

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:  
Project #1. Securing Highly Radioactive Sources**

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To search for and secure all vulnerable highly radioactive sources to prevent them from being trafficked or used in a radiological dispersal device. To strengthen physical security at sites housing highly radioactive sources.
<b>Recipient</b>	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
<b>Need</b>	Armenia has a significant problem with orphan and otherwise unsecured disused radiation sources. Many of these unsecured sources come from bankrupt Soviet-era enterprises that lack the funds necessary for proper disposal. These sources could be stolen, trafficked, and used in a dirty bomb if discovered before they are adequately secured. Even if discovered accidentally, these sources present a danger to the workers at these enterprises and the surrounding population. In addition, there are facilities in Armenia housing high-activity sources where security is substandard.
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A potential donor could provide assistance to package and transport sources from several identified vulnerable facilities into the radioactive waste repository co-located with the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant.</li> <li>• Donor funding could also be used to search locations likely to have orphan sources, identify and package the sources, and transport them to secure storage.</li> <li>• Third, a potential donor could fund a new, specialized vehicle to transport high-activity sources reliably and in compliance with Armenian and international safety and security standards.</li> <li>• Finally, a potential donor could support physical security upgrades at sites housing highly radioactive sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To secure disused, highly radioactive sources throughout Armenia either by storing these sources in the radioactive storage facility at Metsamor or returning sources to their country of origin.</li> <li>• To enhance the security of facilities housing highly radioactive sources.</li> <li>• In the long-term, to identify and place all significant sources under regulatory control or to dispose of them according to international standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	The United States is supporting orphan source recoveries, but additional donors are needed to fund the specialized truck, cleanouts of sites with disused sources, and physical security upgrades.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:**  
Project #2. Improving Security Along Armenia's Green Borders

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To improve the capabilities of the Armenian Border Guard to detect smuggling incidents along Armenia's green border.
<b>Recipient</b>	Armenian Border Guard
<b>Need</b>	While the fixed ports of entry (POEs) on Armenia's land borders are receiving substantial international assistance, security along green border areas, the expanses between these POEs, remains a significant vulnerability. As security at POEs improves, smugglers are more likely to exploit unprotected green border areas. The Armenian Border Guard requires additional equipment and training to combat effectively the smuggling threat.
<b>Project Activities</b>	A donor could provide additional vehicles, ground sensors, portable radiation detection equipment, communications equipment, and training to help the Armenian Border Guard effectively patrol these areas and detect smuggling. We expect that this project will focus at least initially on the Armenia-Georgian border, as Armenia's green borders with Turkey and Iran are currently patrolled by the Russian Border Guard and Armenia's border with Azerbaijan is controlled by the Armenian military.
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate and sustained increase in the capacity of the Armenian Border Guards to detect and interdict illegally trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials and other contraband goods along green borders.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	The United States has provided the Armenian Border Guard seismic sensors that will be installed along certain sections of the Armenia-Georgia border and is assessing whether additional donor support is needed.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:**  
Project #3. Improving Procedures for Responding to Nuclear Smuggling Incidents

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To ensure that Armenia's procedures for responding to a nuclear smuggling incident meet international standards.
<b>Recipient</b>	Customs Service, Armenian Border Guard, Armenian Rescue Service, National Security Service, Armenia Nuclear Regulatory Agency
<b>Need</b>	In May 2007, Armenia signed into law an operational plan for responding to incidents of illicit trafficking. This plan details which agencies are responsible for responding to an incident and what each agency is required to do as part of its response. Armenian agencies devised individual operational plans, and currently ANRA and the Customs Service are working to devise an agreement on coordination and notification between the two agencies. However, the effectiveness of this response plan has not been fully tested.
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A potential donor could review the current plans developed by each agency involved in responding to illicit trafficking incidents and work with these agencies to test and, if needed, to revise standard operating procedures based on international best practices for responding to illicit trafficking incidents.</li> <li>• A potential donor could also provide additional equipment as needed, including forensics and laboratory equipment, to ensure that any sources discovered in an illicit trafficking incident are identified and the appropriate nuclear forensics analysis can be performed.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armenian national response procedures tested, and if needed, revised to conform to international best practices reflected in the IAEA Security Series Document #2 on Nuclear Forensics.</li> <li>• Improved cooperation between Armenian law enforcement and scientific experts responsible for responding to a nuclear smuggling incident.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	In October 2010, the United States and the European Union organized a scenario-based workshop in Yerevan to evaluate Armenia's response procedures; they are currently helping the Armenians to formalize the recommendations from this workshop into a national response plan.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:**  
Project #4. Improving Nuclear Forensics Capabilities

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To improve Armenia’s nuclear forensics capabilities by increasing its participation in the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on nuclear forensics.
<b>Recipient</b>	Relevant technical experts and law enforcement officials determined by the government of Armenia.
<b>Need</b>	Participation in the ITWG helps Armenian scientists and law enforcement officials develop relationships with the international forensics community and increase their forensic and attribution knowledge and capabilities, which is particularly useful when examining seized material of unknown origin. Wider participation also increases the international knowledge base, which plays a critical factor in attribution during forensics testing of seized material.
<b>Project Activities</b>	A potential donor could sponsor an Armenian scientist and a law enforcement representative to attend the annual ITWG meeting.
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded forensics capabilities of Armenia’s scientific community.</li> <li>• Improved cooperation between Armenian technical experts and law enforcement community.</li> <li>• Improved contacts and cooperation between Armenian scientists and other scientists in the international nuclear forensics community.</li> <li>• Improved contacts and cooperation between the Armenian law enforcement community and their international counterparts.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	Armenian representatives attended ITWG meetings in 2010 and 2011 with support from the U.S. Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP). The United States intends to continue sponsoring Armenian participation in future ITWG events.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:**  
Project #5. Reviewing the Armenian Legal System's Ability to Prosecute All Cases of  
Nuclear Smuggling

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To ensure that Armenia's legal code can prosecute all cases of nuclear smuggling, including scams, and to enforce appropriate sentences.
<b>Recipient</b>	Office of the Prosecutor General
<b>Need</b>	While Armenia recently revised its criminal code and possesses laws to prosecute nuclear smuggling, this legislation may be incomplete as it is unclear whether it has the legal authority to prosecute all nuclear smuggling cases, including scams, in which individuals try to sell non-radioactive materials while claiming these are dangerous nuclear or radioactive materials. Prosecuting all smuggling incidents will dissuade individuals from engaging in these activities.
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A donor could provide a legal expert to consult with Armenian officials and review the legal code.</li> <li>• Additional assistance could help in revising existing laws or developing new laws, if needed, to specifically address any type of nuclear smuggling case that cannot currently be prosecuted.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase prosecution of all nuclear smuggling cases, including scams.</li> <li>• To decrease the number of nuclear smuggling scams, thereby decreasing the amount of time spent by law enforcement agencies investigating fraudulent cases.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	In February 2009, the United States and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a legislative drafting workshop with the Government of Armenia that produced recommendations to amend the Armenian Criminal Code.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Armenia Combat Nuclear Smuggling:**  
Project #6. Anti-Corruption Assistance

<b>Project Purpose</b>	To decrease opportunities for corruption among agencies and individuals combating nuclear smuggling and reduce the influence of corruption on anti-smuggling assistance programs.
<b>Recipient</b>	Anti-Corruption Council, Customs Service, National Security Service/Armenian Border Guards, Armenian Police
<b>Need</b>	Corruption remains a serious problem in Armenia, as it could undermine efforts to improve capabilities to combat nuclear smuggling. Armenia adopted a new anti-corruption strategy in 2009, but it needs assistance in implementing the strategy. While corruption can be a problem in any agency, a particular concern with respect to nuclear smuggling is the risk that Customs officials or border guards might be enticed by smugglers to overlook smuggling or to assist them in avoiding radiation detection equipment.
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects to address potential corruption could include helping individual agencies to develop specific anti-corruption plans to implement the national anti-corruption strategy, to develop and enforce strong ethical and administrative standards, and to incorporate anti-corruption training into standard curricula.</li> <li>• To reduce opportunities for corruption at border crossings, a donor could support the development of standardized risk analysis models for determining what is searched, or the installation of signs informing citizens of a confidential phone number they can call if they witness acts of corruption.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and adoption of individual agencies and anti-corruption strategies.</li> <li>• Decreased influence of corruption reflected in Transparency International's annual Corruption Perception Index and global corruption report.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Status</b>	The United States is funding an anti-corruption messaging project that includes the installation of signs informing citizens of a confidential phone number they can call if they witness acts of corruption, the publication and distribution of pamphlets that provide an overview of Armenian laws against corruption, and the development and transmission of several public service announcements for radio and television.