**Answers to the questionnaire**

**Questions 1, 2.** A social housing programme for persons from socially disadvantaged and special groups, having housing needs is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. The List and the Procedure for record-registering persons (families) from socially disadvantaged and special groups, holding the right to get housing, and for providing them with accommodation are approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1069-N of 10 September 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "the Decision").

Paragraph "a" of sub-point 3 of point 1 of Annex 1 to the Decision prescribes that persons (families) record-registered in the system of assessment of insecurity of families not having housing belonging thereto under ownership right, having self-service abilities and living in temporary housing or other public premises, possessing insecurity points higher than “zero” and record-registered as "single non-working pensioners" as prescribed by sub-points 7 and 8 of point 14 of Annex No 3 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 145-N of 30 January 2014 shall be classified as socially disadvantaged and special groups holding the right to get housing, including in case the person (persons) does work.

Based on the requirement of paragraph 4 of sub-point 4.6 of point 4 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia envisages submitting, prior to the first ten-day period of December 2023, the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Unified Social Strategy for housing and the 5-year Action Plan” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

It is envisaged to elaborate a draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, whereby mechanisms for providing permanent or temporary shelters (alternative mechanisms for acquisition of an apartment – granting certificates for purchase of an apartment, servicing of the mortgage from the funds of the State Budget, partial reimbursement of the amount of the rent, etc.) will be prescribed for the low-income and needy families and other vulnerable groups, as well as the implementation of the unified policy will be ensured.

The “Center of Home Social Service Provision for Single Elderly and Disabled Persons” SNCO operates in the Republic of Armenia, under the subordination of which the shelter for persons of a specific category from special groups operates, where older persons having work record of 40 and more years exercise their right to housing.

The mentioned legal amendment was made in 2019, and before that, apartments were provided to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War — persons over the age of 65, having Honorary Title of the Republic of Armenia and (or) the former Armenian Soviet Social Republic in the fields of science, education, journalism, culture, arts, healthcare, economy, architecture, law, physical culture and sports. By the Decision of 2019, older persons having work record of 40 and more years may also live in the mentioned shelter. The legal regulation of the above-mentioned is prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1069-N of 10 September 2015. At the same time, Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia states that the following shall, among other things, be among the issues of the State:

* foster housing construction and contribute to the improvement of housing conditions of each citizen;
* ensure decent living standards for the older persons.

According to Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance", one of the main types of social services provided to citizens shall be the provision of accommodation, which may be implemented in different ways: providing state housing assistance to persons belonging to certain social groups, providing housing in social houses, providing temporary shelters to persons having no specific place of residence or in other forms of social assistance not prohibited by law.

**Question 3**. The older persons participate in the development of action plans, policies or legislation related to housing by presenting their opinions during the public discussion in the drafting stage of each legal act amended, which are collected on the e-draft electronic platform.

**Question 5.** According to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, sex, race, ethnical belonging, identity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, social status, place of origin and immigration status may not be a ground for discrimination in ensuring the right to housing for the older persons.

**Question 6.** The COVID-19 pandemic has not been an obstacle for the persons of a specific category from special groups to apply for housing.

**Question 7.** Within the scope of the policy for de-institutionalisation of care facilities for the older persons, the programme of community small group houses is implemented, within the scope of which a small community house was bought in Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia in 2019, where renovation works will be carried out and older persons will reside in 2022.

**Question 10.** For improving the care services provided to the older persons, as well as introducing and developing community-based services for the period of 2021-2023, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia 498-L of 8 April 2021 was adopted, which is aimed at creating and maintaining a favourable environment for the older persons to live in a family and in a community, contributing to active longevity.

**Question 11.** In the Republic of Armenia, statistical data are collected by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, therefore, the mentioned information may be presented more comprehensively by the mentioned body.

As of 1 July 2021, the resident population of the Republic of Armenia comprises 2 964 000 people, of which 1 896 000 people live in the cities, 1 067 000 people — in the villages.

The number of people over the age of 65 comprises 365 020 people or 12,3% of the total number.

* The population of the working age (16-62 years old) comprised 63,5% of the number of the resident population of the Republic of Armenia, and the population under working age (0-15 years old) — 21,4%, and people over the working age (63 and more years old) comprised 15,1% of the population.
* There were 575 people of the non-working age among 1000 people of the working age, of which 237 — older persons.
* Women aged 65 and over comprise 60,6% of the total number of the older persons, or 221,100 people.
* 64% of the total number of the population of the Republic of Armenia live in the cities, and 34% — in the rural settlements.

In 2020, the average life expectancy in the Republic of Armenia is 75,4 years (women — 78,7, men — 71,9), and the average life expectancy in the world — 72 years.

* The number of older persons with disabilities and receiving care services is only 4947, of which 2785 or 56,3% of those receiving care are the older persons.
* older persons receiving care services comprise 0,7% of the total number of older persons and 29,1% of single older persons.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the Marz | Number of people receiving care services |
| city of Yerevan  | 2560  |
| Aragatsotn Marz  | 70  |
| Ararat Marz  | 148  |
| Shirak Marz  | 578  |
| Syunik Marz | 221 |
| Kotayk Marz | 322 |
| Ararat Marz | 148 |
| Lori Marz | 399 |
| Gegharkunik Marz | 589 |
| Armavir Marz | 60 |
| Total: | 4947 |

The below-mentioned data are taken from the data published by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia in 2020, as well as from the "Electronic Record-registration of Pensioners" and "Financial Allowance" information systems of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

| Name of the area | Total number of the population | Number of people aged 63+ | Including number of people aged 80+ | Number of single older persons \* | Number of persons aged 63+ in the total number of the population (%) | Number of single older persons in the total number of the older persons (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Republic of Armenia | 2 963.000 | 434 629 | 91 101 | 9560\* | 14,7 | 2,2 |
| city of Yerevan | 1 087.900 | 183 725 | 38 756 | 4026 | 16,9 | 2,2 |
| Ararat Marz | 256.800 | 32 040 | 6504 | 503 | 12,5 | 1,6 |
| Armavir Marz | 264.400 | 31 540 | 6034 | 457 | 12,0 | 1,4 |
| Aragatsotn Marz | 124.700 | 15 130 | 3476 | 318 | 12,1 | 2,1 |
| Gegharkunik Marz | 227.200 | 26 888 | 5751 | 401 | 11,8 | 1,5 |
| Lori Marz | 213.000 | 32 986 | 7064 | 1157 | 15,5 | 3,5 |
| Kotayk Marz | 251.200 | 31 514 | 5382 | 683 | 12,5 | 2,2 |
| Shirak Marz | 231.300 | 31 814 | 5810 | 1203 | 13,7 | 3,8 |
| Syunik Marz | 136.900 | 21 564 | 4856 | 355 | 15,7 | 1,6 |
| Vayots Dzor Marz | 48.500 |  7274 | 1957 | 186 | 15,0 | 2,6 |
| Tavush Marz | 121.100 | 19 854 | 5511 | 271 | 16,4 | 1,4 |

\*Number of single older persons is the number of the single older persons record-registered in the "Financial Allowance" electronic family insecurity assessment system, and 5-10% inaccuracy is possible (not all single people are record-registered, but according to the research and observations of decades of the Ministry, 85-90% of the single older persons are record-registered in the system).

\*In this column, the term "single" refers to both the older persons living alone and those having no heir (they are not separated).

\* *For information, let us mention that the number of people over 63 in the Republic is 434 600, of which 261 100 are women and 173 500 are men, but since a person over 65 is considered older persons by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, we take as a basis the above-mentioned 65+ numbers.*

**Question 12.** The war unleashed by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno Karabakh in the autumn of 2020 caused a massive displacement from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, resulting in a humanitarian crisis.

Among the estimated 91,000 displaced people, 88% were women, children and older persons who were housed in host communities and collective shelters. A significant number of the arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh may not be able to return safely even now with the ceasefire in place, particularly residents of territories currently under control of Azerbaijan.

38,000 of those arrived lost their homes and productive assets due to the large-scale military hostilities.

A total number of 379 persons have been placed in 24-hour care centers under the subordination of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, 101 of them continue to receive care. Most of them are beneficiaries of the Stepanakert nursing home or residents of the occupied Shushi and Hadrut territories. In particular:

• 70 persons were housed in «Nork nursing home» SNCO, 41 continue to receive care,

• 192 persons were housed in «Aghavnadzor» branch of «Nork nursing home» SNCO, 23 persons remained as of February 11, who were discharged and transferred to other institutions,

• 63 persons were housed in «Yerevan Nursing Home N1» SNCO, 43 continue to receive care,

• 13 people were housed in «Dzorak» care center for people with mental disorders SNCO, 6 continue to receive care,

• 35 persons were housed in Armenian Red Cross society Gyumri 24-hour Care Center, 5 continue to receive care,

• 3 persons were transferred to «Neuropsychological nursing home of Vardenis» SNCO,

• 3 persons were housed in Vanadzor Old Age Home.

Furthermore, it is necessary to draw the attention to the fact that older persons from Nagorno-Karabakh were subjected to torture and murder. The list of abovementioned cases is attached (Enclosure on Azerbaijan`s violations against Elderly Armenians).