Site Visit Briefing & Preparation

# Instructions

In your groups, you should complete the following:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Review site visit agenda and briefers** for your itinerary
3. **Review and tailor questions and themes, using the Learning Guide below**
   1. Ensure that all topics are reviewed in some manner in the course of the visits
   2. Discuss what evidence the site visits will/can provide
   3. Confirm highest priorities for information gathering while on the site visits
4. **Refer to the report-out template (**[**slide deck**](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/lane/FMfcgzGpFzssMhxBDjpZTqkdvVFkGGzk?projector=1&messagePartId=0.3)**) for reference**
5. **Select note-takers for each site** (templates are provided to all individuals below) - you may wish to have one person cover each of four topical areas for every site, or rotate note-taking duties at each site - it’s up to you!
6. **Select someone to report out in plenary session** after the post-visit debriefing on [date]

# Site Visit Learning Guide

This Portfolio Review is focused on learning about resilience to shocks, including but not limited to: the COVID-19 pandemic, the NK conflict, and first and second order effects of the war in Ukraine and resulting economic sanctions against Russia.

“For USAID, **resilience** is the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.”

For each field visit, teams are encouraged to interpret and incorporate the following themes into the information gathering process. Teams should discuss how these themes emerge in the context of the specific sites visited, as well as the overall approaches being implemented by various partners. These are guiding questions; site visit groups should select those questions and topics that are most applicable to the visits, and NOT aim to respond to all questions.

1. *How are COVID-19, the NK conflict, the war in Ukraine and international sanctions on Russia impacting USAID/Armenia development goals?*
2. *How have the COVID-19 pandemic, the NK conflict, the war in Ukraine and international sanctions on Russia fundamentally changed the assumptions USAID/Armenia had when developing the CDCS?*
3. *How have our Implementing Partners been adapting in these crises, what challenges do they continue to face and how can USAID strengthen household, community, and country resilience?*
4. *How have these crises impacted women, youth and traditionally marginalized groups differently?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. For each site, you’ll receive a [summary of relevant data about the activity, and some illustrative questions](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1nNslimdOtDB0wAgMJCBP4GU4_C1eZALSz2YBSDR5rFs/edit) to help you ask questions of beneficiaries and implementers at the sites we will visit.
2. At the end of the day, you’ll complete a [Daily Debrief](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1Bu5-zGplcc2Z3kcCxQEBvbPs7tDjbRdX_P0U-2kRlv4/edit) to capture what you’re learning across the sites you saw:
   1. **How were/are *the activities at these sites* expected to contribute to USAID/Armenia’s development goals?**
   2. **How have the COVID-10, the NK conflict, the war in Ukraine and international sanctions on Russia *fundamentally changed the assumptions for these activities* when it was designed?**
   3. **How have our Implementing Partners been *adapting* in these crises, what *challenges* do they continue to face and how can USAID strengthen household, community, and/or country *resilience*?**
   4. **How have these crises impacted *women, youth and traditionally marginalized groups* differently under the activities at these activities?**
3. After completing the site visits, teams will present back to each other on learning and recommended programmatic and operational adaptations based on a synthesis of what they learned.

**Based on what you observe at these sites, think about how these programs (as they are currently implemented) contribute to resilience in Armenia? Are there any ways that they are struggling to support resilience? Or even unintentionally eroding resilience?**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**What we learn at these sites feeds into the adaptations we may want to make at the activity, portfolio, operational, or strategic level.**

Our learning from these FBPRs contributes to two of our PMP Learning Questions:

* **Has USAID/Armenia’s programming adapted to the post conflict political context?**
* **To what extent have the ~~dual~~ triple crises (COVID-19 pandemic, fall 2020 war in NK, war in Ukraine/Russian sanctions) fundamentally changed the assumptions USAID/Armenia defined when developing the CDCS?**

It can also contribute to the USAID’s Agency-wide Learning Agenda Question 2:

* **How can USAID strengthen household, community, and country resilience to climate, conflict, economic, and health shocks, such as COVID-19 and other threats?**

