

Ms. Syuzanna Kakoyan from Armenia



I am an ADRC Visiting Researcher from Armenia, a country located in the northeast of the Armenian Upland between the Caucasus and Southwestern Asia. The last and most catastrophic disaster to strike Armenia was the Spitak earthquake (1988 December 7). It caused massive destruction and killed more than 25,000 people. Disaster education, human resource development, and other tasks involved in disaster risk reduction are the responsibility of the Survey for Seismic Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situation of Republic of Armenia (SSP).

I am employed by the Western Survey for Seismic Protection of the MES of RA, and its activities are primarily focused on disaster risk reduction and management. I work as the leading specialist in the department of sociology and psychology and my work is focused on activities involving the local residents. This department carries out psychological research on stress resistance and anxiety in communities. It implements public education for disaster risk reduction, social-psychological research, and educational programs for developing knowledge about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.

Armenia is considered a developing country, persistently in need of up-to-date world expertise in any scientific area that is likely to contribute to its sustainable development. All the knowledge I have gained during the VR program at ADRC – both theory and practice – will be applied in relevant fields of practice, thereby serving as an asset in Armenia's effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals. I am sure that the results of my research will give me more new ideas and allow me to learn new methods that will help me improve my knowledge in the field of public education and stimulate ideas around new approaches. I hope the results of my research will serve as an important resource in promoting seismic risk reduction. I also hope it will facilitate the use of new approaches and methodologies in the field of disaster education and human resource development, as these are very important goals for my country, Armenia.