

## **Disclaimer**

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## REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



### 1. General Information

**Official name**

Republic of Armenia (RA), briefly – Armenia

**Name in official language**

Hayastani Hanrapetutyun, briefly – Hayastan

## **National flag**

A The law 'On the State Flag of the Republic of Armenia" was adopted on August 24, 1990, by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia. Following the constitutional reform of November 27, 2005, a new RA law on the National Flag of the Republic of Armenia was adopted on June 15, 2006. The national flag of the Republic of Armenia is a national emblem of the Republic of Armenia. The national flag of the Republic of Armenia is of three colors in stripes of the same width - **red, blue, orange** respectively from top to bottom. The Red emblemizes the Armenian Highland, the Armenian people's continued struggle for survival, maintenance of the Christian faith, Armenia's independence and freedom. The Blue emblemizes the will of the people of Armenia to live beneath peaceful skies. The Orange emblemizes the creative talent and hard-working nature of the people of Armenia. The width-length ratio of the flag is 1/2. Smaller and larger pieces of cloth proportionate to the one described in this section may be used people.

## **The Coat of Arms**

The law 'On the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia" was adopted on April 19, 1992, by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia. It is a rendition of the Coat of Arms of the First Armenian Republic (1918-1920) designed by member of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts, Architect Alexander Tamanian and artist Hakob Kojoyan. Following the constitutional reform of November 27, 2005, a new RA law on the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia was adopted on June 15, 2006. The Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia is a national emblem of the Republic of Armenia. The Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia is as follows: On a shield, positioned in the center, Mount Ararat is represented with Noah's Ark and the coats of arms of the four royal dynasties of the historical Armenia: from top to left - that of the Bargratunides, from top to right – that of the Arshakounides, from bottom to left - that of Artashesides, from bottom to right - that of the Rubenides. The shield is upheld by an eagle (on the left) and lion (on the

right). There is a sword, as well as a branch of a tree, a bundle of spikes, a chain and a ribbon pictured below the shield. Golden is the main color of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia. The colors of the kingdoms of the historical Armenia are as follows: from top to left - red, from top to right - blue, from bottom to left – blue, from bottom to right - red, with orange-painted Mount Ararat positioned in the center on a shield. The foregoing colors emblemize the colors of the national flag of the Republic of Armenia.

**Head of the State**

President

**Legislative power**

one-chamber National Assembly

**Official language**

Armenian (is part of Indo-European family of languages)

**Capital**

Yerevan



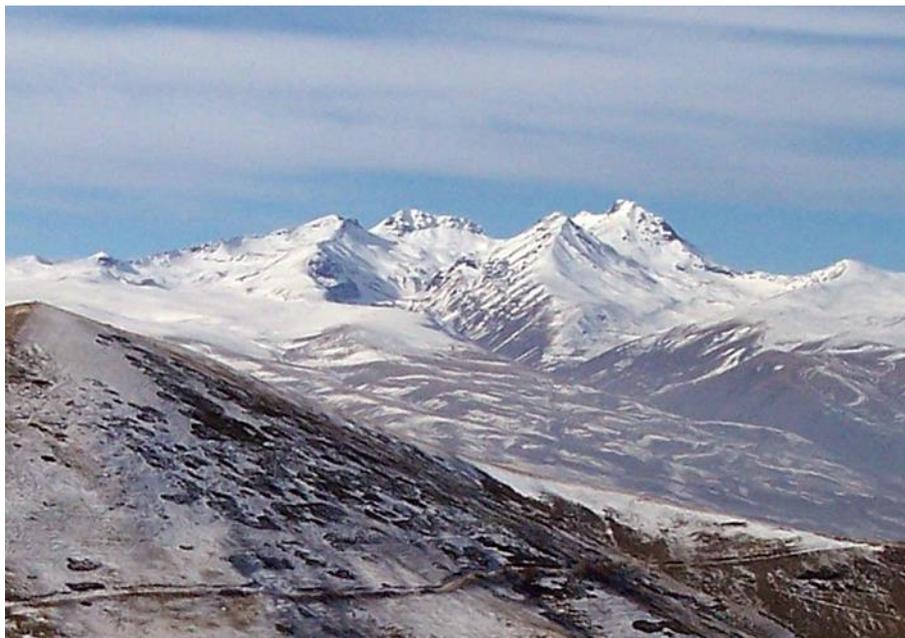
**Administrative and territorial unit** Marz (11 Marzes in all including Yerevan city)

**National currency**

Dram (international currency code - AMD)

## 1.1 Geographical information

<b>Territory</b>	29.74 thousand square km (is comparable with the territory of Belgium or Albania)
<b>Neighboring countries</b>	north - Georgia South - Iran East - Azerbaijan south-west - Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan) west - Turkey
<b>Average elevation above sea level</b>	1800 m
<b>The highest peak</b>	Aragats mountain - 4090 m



<b>The lowest altitude</b>	Debed river canyon - 380 m
<b>The greatest extent</b>	365 km
<b>Time zone</b>	Greenwich mean time + 4 hours

## 1.2 Climate information

<b>Region</b>	north latitudes of subtropics
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**Climate** dry, continental

**Average temperature** in January - -6.8°C, in July - +20.8°C

### 1.3 Demographic data

**Population** 3.2 Million, population of the capital - 1.1 Million

**Ethnic breakdown** Armenians (98%), Russians, Yezidis, Kurds, Assyrians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Jews and representatives of other nationalities

**Religion** Christianity (Armenian Apostolic Church), professed by the vast majority of the population



St. Ejmiatsin (303 AD) , the Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Residence of the Catholicos (Patriarch) of all Armenians

### 1.4 Historical Information



**IV-III thousand years B.C.**

origin of forearmenian tribal unions on the territory of the Armenian Plateau

**782 B.C.**

establishment of Yerevan city

**VI-V centuries B.C.**

completion of the Armenian people's ethnic forming on the Armenian Plateau territory and development of the Armenian language

**189 B.C.**

formation of independent Armenian state

**301 A.D.**

official acceptance by Armenia of Christianity as a state religion

**405 A.D.**

creation by Mesrop Mashtots of the Armenian Alphabet - the basis of written language

**428 A.D.**

partition of Armenia between Rome and Persia

**VII century**

Armenia is in the power of Arabs

**884 A.D.**

liberation of the northwestern part of Armenia and recovery of Armenian State system

<b>1080-1375</b>	Armenian State system established in Kilikia (Mediterranean area)
<b>1639</b>	partition of Armenia between Turkey (Western Armenia) and Persia (Eastern Armenia)
<b>1828</b>	Eastern Armenia joins Russia
<b>1915</b>	deportation and genocide of Armenians in Western Armenia
<b>1918</b>	Armenian State system recovery in Eastern Armenia-Declaration of the Republic of Armenia
<b>1920</b>	establishment of the Soviet rule in Armenia
<b>1922-1991</b>	Armenia is a part of the USSR
<b>1991</b>	collapse of the USSR and declaration of Independence of the Republic of Armenia
<b>1991</b>	Armenia is a founding member of the Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>1992</b>	Armenia is a member of the U.N.O.
<b>1999</b>	Signing of partnership agreement between Armenia and the European Union
<b>2001</b>	Armenia is a full member of the Council of Europe
<b>2002</b>	Armenia enters into the World Trade Organization (WTO)

## **2. Natural Hazards**

### **2.1. Natural Hazards likely to affect the country**

Armenia is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world (except the sea disasters), but In Armenia the earthquake disaster is the most harmful for people and property.

Armenia is located in a region where seismic activities are active.

<b>Earthquakes</b>	94%
<b>Mudslides</b>	3.15%
<b>Landslides and rockfalls</b>	1.2%
<b>Floods</b>	0.15%
<b>Irradiation</b>	0%

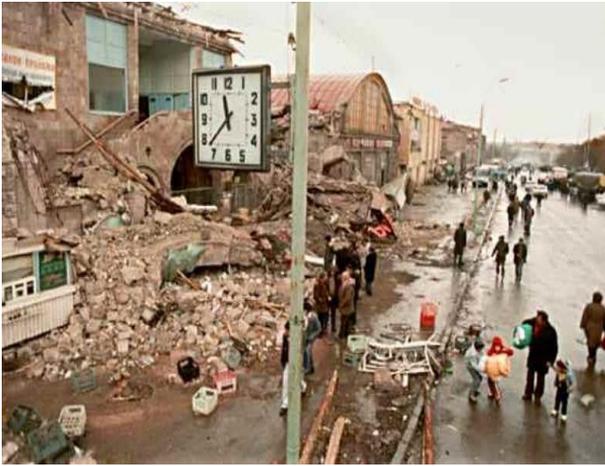
## **2.2. Recent Major Disaster**

### **Spitak (1988)**

#### **Destructive Earthquake**

December 7, 1988 at 7.41.22.7 GMT (11.41.22.7 local time). The epicenter by the records of seismographs has the following coordinates: latitude 40.92°N, longitude 44.23°E. The depth of the hypocenter, measured by various methods and means, varies from 2.5km to 10-15km. It is natural as the earthquake source as a spatial. The magnitude of the earthquake was 7.0. The intensity at the epicenter was 10 value on MSK-64 intensity scale.

The earthquake hit 40 % of the territory of Armenia, densely populated region with 1 ml people. The affected area, where the intensity of the earthquake was  $\geq 8$ , involved 30002 km area. 21 towns and 342 villages were destructed, 514 000 people were left without shelter, 20 000 people were injured and 12 500 people were hospitalized. Number of victims was about 25 000. Particularly in Gyumri (15 000-17 000) and in Spitak (4 000) number of victims was more than anywhere else. 17% funds of dwellings were destroyed, the work of 170 industrial companies were halted, the great losses were caused to villages and agro industrial complexes as well as to the architectural, historical and cultural monuments, 917 public buildings were destroyed.



The rescue activities were systemized only two or three days later. From the first second the earthquake strike, the population carried out restless rescuing works. Anyhow the absence of their experience and sometimes the lack of basic knowledge on actions in emergency caused real difficulties for the efficiency of rescue operations. Even there were cases when the public unawareness brought to life losses. Also there was a need of rescue equipment. With the efforts of population and the rescuers 45.000 dead or alive people were brought out from the rubble and 12.5000 people were hospitalized.

### 3. Disaster Management System

#### 3.1 Administrative System

<b>Chair Person: President</b> (Oversee the observance of the Constitution, shall ensure the natural functioning of legislative, executive and judicial powers.)	
<b>Vice Chairman: Prime minister</b> (Oversee the Government's regular activities and coordinate the work of the Ministers)	
<b>Government of RA</b> (Executive power is vested in the Government of the Republic of Armenia)	
Territorial Administration (RA Vice Prime Minister)	Finance
Emergency Situations	Foreign Affairs
Culture	Healthcare
Defense	Justice
Diaspora	Labor and Social Affairs
Economy	Nature Protection
Education and Science	Sport and Youth Affairs
Agriculture	Transport and Communication
Energy and Natural Resources	
<b>Agencies by Government of RA</b>	
National Security Service	State Property Management Department
State Committee on Immovable Property Cadastre	General Department of Civil Aviation
State Revenue Committee	RA Police

#### 3.2 Legal System and Framework

Armenia is prone to natural disasters. Eight out of every 10 persons face the probability of experiencing a natural disaster such as an earthquake, landslide or flooding. But

thanks to recent efforts of the Government, Armenia has shifted from reactive relief to proactive risk reduction.

Seismic Protection activities are regulated by a number of laws and legislative acts and national programs of the Republic of Armenia:

<b>Law of Republic of Armenia</b>	
The Law of the Republic of Armenia on Seismic Protection	2002
<b>Resolutions of Government</b>	
The Complex Program of Seismic Risk Reduction in the Territory of Armenia	1999
The complex program of seismic risk reduction in Yerevan city	1999
The Resolution of the Government of RA on establishment of the list of critical important and general facilities in the field of seismic protection	2003
<b>Regulation</b>	
“Survey for Seismic Protection” Agency	2008

### 3.3 Structure of the Disaster Management

Armenia is located within a zone particularly prone to earthquakes and other natural disasters like landslides and floods frequently occurring on a small scale. Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia is a republican body of executive authority, which in line with such competences as are vested in it by laws and other legal acts, develops, implements and coordinates RA government’s policy in the area of civil defense and protection of the population in emergency situations.

<b>Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA</b>					
Rescue Service	Survey for Seismic Protection (SSP) (takes various measures for earthquake disaster management)	Hydro-meteorology and Monitoring State Service	National Technical Safety Center	Atmospheric Phenomena In Active Service Impact	State Of Emergency Crisis Management Academy

Since the day of its foundation the Armenian SSP made close links with international organizations well known in the field of seismic hazard and seismic risk assessment and reduction, giving importance to the experience of these organizations and aiming to adjust it to local conditions.

Scientific and technical relations of the Armenian SSP:

<b>Institution/Organization</b>	
	US Geological Survey
	European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre, France
	International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Iran
	GeoforschungsZentrum-Postdam, Germany
	Geophysical Survey of the Russian Academy of Sciences
	Japan Meteorological Agency
	Institute for the Physics of the Earth RAS
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
	Seismic Monitoring Center of Georgia
	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
	Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Istanbul, Turkey
	University of Athens, Greece
	Japan International Cooperation Agency
	National Institute of Geophysics, Rome, Italy
	Kazakhstan National Data Center, Institute of Geophysical Research

and other institutions working in the field of seismic risk assessment and seismic risk reduction.

*ADRC-Armenia Cooperative Project*

*Training at the orphanages and nursing homes*

There are 380 children and 175 staff, including guardians, mentors, nurses and technical workers, at the target Yerevan Mari Izmirlian and Kharberd (Ararat district) state orphanages.

There are 540 seniors and 275 staff, including psychologists, nurses and technical workers at Yerevan # 1 and Nork nursing homes.

Out of Plan training including lecturing and Q&A module has been provided to the staff (109 persons) and residents (up to 6 year old 61 children) of Kid's Home which located in the Nork borough of the Yerevan-city. Thus, the Project has included all the orphanages of the city of Yerevan.

#### *Training at the Yerevan Mari Izmirlian state orphanage*



### **3.4 Survey for Seismic Protection (SSP)**

Survey for Seismic Protection (SSP) was founded under the Government of the Republic of Armenia on July 17, 1991. Armenian SSP is under the Ministry of Emergency Situation.

The basic goal of SSP is Seismic Risk Reduction in Armenia:

Armenian SSP has developed two Strategic National Programs on "**Seismic Risk Reduction in Armenia**" and "**Seismic Risk Reduction in Yerevan-city**". The Programs, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July in 1999 are designed for 30 years. All the Ministries and other Governmental, non-Governmental and private organizations will implement these National Programs under the general co-ordination of Armenian SSP assigned by the Government as a responsible body for the Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy development and implementation.

#### **The Armenian SSP Task Force members are:**

- seismologist-seismotectonist

- seismologist
- geo-technician
- earthquake engineer
- communication engineer
- public awareness expert
- Logistics, rescuer
- Psychologist

**The basic goal of SSP is Seismic Risk Reduction in Armenia**

**Seismic risk reduction Strategy includes:**

- Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment
- Vulnerability reduction in urban areas, including reinforcement and upgrading of existing buildings, design of new codes and standards
- Public awareness, people education and training
- Early warning and notification
- Partnership establishment, involving public and private organizations
- Risk management, including Emergency Response and Rescue Operations
- Disaster relief and people rehabilitation
- Insurance
- State disaster Law and regulations

**Department of seismic Risk Reduction**

The department activities are mainly targeted at disaster risk reduction and management, as well as develops laws and juridical acts of seismic protections field and which activities includes population too.

The department implements public education for disaster risk reduction, social-psychological research and education programs for development of knowledge about the correct behavior before, during and after the earthquake.

The Department carries out social-psychological research, as well as processing and psychological analysis of data. It also takes part in the cooperation with respective services of foreign countries and with international companies, as well as in the process of development, implementation and introduction of the results of projects and sound scientific methods in the sphere of seismic protection.



## **The Centre of Activities with Population of SSP**

The Centre of Activities with Population (CAP) consists of Departments of Education, Methodology, as well as of Sociology and Psychology.

The Department of Education implements trainings on code of conduct of seismic protection in schools of Yerevan and regions of Armenia according to an established schedule. It carries out instructional warning/alarm drills and exercises for schoolchildren of different age groups. It also conducts lectures for the regional areas officials of SSP.

The Department of Methodology performs development of educational programs on earthquakes for different segments of the population.

The Department of Sociology and Psychology where I am employed conducts social-psychological research, sociological surveys, as well as processing and psychological analysis of data. It also takes part in the cooperation with respective services of foreign countries and with international companies, as well as in the process of development, implementation and introduction of the results of projects and sound scientific methods in the sphere of seismic protection. As the leading specialist of the Department of Sociology and Psychology, social-psychological investigations are implemented by me,

the goals of which are to reveal the level of cognitive and psychological preparedness on earthquakes among different segments of population.

### **Disaster education at kindergartens and schools**



### **Disaster education at companies and municipalities**



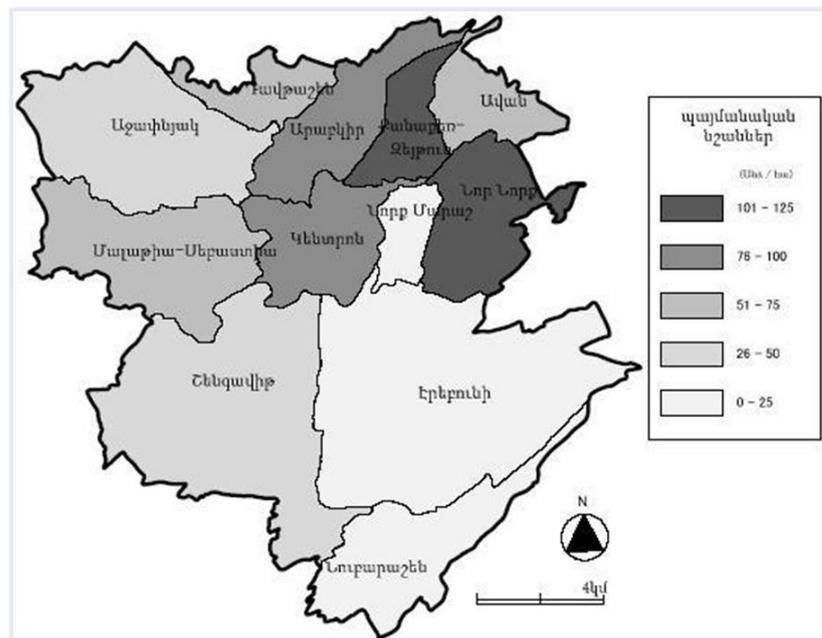
## **4. Disaster Management Strategy, Policy, and Plan**

Natural and technological hazards threatening Armenia urge the need of development and strengthening of DRR system in Armenia. This process implies involvement of all the potential of the country, which can be achieved through elaboration of Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform (DRR NP). DRR system is a framework of functions and processes with the aim to reduce population's vulnerability to disaster risks. It is aimed at prevention or reduction of negative impacts of hazards and contributes to sustainable

development of the society. Fund for DRR NP was established in 2010. The Head of the Board is Minister of Emergency Situations. The goal of the DRR NP is to establish a multi-spectral mechanism with involvement of all stakeholders.

MES of RA has established a Crisis Management Centers as the main body for planning, co-coordinating and implementing measures related to natural and other forms of disasters (complementary to a National Platform on Disaster developed in cooperation with UNDP).

The main goal of "Seismic Risk Assessment and Risk Management Planning Project" is to reduce vulnerability to large-scale earthquakes in the capital city of Yerevan, where a third of the country's population is concentrated, by providing assistance in preparing risk management plans which cover all viewpoints surrounding disaster management cycle from prevention, emergency response to recovery/reconstruction. This project was started from August 2010 with the cooperation of the MES of RA.



*Density of population according to the communities of Yerevan city*

## **5. Progress of the implementation of Hyogo Framework for action (HFA)**

Armenia is at high risk of natural and technological hazards, owing to high levels of exposure and vulnerability.

There are many issues and concerns in the country, which increase the vulnerability and exposure of the Armenian population to the above mentioned hazards. These include:

1. Need of a Comprehensive approach to Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Absence of DRR strategy.
3. Imperfection of DRR legislative field.
4. Lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities of DRR stakeholders.
5. Poor coordination among various stakeholders in DRR sector.
6. Insufficient level of cooperation in DRR sector.
7. Agency interests are a priority.
8. Insufficient level of knowledge and education in DRR sector.
9. Imperfection of awareness raising process.
10. Inefficient use of resources.
11. Insufficient level of analytical capacities.
12. Absence of DRR common methodology.
13. Imperfection of monitoring system in DRR.
14. Lack of comprehensive understanding of DRR in the development perspective.
15. Need of multi-stakeholder partnership on DRR.

The national platform states that DRR implies joined actions by the Government, state bodies, communities, civil society, scientific organizations, private sector, as well as the mass media.

DRR NP in Armenia is a structure elaborated and administered by the country with the involvement of stakeholders. It aims to promote DRR implementation at all levels, coordinate, analyze and consult in main sectors which require joined, participatory and coordinated actions.

Together with the UNDP, MES of RA developed a national disaster risk reduction strategy based on the Hyogo Framework of Action, a 10-year, UN-backed plan to make the world safer from natural hazards. The strategy will promote the further institutionalization and sustainability of the DRR system in Armenia.

## **6. Recent Major Projects on Disaster Risk Reduction**

### **6.1. The Real Time Seismic Intensity Display System (Joint MES of RA- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project)**

Based on Japanese earthquake experiences, JICA has been supporting Armenian earthquake disaster prevention through "Seismic Risk Assessment and Risk Management Planning Project" by utilizing Japanese technology.

One of the project goals is to formulate a system for citizens to use their own self-discretion to act properly in case of emergency. Real Time Information System on Seismic Intensity was installed at the Risk Management Center of the MES of RA which aims to promote disaster prevention actions of the citizens through publicity of disaster information and to raise public awareness towards disaster prevention. The demonstration of the system was made in the presence of the Minister of Emergency Situations and project counterparts. Based on a lesson from the Great East Japan Earthquake on the importance of citizens' capability for proper evacuation actions based on their own decision, the project also focuses on awareness raising activities for citizens.

MES of Armenia develops following plans:

1. Formulation of Earthquake Disaster Management Plan for Yerevan City
2. Formulation of Evacuation Plan based on Earthquake Disaster Management Plan for Yerevan City
3. Formulation of Business Continuity Plan for MES RA.

## **6.2. Strengthening of National Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Capacities - II phase (Joint MES of RA- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia project)**

The project second phase is a continuation of the implementation plan contained in the Programme Framework for Strengthening of National Disaster Management Capacities, developed jointly by UNDP and Armenian Government in 2007. The project provides support in strengthening of legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in Armenia, including development of comprehensive disaster risk reduction national strategy. Risk identification and assessment as well as its reduction measures and further monitoring are considered as four major dimensions for the national strategy formation. The project is aimed at strengthening of legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in Armenia, including development of national disaster risk reduction strategy and enhancement of risk identification, assessment and monitoring system in Armenia.

Project activities include: National risk assessment and establishment of national data observatory for disaster statistics; strengthening of legal and institutional framework and inter-agency coordination for disaster management in Armenia.

## Expected Results

Disaster Risk Reduction project implementation will contribute to strengthening of DRR capacities of the country and more systematized coordination and management of the disaster management system having a functional National Platform and DRR strategy as a basis for sustainable development of the country. The project will continue to pay special attention to gender sensitive issues in DRR.

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