



Biannual report 2010-2011



Serving with love and compassion



Biannual report

2010-2011

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"15 years against poverty"



In 2010, Armenian Caritas celebrated fifteen years of service to the poor, a service which

was provided with great 'caritas' (love) and devotion, a service which had so much to do with the feelings of the people being served. Armenian Caritas continues to retain its integrity and organizational stability in order to continue its commitment to serve its people.

The year was an important one for Armenian Caritas, as it was remarkable for its positive developments on both the organizational and programmatic levels.

In 2010, Armenian Caritas adopted the Common Management Standards of Caritas Europe and started a self-assessment process with its peer organization, Caritas Switzerland. The organizational structure of AC was evaluated and adjusted to its current needs, thus improving the learning processes, data collection, employee motivation, strategic plan implementation and the organizational development of Armenian Caritas.

The Strategic Plan was reviewed and five major sectors were established:

- ✓ Social Protection and Care;
- ✓ Community development;
- ✓ Public Health;
- ✓ Migration and Integration and
- ✓ Emergency preparedness and response.

Considerable changes have been made in the financial system by installing new, more efficient accounting software. Fundraising for the poor was increased. These changes resulted in a 30% increase in the yearly budget of the organization. Despite the increase, the administrative budget remains below 10%.

A youth volunteer corps was created to improve our service to the community and increase the participation of young people in social services provided to the vulnerable.

Our representation in different committees of local government was increased resulting in more coordinated actions.

On the programmatic level, Armenian Caritas participated actively in the Zero Poverty campaign of Caritas Europe by implementing a range of campaigns with the help of volunteers. A network of "Little Princes" children's social centers was created in four cities of Armenia. We completed the development of methodologies for working with disabled children. We all are aware that UNICEF registered increased child poverty in Armenia and especially in the regions where we work. The poverty among disabled children reached a peak: 70%. Major community work was carried out in rural areas of Armenia. There, we have experienced a change in local attitudes despite of our country's continuing economic problems.

I think this is a good occasion for me to express my deepest gratitude to the many individuals, donors, board members, staff and volunteers who have given of their time, money, technical expertise and leadership in support of the work done by Armenian Caritas for the benefit of poor and unprivileged.

I want to address especially my colleagues who are in the daily struggle with poverty; witnessing so much grief and misery in everyday life, facing the suffering and accompanying people in their difficult moments. It is not easy but it is blessed! None of us at Caritas are just workers, all of us are missionaries sent by God to serve to His people. I think we accomplish our task proudly and our reward is the joy of the service that we provide. Thank you!

Anahit Mkhoyan, Executive Director



In 2011 Archbishop Raphael Minassian appointed by Pope Benedict XVI became the new head of

the Armenian Catholics in Armenia, Georgia and Eastern Europe, as well as the new President of Armenian Caritas succeeding Reverend Vahan Ohanian.

His Excellency was born in Lebanon on October 24, 1946. He entered the Catholic monastery of Bzommar in Lebanon in 1958 and in 1966 he entered the Lebanese seminary in Rome. In 1973 he joined the order in Beirut.

Archbishop Minassian formed the Sacred Cross scout group in 1984, which opened a church in Zalka. In 1996-2006 he was a pastor of Armenian Catholics in California.

Archbishop Raphael Minassian was the editor-in-chief of the magazine Avetaber-Verelk for eight years and the founder of an Armenian television company, which segments were broadcasted by the Telepace Channel.

In 2011, Archbishop Raphael Minassian became a producer of the film "Pastor" – the first film about a canonized Armenian saint Grigor Narekatsi.



Social Care and Protection

ELDERLY CARE AND PROTECTION

1. National Home Care

Established: January, 2002

Quote: "I never rely on the state structures; thank God I am supported by Armenian Caritas".

The Project targets the cities Gyumri, Vanadzor and Gavar, located in the northern part of Armenia, and aims to offer tangible support to 300 elderly people living alone and unable to take care of themselves.



The goals of the Project are to improve home care and home nursing in Armenia; and to enhance the quality of life of elderly people in the targeted cities. We provided beneficiaries with social and medical care, monthly food supplements, hygienic and cleaning detergents as well as laundry house services.

The beneficiaries are selected according to the following criteria: people in need of care at home, bed-ridden people, people with disability, socially vulnerable people in need of care, people deprived of close relatives or neighbors and people living in temporary houses.

A total of seven nurses and eight other caretakers serve over 300 beneficiaries in the three cities, providing material and medical assistance, home visits where needed, and moral and psychological assistance.

The Project, through its development and results, helps to generate a greater sense of solidarity in the community and reinforces the idea of community participation as a way to solve individual and community problems.



Project is funded by Caritas Germany and Caritas Spain.

Annual budget: 323424EUR

Project Manager: Flora Sargsyan

Success Story:

Beneficiary Khachik Kharazyan was born in 1935. He is one of those thousand elderlies who have to meet the sunset of their lives in loneliness without family support.

Although unlike other elderly, who have never had a family, fate was crueler towards Khachik. He did not like to speak about his severe life, thus his wife, Asya, tells us. Khachik having just secondary education worked in different institutions all his life. They are childless. Despite suffering from various diseases, he still cultivates the land near his house and gathers his harvest.

Khachik composes poems. During our visits he tells poems and jokes. The poems are mainly melancholic ones. From June 2011 Khachik Kharazyan was enrolled in the "Home Care" project of Armenian Caritas. Project staff and volunteers helped him find a more dignified life in his late age. Due to provided material, psychological and health services, the old spouses feel more secure and happy. When we visit them, they hardly let us go trying to create interesting atmosphere so that we stay longer.

-Now we feel more secure and confident. It is an indescribable feeling, when you can rely on an organization, where they can help you not expecting anything, - mention the elderly with excitement.



2. Day Care Center for Elderly in Gyumri

Established: 2006

Quote: *“In the Center we felt as if we are at home... and we forget that many of us are lonely”.*

The main goal of the project is to improve living and health conditions of 200 vulnerable pensioners living in Gyumri. The pensioners are divided into two groups, each of which visits the center on alternate days.

Starting from September 2006 all our beneficiaries who expressed having health problems were registered, examined, and tested in the Primary Health Care Center (PHCC) of Armenian Caritas. They have received treatment in accord with their needs.

The project staff members have maintained such a warm atmosphere that our beneficiaries could get rid of daily hardships, loneliness and isolation at least during the hours they were in the Centre.

Both the program and the PHCC staff members maintain close contact with most of our beneficiaries in the center and after work hours.

Improvement of the morale of our elderly was one of the main objectives of the program. We arranged monthly programs including concerts in participation with school-children and professional groups. Our elderly have twice been in the local academic theatre. They were happy to watch the performances. Some told us that they had not been in the theatre for almost 17 years.

Before and after the dining time several elderly people sang or danced bestowing pleasure to others. Twice during the reporting period the beneficiaries had the chance to meet with a specialist



Success Story:

Two lonely elderly - Volodya Zakarian and Gayane Mikayelian met in the Day Care Center and after six months of acquaintance got married and now they live together happily. This was a great event not only for Volodya and Gayane, but for all of who knows what does it mean to be lonely.

from the local Social Department and a jurist who consulted with the beneficiaries on a voluntary basis.

Project is funded by Italian Bishops Conference 2006-2011, Caritas Austria 2010-2011.

Annual budget: Euro 60,000

Project Manager: Samvel Gevorgyan

3. Day Care Center for Elderly in Tashir

Established: June, 2007

Quote: *“Thanks God that the Center is operating. It is a real way out for me. Especially in wintertime...”*

Day Care Center for the Elderly in Tashir” project started in 2007. The main goal of the project is to enable disabled and mentally frail elderly people of Tashir town to integrate into the society and be equally treated by providing a range of supportive services, and also legal and social assistance. In 2011 the Center provided services to 65 elderly people living in Tashir. The following services were provided: transportation of the elderly

from their houses to the Center and back, provision of first aid medicines and medical care, hygienic care, provision of a daily hot meal, organization of entertainment and excursions, investigation of social issues and finding solutions, etc. One of the components of the project has been the activities which contribute to raising the public awareness about the issues and rights of the elderly.



Four volunteers from Tashir contributed greatly to the project. They accompany the elderly people to the polyclinic or other social places, take care of their hygiene; assist the Social Worker in organizing spare time or initiating various events. Since the establishment of the Center there have been considerable positive changes in the elderly people: they have become more sociable, friendly and supportive of each other, optimistic and cheerful.

Project is funded by: – L’Oeuvre D’Orient, CORDAID, Caritas Austria, Medicor

Annual budget: 45000EUR

Project Manager: Armen Martirosyan

Success Story:

Grandma Shoushik's life was full of misfortunes. She got married at the age of 23 but her husband was very jealous and she got divorced after four years not being able to endure constant violence and took with her their son. She went back to live with the multi-membered family of her parents and in order to earn money she worked in a collective farm. Soon another misfortune came; her son died in a car accident while playing in the street. After some years of recovery she married for the second time but this one was not successful either. This husband was also too jealous and quite often violated her physically. A daughter was born in their family and a second baby was

stillborn due to the husband's violence.

The couple having no permanent accommodation settled in a temporary house to build one later on but it ever happened. The temporary house has no basic facilities, during winters the tap gets frozen.

Her husband died five years ago after long illness. Her health is also poor; she has undergone several medical operations. Her only daughter lives in another town and cannot support her mother. But Grandma Shoushik is always full of hope for future and never gives up. She is thankful to God that Caritas exists and supports them in their lonely days.

4. Warm winter

Established: 2004

Quote: "I am no longer alone... You are with me and you take my burdens."

The goal of the project is to decrease the social tension and mortality rate of the elderly (560 elderly living alone) caused by different diseases during wintertime.

Armenian Caritas has implemented it in three regional areas in Armenia - Shirak, Lori and Gegharkunik Regions that experience severe

winters and are heavily inhabited by elderly. The selected elderly are unable for self-care of their own needs. Most of them live in extremely bad social conditions.

At the result of Warm Winter Project – 2009- 2010 implementation we have covered the heating expenses of lonely elderly living in

Gyumri, Vanadzor, Tashir and Gavar cities by paying their electricity or gas bills. The main outcome of the Project was that it reduced the risk for frequent diseases (as a result of cold weather) among all the beneficiaries as well as decreasing the rate of the mortality among them.

Project is funded by Caritas Germany, Caritas Austria

Annual budget: 54628EUR

Project Manager: Flora Sargsyan

Success Story:

Hranush Shahbazyan was born in the Village Karinj, located in Lori Region, in a big family. She lived with her parents - five brothers and four sisters. Her grandfather and five of her uncles were brutally killed by Turkish soldiers during the War in Ghars and her aunt was kidnapped. Since that there is no news from her. Grandmother Hranush's father left for Gharaqilisa, married and eventually fathered 9 children. Three of her brothers and two sisters passed away and from the other sisters she has no news.

She married and moved to Kirovakan (presently Vanadzor), but

she divorced after a while because of not having children. She lived alone with a hope that one day she would marry a man with children, but it never happened. For 42 years she had worked in Vanadzor in a soup kitchen. Grandmother Hranush is a handicapped pensioner. She suffers from different health issues like: cardiac insufficiency, high blood pressure, etc. It is over 6 years that she did not leave the house.

Grandmother Hranush has been involved in "Home Care" project since February, 2011. It took a month to gain her confidence as no one has visited her but her neigh-



bor before. Now she can't imagine her life without Armenian Caritas. She was surprised getting the food package for the first time which is considered as a mean of survival for her. Moreover, she has been enrolled to the "Warm Winter" project since 2011 and was provided with gas. Before, she has survived the winter colds by gathering plastic rubbish, paper or other flammable things.

"Now I feel myself much more protected and consider myself a full member of the society. God Bless you all", said grandmother Hranush.

Children and Youth Care and Protection

1. "Little Prince" Children Centers in Gyumri and Tashir

(Family oriented support for children and adolescent in critical circumstances in Gyumri and Tashir)
Started: January, 2010



Quote: "Little Prince is the warm corner of the big world filled in with love for me. It is the home of my thoughts and emotions."

"Little Prince" children social centers were established in Gyumri and Tashir. Social workers and psychologists provided consultations in the Centers and also made home visits to 90 beneficiary families. Family research cards were created. Contracts were signed with all families. 73 % of the children and youth overcome social isolation by making friends at the Centre.

All 110 children of both Social Centers are involved in the educational activities and during these trainings the beneficiaries not only develop their professional skills but also life skills, their capacity for teamwork, planning, social and communicative abilities. They learn to overcome conflicts, to become more confident and through these

group activities overcome their personal problems and isolation from society.

The children participate in the trainings on culinary art, general designing and computer courses, tailoring/sewing, healthy life style, painting and young journalists' courses.

The children participated in cultural, educational, sport and entertainment events, excursions and also visited museums, exhibitions and concerts.

They celebrated National holidays and participated in the joint events out of the centers.

Fifty two parents received social-psychological assistance combined

with information on parental skills and children rights. A Legal adviser provided consultations to 49 parents on housing, job, pensions, health benefits, registration of their status.

Vocational trainings were organized for 52 parents and youth for gaining marketable skills. They participated in computer, office skills, sewing, hairdressing and furniture-making trainings.

Seven round table meetings were organized to strengthen the relationships between social centers and communities.

Caritas Germany ensured the Capacity Building of the project staff which was organized by German consultants and trainers.

Project is funded by Caritas Germany and German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Annual budget: 180000EUR

Project Manager: Hasmik Sargsyan

Success Story:

A... is sixteen years old. She lived in the Night Care Center. She was eager to leave the institution and live with her family and this strong desire contributed to constant depression. Her family thought that it was just naughty girl behavior and after a while the situation influenced child-parent relationships.

When she came to "Little Prince" center, she got actively involved in psychological therapy. Her mother also was provided with psychological therapy. Day to day we could see how the relationship was improving between the mother and the child. Her behavior changed

and now she is one of the most productive children and she creates real synergies in her relationship with other children and staff members. Now, she lives with her family and she believes that it is possible to build better family relationships. Her return home was a great success for all of us.



2. Little Prince Center in Vanadzor

(Empowering Youth and Families in Vanadzor)
Established: 2011

Quote: *"I feel myself useful in here. Now I am sure I will succeed in any of my undertakings."*

The project is a continuation of the "Social Rehabilitation of Youth and their Families in Vanadzor", 2006-2010 in which 240 children and youth received socio-psychological and educational assistance.

For the year of 2011, 89 beneficiaries have been enrolled at the center for complex assistance – socio-psychological assistance, education and development opportunities, and participation in different events and social activities.

The project team has worked with 199 second-group beneficiaries, i.e. the parents and other family members.

According to the 90 psychological case files opened, 40 beneficiaries received psychological assistance through individual and group psychological work, relaxation therapy, development of parent-self-sup-

porting group, etc. The psychological activities included participation in a puppet theatre.

Overall 78 project beneficiaries got involved in the general development training cycles and 88% completed the cycles successfully. Training cycles included culinary arts and table design, general design, journalism and camera operation functioning within the Young Camera media program, computer operating and puppet making.

Overall 33 family members and 7 elder beneficiaries attended the professional development trainings. All of the attendants successfully accomplished the trainings and received certificates. The trainings included hairdressing, cosmetology, and nail-polishing, sewing, business correspondence. 10 graduates [30%] presently generate income either through em-



ployment or providing the services from home.

The project team, together with the volunteers and leadership group, as well as the partner institutions initiated 24 events which were held within and outside the "Little Prince Centre", including:

- ✓ Cultural events - Visits to museums and art galleries; Visits to the theatre; Visits to libraries; Visits to concerts; Meeting with prominent artists of the city.
- ✓ Community Events/Actions
- ✓ Commemoration to the victims of Armenian Genocide; WWII victory day; International children's day; The day of Renaissance of the Christ; Museum Night; Library Day; City Day.

All of these were accompanied with mentoring and establishment of a leaders group.

Project is funded by Caritas Germany and Cordaid;

Partner: "Crossing Roads" SNGO.

Annual budget: 87210EUR

Project Manager: Gurgen Balasanyan

Success Story:

G. was born in 1999 in Vanadzor. His family consists of five members – his parents, grandfather and a brother. His father is disabled and his mother is a housewife. G. has also had a disability but the state deprived them of the financial assistance claiming that after 3 surgeries G. got free from his disability. G. also has cross-squint eyes which also require immediate surgical intervention since it gets more intensive as he grows older.

The family receives no relief

from the state because his grandfather is a pensioner and the state claims that the pension is enough for the family to live. Yet the grandfather holds a separate household policy and makes no financial contribution to the family economy basket.

Shortly after his involvement in the center, the social workers gained permission from the state for G.'s free surgery. G. currently gets food in the center, attends the sports club and participates in different events.



During the Easter event, G. presented his hand-made composition depicting Christ's birth saying: "Every time I enter and see my work of art in the center I will feel myself useful."

3. "Little Prince" Center in Gavar (Striving to Eliminate Poverty for Children in Gavar) Established: June, 2010

Quote: "I appreciate the work done at the Center and try to work with my child at home the way I was recommended at the Little Prince in order to reach tangible results with common efforts."

The Social Center "Little prince" was established in Gavar in June 2010. The main goal of the project is to alleviate the poverty among disadvantaged children and their families living in Gegharkunik Marz through the enhancement of the social protection system.

The Center serves children 10-16 years-old living in Gavar who come from socially insecure families with the provision of the following services: social-psychological, educational, material aid such as food, clothing, stationery and hygienic supplies. Educational and life skills groups were formed according to the prefer-

ences and choice of the children: computer skills, designing, cooking, drawing, sports activities, studying foreign languages, sculpturing, sewing and handicraft, etc. The Social Center provided services to 45 children from Gavar throughout 2011.

The Center also provided services to the family members/care takers of the children – social and psychological services and consultations, legal consultations, vocational trainings, etc. The Center provided the above mentioned services to 28 parents/family members of the children.

Project is funded by: Caritas Austria (Graz Diocese)
Annual budget: 25000EUR
Project Manager: Armen Martirosyan

Success Story:

"I live in a rented house with my three sons as I have no house on my own. I was abandoned by my husband when he left for Russia in 2004 for a seasonal job and has never returned. I went Russia to his place and during my stay I gave birth to our two sons. But I had to return to Armenia as he was treating me and my children very badly and so far I have not received anything from him. My three children have to remain hungry before I manage to earn some money for food. My psychological situation was so crucial that I decided to commit suicide,

unable to see my children abandoned and hungry, I drank poison thinking that I will no longer wake up from my sleep, but somebody saved me. It affected my health conditions.

Now I work with two turns at nights in the bakery and lemonade factory. It is very difficult to live in such conditions and hold on, but at least my children give me some strength and understand me al-

though they are very small. My children go to school as part of an inclusive program, which supports them by providing food. My elder child attends Little Prince, I also attend to visit the psychologist, and it helps me a lot. My child has become better, communicates more and has made friends.



4. Equal opportunities for outstanding students

Started: 2011

Quote: "This was a big change in my life. Besides that I could continue my education I was also introduced to the joy of social service. Caritas was the only place where I could feel the care of other people".

"Equal Opportunities for Outstanding Students" project was launched in 2011. The project becomes possible with generous contributions from Caritas Austria, Vorarlberg Dioceses. The target of the project is Armenian students from disadvantaged families who have strong records at their educational institu-

tions. The project provides them with material assistance necessary for their educational process. In 2011 the organization assisted 15 students partially or fully covering their tuition expenses and necessary musical instruments. All

of them joined Armenian Caritas to volunteer in "Aregak" Day Care Center for children with disabilities. Besides the funds provided by the donor agency, Armenian Caritas received funds from individual donations to support this project.

**Project is funded by
Caritas Austria
(Vorarlberg Diocese).
Annual Budget: 3950EUR
Project Manager: Gagik Tarasyan**



Success Story:

A gratitude letter reflecting the extreme need for assistance from a student whom Armenian Caritas were able to help. "Dear "Caritas Hayastan [Caritas Armenia]" management and team, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and also on behalf of my family for such an attention to my matter. Although I was sure that you would not ignore my letter (because that makes your organization different from many other ones) but still I had tears in my eyes when the transfer confirmation came. It is impossible to express how much I appreciate your support.



And knowing the wide range of your responsibilities I appreciate such a quick response and also the format of the amount. It is a huge support to know that people share my feelings, principles and people value importance of education as much. Your position played a crucial role and it makes easier for my family to collect the rest of the amount. I may say you truly have saved my life. Please be sure that you have got a humble companion-in-arms and I am available for the needs of Caritas Hayastan to the extent of my possibilities."

5. Professional Training for the alumni of two Special Schools in Vanadzor

Started: 2005

Quote: *“Great to realize that somebody in addition to your family cares about you and your future”.*

The project gave the vulnerable children and youth an opportunity to develop vocational skills through hairdressing, vehicle mechanics, and design trainings provided at the corresponding agencies accredited for similar services. According to the evaluation results, many children and youth state that the participation in the trainings helped them decide on their future profession.

All of the materials needed for the trainings were provided by the project. Professional tools were also provided, to help participants during their training and afterward in employment or at home work.

Project is funded by Action of the 3 Kings/Germany.

Annual budget: from 18000 to 20000EUR

Project Manager: Gagik Tarasyan

6. Secure behavior through Art Therapy

Started: 2010

Quote: *“Due to the project, I started to create and enrich my imagination”.*

Since 2010 psychological art therapeutic activities were conducted with 25 beneficiaries (children and parents). The activities included psychodrama (doll making and doll theatre) and relaxation (autogenic exercises) to help the youth in difficult circumstances and their family members to overcome psychological problems by using innovative psychological methodology.

As a result, 8 psychological scenarios were formed which were later presented at local schools through

Besides professional tools and materials, food, stationary and hygienic items were also provided. Since the children were from socially needy families this support was a great necessity for their families.

The material support provided by the program helped improve the living and educational conditions of the vulnerable children and their families.

Through the hygienic component of the program, 235 children were supplied with necessary hygienic items: soap, shampoo, tooth brush and tooth paste, etc. The project focused on the organization

doll theaters revealing the typical problems among youth and discuss the possible ways of overcoming those problems.

In 2011 the project worked with 18 children and their family members. Different therapies, such as fairy-tale therapy, art and painting therapy, activities to strengthen the memory were held with the children who were diagnosed with infantile cerebral paralysis, were super active, aggressive, had fears and complexes, etc.

Project was funded by Caritas Austria and Caritas Spain

Partner: “Crossing Roads” SNGO.

Annual budget: 4000EUR

Project Manager: Gurgun Balasanyan



of courses on health and hygiene for the children and their parents, helping them to obtain knowledge in these fields.

There are many children in the Family Centers who lack proper daily food and as a result, malnutrition impedes their physical and sometimes mental development. Therefore, the need for proper nutrition was imperative for the Institutionalized children. Provision of food commodities and clothing to the school children gave their families an opportunity to save some money to cover other necessary expenses.



As a result of the activities, improvements have been marked in children, such as:

- ✓ Overcoming fears, phobias, aggression;
- ✓ Gaining color recognition skills;
- ✓ Improved dimensional orientation;
- ✓ Ability to display adequate emotions;
- ✓ Improvement of the visual attention.

Success Story:

A. is 6 years old. According to his mother, he got sick when he was younger, had high fever, after which he frequently lost consciousness; afterwards these phenomena became more frequent. All this influenced his normal development. He started walking very late and talking from the age of four.

During the fairytale therapies he was listening with pleasure to the fairytales, but when there was an attempt to analyze the process of the story or talk about the heroes, he was very passive. The issue was overcome step by step. Now A. retells the fairytale, talks about the heroes and discusses their negative and positive behavior. He likes to paint, especially likes to figure the heroes of the fairytale of that day. Since his fine motor skills are not well developed, they frequently work with plasticine, natural materials and color paper.

Consultancy was also provided to the parent about the exercises that need to be regularly practiced with A. The parents say that A. has changed a lot. He is very calm at home. He used to be aggressive, used to shout and yell; now he does not behave in such manner. He has learnt a lot, he recognizes the colors, counts up to 5, in short, he has gained a lot of knowledge, and which is

the most important is in stable and normal psychological condition.

Together with all these activities, one of the most important concerns for A. and his parents was seeing the child among his peers. They wanted A. to socialize with other children and make friends, and A. was the one who wanted this the most. Before this, the parents took A. to many kindergartens, private educational centers, where he was not accepted as a full member. He was treated badly and was teased by his peers. Parents of "healthy" children expressed negative opinions, threatening to take their children out of the kindergarten, forcing the educators of the center to drive A. out of the group. A's parents had to take him out of the kindergarten and again A. became lonely, without friends and his health condition worsened.

Now A. attends the "Fairy Tale" center like everyone: from 10:00 to 17:00. Children entirely accept him, help him, love him and play with him. He is very happy. This was a great progress and big success in A's life.



7. "Aregak" Day Care Center for Children with Multiple Disabilities in Gyumri

Started: June, 2008

Quote: "Aregak has become our home; we are all like one family. It is hard to imagine what we would have done without "Aregak".

The overall goal of the project is to enable children with multiple disabilities and their families living in Gyumri to integrate into society and be treated equally by providing a range of social and developmental services at "Aregak" Day Care Centre, as well as, to promote public awareness and sensitivity for disabled people. The Day Care Centre provided services to 35 children with multiple disabilities and their families throughout 2011.

The services provided at the Centre were directed at enhancing the physical and mental abilities of the children: physiotherapy,

ergo-therapy, art, music, speech and psychological therapies. The Centre transported the children to the Centre and back home, cared for their hygiene, nourishment and basic medications, organized social events and excursions, etc. At the Centre social and psychological consultations were offered to the parents/care takers of the children.

In 2011 several visits were made by the Austrian colleagues who discussed with the AC top staff and DCCD personnel to expand the project by constructing a new building and adding new components. In 2013 the construction of





Success Story:

Eduard Toroyan, (14) or Edul as his friends and relatives call him is one of 30 children with multiple disabilities attending "Aregak" day care center of Armenian Caritas. Edul suffered Cerebral Palsy in early childhood and was unable to move up to 10 years, when he visited Aregak center for the first time. Edul lives with his mom and dad in a rented poor apartment without any special conditions. But despite of the unattractive environment, Edul gets all love and care from his family that a child could wish.

"He is so caring not only towards us, but also to anybody who needs help. He loves treating people and is very hospitable. When we have guests he keeps nagging me to treat people with the best food we can afford. Everybody loves him," says Ms. Osana Torosyan, Edul's mother.

One can admire Edul's determination to learn and to call his dreams to life. His mother remembers the time before Argeak, when Edul couldn't execute any task, he was sitting in his wheelchair all day long and the family gave up the idea to give him a fully content life. At that time, the Torosyans were isolated from the society and hopeless.

"I didn't know how to teach him even the most elementary skills... I was crying constantly. The idea that you unable to help your child can be so devastating," tells Osana.

Today, 4 years later, Edul's progress is apparent. He knows the Armenian alphabet and can read; he takes classes in Russian and wants to continue his education in regular school. He likes to communicate; he is very good at making friends, never afraid to approach people first. He has become more and more independent: now he doesn't need anybody's help while eating; he loves classical music, so he can turn on the radio and find his favorite channel to listen to. Due to his enormous efforts, now he can even walk with a walker independently. Before his family was ashamed to take him out, but today one of their favorite times is when they go for a walk. His parents are proud of their son's achievements.

Great changes came also to the life of the whole family. Having some spare time, Edul's parents can plan their day more productively. Edul's father is a wood-crafter, so now he can not only produce his craftworks, but also sell and get more profit. Edul's mother, inspired by the progress her son got in Aregak, keeps on teaching him new skills at home and preparing her son for study at school.

a new disability care center will be finished composed of therapeutic, information, vocational training centers and public parks for children and youth with multiple disabilities. The center designed by famous architect Richard Nikolussi will have all modern rehabilitation facilities with the capacity of serving to 100 children and youth. Besides numerous therapeutic and training facilities, the center will also have areas open to general public to socialize, to have rest and to be involved in the social life of the center. Half of the required amount for the construction has been already raised. Caritas Austria and Caritas Armenia continue their joint fundraising efforts and construction works are planned to start in spring 2012.

Project is funded by: Caritas Austria (Diocese of Vorarlberg)

Annual budget: from 50000 to 60000EUR

Project Manager: Armen Martirosyan



8. Summer Camp for Faith and Light Community

Started: 2010

Quote: “By the end of the camp we didn’t want to return home. Now when we look at the photos and remember the time we had during that one week, we still relive those pleasant memories”.

The main goal of the summer camp is to create an atmosphere for disabled individuals and their families where they will feel not segregated and will feel the real love and friendship through organizing the recreation of the children with multiple disabilities during seven days in summer thus contributing to their integration in the society and church activities. The participants of the summer camp were people who are the members of “Faith and Light Community in Armenia”. The summer camp in 2011 for the first time was organized in the open nature with tents situated in Stepana-

van, Lori region. During the camp days different entertainment and game activities were organized by the volunteers for the disabled children and young people, as well as for their parents to make the camp days more interesting and memorable. Totally, 65 people participated in the summer camp and among them were 23 disabled individuals, 25 volunteers (assisting and interacting with children) and 22 parents and family members (volunteering to help in organization of camp). The last day of the camp involved an excursion to the shore of Lake Sevan. It is the most

Project is funded by: Caritas Austria (Diocese of Tirol)

Annual budget: 3500EUR

Project Manager: Armen Martirosyan

Success Story:

Despite the fear that the summer camp was organized in the tents and it could create extra difficulties for the disabled persons and the volunteers to assist them around, the camp was the most successful for all the participants. It is so vivid in their memories that they want the summer camps to be organized in tents every year.

memorable day for all the participants and they often remember it during the whole year.



9. Assistance to Kindergartens

Started: 2008



Quote: The child education has to be in good quality starting from early age.

Several micro projects were developed to assist kindergartens with food and renovation. The Kinder-

garten in Sepasar village was supported by food and rest of the activities was contributed by the community. The kindergarten number 11 was renovated in Gyumri. Kindergarten projects are not very common for Caritas Armenia though based on the great need once a while we responded to the urgent needs of the children in 2010 and 2011.

Project is funded by: Caritas Austria (Diocese of Vorarlberg), Caritas Austria (Diocese Tirol)

Annual budget: 7000EUR

Project Manager: Hasmik Sargsyan



10. Social Assistance to vulnerable cases

Established: 2009

Quote: "If human beings need to be supported, they have to have a place where they can turn to."

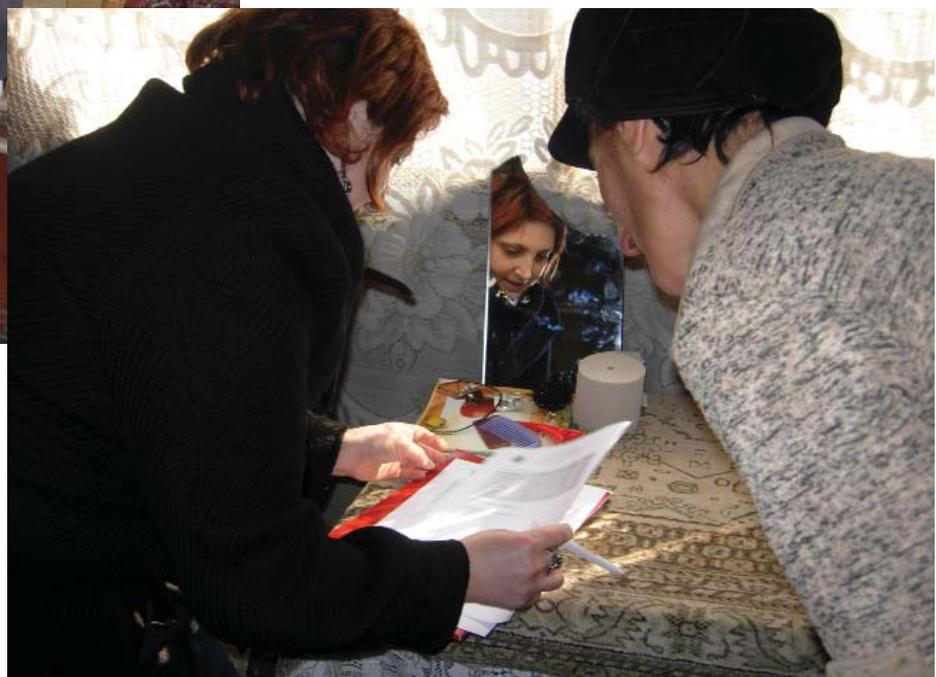
In 2010 and 2011 we have supported 170 individual social assistance cases. When people are in a desperate situation then they turn to Caritas asking our support. Our social workers then investigate the applicant. Based on the report of the Social Worker we place these individuals either in our different projects or if we do not have a corresponding project but the need is very obvious we help them through the Social Fund for poor created within Armenian Caritas budget. The

fund is generated through the personal donations of different individuals who see our work and want to commit something small for the beneficiaries.

Project is funded by personal donations of different individuals knowing or visiting Caritas

Annual budget: 4000 EUR (in average)

Project Manager: Anahit Mkhoyan



RURAL COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT

1. "Aramazd" social-educational development project

Started: October, 2003

Quote: "Thanks to Aramazd project I started feeling myself more self-confident and self-realized, both in the sphere of Arts and as manager and leader of an organization".

The goal of Aramazd project is to support the development of refugee-populated 38 communities in sub-regions of Amasia, Vardenis and Chambarak through capacity-building activities and provision of mini-grant opportunities to the local NGOs in the targeted sub-regions.

In 2010 the number of organizations, involved in the project, increased by two, thus widening the impact of the project in the targeted sub-regions and providing diversified support for the development of communities.

In total during the past eight years of Armenian Caritas involvement, with the partnership and support to the local NGOs, 37 short and long-term grant projects in 19

communities have been approved and implemented. The grant projects cover different social-educational areas, such as providing dress-making courses for handicapped and refugee women, home care project for the lonely elderly, decorative-applied folk-art club for youth, socialization of women through eco-carpet weaving, support to kindergartens in the circle of education as well as renovation and refurbishment of the sanitary-hygienic and other facilities. The length of the projects fluctuated from 10 to 12 months; some of them tend to continue when successful.

Over the past 8 years we succeeded to increase the independence and sense of responsibility of the NGOs making them more competitive.

Project is funded by Caritas Espanola and Secours Catholique.

Annual budget: 67500EUR

Project Manager: Anahit Gevorgyan

Success Story:

"I have taken part in the six-month dress-making training, organized with the support of Armenian Caritas at "Astgahvard" NGO in Vardenis, and now I am passing my skills on to handicapped children from the villages, as foreseen by the program. Through teaching others I became more skillful, and what is more, working with a disabled child and seeing how difficult it is for her to make simple movements, I re-evaluate my attitude towards people with disabilities and understand how important it is to communicate with them and regard them as full members of the society," Diana Abgaryan, 23, Vardenis.



2. Social and Economic Self Determination Rural Areas

Started: October, 2009

Quote: "I became a true businessman when I submitted my first business plan to the Project Committee for approval. Before I did not know what is the "business plan". Now, I successfully implemented my business plan and I am ready to provide consulting to others".

The overall objective of the project is to create profound positive change through provision of economic and social development opportunities in 15 Armenian villages so they become self-reliant and involved in improving their communities through a values-driven

participatory systemic approach.

The main directions of the project are:

✓ To increase the capacity of participating local partner NGOs including working together for increased effectiveness.

✓ Create and strengthen new models of behavior enabling a change in attitudes about community responsibility.

✓ Contribute to the improvement of social and economic conditions in targeted sites strengthening the

capacity of local community action groups to gain practical experience in functioning through community engagement and collaboration with local government.

✓ Reinforce democratic principles through mentality change, small and successful community projects and new small businesses.

During the first quarter of the year, community action groups (CAGs) in all 15 villages, underwent trainings on project development and business planning.

Then, during the months of March-April 2010 Armenian Caritas announced the call for small community development grant projects among the trained CAGs; and the open competition for no-interest loans to the existing and starting-up businesses in the same communities.

Following a highly competitive selection process, 10 social projects and 5 business ideas were approved for funding and were realized in the majority of our target communities.

Overall 12248.82 Euro was provided for the implementation of social projects and 13767.76 Euros for realization of business ideas.

Currently, the local partners of the project provide on-going consultancy to the CAGs and the businesspeople, both while implementing the projects, developing their businesses and in general for the sake of the development of the local communities' capacities.

In 2011 the local partners continued providing consulting to CAGs



and businessmen about different developmental initiatives. In 2011 twenty five projects were submitted by the communities for approval and 14 projects got funding of 7224540 AMD (14450EUR). The return rate from businessmen was very high, 20 of them covered their debts to the project thus having as a heritage a successful business. These amounts will be used to fund social projects in their communities.

Project is funded by European Commission and Caritas Belgium.

Partners: "Crossing Roads" Social NGO from Lori Region (CR);
Gegharkunik Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Gegharkunik Region (GCCl);
"Gyumri Development Centre" NGO from Shirak Region (GDC):

Annual budget: 81000EUR

Project Manager: Gayane Norikyan

Success Story:

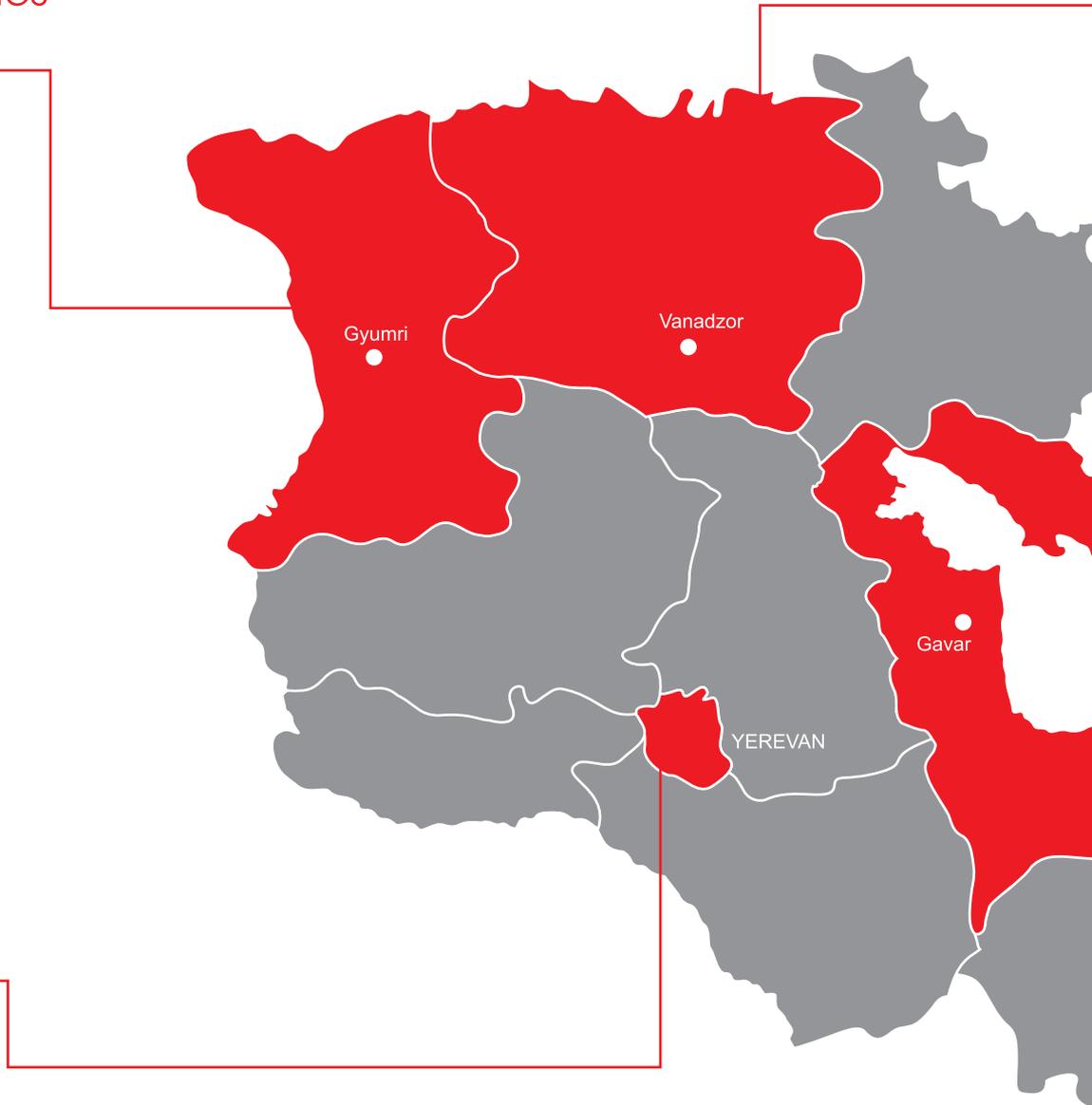
Besides developing the projects for the competition announced in the framework of this project, the Community Action Groups (CAGs) have initiated the development of a number of other projects addressing community problems, and with the assistance of the heads of the village municipalities have applied to different supporting and funding institutions.

In order to improve the quality of the grant projects, beside the planned community visits of the specialists, the members of CAGs themselves come to the office of Gegharkunik Chamber of Commerce and get additional consultancy. - Artak Dadoyan, the coordinator of the project in Gegharkunik Region.



Mapping the Change:

63 Communities
93 Projects



5 Projects

Over 150,000 people got different

16 years in action

23 Communities
28 Projects

27 Communities
38 Projects



material and nonmaterial assistance

Started: October, 2009

Quote: *“The Katnaghbyur villager, who did not trust anyone and anything, today has come to understand that miracles are sometimes possible.”*

Seeking to help communities address their development needs, CRS/South Caucasus developed a regional Parish Social Ministry project that adapted conventional PSM approaches to the individual needs of Armenian Caritas, Caritas Georgia and the Roman Catholic Community of Baku.

Having the experience of developing PSM groups in six villages of Shirak region, in 2009 PSM concept has been expanded to another 5 villages of Lori region: Katnarat, Katnaghbjuir, Petrovka, Saratovka and Blagodarnoye. 5 Parish Social Ministries are created in targeted villages which operate according to democratic governance principles, enhancing a stronger relationship between the communities and the Church, and using proper tools to facilitate wide participation of the community in self-development.

The locally adapted and developed training module provided the parish facilitators with the necessary knowledge and skills. The small grants component of the trainings enabled participants and the local communities to witness the practical and tangible results of PSM principles.

47 community activists in 5 villages are familiar with the participatory research methodologies and are able to conduct it themselves, identifying communities' problems and strengths. 15 community activists in 5 villages are competent to develop and write project proposals.

During the last four years Armenian Caritas started to invest also in the development of small business ini-



tiatives. Banks and lending institutions are not interested in supporting businesses in the Northern area of Armenia considering it and the primary sphere of activity (agriculture) too risky. The project provided business plans development and management skills to 18 activists of the targeted villages. An investment capital necessary to spark business development has been provided to the 5 best business ideas. According to the signed contract with AC the business holder will repay the whole amount of the capital and later contribute 5 % of the original amount to social projects implemented by the PSM groups. The return of the money in the form of a re - grant to the revolving fund is a critical component to achieving mentality change.

A sense of ownership is developed among community members and they feel more responsible towards their community development.

Project is funded by Caritas Austria/Innsbruck Dioceses and US Bishops Conference.

Annual budget: from 20000 to 21000EUR

Project Manager: Zhanna Harutiunyan (2010), Gayane Norikyan (2011)



Success Story:

The greatest success of this project was in Bavra village the Parish Social Ministry was so strong that they succeeded to defeat the village mayor and lobby for a new one. Since that the civil society is very active in this village and their community can really participate in the governing processes of their village.

4. Water and Sanitation

Established: April 1, 2010

Quote: *“This irrigation water system gave a new breath to the village with the opportunity of being able to use extra 100 hectares of soil”.*

Implementation of water supply projects has been one of the strategic directions of Armenian Caritas since 1996, as thousands of families are deprived of clean and adequate quantity of drinking water despite the fact that there are enough drinking water resources. The main reason for this problem is the worn out and broken water systems which were constructed in 1960s and have never been repaired since then. The water systems in many communities have about 50-60% loss of water and people cannot solve a lot of priority problems. The picture is nearly the same with irrigation networks in terms of losses in the existing irrigation systems. Moreover, in contrast to the drinking water availability, Armenia does not have enough irrigation waters resources. This lack of availability is a negative influence on the financial capacity of households as the rural population cannot produce enough yield for sale and consequently do not receive adequate profits from their lands.

The water supply and sanitation project in 2010-2011 has been extremely successful both in its execution and outcome and has had significant impacts in the lives of those households living in the targeted villages.

After project interventions, 90 % of households in the targeted villages are now connected to the water supply network and receive safe, piped water direct to their houses.

Another area in which significant change has occurred is the reduced burden on women. In reality, collecting water from spring taps was the woman's responsibility. After the completion of this project women themselves and village heads believe that burden on women and children has now significantly reduced and women's ability to engage in productive activities has increased.

Likewise, the majority of households view the impact as allowing for people to engage in socio-economic activities such as farming or raising livestock and this will then improve their socio-economic status in the community and reduce the rates of migration.

About 2000 households of Shirak, Lori and Gegharkunik marzes were included in the project in 2010 in 14 villages: Getk, Akhurik, Hatsik, Haykavan, Chkalovka, Ara-



pi, Katnarat ,Hovuni, Arevik, Vahramaberd, Goghovit, Basen, Akhurian and Vardakar.

In 2011 drinking water supply systems were rehabilitated in Gharibjanian, Getk, Akhurik, Yerazgavors, Bayandur and Benjamin villages in Shirakmarz of Armenia, and 4766 people in those villages got sufficient and clean drinking water in their houses.

A Drinking Water supply system was constructed in the village of Amasia, Shirakmarz, for 70 households which had been completely deprived of drinking water. With the village community's active participation and its physical and financial contribution in the project, the project was implemented successfully and within the planned time frame. All 70 households got sufficient and clean drinking water in their houses and were able to improve their domestic, farming and hygienic conditions.

In Gegharkunik marz, Water and Sanitation project rehabilitated a drinking water supply system of the village of Zovaber. 410 families in Zovaber village were completely deprived of consuming drinking water for over two years because some sectors of the pipe-line were rotten and the water was polluted. As a result of the project the amount of drinking water per person in Zovaber community increased about 20%.

In 2011 the project included a reconstruction of the irrigation system of Getq village. The project aimed at installation of a 15 gutters, 90 meters length, and repair 470 meters of irrigation system. In the result of the project 52 families of the village become able to use their lands and derive some profit.

Project is funded by Renovabis, Caritas Italy, Caritas Austria, local communities.

Project Budget (2010/2011): 250000EUR

Project Manager: SamvelGevorgyan (2010); ArtashesMargaryan (2011)

SCHOOLS IN DEVELOPMENT

1. German Friendship – Schools in Development

Established: October, 2003

Quote: "I was amazed to get to know, that how German teenagers could invest so much energy and good will for helping their fellows in Armenia, without even knowing them. I understand now the real essence and meaning of the words -the world is not without good people."

The idea of the project was initiated by the teachers, students and parents of Kardinal Frings Gymnasium of Bonn, Germany in 2003. This school organizes annual fundraising activities for the benefit of children living in remote villages of Armenia. The goal is the improvement of their educational conditions, support in finding solution to the primary problems of the targeted schools. The project also assists in building community capacity by encouraging participation in all stages of project implementation. The community contributes a minimum of 20% of the total budget to the projects in the form of unpaid labor, materials or funds. In average about 125 children, 130 school staff and 11000 community members benefit from the school support component per year, and 250 children and 2600 adults in 100 vulnerable families benefited from the social protection component of the project during the last two years .

In 2010-2011, Pokrashen village secondary school, Akhuryan vil-



lage Agricultural College, the library in Getk village secondary school and 4 sanitary-hygienic units of Mayisyan village schools have been renovated and furnished.

The creation of an adequate, comfortable, safe and clean educational environment for children assists in their intellectual and physical development.

Success Story:

During March, 2010, on the suggestion of our project partner Kardinal Frings Gymnasium (KFG), all the schools involved in the project since 2003, agreed to take part in a Fundraising Action, organized by Armenian Caritas to help children in Haiti after the devastation caused by a massive earthquake. As a good example of solidarity of one nation to another, being not in the best financial situation themselves, 19 schools and NGOs joined

in the Action of Solidarity and were able to collect 832,700 Armenian Drams (1,527 Euro). This contribution from Armenian children was added to the total amount collected by the youth of KFG and transferred to "Don Bosco Jugend Dritte Welt", which is constructing a new school building in Haiti. Through this project, Haitian children have got an opportunity for a better future through education and development.



The Donors' initiative continues to alleviate some of the numerous needs of families living in container-type houses in Gyumri through the donation of food parcels.

Project is funded by Kardinal Frings Gymnasium of Bonn, Germany.

Annual budget: 14500EUR

Project Manager: Anahit Gevorgyan

2. Equal Education for All Children

Established: April 2010

Quote: *"I dreamed of becoming a painter... And now I am close to that, because I can go to school".*

Changing attitudes towards children with disabilities is not an easy task. During our work with parents, schoolchildren and teachers we came across with many people who always asked "Why inclusion?" They did not understand the benefits of inclusion. They continued saying that children with special educational needs must study in special schools, because they needed too much attention, and that because of children with special needs teachers might not pay the due attention to healthy children.

This is the reason, that although legislation protects the rights of children with disabilities, however it cannot always protect them from discrimination and prejudice. Changed attitudes from the side of parents, teachers and schoolchildren can help to create more positive school experiences that promote children's academic and personal/social growth, as well as make a real difference in their lives, enabling them to participate in school and also in community life and to achieve a higher level of satisfaction with their lives.

Project is funded by Secours Catholique

Project Annual Budget: 49 618EUR

Project Partner: National Association of School Parents Council Members

Project Manager: Anahit Gevorgyan



Success Story:

Eduard Toroyan dreams of becoming a painter. He has motor coordination disability. When he was seven, his mother took him to the neighborhood school. However, the headmaster of the school explained her very rudely that they couldn't accept the child, because their school was not adapted for disability needs. Edward's mother was offended and decided to keep the child at home to protect him from being down looked and neglected. "I was very happy when the school parent council members (SPC) of school #7 in Gyumri found us and told us that they are ready to accept Edward into their school..."

Now little Edward makes progress thanks to everyday hard work at school and at home."

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Handicraft Workshop for Women

Established: 2010

Quote: *"I got an opportunity to master my beloved profession due to the Handicraft Workshop of Armenian Caritas and now I feel I am a fully content person."*

2010 was the concluding year of the 1st phase of the "Handicraft Centre for Women" project. The overall goal of the project is improvement of living conditions of 50 families in the city of Gyumri through provision of handicraft workshop and opportunity for socializing to 50 women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, from poor families, from orphanages, mothers who have many children and whose husbands are unemployed, and refugees.

Throughout the 42 months of its operation (36 months according to the initial project proposal and a 6 month extension), 63 women took part in the 5 twelve-month sewing courses, 3 three-month knitting trainings, 1 one and a half month knitting training course, 2 three-month beading trainings, and 2 short-term batik

trainings.

During 2010, the centre provided its vocational services to two groups of women, a total of 15. They all underwent the same type of sewing training, which



lasted 12 months per group, 15 hours weekly thus insuring in-depth knowledge of their future profession. In addition, during the spring, short-term trainings in knitting and beading were offered to the current trainees of the center as well as other interested young women. About 20 women took part in the training. This further enriched the work of the center beneficiaries, affording them the opportunity to experiment with combinations of handmade clothing and matching accessories. Approximately 400 EUR as cash dona-

tions for the project was raised, which was put in the social solidarity fund of Armenian Caritas, and will be used while implementing the future phase of this project.

Most of graduates of the above-mentioned program are currently self-employed and can guaranty minimum income for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, due to the situation with the economic crisis, most of beneficiaries could not find stable employment on the job market. This could be considered as a gap of the project



and will be better addressed in the next phase. In January 2011, we will begin a new phase of the project, which has a stronger accent on employability and economic independence of women. (photo 2.1 prog – notes: 1).

Project is funded by Renovabis.
Annual budget: Euro 5863.07
Project Manager: Anna Yeghoyan



Success Story:

Karine Papoyan is a fashion-designer by education but she considers the knowledge obtained during her student years only theoretical and confesses that she didn't even imagine what kind of a future she would have, especially in the conditions of our town.

She appeared in the handicraft center of the Armenian Caritas by chance and is very much pleased, as she gained a big stock of knowledge and practical experience. Karine says: "It is very interesting that nowhere in Gyumri had I encountered such an honest and considerate reception."

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Primary Health Care Center

Established: July, 2002

Quote: "If not for the Primary Health Care Center and the attitude of the people here I would have passed away five years ago".

The developmental goal of the project is to provide, in a compassionate and competent manner, primary ambulatory care for needy patients in Gyumri and surrounding areas.

The PHCC medical staff sees patients five days a week and provides clinical consultations, basic laboratory services, ultra-sound and ECG examinations, as well as a limited supply of essential medications. The center provides the services of Physiotherapists, an

Endocrinologist, 2 Family Doctors, a Gynecologist (therapist/practitioner and trainer), two Psychologists and Laboratory Doctor. The registered number of permanent beneficiaries is around 1500 patients, accounting for around 4500-5000 visits per year.

Although over time running of the PHCC project may seem to have become very efficient, dealing daily with human beings it gives rise to many questions and problems that need to be resolved without hin-



dering the flow of the project. The biggest victory and achievement of the project is the electronic database program, which is now being gradually utilized by all the medical staff with the close support and constant consultation and training of the programmer and the project coordinator. The advantages of the program are numerous: in particular, the in/out/balance of the content of the PHCC pharmacy is now being checked automatically by the

program. The program system is operating on the whole network of PHCC, making current information regarding the patients and the pharmacy available on any of the PHCC computers, so that the Family Doctors, Family Nurses, the Pharmacist and the Project Coordinator can follow the updated information on their own computers. This saves time and provides far more precise and accurate information any time it is followed up.

Success Story:

Susanna Alekyan, born in 1973, attended the Primary Health Care Center still in 2003 with the following complains: tachycardia, nervous tremor, excessive sweating, irritation, weight reduction and insomnia. Before coming to our Clinic, the woman saw the general practitioner at the local polyclinic, but was not properly diagnosed and underwent just inefficient symptomatic treatment. In our Clinic, after thorough instrumental and laboratory analyses, correct diagnosis was set to her, and the treatment brought its result very soon. The health condition of the woman improved for the better,, for which she is extremely thankful to Armenian Caritas.



Project is funded by Caritas Spain
Annual budget: 75000EUR
Project Manager: Anahit Gevorgyan

2. "Healthy mentality-healthy family"

Started: October, 2010

Quote: "I have taken part in the project "Healthy mentality-healthy family" and the efficiency of the project is just 100%."

The project "Healthy Mentality-Healthy Family" is very unique in its type, emphasizing the importance of the formation of healthy families and raising of healthy generations, the values of family and creation of the "third one" with the unity of "two".

The ultimate goal of the project is to emphasize the importance of Holy Matrimony, the daily "work" to be done by the couples to maintain their families, to clarify responsibilities within big Armenian traditional families (where the newlywed couples have to live with the parents of the husband) and to raise a psychologically healthy generation.

Funded by Caritas Spain, the project began implementation in July, 2009. In October 2010, when the project was financed by the German organization "Renovabis", it expanded.

Each group meets once a week for a meeting with a

duration of 2 hours for 8 meetings. The number of beneficiaries in one group fluctuates from 6-8 women. The total number of beneficiaries per year is around 100.



Project is funded by Renovabis and Caritas Spain
Annual budget: Euro 12500
Project Manager: Anahit Gevorgyan

Success story:

Hasmik Grigoryan, 29 years old, pregnant woman: "Though this is already my second pregnancy, I have to confess, that I have learned so many new things about pregnancy, childbirth and raising of healthy children during our meetings, which made me more self-confident and, at the same time, very cautious during the up-

bringing of my children. Moreover, living together with my husband's parents, as do many-many daughters' in law, I used to have conflicts with them. With the help of our psychologist I learned the real reason of these conflicts, which, I am sure, will help me to demonstrate correct behavior and to live my life in solidarity and peace.

3. Harm Reduction in Developing Countries: Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Started: 2009

Quote: "There is a growing drug abuse problem in Armenia, and young people are especially affected".

In the year of 2010, 631 high school children from 30 schools in Gyumri, Vanadzor and Yerevan received peer education training on the bad consequences of the substance abuse – drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

72 people received blood examination for identifying STDs and blood disease at the Help Room established in the "Blood Bank" in Gyumri. In the Help Room, they get medical assistance and referrals. 1150 disposable syringes were distributed.

Psychological counseling was provided to 7 drug addicts/family members.

2500 citizens of Gyumri were reached by the outreach workers and provided information and referrals related to the issues of drug use.

The field of drug use prevention, education and harm reduction is quite a challenging one with entangled internal nets; therefore, it was quite difficult to identify what is actually being done on the local and national

level, and how controlling mechanisms work for restricted substances.

The other challenge was the national "taboo" on talking about STDs and the prevention techniques.

Here are the publications developed during this project:

Booklet "How to say No"

"Peer to Peer" Training module on the bad consequences of substance abuse such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The module was approved by the National Institute of Education and instructed at schools

"Awareness means healthy" Information Booklet

"Your life is in your hands" information booklet on the bad effects of drug abuse as well as with referrals to the support available to the drug addicts

"Let's Talk" Social- Informative Booklet to share within Family

Project is funded by Caritas Germany under UNESCO project

Annual budget: 25000EUR

Project Manager: Gayane Norikyan



Success story:

"It was very interesting and useful training. It opened my eyes on many things. Now I have broader view of the harm of alcohol, drugs and smoking. The facilitators were excellent and friendly" mentioned Karen who participated in the training in Gyumri. "I acquired the knowledge that I couldn't get before from my teachers or parents. The open discussions with my friends helped me to understand the problem better. I learned that we need better understanding of the harm of drug, alcohol and smoking in order to avoid it.

Migration and Integration

1 Migration and Development

Start: March, 2010

Quotation: "Employees of Armenian Caritas are special for their kind and loving attitude towards people."

The goal of the project is promotion of links between migration and development in the Armenian context by contributing to the establishment of sustainable reintegration measures for returnees to Armenia and creating an effective, client centered information system for potential migrants from Armenia. The project is being implemented by the Yerevan office of Armenian Caritas. It is available in all regions of Armenia, depending on the return region of returnees who make one of the target groups of the project. For potential

migrants the project is available in Shirak, Lori, Gegharkunik regions and Yerevan city. Since the start of the project 70 families/170 in person/ have benefitted from social reintegration assistance, 16 families have received no-interest loans for start-up businesses, 17 workshops with 539 students and community members were conducted in different educational institutions and communities, and 17 young unemployed were referred to different institutions for reorientation trainings (languages, computer, table design and other courses.)

Project is funded by Caritas Austria (Caritas Vorarlberg) and the Government of Liechtenstein.

Annual budget: 250000EUR (in average)

Project Manager: Tigranuhi Tarakhchyan

Success story:

Nobody knows what the future has destined for him. Ali, yezidi by nationality had to leave for foreign countries for the search of happiness. Her father opposed her marriage and she and her husband had to escape. They left Armenia for Germany. Their asylum application was rejected and they had to return. In Germany their first child was born. They could not stay there illegally, so with the assistance of kind people the decision was made to return. They returned to their village, to Ali's family. Return, uncertainty, social bad conditions. But the fortune smiled on them.

The social assistant in Germany who had organized their return was so concerned with the family that she applied to Armenian Caritas asking to find the family and assist them.

With the help of social network they were found in one of the remote villages of Armenia. When the husband heard about the organization that wanted to help them he could not believe it. He was hesitating, avoiding the meeting but later decided to believe, trust and contact the organization. It was a small hope; the organization extended a helping hand. The young family received psychological and social assistance. The project helped them solve their urgent social needs. And they received a no interest loan to buy animals. Now they feel themselves more confident and reintegrated in the society. The couple gave birth to the second child.



2. Prevention of Illegal Migration and Trafficking

Established: 2003

Quote: *“I would like to use the knowledge acquired during these trainings in my future activities combating human trafficking, as well as to cooperate with the NGOs involved in migration and trafficking prevention and protection activities.”*

The aim of this project is to sensitize the youth in Armenia, including both boys and girls about risks related to trafficking in persons and to empower them to make informed and safe decisions in high trafficking risk situations.

The project’s targeted beneficiaries were 8, 9, 10th and 11th grade pupils of 29 schools from Gyumri and Yerevan. The training of trainers (TOT) method was used to transfer trafficking, migration and human rights related information through the teachers to the 2842 student beneficiaries.

Additionally, their parents, teachers, central and local education authorities were involved, in order to ensure a comprehensive, sustainable approach. All the training sessions were officially authorized by the Regional Educational Departments and a Memorandum

of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Education.

In 2011, the project target beneficiaries were all 8 grade students of 31 schools from Gyumri and Yerevan. The information on consequences of illegal migration and the ways of legal migration was shared among 3858 students through trained teachers from the same schools.

2,000 copies of trafficking-related leaflets and 500 copies of posters were designed, printed and distributed among 29 schools. All the pictures in the leaflets and posters were originally drawn by the students of the target schools. The aim of the distribution the posters and leaflets to the children was to give information about trafficking and its prevention.

Project is funded by Secours Catholique and Caritas Spain

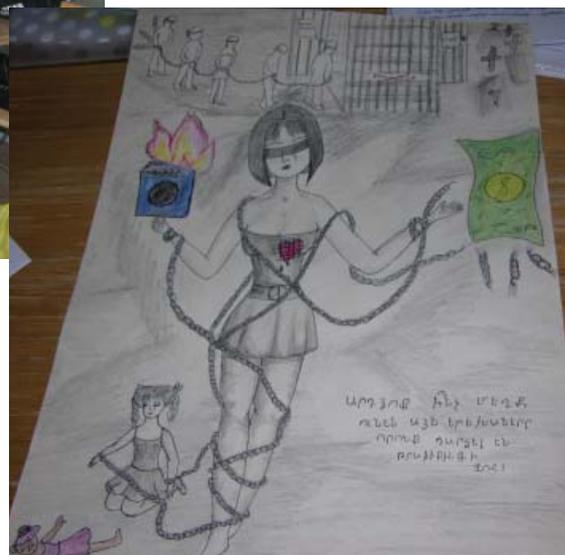
Annual budget: Euro 41705.92

Project Manager: Movses Hakobyan



Success Story:

Our success is awareness of the youth about the dangers of trafficking and illegal migration and reduction the risks of the youth to be trafficked.



3. Assistance to Volunteer Return

(Sustainable Reintegration after Volunteer Return, Returnees from Europe)
Established: April 2006

Quote: "I could not imagine that I would face as many difficulties returning to my country as we faced while leaving it."

The goal of the project is increase of the chances of successful reintegration of returned migrants in their home country after their stay in Belgium. The project provides social counseling and assistance to returnees from Belgium, develops and maintains the network of social-care organizations in the country in order to refer the returnees to the tailor-made assistance, and gives concrete and specific information to questions asked by immigrants in Europe, transmitted through Caritas Belgium.

During 2010:

- ✓ 20 beneficiaries/33 in person/ have received reintegration assistance,
- ✓ 16 families have received grants for start-up businesses.

In 2011:

- ✓ 39 beneficiaries/66 in person/ have received reintegration assistance,
- ✓ 28 families have received grants for the start-up businesses.

Project is funded by Caritas International Belgium, Government of Belgium, EU and CORDAID (for cases from Netherlands).

Partner: Caritas International Belgium
MAATWERK/CORDAID

Annual budget: from 100000 to 130000EUR

Project Manager: Tigranuhi Tarakhchyan



As a result of grants provided to beneficiaries they were able to establish small businesses which gave them possibilities of a dignified life in their motherland.

While working directly with beneficiaries a separate program was implemented



Success Story:

Foreign Sun gives no warmth - I had been striving for staying in my own country for many years, to have a job and own house, to be able to give my child higher education but unfortunately all my efforts were in vain because of lack of money. My child was studying at the faculty of Law at the State University. I was always criticizing all those people who were leaving for abroad for work. But the time came when I found myself in the same situation. I had to work from the early morning till late at night but the earned money could not provide for my family but instead added some debts.

I made up my mind to leave for Belgium for work. Everyone hosted me very well there and I was surprised by their friendly attitude. But my health was getting from bad to worse and my anxiousness led me to stress. And this was the reason I decided to return homeland after six months of stay in Belgium.

Foreign Sun never warms you. I felt that my disease was home-sickness. Maybe I am in worse situation now but I can find peace of mind only in my Homeland. Belgium was a country I would dream to live in but it was not mine, it was foreign to me.

I dream of only one thing now. That is to see the same smiles and peace of mind here in my native land. As we live only short life, don't we? And why should we pass away by only dreaming of happy life? Hasmik Davtyan

Emergency

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In 2010 Armenian Caritas received 14855 kg of humanitarian assistance (second hand clothes, furniture, wheelchairs, toys, shoes, blankets, etc.) which was distributed to approximately 3000 vulnerable people in Shirak , Lori and Gegharkunik regions. The main beneficiaries are the ones who are involved in the current projects of Armenian Caritas (Home Care, Day care centers, Primary Health Care Center, Social center in Gyumri and also some orphanages and Boarding schools in Gyumri, Artik and Vanadzor, some NGOs , village schools, the Catholic Church, etc.). In 2011 The Humanitarian aid sent by Caritas Austria in total was 4685kg. The aid was labeled humanitarian by the Commission of Coordinating Charitable projects which functions adjacent to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and was exempted from taxes before the distribution.



20 employees of Armenian Caritas and many volunteers were involved in distribution process to different organizations, Institutions, NGOs and Armenian Caritas Projects.

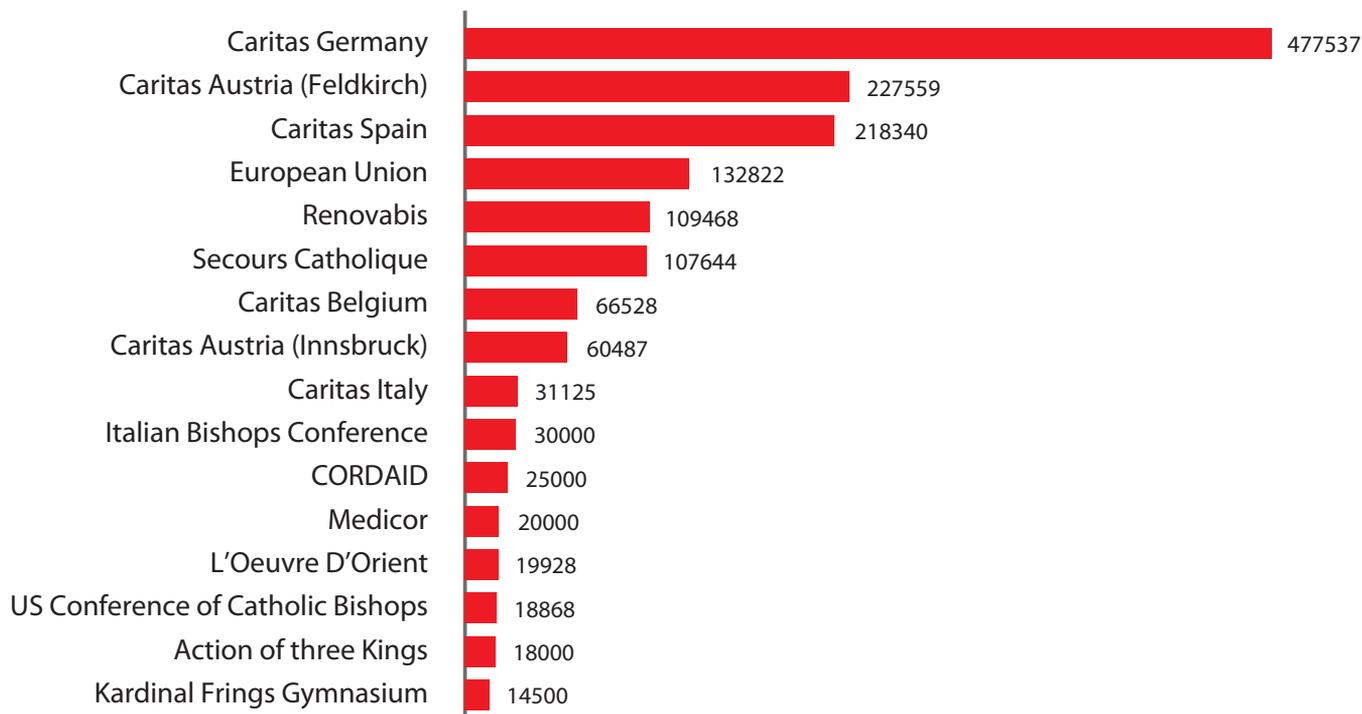
Armenian Caritas is among first organizations responded to request for support by Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA after major landslide in Tavush . Armenian Caritas Emergency department provided food for rescue teams and car oil for the equipment working at the site of the landslide in October of 2011.



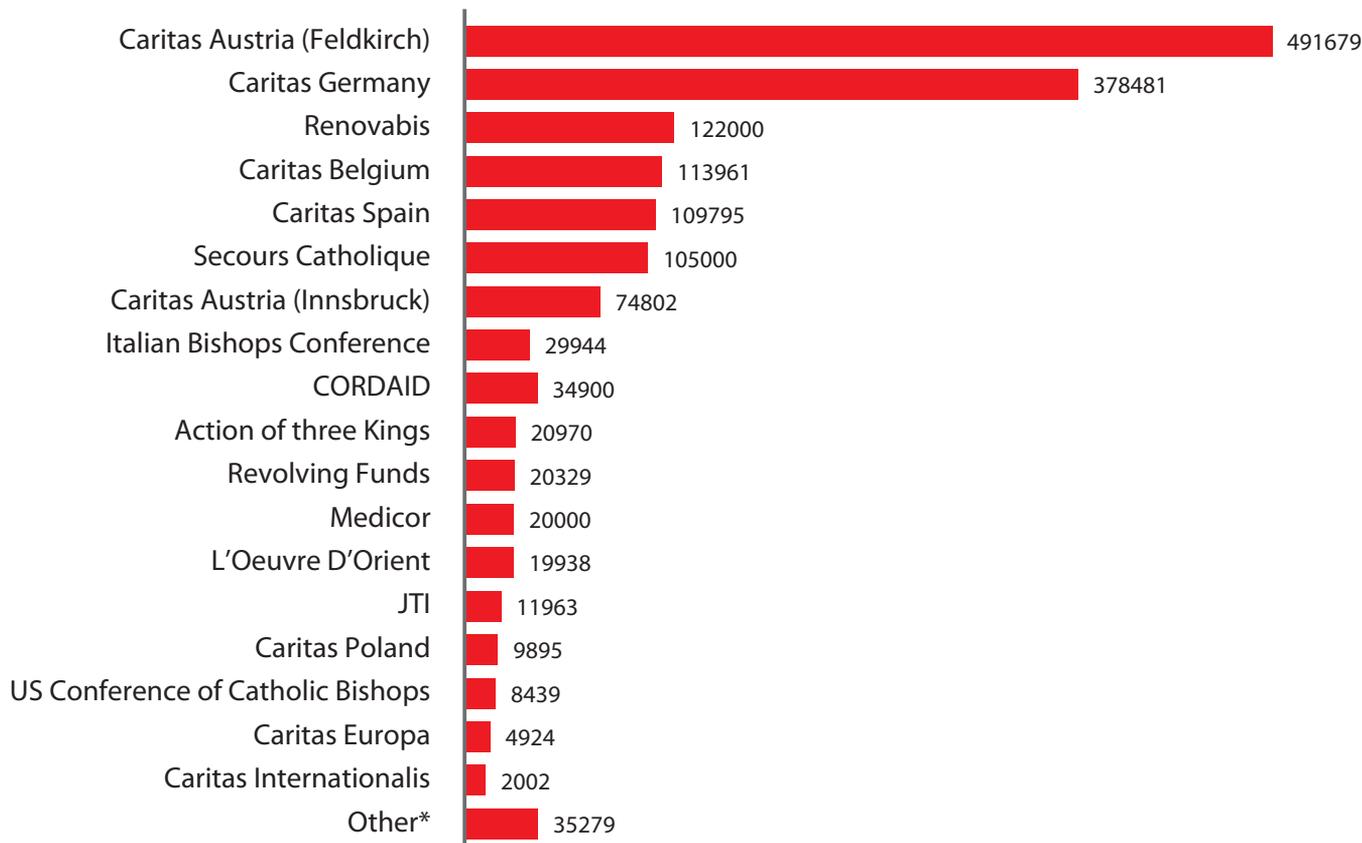
Financial report

DONORS

2010



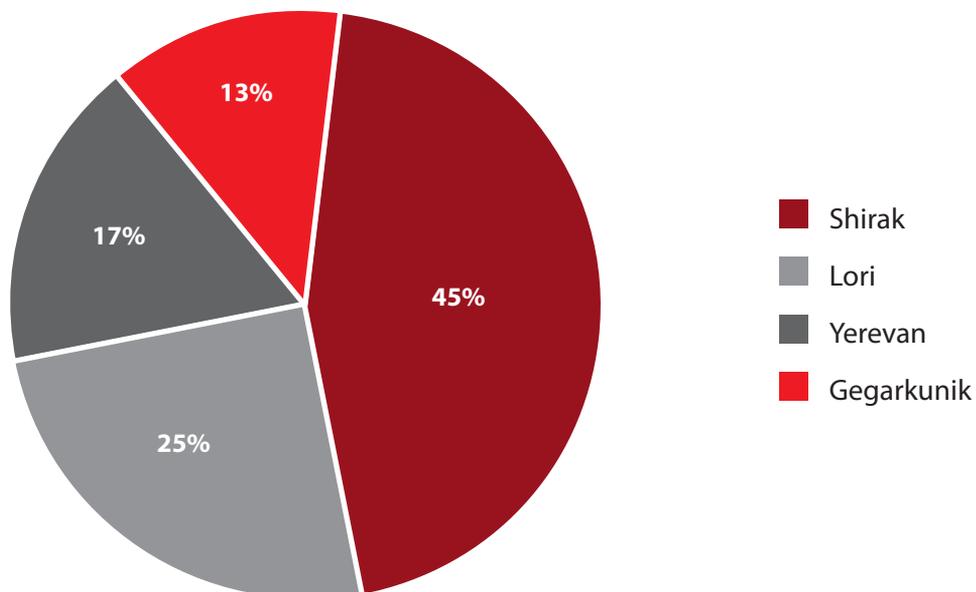
2011



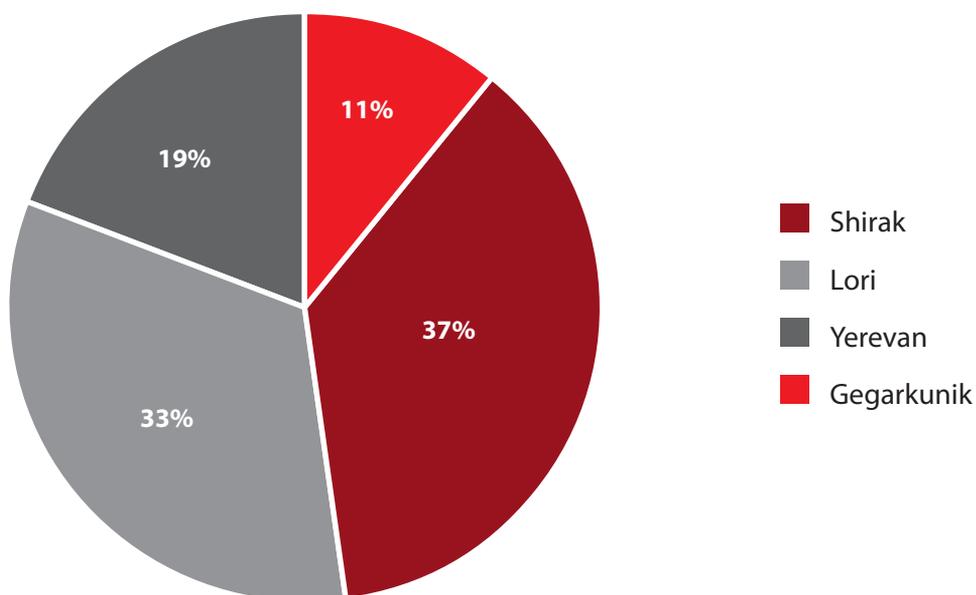
* Individual, community and corporate contributions

FINANCIAL INPUT BASED ON TARGET MARZES

2010



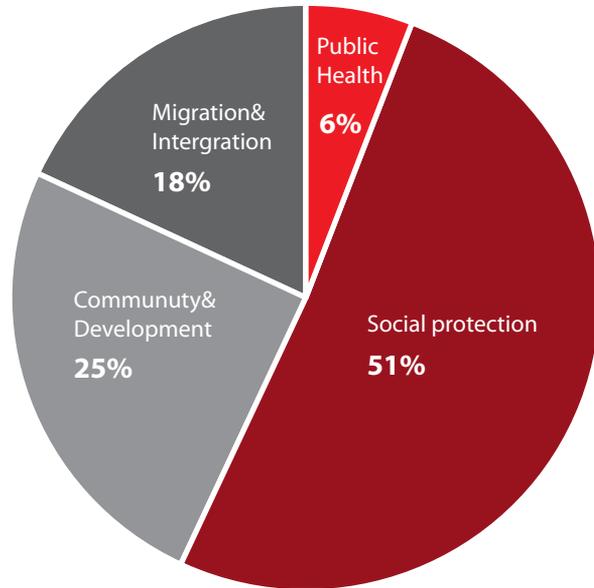
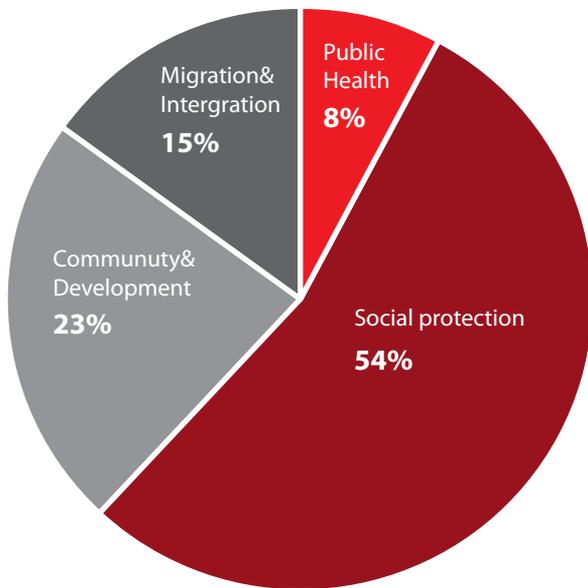
2011



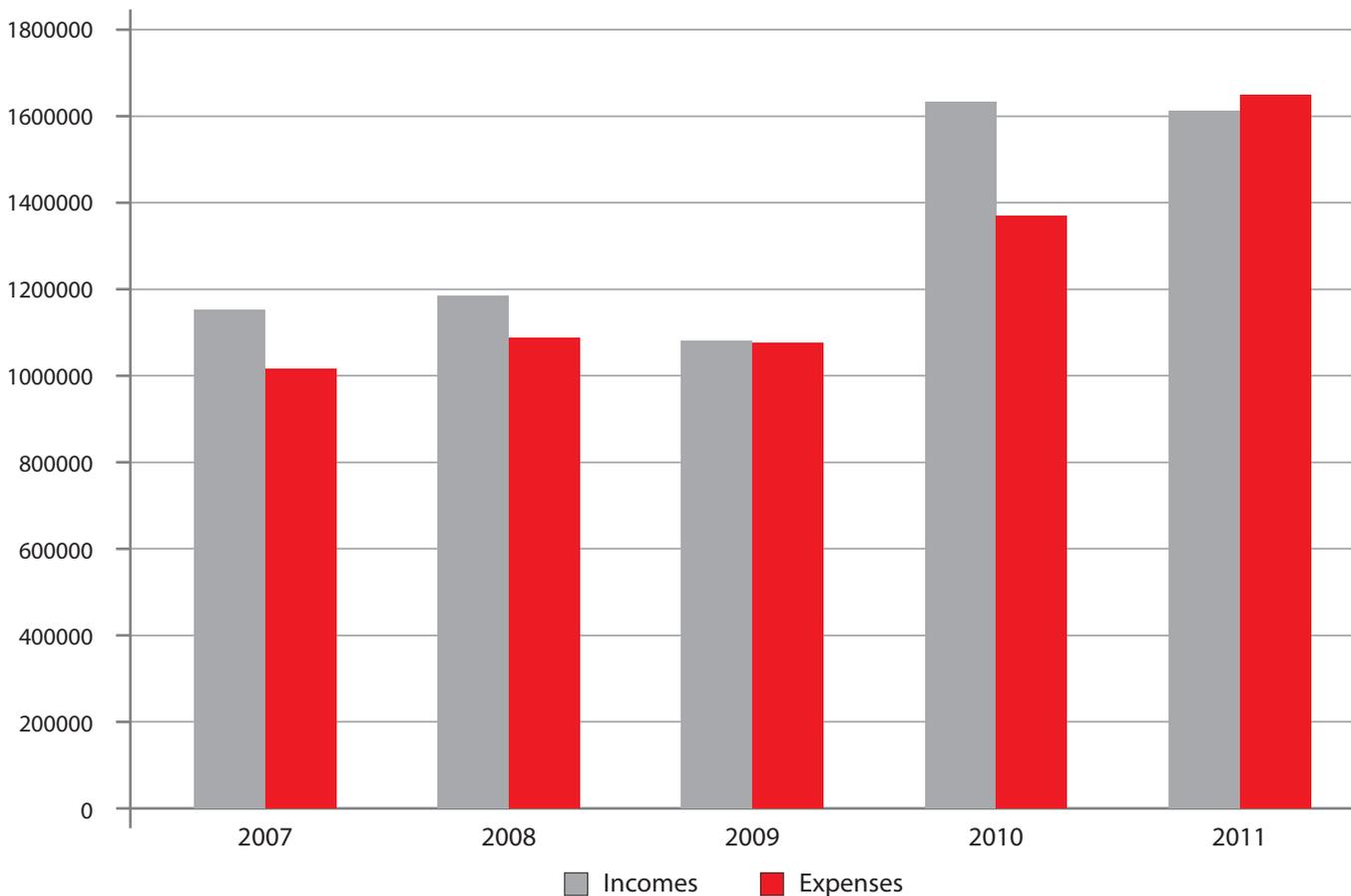
FINANCIAL INPUT BASED ON THE DEPARTMENTS

2010

2011



INCOMES AND EXPENSES



Contacts

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