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4.12 Demographics

Armenia has a total *de jure* population of 3.02 million¹ (2011). The national census distinguishes between legally registered resident population (*de jure*) and actually resident (*de facto*) population. Due to the importance of migration for employment in Armenia, there are significant differences between these figures.

Population figures have been collected through a number of sources to inform this ESIA. Sources include the published 2011 national census results; village populations as recorded through household surveys conducted by MPG in 2010; and village populations as recorded by Village Mayors on an annual basis. There is significant variation within the figures recorded by each source and as such, national census figures have been cited as the definitive population figures, but where analysis of locally collected data is required, it has been assessed as a proportion of the population reported through that survey instrument to ensure consistency of assessment.

The national sex ratio at birth is 1.12 male births per female. Armenia has generally seen a population decline since the 1990s due to elevated levels of out-migration after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Armenia is also currently experiencing a significant aging of its population and a consequent decrease in the size of its working population². In addition, the fertility rate in Armenia has fallen from about 4.5 children per woman in the 1950s to 1.74 children per woman at present, which is well under the fertility rate required for population replacement. As a result of these factors, Armenia's population is expected to decrease to 3 million by 2050³.

4.12.1 Regional Population

A national census was conducted in 2011 and the preliminary data was made available in Armenian in 2014. This *de jure* population data is presented in Table 4.12.1.

¹ Armstat, (2014) www.armstat.am accessed 2 May 2014

² World Bank, (2011b), Armenia, Demographic Change and Implications for Social Policy and Poverty, South Caucasus Programmatic Poverty Assessment, Technical Note #5, World Bank, www.world.org (accessed 27th August 2012)

³ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2803> accessed July 20, 2013

Name of Region (Marzer)	Territory (km²)	Population in 2011 (de jure)	Population Density (population/km²)
Yerevan	223	1,060,138	4,754
Aragatsotn	2,573	132,925	48
Ararat	2,086	260,367	125
Armavir	1,242	265,770	214
Gegarkunik	5,349	235,075	44
Lori	3,789	235,537	62
Kotayk	2,089	254,397	122
Shirak	2,681	251,941	94
Syunik	4,506	141,771	32
Vayots Dzor	2,308	52,324	23
Tavush	2,704	128,609	48
Total	29,743	3,018,854	102

As is clear in Table 4.12.1, Vayots Dzor *Marz* has the smallest population in the country, and together Syunik and Vayots Dzor *Marzer* have the lowest population densities in the country. It is important to note that between the 2001 and 2011, census results indicate Armenia's population reduced from 3.21 million to 3.02 million.

Vayots Dzor *Marz* comprises three districts: Jermuk, Yeghegnadzor and Vayk, with 2011 *de jure* populations of 4,346, 7,421 and 5,067 respectively. Syunik *Marz* comprises four districts: Kapan (34,713), Goris (17,881), Meghri (4,282) and Sisian (12,074). The Project is located in Jermuk, Vayk and Sisian districts.

4.12.2 Social Study Area Population

The study area includes the rural communities of Gorayk, Gndevaz, Saravan and Jermuk (as indicated on Figure 4.1.5). Saravan rural community comprises three small villages (Saravan, Saranlanj and Ughedzor) and Jermuk includes both Jermuk city and its associated village of Kechut. The study area is predominantly rural, with Jermuk being the only urban centre.

While the area has been inhabited for centuries, as detailed in Section 4.19 (Cultural heritage), it has undergone significant change in the past century. The construction of the Spandaryan Reservoir in the 1980's required the resettlement of two villages, Gorayk and Tsg huk. The resettlement was undertaken by the Soviet State, and many residents of Gorayk retain some level of dissatisfaction with their new location. The second significant change in the region was related to the Azerbaijan – Armenia war, which prompted ethnic Armenians and Azeri's living in Azerbaijan and Armenia respectively to move to their ethnic homeland. Prior to the

war in 1991, the village of Ughedzor was an ethnically Azeri village, which was abandoned once the war broke out. The village of Ughedzor is now occupied by seasonal herders during the summer months, but remains unoccupied during the rest of the year. Seasonal herders also use other lands in the area, as seen in Figure 4.12.3.

Local demographic data is drawn from the 2011 National Census data. As illustrated in Table 4.12.2, the aggregated *de jure* study area population is approximately 6,700.

Rural Community	De jure (2011 census profile)
Jermuk	4,346
Kechut	884
Gndevaz	791
Saravan (including Ughedzor (21))	256
Gorayk	401
Total	6,678

Additional detail on the study area population is provided in Table 4.12.3. This data has been collated through interviews with community Mayors, conducted in April 2014. While the figures in Table 4.12.3 vary from those reported in the national census (Table 4.12.2), this is a feature of the different sources of the data and the general trends within the communities are still evident.

Locality	De facto Population	Households	Number of Families in Social Welfare Programmes
Gorayk	418 (51% women)	96	6
Saravan	282 (54% women)	80	7
Gndevaz	899 (52% women)	211	10
Ughedzor	20 herder families during summer	No data	N/A
Jermuk/Kechut Town	7542 (51% women)	2300	215
Seasonal Herders within the broader area	~ 58 herders during summer with approximately 20 herders within the Project License boundary	No data	N/A

The age profile (*de jure* population, 2011) for Syunik Marz in Figure 4.12.1 highlights an aging population, consistent with the trend across Armenia. Less than 20% of the population is aged

15 years or less. The proportion of youth in Vayots Dzor *marz* is even lower than that of Syunik (Figure 4.12.2).

In both Syunik and Vayots Dzor, there is an over-representation of women in working age groups. This is a direct result of the trend of male migration for work⁴.

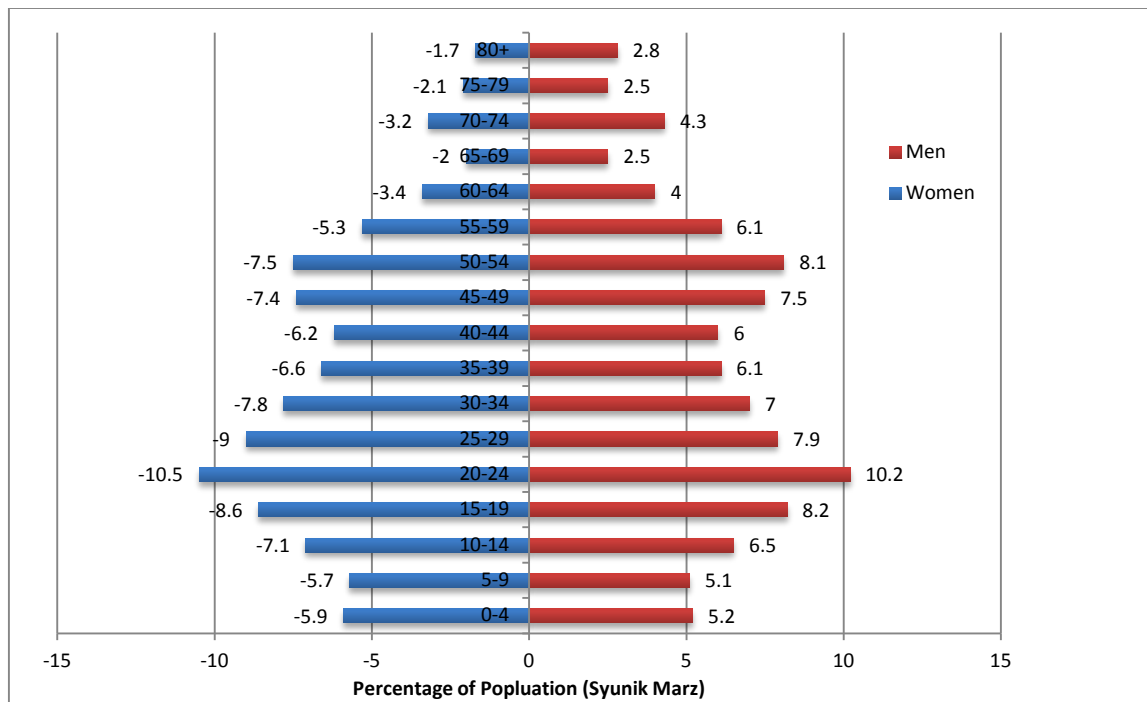


Figure 4.12.1: Population Pyramid for Syunik Marz¹

⁴ National Institute of Labour and Social Research (2010), Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Households, Yerevan
 ZT520088
 May 2016

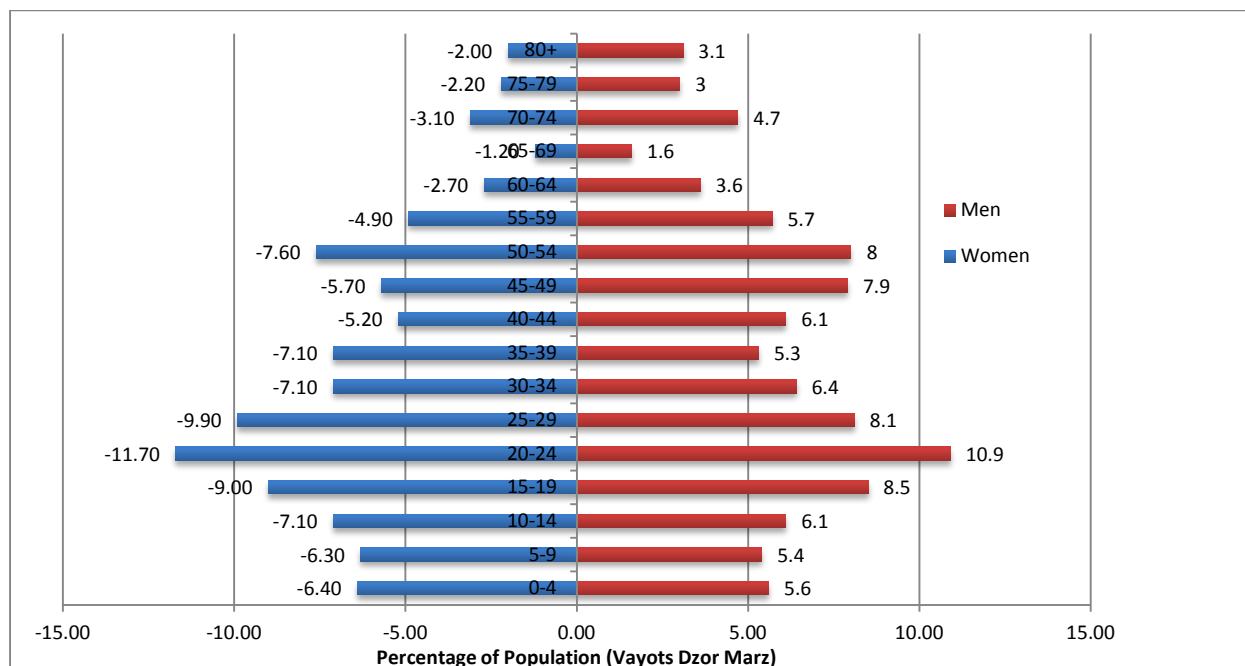


Figure 4.12.2: Population Pyramid for Vayots Dzor Marz¹

Life expectancy in Armenia has increased somewhat since the 1970's to 67/75 years⁵ for males/females respectively (as recorded in 2012), with women living longer than men. This rate of growth is considerably lower than that of neighbouring countries².

Within the working age group (19-64 years of age), a relatively balanced demographic is seen in the rural communities (Table 4.12.4).

Town	De Facto Population Aged 19-64 Years	Number of Women Aged 19-64 Years	Proportion of Women (19-64 Years) in Rural Community
Gorayk (2010 data)	376	180	48%
Gndevaz (2009 data)	651	368	56%
Saravan (2009 data)	120	55	46%

4.12.3 Ethnic Groups

Armenia is largely ethnically homogenous with ethnic Armenians comprising 97.9% of the population. Yezidis make up 1.3%, Russian 0.5%, with other minorities including Assyrians,

⁵ <http://www.who.int/countries/arm/en/> accessed June 20th, 2014

⁶ Sourced from the Village Passports

Ukrainians, Greeks, Kurds, Georgians and Belarusians. There are also smaller communities of Vlachs, Mordvins, Ossetians, Udis, and Tats. Minorities of Poles and Caucasus Germans also exist though they have become culturally more like Russians.

In both Syunik and Vayots Dzor *Marzer*, the homogeneity is even greater than the national average, with 99% of residents reported as ethnic Armenians. Baseline studies conducted in the study area in 2009 and 2010 confirmed this trend.

There are no ethnic groups in Armenia that would be considered “indigenous” as defined in IFC Performance Standard 7 and EBRD Performance Requirement 7.

4.12.4 Language

The Armenian language is a member of the Indo-European family of languages. With thirty-eight characters, and a distinct script, Armenian is spoken only by Armenians and their diaspora. Armenian is the language of education and business in Armenia, increasingly replacing the use of Russian which was dominant before independence.

Armenia has very high levels of literacy (reported to be 99.5% for adults over 15 years of age in 2011)⁷.

4.12.5 Religion

The majority (94.7%) of the Armenian population follows the Armenian Apostolic church, while other Christian denominations make up 4%, and 1.3% are Yezidi (monotheist with elements of nature worship). This trend is also evident in the rural communities in the study area.

4.12.6 Housing and Household Size

Armenia is characterised by large households comprised of related family units, common in both rural and urban areas. The average household size in Armenia is 4.0 people⁸, with rural households on average moderately larger than urban households (4.4 vs. 3.7 persons)⁸.

In Gorayk, Gndevaz and Saravan, the average household sizes were reported to be between 5 and 7 members, usually as a result of two or more related families residing within a

⁷ UNDP, (2011), Human Development Index, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CIV.html>

⁸ Armstat, (2014) Preliminary Data for 2011 Population Census www.armstat.am (in Armenian) accessed May 2 2014

household, due to a combination of culture and tradition, and economies of scale in terms of housing affordability as well as availability of labour to carry out subsistence agriculture.

Approximately 75% of Jermuk town households have three or more members, with 35% having five to seven members⁹. This was linked to the lack of affordable housing choices for young people of marriageable age. Kechut showed greater tendency to larger households, with over 55% households having five to seven members.

4.12.7 Role of Women

Armenia was one of the first countries to give women the vote in the early twentieth century and while the Constitution states that men and women are equal, mechanisms to support this equality have not been well supported post-Soviet times¹⁰. In spite of this, over 10.7% of parliamentary seats were held by women in 2014 and 94% of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education, compared to 95% of their male counterparts.¹¹

Since 2010, as part of the UN Human Development Reports, countries were measured in a Gender Inequality Index (GII) which tries to capture the loss of achievement due to gender inequality in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and labour market participation. The higher the GII value, the greater the discrimination. Based on 2014 data on 155 countries, Armenia was ranked 62 (see Table 4.12.5).

⁹ MPG, (2010), Jermuk and Kechut Baseline Study

¹⁰ Aslanyan, S, (2010) Women's Rights in Armenia, <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/11600> (accessed 5 September 2012)

¹¹ UNDP. Human Development Report 2015, Work for human development – briefing note for countries on the 2015 Human Development Report 2015. New York, USA. 2015.

Country	GII Rank	GII Value
Armenia	62	0.318
Georgia	77	0.382
Azerbaijan	59	0.303
Europe and Central Asia ¹³	NA	0.300
High HDI	-	0.310

Family life and family allegiance are the cornerstones of the local community. Often family units consist of different generations, with sons bringing their wives into the family home. Mother and daughter-in-law relationships are paramount, with the mother-in-law firmly managing the household assisted by daughters and daughters in law.

Although women have an important role in the household, men are regarded as the head of the family and community affairs are predominantly managed by men. High levels of migration by men searching for work have however led to a significant proportion of female-headed households (27% of Armenian households were headed by women in 2007)¹⁴.

4.12.8 Migration Patterns

Migration has played and continues to play a significant role in the demographic structure and economy of Armenia. Two broad forms of external migration are identified: permanent external migration (with an intent to change the country of residence permanently), and seasonal external labour migration.

Permanent external migration peaked in the years following independence from the Soviet Union, with estimates of net out-migration of 760,000 to 780,000 people from 1991 to 1998¹⁵. This equated to out-migration of approximately 20% of the population during the time of independence, the vast majority of whom moved to Russia, with significant diaspora also based in the USA, France and Lebanon. Permanent external migration has declined significantly in subsequent years.

¹² UNDP. Human Development Report 2015, Work for human development – briefing note for countries on the 2015 Human Development Report 2015. New York, USA. 2015.

¹³ Average of 31 countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

¹⁴ International Fund for Agricultural Development (2007). Armenia Gender Profile, viewed 13 May 2012. <http://www.ifad.org/english/gender/cen/profiles/arm.htm>

¹⁵ ILO, (2009) Migration and Development – Armenia Country Study

The practice of seasonal external labour migration emerged in Armenia in the 1960s as a spontaneous response to differential economic opportunities existing across the administrative areas of the Soviet Union. Beginning in the mountainous areas of Armenia, by the 1980s the practice had spread to urban centres of Armenia as well, with between 30,000 to 40,000 seasonal labourers migrating, predominantly to Russia, between spring and fall each year¹⁶.

As of 2007, labour migrants constituted 94% of all migrants, with only 3% leaving Armenia with an intention to permanently reside abroad and 2% with an intention to study internationally¹⁷. The practice of seasonal labour migration remains common, with over 14% of households engaged in the activity in 2006, which equated to approximately 100,000 labour migrants per annum.

The overwhelming majority of Armenian labour migrants are married men between the ages of 21 and 50, with only 6.5% of the migration pool made up by women. The ILO estimated that this level of migration comprised 13% of the economically active men and just over 1% of economically active women in 2006¹⁷.

The decision to migrate seasonally for labour is driven primarily by the absence of jobs in Armenia, and opportunities to improve salaries and job types abroad. Also supporting this decision is the tradition of “*khopan*”, where in some villages men have been continuously leaving to work abroad over a long period of time. Young men from these villages often leave to work abroad after completing their military service, without necessarily first seeking opportunities within Armenia.

The global financial crisis of 2009 has impacted migration patterns in Armenia, with a small reduction (approximately 2%) of seasonal labourers from both rural and urban areas¹⁸.

Within the study area, migration is of less importance in the villages than it is at a national level. However, as indicated in Table 4.12.6 the seasonal migration pattern does appear to be dynamic, with an increase in seasonal migration seen in 2013/14 (anecdotally attributed

¹⁶ UNDP, (2009), Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges, Armenia, 2009, www.undp.org (accessed 4th September 2012)

¹⁷ ILO, (2009), Migration and Development – Armenia Country Study

¹⁸ National Institute of Labour and Social Research, (2010), Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Households

to delays in the development of the Amulsar Project) and a reduction in most villages in 2014/15.

	Number of individuals migrating away seasonally in 2009	Number of individuals migrating away seasonally in 2014	Number of individuals migrating away seasonally in 2015
Gorayk	7	12	15
Gndevaz	20	71	22
Saravan	20	15	7
Jermuk and Kechut	no data	560 (2013 data)	230

According to a core strategy for Jermuk town developed by USAID in 2008, many former Jermuk residents have moved abroad permanently, mainly to Russia, as migrant labourers. On the other hand, a large number of Jermuk residents with relatively high educational attainment are believed to have moved to Yerevan to pursue better work opportunities.

In addition, to the outwards migration patterns described above, the study area is also the recipient of inward migration during summer months associated with seasonal herding activities. Seasonal herders, who are predominantly residents of Vayk, Sisian, Xndzoresk and Yeghegnadzor, seasonally migrate to the study area to graze their animals (predominantly cattle, but also some sheep) on the pastures in the region, and grow hay. In 2012, 58 seasonal herders migrated to the Project study area to graze cattle and grow hay. Their approximate locations are shown in Figure 4.12.3.

¹⁹ Due to the variation within the population data recorded from different sources, it is not possible to determine the percentage of households participating in seasonal labour migration in the study area.

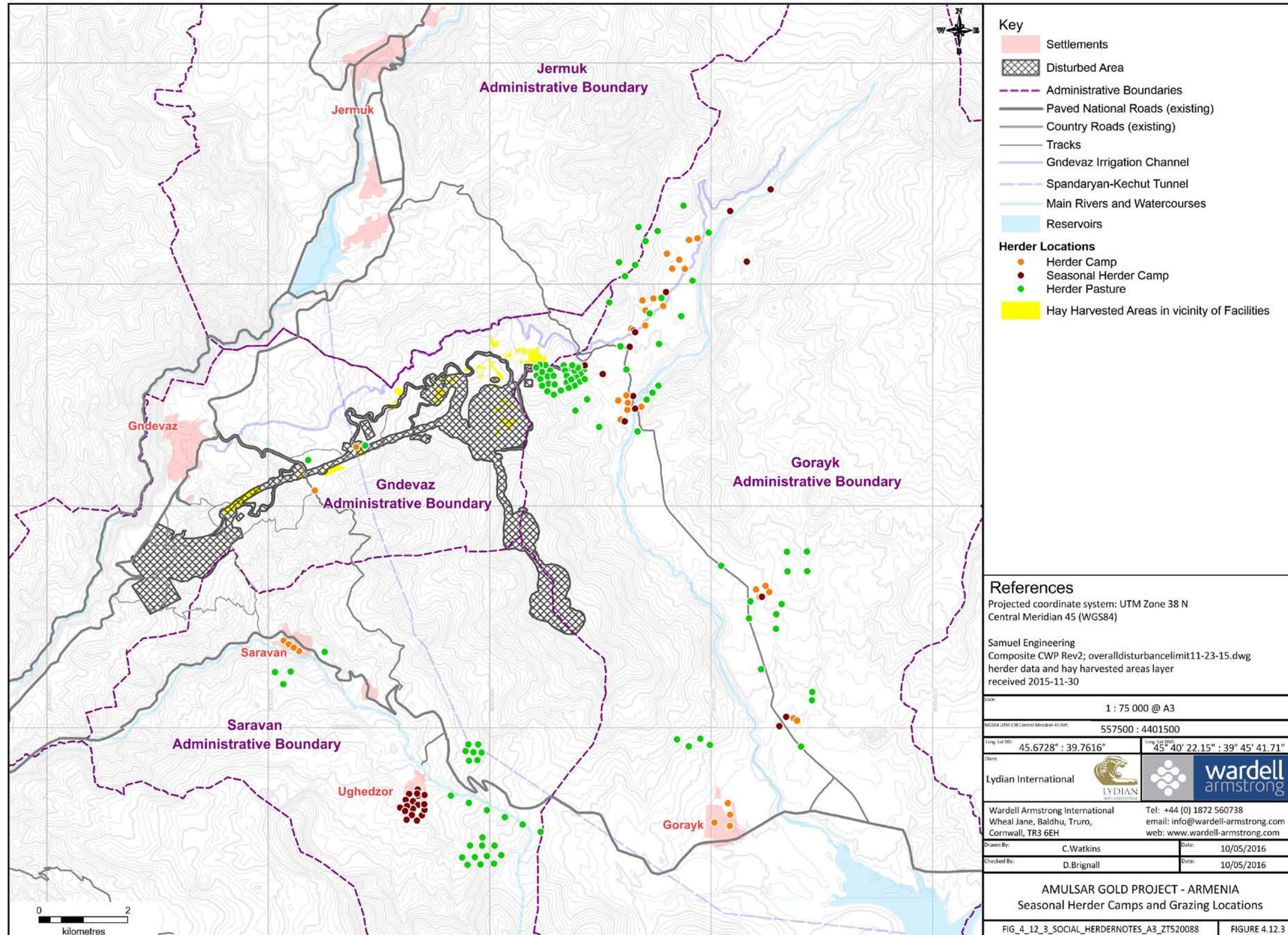


Figure 4.12.3: Seasonal Herder Camps and Grazing Locations