

ARMENIA

Partners in Brazil	State and Municipal Government of São Paulo Viva Leite Project Comunidade da Graça Foundation General Hospital of Itapeperica da Serra
Partners in Armenia	Administration of the Prime Minister Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Ministry of Agriculture
Objective of Cooperation	Develop and test a multi-sectoral approach aimed at improvement of child nutrition in Syunik Province, targeting the most vulnerable families through a unique identification system
Component within Armenia National Plan of Action	Sustainable Development Program 2009-2021 goal on ensuring human development. ¹¹

Situation of children

The Armenian Government has undertaken a series of reforms in health, education and child welfare. These reforms have helped improve these children's lives but many challenges still lie ahead. More than one-third of Armenia's 750,000 children live in poverty. Stunting and forms of undernutrition have caused high rates of child mortality, which have reached 19 per cent of under-five children in 2010 and 26 per cent of children aged 36-47 months.¹² Among the principal causes related to these indicators are low levels of awareness, prevalence of breast milk substitutes and inadequate health and nutrition counselling.¹³

Objective of the cooperation

In 2012, the Government of Armenia and UNICEF engaged in a humanitarian cooperation effort in order to overcome the country's state of nutritional emergency. This effort received the financial support of the Brazilian Government. With the intention of moving beyond an emergency response, the Government of Armenia requested technical support from Brazil to develop a national nutrition programme focusing on early childhood development. The goal of the cooperation focused on developing a model programme for child nutrition. A pilot project was initiated in the province of Syunik, a region characterized by the lowest nutrition indicators in the country. The partnership aims to help identify legal and regulatory frameworks that can support the development of programmes for the most vulnerable populations. Through this TSSC with Brazil and UNICEF, the Armenian Government aims to develop and implement programmes that will contribute to an increase



Basic Indicators	to the top
Under-5 mortality rank	112
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990	49
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2012	16
U5MR by sex 2012, male	18
U5MR by sex 2012, female	15
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990	42
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2012	15
Neonatal mortality rate 2012	10
Total population (thousands), 2012	2,969.1
Annual no. of births (thousands), 2012	41.3
Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands), 2012	1
GNI per capita (US\$), 2012	3,720
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2012	74.5
Total adult literacy rate (%) 2009-2012	99.6
Primary school net enrolment ratio (%) 2008-2011	--

SOURCES: UNICEF DATA. <https://data.unicef.org/country/arm/>



Rede Cegonha

Rede Cegonha: Launched in 2011, the programme aims to ensure quality care for all Brazilian women in the Unified Health System (SUS), from the confirmation of pregnancy through the first two years of a child's life. Women are guaranteed the right to family planning and humanized care during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, and children are assured the right to a safe birth and healthy growth and development. The Stork Network specifically targets future mothers in the Amazon and the Northeast regions, which have the highest rate of infant and maternal mortality in the country, as well as in metropolitan areas. It seeks to qualify the health professionals responsible for providing care to women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, while creating support structures.

QUICK FACTS

Fome Zero

The *Fome Zero* (Zero Hunger) programme was created and implemented by the Government of Brazil under the mandate of President Luiz Inacio 'Lula' Da Silva (2003-2010) to combat hunger and extreme poverty in the country, contributed to halve the number of people suffering from hunger. With its holistic approach, it covered a range of areas linked to the issue of food security and social inclusion, such as the creation of jobs, increase in food production and stimulation of local businesses. It facilitates vulnerable populations to access food and nutrition assistance through an intersectoral approach between various ministries.

QUICK FACTS

in exclusive breastfeeding and a reduction in stunting, via the promotion of good practices exchanged with Brazil.

Cooperation activities

In 2013, the first phase of cooperation identified public policies and programmes that could be adapted in Armenia. For this initial step, the UNICEF Representative to Armenia made two visits to Brazil. During these scoping visits the UNICEF Representative received first-hand knowledge about Brazil's experiences with development challenges that faced Armenia as well. The representative also received technical knowledge about the implementation of governmental programmes in the area of nutrition.

A high-level Armenian delegation consisting of representatives of the Administration of the Prime Minister and the Ministries of Health and Labour and Social Protection visited Brazil in September 2014. Their goal was to learn about nutrition policies and programmes, as well as early childhood development programmes at the federal, state and municipal levels in Brazil. They focused on good practices targeting child health, including Brazil's approach and strategy towards nutrition. They also looked at the implemented interventions such as the introduction of complementary food, planning models and management structures. In addition, the Armenian delegation learned about different models and mechanisms for parental guidance, initiatives to encourage community participation, nutrition centres for families, nutrition services in pre-schools, state-subsidized community restaurants, and the *Rede Cegonha* (Stork Network) programme, among other programmes and initiatives, such as the renowned *Fome Zero* initiative.

Progress to date

Brazil's experiences in its intersectoral approach to combating malnutrition were successfully identified as best practices to replicate and adapt to the Armenian reality. As a result of the exchanges with Brazil, the Government of Armenia has formulated a national Concept and Action Plan that aims to reinforce the intersectoral collaboration in addressing child nutrition issues in the country.

2013

Formal request from Gvt. of Armenia received

JUNE: Armenian mission to Brazil for MDS seminar

2014

MARCH: IPC mission to Armenia on community-based child nutrition

JULY: VC with government partners & UNICEF to define priority areas of engagement

SEPTEMBER: Administration of the Prime Minister and Ministries of Health and Labour and Social Protection of Armenia in study visit to Brazil

Armenian Gvt. formulating national action plan for nutrition interventions

¹¹ Republic of Armenia, Joint Staff Advisory Note on the Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2008

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Armenia Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS), 2010