well as the legal grounds for license revocation.[3]

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Additions and Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education" N HO-103-N,[4] enacted on 6 May 2026, made a number of significant changes to the legal regulations of preschool education. Specifically, a mandatory qualification requirement has been instituted for obtaining the right (license) to manage a preschool

[1] link
[2] N 351-L
[3] list
[4] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/207612

educational institution, under which applicants must comply with the requirements specified in Part 1 Article 40.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Education" to be eligible for applying for a license, that is: holding a higher education degree and possessing at least five years of pedagogical or scientific-pedagogical or management work experience or at least three years of experience in education management within the last ten years. Access to preschool education was expanded by lowering the age of enrolment in school-based early childhood education/development programs to 4 years old. In communities with only one educational institution (organisation) providing preschool educational programs or services, the admission age has been reduced to 3 years old thus securing the enrolment of respectively 4–6 and 3–6 year-old children in preschool educational programs.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia initiated public consultations on several drafts[1] on preschool education based on the requirements of the Law "On Preschool education" to improve the efficient implementation of the state educational standard for preschool education. The first draft decree of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports on Approving Preschool Educational (Basic) Programs defines comprehensive preschool curricula tailored to all age groups. The second draft submitted for public hearing seeks the approval of mixed-group preschool curricula and educational services. It targets communities with small number of children where such groups are formed frequently. The proposed draft[2] creates legal grounds for operating mixed-group preschool services (including school-based pre-primary institutions).

The target set forth by the State Program for the Development of Education until 2030 is to expand the accessibility of early childhood education, specifically to ensure the enrolment of at least 95 percent of 3-5 year-old children in pre-primary education, as well as at least one-year participation of all children entering school in preschool educational programs. In its July 2, 2026, session the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the new model of financing the promotion of private preschool services introducing a per-child financing mechanism by the state and community co-funding.

[1] https://www.e-draft.am/projects/10472
[2] https://www.e-draft.am/projects/10472

During the first half of 2026, special educational and developmental needs were identified for 752 preschool children. The number of students receiving pedagogical-psychological support services stands at 2,052. Early childhood education for these children in state kindergartens is 100% covered by the state budget[1].

Furthermore, to advance professional capacities of educators the "National Center for Education Development and Innovations (NCEDI)" Foundation conducted training courses. During 2026, the Foundation has trained over 1200 pedagogical workers on varied topics, including thematic teaching in preschool institutions, the introduction of the state preschool educational standard and basic pre-primary curricula, chess instruction, lesson planning, gender-responsive education in kindergartens, etc[2].

Underway is the process of awarding qualification categories within the scopes of introduction of an interconnected professional development and compensation system. For the first half of 2026, categories were awarded to 134 pedagogical workers, five (5) of whom were granted a 2-tier/degree qualification category[3].

In March 2026, the "National Center for Education Development and Innovation (NCEDI)" Foundation launched a training initiative for the staff of newly established early childhood education institutions with participation of educators/pedagogical staff from licensed non-state preschools operating under comprehensive curricula[4].

In May-June of 2026, the NCEDI introduced a series of training courses intended for continuous professional development of pedagogical workers of pre-primary educational institutions[5]. The goal of the program is to ensure the advancement of professional capacities of educators and support the effective implementation of the state educational standard and core curricula in preschool education[6].

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[1] personal data is protected by the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection" of May 18, 2015

[2] trainings

The list will be shared informally with the EU Office, as the personal data is protected by the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection" of May 18, 2015

[3] Link

[4] https://kznaknaxadprocakan.blogspot.com/2026/03/blog-post.html

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vt7lFTiztKu-EwjKKygv4i9M7gVx1fkQ/view?usp=sharing

[5] link

Screenshot

[6] https://kznakhimnadram.blogspot.com/2026/06/blog-post_29.html

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_iQC3uIUerRobcKHgvBYj0jymVxD4hye/view?usp=sharing

As of 1 July 2026, a total of 332 pre-school education institutions has been built, reconstructed or fully remodelled/renovated[1].

[1] list

General Education

In 2026, general education remains a strategic priority within the education sector. It encompasses substantive educational reforms, enhanced teacher qualifications along with decent compensation, better learning environments. Changes aiming to align general education with modern demands relate to the state general education standard, as well as to a number of components of curricular content.

The state general education standard was introduced across 1-11 grades in all educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia in 2025-2026 academic year to include grade 12 in 2026-2027. The revised subject-specific standards and curricula for 1-12 grades were approved by the decrees N 36-N through 80-N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports dated 28 July 2026[1]. The key principle of the standard is the development of life skills and competencies through active learner engagement in mastering subject matter. The new standard transforms teaching and learning approaches by focusing on the learner as an active, independent thinker, researcher, creative, and collaborative individual. The learning process places a strong emphasis on natural sciences and mathematics, the development of reading competencies, the importance of taking responsibility for learning by applying the knowledge in practice through project-based learning and collaboration. Apart from academic knowledge, the new standard recognizes the importance of fostering skills in communication, critical thinking and analysis, social and civic participation, and a sense of personal initiative across all disciplines.

The implementation of the State General Education Standard was supported by subject specific criteria and curricula[2] initially approved in May 2024 and later on revised in 2026, including establishing legal grounds for textbooks' development process to ensure flexibility and competition while improving the copyright framework.

In line with the phased implementation of the State General Education Standard new textbooks have been developed and additional educational content has been created. The RA Ministry of Education, Science and Higher Education announced grant competitions for the

[1] subject curriculan
[2] Curricula

development of textbooks for Grades 10, 11 and 12. Following the evaluation process, six textbook editions (three titles) were approved by the orders of the Minister[1].

In 2026 as well, to support teachers' professional development and remuneration incentives, programs continued to operate for mandatory and voluntary teacher attestation, qualification categories, higher pay rates for STEM teachers, and salary supplements for teachers in rural schools with up to 100 students. Specifically, incentive plans for STEM (excluding mathematics[2]) teachers and teachers in rural schools with fewer than 100 students continue, providing financial bonuses to more than 9000 and 3322 teachers, respectively[3].

The teachers' voluntary certification process is continuing. As of September 2025, 8872[4] individuals, representing one in every 3 teachers, have been certified. In 2026, voluntary certification is scheduled to take place in November.

The new teacher qualification grading system launched back in 2023 is continuing. As of August 2026, around 1264 teachers have received a qualification category entailing bonuses ranging from 10% to 50%[5]. Under the new procedure, categories were awarded to 1,199 teachers. Of these 192 achieved the 4th-degree category granting a 50% bonus.

The number of teachers who received a qualification category during 2023-2026, by degree

1st-degree	2nd-degree	3rd-degree	4th-degree
237	370	400	192

[1] orders
By October 2025, grant tenders were announced for the development of textbooks for the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. For the 90 requested textbooks 79 titles (131 versions) were submitted. Of them 63 textbook titles (91 versions) were approved/guaranteed by the respective decrees of the Minister (all 3rd-grade textbooks were published in 2024).
[2] The list of STEM subjects is approved by by this decision
[3] list
[4] list
The list will be shared informally with the EU Office, as the personal data is protected by the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection" of May 18, 2015
[5] Orders

The process of equipping public schools in the Republic of Armenia with modern innovative STEM laboratory equipment and associated fixtures is ongoing. By September 2026, the number of educational institutions furnished with contemporary laboratory equipment will reach around 1000[1], by 2026 December it is planned to upgrade an additional 200 educational institutions[2] /out of 1341 state schools/.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia places a special focus on implementing the "300 Schools and 500 Kindergartens: Constructed, Renovated or Reconstructed by 2026" program, which constitutes one of its primary five-year targets. The roadmap for the "300 Schools, 500 Kindergartens" provides a by-year breakdown of information about construction work across these institutions: in design, launched or completed. Once constructed, reconstructed or renovated these schools and kindergartens will be equipped with necessary furniture and equipment. In fact, in several rural areas a cluster/educational complex approach is applied significantly enhancing the quality of education and the efficiency of management.

Under the program of construction, reconstruction and renovation of 300 schools[3], as of August 2026, construction has been completed in 226 schools[4].

The program of construction, reconstruction and renovation of 500 kindergardens is implemented in cooperation with other government agencies. The program encompasses individually operating kindergartens, as well as preschools operating within schools and the kindergarten blocks of educational complexes. As of August 2026, within the scopes of the program, construction works have been completed in 332 preschool educational institutions[5].

The number of educational institutions transitioned to the new management system is 708 as of July 2026, with principals appointed to 429 of them. In 2026, development plans

[1] list

[2] 1790 - The list of schools being supplemented does not include 40 schools with a small number of students, which, in accordance with the Order No. 1790-A/2 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Armenia "On Approving the List of State General Educational Institutions Included in the Program for Ensuring Access to Quality Educational Services of the Republic of Armenia" of 2023, continue to be funded based on the number of students. The issue of laboratories will be resolved within the end of schools' optimization process

[3] 2093.

[4] List

[5] List

for 554 principals were submitted to expert evaluation, of which 180 received a positive report.[1]

On November 26, 2025, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia held a student conference at the Engineering City for the first time under the title of "MY VOICE FOR SECURE AND SAFE SCHOOL". Around 200 members of student councils attached to the ESCS Minister of the Republic of Armenia and student councils of public educational institutions participated in the conference[2]. On May 27, 2026, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia organized a teacher conference under the title of CURRENT CHALLENGES OF TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION with participation of about 1000 teachers[3].

Throughout 2026, the MoESCS of the Republic of Armenia has paid a special attention to programs providing technological education and 21st century skills ensuring the formation of competitive citizens of the future. On May 29, 2026, a document of cooperation was signed between the MoESCS of the Republic of Armenia and the Firebird company[4]. Within the framework of systemic introduction of artificial intelligence tools in the educational system, Armenian schools and higher educational institutions will be granted access to the ChatGPT Edu platform starting from the academic year of 2026-2027 due to the cooperation between OpenAI and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia. Within the scopes of this partnership, all Armenian state schools and selected higher educational institutions (7 public universities) will gain access to ChatGPT Edu and Codex platforms from September of 2026 obtaining 50.000 educational subscriptions. This platform will become a unified educational toolkit available to all teachers, as well as to high school students. The introduction of ChatGPT Edu aims to elevate the quality of education significantly ensuring a new level of teaching and learning processes, which will highly support the implementation of the EU project "Introduction of AI tools for teachers in Armenia". For instructors it will serve as an assistive digital tool for lesson planning, content development

[1] List
[2] List Agenda
[3] Agenda list
[4] https://escs.gov.am/articles/news/298
Screenshot

and organizing the process of teaching by means of more modern-day, tailored and innovative methods[1].

Within the framework of sector improvements, the Ministry, in cooperation with partner organizations, is implementing a number of programs in public education with a goal of preparing the students and teachers for the demands of a rapidly changing digital world.

Specifically, the "AI generation" and "STEP.ai" programs target the development of fundamental AI knowledge, creative thinking and technological skills of the students, simultaneously fostering the creation of a culture of safe, responsible and efficient use of AI tools.

"AI Generation" program: Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia and Armenian Foundation for Science and Technologies (FAST)[2] partnered to implement the "AI Generation" school program back in 2023, initially in 15[3] high schools across seven regions (marz) of the country with a further expansion of the program to cover 26 schools[4] in all the regions. In the 2025-2026 academic year, around 800 students from 26 schools in 19 cities across all regions of the Republic of Armenia participated in the program, compared to over 600 students from 15 schools in the academic year of 2024-2025. For the 2026-2027 academic year, the "AI Generation" program is expected to cover 39[5] schools. "AI Generation" program is among the first in the world to introduce advanced AI education into the public school system at a national level. It enables the students to study advanced algebra, Python programming language and artificial intelligence integrated into their regular school schedules, participate in career orientation and capacity building initiatives, international and local AI Olympiads and contests[6].

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[1] Link Link
https://tinyurl.com/2yapw6v4
https://tinyurl.com/mvjay6ac
Screenshot 1 screenshot 2

[2] memorandums

[3] The schools participating in the programme were selected by a professional committee.

[4] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nn70kX1gedfjywI8KSR3tpRtbI3n3V1W/view?usp=sharing

[5] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7XxZcx_-MSG_PFHlRCDgX788nwHmGMn/view?usp=sharing

[6] https://tinyurl.com/42w78ece

"STEP.ai" program: going on with the reforms in the artificial intelligence sector, on October 5, 2024, a memorandum[1] was signed between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, "Synopsis Armenia" CJSC, the AGBU Armenian Virtual University and the Union of ICT Employers to implement the "STEP.ai Science and Technology Educational Program." During the 2024-2025 academic year, the program was piloted in 13[2] educational institutions. The course provides a comprehensive coverage of AI topics adapted to the requirements of the State Standard for General Education. The course was digitized thanks to the efforts of the Union of ICT Employers and was integrated into the digital platform in partnership with the Armenian Virtual College enabling the students to access online courses, interactive quizzes, laboratory assignments and supplementary materials/resources. The program, in its pilot phase, was implemented in a number of high schools and the AI course was taught using a hybrid method. This methodology combines all the advantages of online and traditional teaching. In 2026-2027, the school/extracurricular club program is implemented in 20 schools; the number of students involved in the program is over 200[3].

Throughout the implementation of large-scale reforms, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia maintains its focus on integration of gender equality in educational programs/curricula. Within these reforms the "Healthy life-style" club has been transformed to mandatory subject in the grades 5 and 10 further emphasizing the importance of this aspect in the sector, in the remaining grades, it continues to be offered as a mandatory club. The main purpose of this subject is to teach the students to value their own health and that of the others as a paramount value; the program also includes topics relating to gender relations, gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, vulnerable groups, etc.[4]

In 2025-2026, the "National Center for Education Development and Innovations" Foundation conducted a series of training courses for the teachers, under the 2025-2028 Action Plan[5] "Preventing and Overcoming Gender-based Violence and Discrimination;

[1] memorandum
[2] list
[3] STEP order
[4] Curricula
[5] Action Plan

Protecting and Supporting Victims to Family and Domestic Violence" for implementation of gender policy in the Republic of Armenia. The 6-hour distance-learning trainings on "Gender-Sensitive Education in Schools" reached out to 4394 teacher-participants. The goal of the trainings was to raise awareness of teachers about existing gender problems and their consequences in the educational sector, specifically within the school system, transforming them gender-sensitive and gender-responsive by understanding the specifics of male and female learners to ensure equal education and educational opportunities for all of them[1].

Simultaneously academic content within the scopes of "Physical Education and Safe Living" educational field was revised. It will be replaced by a new "Safe Living" discipline, with an expanded scope of study, which will be introduced to learners starting from the 5th grade. Under this new curriculum, students will be able to explore various emergency situations, including wartime scenarios in greater depth, and acquire relevant response knowledge and skills, while the development of practical field skills is planned for the 11th grade, within the scopes of a learning camp[2].

[1] Link
[2] 439-N, 2010
chapter 6 point 15. sub-point 7

Extracurricular Education

Extracurricular education in the Republic of Armenia is carried out in musical, art, fine arts and dance schools, children and youth creative centers and sports schools. The beneficiaries of extracurricular education are schoolchildren under the age of 18.

Throughout 2023-2026, as much as 478 programs of 89[1] out-of-school educational institutions operating under the state and municipal jurisdiction and programs of 88 non-state extracurricular organizations were approved by the decree of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.

In December 2025, voluntary certification was carried out across 11 entirely new fields: brass and woodwind instruments, dancing, theatre, accompaniment, chess, swimming, artistic (sport) gymnastics, acrobatics, trampolining, rhythmic gymnastics. Overall 290 educators[2] passed the certification successfully: 46 pedagogical workers in 2023, 171 in 2024, 73 in 2025. Among the certified educators, 77.2% percent represent cultural and 22.8% percent represent sport sectors.

In 2026, summer camps were organized in 2 shifts for 3200 schoolchildren aged 7-13, including children of fallen or disabled servicemen, parentless children and children from socially disadvantaged/large families and representatives of national minorities hosted in “Lava-Aghbyur”, “Hasmik”, “Aragats”, “Hekiatayin Kirch”, “Av-Kana” camps[3] located in Tsakhkadzor consolidated community in Kotayk region (marz) of the Republic of Armenia.

[1] List
Screenshot
[2] Order
[3] Link

Social Credit

Within the social policy framework adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia since 2025 to ease the educational financial burden of citizens, income tax refund opportunities were expanded within the academic sector. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who file an annual income tax return are now entitled to an income tax refund of up to 100,000 AMD annually for tuition fees paid exclusively by non-cash methods. The refund applies to payments made to organizations operating in the following fields:

- Kindergartens
- Schools
- Colleges and vocational schools
- Higher educational institutions
- Out-of-school educational institutions
- Organizations implementing non-formal educational programs.

The list of relevant institutions and programs is accessible on the official MoESCS website under the "Social Credit" section[1].

[1] ESCS screenshot

Craftsmanship and Secondary Vocational Education

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Vocational Education and Training," enacted on June 24, 2024[1], stipulates the legislative and institutional implementation of work-based learning programs. As of August 2026, dual training educational programs are being implemented across 27 VET institutions in 29 specializations[2] /out of 97/.

To optimize the geographical distribution of state preliminary (craftsmanship) and middle (secondary) vocational institutions and their curricula, a reorganization of VET institutions has been carried out. As of 2025, eleven (11) middle (secondary) vocational educational institutions were reorganized/consolidated into five (5) institutions. Currently, the total number of operating public middle (secondary) vocational educational institutions is 85[3].

On December 5, 2024, the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On establishing the procedure and amounts for changing the base salary rate and defining the supplements for pedagogical workers of vocational education institutions who have passed attestation or have been granted a qualification category"[4] was approved supporting the optimization of the existing system of training/retraining, as well as certification/attestation of educators in preliminary (craftsmanship) and middle (secondary) vocational education sector, fostering capacity strengthening and linking it to increased remuneration[5]. Consequently, through this process, 2 educators have been awarded their respective qualification categories, resulting in an increased base salary rate and eligibility for supplements corresponding to their tier[6].

In 2024, for the first time, a training and certification process was initiated for educators teaching in VET institutions across 4 sectors: jewelry-making, agriculture, IT, culinary arts, with 361 educators participating in the training and 310 educators participating in the certification process. Certification resulted in 276 educators or 89% of the participants clearing the minimum threshold and having a base salary increase in the amount of 200 000 drams, which is 2-3 higher than the effective rate, while 224 educators (81% of those who

[1] https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=193918
[2] dual
[3] List
[4] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/200601/latest
[5] link
[6] Orders

cleared the minimum threshold) who scored above 70% have received also supplements of 30%, 40%, 50%. In 2025, the certification process was expanded to include the textile sector where the number of participating instructors was 64. All the participants cleared the minimum threshold and received salary supplements of 30%, 40%, 50%[1]. The process will continue in 2026.

[1] Link

Non-Formal Education

The Decree N 51-N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports dated 16.06.2025 of the Republic of Armenia approved "The Procedure for Endorsing Modular Curricula of Supplementary Education[1]." Throughout 2022-2025, a total of 2024 non-formal modular educational programs have been endorsed[2].

The draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the "Procedure for Evaluating and Recognizing the Outcomes of Non-formal and Informal Learning, Including Establishing the Form of the State-Recognized Certificate and its Transcript and Amending the N 1062-N Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia Dated 10 September 2015" has been submitted to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia[3].

The Government of the Republic of Armenia pays also a close attention to creating non-formal educational environments in the regions of the Republic of Armenia, within the scopes of which Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) has founded and currently operating the Debed SMART Center. In the 2025-2026 academic year, the Center served 1901 learners aged 8-18 from 31 communities within Lori region (marz) of the Republic of Armenia. COAF provides free round trip transportation for attending children from their communities to the Center and back. The SMART Center implements the following projects:

- "SMART Citizenship" Project aims to foster the holistic development of 8-18 year-old children and teens, transfer knowledge and skills applicable to daily life, as well as provide career guidance.
- "Geographic Information Systems (GIS)" Project intends to introduce spatial data collection, processing and analysis tools to the learners, teach them the principles of data-driven thinking and the sophisticated use of technologies.
- Given the importance of proficiency in English language and enhanced communication skills, a long-term English teaching project was launched in 2026-2026 within the scopes of the tripartite memorandum between the Republic of Armenia MoESCS, COAF and the US Embassy[4]. Each cycle of the project accommodates 200 children.

[1] Order
[2] list
[3] Draft
[4] Memorandums

- The goal of the "Access" extracurricular English language learning program is to develop the language proficiency of socially vulnerable 13-18-year-old teens through teaching high-quality English, foster intercultural understanding by providing the learners with 21 century skills. "Access" program duration is 2 years (360 hours). It is carried out in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Shirak regions of the Republic of Armenia serving over 100 beneficiaries.
- "Health Promotion in Schools" Project aims to raise awareness about important public health topics among the learners, parents and teachers; it is designed for all learners from grades 1 to 11 and is implemented across two semesters. It tackles topics highly relevant for rural communities: general hygiene, healthy nutrition, etc. The project is carried out in 25 schools within Armavir region and at the Debed school in Lori region of the Republic of Armenia serving 4760 schoolchildren and their families.
- "Human Rights Summer School" Project is designed for 8-11 and 13-17 age groups with an aim to facilitate learners' legal awareness and rights-based thinking. During June-July of 2026, the Project was carried out across 9 communities within the Lori region of the Republic of Armenia involving 328 participants[1].

Following its goal of creating non-formal educational environments, the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) plans to establish 3 additional SMART centers over the next 3 to 4 years. The construction of the Armavir SMART center is actively progressing, while the contractual processes for establishing centers in Syunik with EU and European Investment Bank are expected to be finalized during the coming months. The centers in Syunik region of the Republic of Armenia will be located on the grounds of Goris Municipal Stadium and the former "Electron" youth camp in Kapan[2].

[1] COAF
[2] https://www.e-gov.am/u_files/file/decrees/kar/GVA2-F8A8-9869-A5DE/676.pdf

Higher Education

In 2026, the Government of the Republic of Armenia continued large-scale legislative, institutional and systemic reforms aiming at enhancing the quality and autonomy of higher education in the Republic of Armenia, regulating research activities, ensuring on-going improvement and organizing education in alignment with contemporary demands. Driven by the necessity to implement systemic reforms and provide the required legal framework, the MoESCS developed and adopted on 11 October 2025 the Law "On Higher Education and Science" HO-285-N[1]. Article 4 of the Law defines the core principles and key state policy directions. Specifically, points 8 and 9 of part 1 of the same article stipulate equality and absolute non-discrimination, accessibility and inclusivity of higher education as the foundational principles of state policy in higher education and science sectors.

Currently, for the purpose of ensuring the accessibility and availability/affordability of higher education, the following student support programs are being implemented.

- Tuition fee compensation in the form of student subsidies;
- Income tax refunds for employed natural persons as tuition fee reimbursement;
- Allocation of state scholarships to full-time students pursuing Bachelors and Master's degrees at higher educational institutions or organizations of the Republic of Armenia;
- Provision of draft deferments for students specializing in priority STEM fields considered highly important for the country;
- Tuition fee assistance for the students enrolled in public educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia, who were forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabagh after 19 September 2023;
- Tuition fee for the students from families forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabagh enrolled in public educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia before 19 September 2023;
- Provision of scholarships to promote the education of employees from Armenia-based commercial organizations at prestigious foreign universities, etc[2].

[1] Law
[2] https://www.hesc.am/hy/service/tuition/

The government-initiated incentive scheme for students enrolled in STEM-focused teacher education programs, offering a monthly stipend of 70,000 AMD, remained underway. Whithin the scopes of the program, 788 students enrolled in higher educational institutions for the 2025-2026 academic year. This is around 2.5 times more than the number admitted the previous year[1]. Since 2024, this policy has also been expanded to include agricultural specialties. According to the admission results for the 2025-2026 academic year, 179 students enrolled in universities in designated agricultural fields.

The process of equipping higher educational institutions with the necessary infrastructure for organizing and accessing high-quality education is closely linked to the consolidation of higher educational institutions and the Academic City Project. Consequently, the Academic City Project approved by the Decision of the Republic of Armenia Government N 228-L dated February 26, 2026, aims to create an integrated, modern, open and competitive university city facilitating international cooperation, which is set to become one of the global leading centers for the development of science, technology, entrepreneurship and human capital[2]. Enshrined in the Law "On Approving the State Program for the Development of Education in the Republic of Armenia until 2030", the Academic City Project is designed as a series of campus clusters that ensure an up-to-date educational environment for top-tier higher education and research. The necessity of building the Academic City is rooted in the objective to bridge education and research with industry and services. By ensuring an environment for advanced educational and research activities, the Project intends to meet the evolving needs of economic entities. The Academic City will serve as an all-inclusive infrastructure system, offering opportunities to test and translate into practice knowledge acquired across various fields. Extensive efforts are performed to engage new international partners in the design of the Academic City clusters and the launch of their programs. Key focus areas include university consolidation strategy, syllabi/curriculum/academic plan development, knowledge/experience/skills exchange, as well as training courses and mobility programs. To this end, a letter of intent "On Cooperation between the Higher Education and

[1] Students' personal data is protected by the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection" of May 18, 2015.
[2] Link

Science Committee of the MoESCS of the Republic of Armenia and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland" was signed as early as May 23, 2005[1].

In 2025-2026, diverse activities were carried out within the frameworks of the Academic City Project aiming at improving infrastructure, upgrading material and technical resources, revising and introducing new educational programs/curricula, diversifying financial sources, modernizing management and learning information systems; efforts are being made to increase the enrollment of international students, inter alia. Clean-up work on the territory of the Academic City has been organized, along with the archeological excavations of the ancient settlement and burial sites. In October 2025, Yerevan hosted the "Academic City Armenia: international forum of knowledge", with around 1,000 participants[2]. A target of the Academic City Project reads: Enhancing the international visibility of the scientific-educational system of the Republic of Armenia; ensuring that at least 4 universities are included in the top 500 of international ranking tables. The university system is already on the road preparing for transition toward the Academic City by intensifying international cooperation and recognition. Specifically, 4 universities received international accreditation in 2025, following 1 university in 2024 and 1 in 2023.

Within the scopes of its scientific-educational and technological component, the Academic City Project continues to cooperate with leading international universities. These institutions will also support the process of consolidation of universities and scientific organizations by reviewing relevant content and training individuals involved in management processes.

- The Technical University of Munich developed and submitted the concept for the Academic City's technological cluster management framework, innovation management model, the concept of consolidation of universities and research institutions[3];
- For the arts cluster, cooperation documents were signed and active partnership started with the University of the Arts London in November of 2023 (UAL – a global top-three art university, which has been formed by the consolidation of 6 art universities itself) and with

[1] Link
[2] Link
[3] https://www.hesc.am/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/680d7213c3227-arm-munich.pdf

the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (one of the top-ten best educational institutions in the performing arts according to QS World Rankings 2025) in May of 2025.[1]

- For the educational cluster, cooperation is underway with the University College of London Institute of Education (UCL IoE) based on a letter of intent signed on Ocober 8, 2024. A subsidiary of the University College of London (UCL), UCL Consultants Limited, will provide consultancy services for the design of the Academic City's educational cluster.
- By the Republic of Armenia Government Decision N 228-L[2], dated February 26, 2026, the Academic City Development Concept was approved and the Government Decision N 1802-L "On the Approval of the Concept of the Academic City Project", dated October 19, 2023, was repealed. Under the revised concept, the Talent Development Program was integrated as a component of the Academic City Project, with an aim to identify, support and develop children and youth with exceptional abilities by ensuring their access to the necessary resources, educational opportunities and technological tools matching their skills, interests and needs.[3]

Education Sector Statistics is provided in footnote[4].

Reports on Education sector of Budget Performance 2024 of the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport[5]

- Preliminary (craftsmanship) and middle (secondary) vocational education - 90.3%
- Higher and postgraduate professional education - 94.8%
- General education - 99.3%
- Out-of-school education - 96.4%
- Enhancing the quality of education - 71.7% /mainly due to delay of construction/
- Inclusive education - 99%

It is planned to achieve a 90% performance rate across all indicators by the end of the year 2026.

[1] https://www.hesc.am/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/680d721658667-univercity_oftheart_london_agreement_12.23.pdf
[2] 228-L
[3] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/221830/latest
[4] https://armstat.am/am/?nid=81&id=2760

[5] budget

All processes of the aforementioned reforms are performed in accordance with pre-approved schedules, all the activities have been implemented without any delay up to day[1].

Conclusion: Based on the data and developments recorded during the reporting period, we can conclude that a credible and relevant educational reform policy has been maintained in due course.

[1] N 351-L https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=175541
Annual report of the RA MoESCS report

➢ 3. MACROECONOMIC STABILITY

Economic growth: Economic growth rates accelerated in 2025, recording a real growth of 7.1%, primarily driven by the expansion of the services and construction sectors (contributions: 3.6 pps and 1.5 pps, respectively)[1]. While being volatile during the year, the industrial sector contributed positively to growth, driven by manufacturing.

From the demand side, economic growth was mainly driven by the increase in domestic private demand (consumption and investment). Public consumption and investment also contributed positively to the increase in domestic demand. Net exports contributed negatively to economic growth due to a steeper adjustment in exports relative to imports from the 2024 peak.

In January–June 2026, Armenia's economic activity grew by 7.9%, primarily driven by growth in services, industry, and construction. Trade also contributed positively to economic activity growth, while agriculture contracted sharply, significantly offsetting the overall increase in economic activity.

External Sector: In 2025, the current account deficit reached 8.7% of GDP, worsening by 2.5 pps year-over-year, primarily driven by a deteriorating trade balance[2]. The external trade turnover in dollar terms, following the double-digit growth in 2024, saw a reversal in 2025: exports contracted by 36.7%, while imports declined by 23.6%[3], primarily reflecting the sharp decline in the re-export of precious metals, which had previously inflated trade flows and created a high base effect.

In January-June 2026 exports contracted by 6.7%, primarily reflecting the sharp decline in the re-export of precious metals, while imports increased by 4.0%.

Inflation and monetary policy: In 2025, both average inflation and 12-month inflation rate in December stood at 3.3%.[4] During the year the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) reduced the policy rate by 0.5 pps, bringing it to 6.5%[5].

In January-June 2026, average inflation rate was 4.6%, while 12-month inflation in June stood at 5.1%. The CBA's refinancing rate remained unchanged at 6.5%.

State budget, debt and fiscal policy. In 2025, the growth rate of budget revenues accelerated significantly, reaching 11.9%. As a result, total state budget revenues amounted to AMD 2,886.5 billion, with taxes and duties contributing by AMD 2,725.2 billion increasing

[1] Source: Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Accounts; https://armstat.am/en/?nid=202, Calculations of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.
[2] Source: Central Bank of Armenia, Statistics, Balance of Payments, https://www.cba.am/hy/statistics/
[3] Source: Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Socio-Economic Situation of RA, January-December 2025, https://armstat.am/en/?nid=82
[4] Source: Central Bank of Armenia, Statistics, Price Statistics, https://www.cba.am/en/statistics
[5] Source: Central Bank of Armenia, Statistics, Financial Market Interest Rates, https://www.cba.am/en/statistics

by 14.0%.[1] Taxes and duties as a ratio to GDP increased by 0.7 pps from 2024, reaching 24.0%.

In January-June 2026, State budget revenues amounted to 1,643.2 billion drams, which increased by 14.7% compared to the previous year. Taxes and duties amounted to 1,555.9 billion drams, increasing by 14.7%.

State budget expenditures increased by 11.8% reaching AMD 3,305.3 billion in 2025. Current expenditures totaled AMD 2,612.6 billion, rising by 8.2%. Operations with non-financial assets amounted to AMD 692.7 billion.

The total expenditures as a ratio to GDP increased by 0.3 pps to 29.1%, while current expenditures decreased by 0.5 pps to 23.0% of GDP. The share of operations with non-financial asset in GDP rose by 0.8 pps to 6.1%.

In January-June 2026, State budget expenditures amounted to 1,575.9 billion drams, which is an increase of 7.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. Current expenditures amounted to 1,366.1 billion drams, which is an increase of 16.1%, and operations with non-financial assets amounted to 209.8 billion drams decreasing by 28.9%

The state budget deficit in 2025 amounted to AMD 418.8 billion, compared to AMD 376.1 billion in the previous year. The deficit-to-GDP ratio was at 3.7%, while the government debt-to-GDP ratio declined by 0.5 pps to 47.2%[2]. In January-June 2026, the state budget surplus amounted to 67.3 billion drams, compared to a deficit of 39.2 billion drams recorded in the comparable period in 2025.

In addition, the report[3] published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June of this year on macroeconomic stability in the Republic of Armenia is hereby presented.

Conclusion: Based on the data and developments recorded during the reporting period, it can be concluded that a credible and stability-oriented macroeconomic policy has been maintained throughout the period.

[1] Source: Ministry of Finance, Macroeconomic Policy, Statistics, THE ANNUAL INDICATORS OF STATE BUDGET OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA https://minfin.am/website/images/files/c8b0bf8e.xlsx

[2] Source: Ministry of Finance, Public Debt, Reports and Statistics, Summary Data on Public Debt https://minfin.am/website/images/files/979da24a.xlsx

[3] Report

➢ 4. PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

The 2025 Public Financial Management Progress Report is attached[1].

Conclusion: Based on the information provided in reports mentioned above, we can conclude that the GoA has ensured the continuous improvement of PFM.

➢ 5.BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Pursuant to the requirements of Articles 3 and 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Normative Legal Acts, Article 26(a) of the Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Budget System of the Republic of Armenia, Paragraph 12 of Government Decision No. 1146-N of 25 March 2018 "On Establishing the Procedure for Organizing and Conducting Public Discussions and Repealing Government Decision No. 296-N of 25 March 2010" (hereinafter, the "Decision"), and the timelines approved by decisions of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on the commencement of the budget process for each year (hereinafter, the "Timelines"), the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter, the "MoF") publishes draft laws on the state budget of the Republic of Armenia on the MoF's official website and, simultaneously, on the unified website for the publication of draft legal acts. In particular, the draft State Budget Law for 2026 is available at the following link[2]:

In addition, since 2019, public authorities, including the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia the MoF have been required to publish on their official websites the draft Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the draft budget requests for the respective year, as well as the expenditure calculations and justifications underlying the budget requests, for the purpose of conducting public consultations with the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs). The MoF's budget request for budget financing under the 2026–2028 MTEF, including 2026 budget expenditures, is available here.

After the approval, the MTEF is published in the RA official bulletins and on the websites of the RA Ministry of Finance and Armenian legal information system[3]. At the same time, after

[1] Link
[2] https://www.e-draft.am/projects/9166/about.
[3] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/207994/latest

the approval by the RA National Assembly, the state budget of each year is published in the RA official bulletins and on the websites of the RA National Assembly, RA Ministry of Finance[1]. The MoF's website publishes the draft report on the execution of the state budget for the previous year, as well as monthly information on the execution of the state budget and quarterly reports.

Since 2018, the Ministry of Finance website has also published a simplified version of the budget for the upcoming year, in the form of the Citizen's Budget, as well as simplified reports on the execution of the budget for the previous year.

The actual performance of the annual budget, including its structure, programs, and directions of budget expenditures, is available online on the Ministry of Finance and the e-Government websites.

Conclusion: Based on the information above, we state that public availability of accessible, timely, comprehensive and sound budgetary information is in place.

General condition:

Based on the self-assessment report of requirements we consider that all the Indicators of General conditions were compliant.

[1] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/228258/latest

VARIABLE TRANCHE

THE LIST OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKS CARRIED OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF INDICATORS APPROVED WITH THE AGREEMENT IS PROVIDED BELOW.

1.	**Secondary school network optimization**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Status:** Partial Compliance **2026 target:** 80% overall work progress in construction/renovation of the 13 schools selected for the Kapan and Goris regions optimisation pilot **Progress made:** As of September 2026, about 60% of the construction work across 13 educational complexes/schools is accomplished[1] (educational complexes of Hartashen, Artsvanik, Syunik, Tzav, Verin Khotanan, Achanan of Goris and Kapan amalgamated communitites and school N 6 in Kapan, as well as the educational complex of Akner and Khndzoresk, Verishen, Karahunch, N 5 and N 6 basic schools in Goris[2])	**Problems:** Construction works were delayed due to the contractor's failure to properly fulfil its contractual obligations. **Next Steps:** The process will continue until 2027.	50% (€ 0.5 M) /60% is above 50% of 80% target for 2026/

[1] Pictures

transfers

[2] information about transfers

				Supporting argumentation and evidence In general, about 60 % of construction work, accounting more than 50% of the 80% target for 2026 is completed across 13 educational complexes/ schools.	
2.	**Strengthened school governance**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made as of March 2026 September:** As of September 2026, out of 1,341 state schools, the number of educational institutions transitioned to the new management system is 708 as of July 2026, with principals appointed to 429 of them[1].	
3.	**Multi-age classes teaching**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made**: The MTEF 2026-2028 includes a budget for the national expansion of multi-age classes /Decision of the RA Prime Minister No. 36-A[2] of 16 January 2025 "On the Start of the 2026 Budget Process of the Republic of Armenia"/. **Supporting argumentation and evidence** According to the RA Government Decision No. 850-N[3] of 26 June 2025	

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fuvWfP8ZXzq1xW12vsCwVoD7SjNyq9kX/view?usp=sharing

[2] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/206950/latest

[3] https://drive.google.com/file/d/17b45l4p6oD-LUN-dChhXZLSHdzQ-Ke68/view?usp=sharing
Point 2 For teaching in a multi-grade educational group, the teacher is paid additionally:
a. in the case of combining two classes, receiving a supplement of 50 percent of the rate,

	"On defining the procedure for financing general education institutions from the state budget, the principles and methodology for programmes funded from the state budget, and approving the coefficients and norms for financing general education institutions of the Republic of Armenia from the state budget, the overall financing of schools includes funding allocation for multi-age classes for each school.[1] The basis for the above is RA Government Decision No. 1484-N of 31 August 2023[2], The basis for the above is RA Government Decision No. 1484-N of 31 August 2023, "On Amending RA Government Decision No. 954-N of 30 August 2018", which establishes that in state educational institutions implementing the RA basic education programme, the maximum number of students per class is set at 35 for levels 1 and 2 /primary and basic	

b. in the case of combining three classes, receiving a supplement of 75 percent of the rate.

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RQCgmt1Ly_OdlHqc9_f3pUdF0NgUHbmL/view?usp=sharing
Getap Secondary School, Aragatsotn Marz https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GLe9k-MIVmKEYuOkCeVq-xicvTlyfGfF/view?usp=sharing
Eghegi Secondary School, Syunik Marz https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o5ebTH3iv4mwdRy5lBR8UOQfBQWcQiUu/view?usp=sharing

[2] https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/182088

				education/, and 30 for level 3 /secondary education/. According to paragraph 5[1] of the same decision, multi-age classes studying the same subject at the Institution may be formed in the following areas: 1) crafts and arts. 2) physical education and safe life activities.	
4	**STEM labs**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Status:** Full compliance **2026 target:** 95% of functioning schools of the marzes of Ararat, Kotayk and Gegharkunik are equipped with at least 3 modern STEM labs **Progress made:** 92% of all (from 334) public general education institutions in Ararat, Kotayk, Gegharkunik regions of the Republic of Armenia have been equipped with at least 4 modern science and engineering (STEM) labs along with corresponding equipment and furniture. All procurement contracts have been concluded. During 2024-2026, equipment was delivered to more than	100% (€ 1 M) /92% is above of 80% target set for 2026/

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AQrY38UH_X1ptxF71b5ycZkv_opyrWcO/view?usp=sharing

306 institutions[1].

Supporting argumentation and evidence

Construction work is underway in 16[2] educational institutions slated to be furnished with modern laboratory equipment in 2026, the equipment is stored, deliveries will be carried out shortly after the completion of construction.

The list of institutions receiving equipment does not include the 28 schools with low student enrollment, which in accordance with Decree N 1790-A/2 issued by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic on Armenia in 2023 "On Approving the List of Public General Education Institutions Included in the Program for Ensuring Access to Quality Education" continue to be financed on a per-student basis.[3]

[1] pictures
List of 306 schools
Contracts

[2] list

[3] 1790 - The list of schools being supplemented does not include 40 schools with a small number of students, which, in accordance with the Order No. 1790-A/2 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Armenia "On Approving the List of State General Educational Institutions Included in the Program for Ensuring Access to Quality Educational Services of the Republic of Armenia" of 2023, continue to be funded based on the number of students. The issue of laboratories will be resolved within the end of schools' optimization process

5	**STEM teachers**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made:** 100% of STEM teachers in 2025-2026 have been trained in line with the new Teacher Training Standard[1]. **Supporting argumentation and evidence** Overall, over 18,000 STEM teachers have participated, with some teachers taking part in more than one programme.	
6	**Enhanced professional orientation in schools**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made:** 100 % of over 1400 functioning schools have operational professional orientation clubs. **Supporting argumentation and evidence** The RA Ministry of ESCS has approved two mandatory clubs for implementation in all schools. One of them is the "Career Orientation"[2] club for grades 8-11, which is carried out in accordance with the curriculum of the "Career Orientation" course. The clubs are included in school timetables and are organized in line with them. The secoond mandatory club is the "Healthy lifestyle" club, which is not related to this condition.	

[1] https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f4phuuaXdWTGAAMmviK50ztuXGA_zA8E/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1N8Vy3WMW_Wh93V8sgZIF2blRlvYZyiuS/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true

[2] https://drive.google.com/file/d/165Zd2YsbYt5tooyoqnW2ZyTR5G3nmUIX/view?usp=sharing

7	**Green Economy and Climate Change projects**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made:** More than 10% of school projects in grades nationwide are on green economy and climate change Issues[1].
8	**Learning assessment system**	*RA Ministry of ESCS*	*September 2026*	**Progress made:** The new assessment system is operationl in 100 % of all schools in the country [2].

Conclusion: Based on the information above, it can be stated that the conditions 1 and 4 of the variable tranche for a total sum of € 2 mln are partially implemented, 1 is partially implemented and 4 is fully implemented.

Final conclusion:

- ***There is no fixed tranche for 2026.***
- ***The variable tranche, covering Indicators 1 and 4 amounting to € 1.5 million is eligible and will be requested for payment.***

The total amount to be requested is equal to € 1.5 mln for the variable tranche.

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F2dTnraVMnC1yPctG0Vww-JmYA3q0gZ0/view?usp=sharing

[2] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BxAr1w-HM5jiuJgFO2aH6SlAjbw1Bw00/view?usp=sharing

. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uBvd0D3XzdknrRaSyxMd7XsxP7ziUgYg/view?usp=sharing

➢ 6. RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

This section confirms that in implementing the Agreement's Indicators, the RA Ministry of ESCS has met all environmental mitigation requirements.

Especially for Indicator 1 The Ministry ensured that the contracted design and construction companies complied with the environmental requirements. Specifically, the construction companies arranged for working safety procedures, provided the workers with protective equipment (gloves, shoes, etc.), as well as environmental compliance procedures, including environmentally friendly materials, waste management and water run-off. Precautions were taken to ban smoking in the renovation sites.

For Indicator 4 also all the safety procedures were arranged while furnishing the schools with modern laboratory equipment.

➢ 7. CONCLUSION

Based on the above information, it can be stated that 1 variable Indicator of the Agreement has been fully implemented and 1 indicator has been partially implemented:

- **Indicator 1 – Secondary school network optimization:** 60% overall progress has been achieved in the construction/renovation of the 13 schools selected for the optimization pilot in Kapan and Goris regions, which represents 50% of the 80% target set for 2026.
- **Indicator 4 – STEM labs:** 92% of functioning schools in the marzes of Ararat, Kotayk, and Gegharkunik are now equipped with at least three modern STEM laboratories, which represents more than 80% target set for 2026.