ADVANCING ARMENIA’S YOUTH VILLAGE BY VILLAGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

COAF
CHILDREN OF ARMENIA FUND
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NOTE FROM GARO ARMEN

We often hesitate as an organization to accurately depict the tremendous scope and impact of our work, usually stumbling over where to begin. We use the same words with a modicum of regularity: innovate, empower, diligence, advancement. This is no coincidence, as these are the words we have dedicated our mission to realizing every day. But how to best describe our efforts as an organization without relying on the language that is repetitive, albeit most fitting? Perhaps, what is required is the invocation of your imagination, to read the enormity of facts and figures contained within this report and allow them to transcend the printed page.

Envision participating in a debate in an afterschool club or performing a piece of theater for your whole village. Picture the staff working to ensure access from even the most rural of places to the COAF SMART Center, and then the dynamic learning that takes place once there. Greet challenges and celebrate achievements with the same amount of enthusiasm as your first day in a comprehensive first aid course or teacher training. COAF’s work moves beyond a collection of words and ideas, it is building networks, partnerships and concrete opportunities for those who seek it.

Each page in this summary represents countless hours and resources that brings the progress we seek to create into fruition. What we do every day is connected to our community of beneficiaries. That is the only way we have earned our place as a pillar in Armenia. The way we describe what we do in a year might never measure up to the visceral feeling of hope and progress felt throughout the five regions we work within, and throughout the offices in Yerevan and New York. With your imagination and our comprehensive Annual Report, I hope COAF can instill you with that very spirit so you might fully know what we mean when we say we seek to innovate rural advancement and diligently empower communities in Armenia and beyond.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.
MISSION

Provide resources to children and adults with COAF SMART initiatives to advance rural communities through innovation.

VISION

That all children of Armenia achieve their full potential and contribute to the advancement of the world around them.
WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

Education component in every program

Capacity building of local specialists

COAF Alumni

Long term, sustainable interventions

Individual, on-spot interaction with the beneficiaries

Trust and strong connection with the beneficiaries

100% of your donation goes directly to our work in rural Armenia

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COAF’S TIMELINE

2004
- COAF IS FOUNDED
- PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN 1ST VILLAGE KARAKERT

2004
- HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

2005
- EDUCATION PROGRAM
- 1 BENEFICIARY VILLAGE: KARAKERT

2006
- SOCIAL SERVICES AND PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM
- 5 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 1 BENEFICIARY VILLAGE
  - LERNAGOG
  - DALARIK
  - ARGINA
  - MYASNIKYAN

2007
- WOMEN’S HEALTH SCREENING
- 3 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 6 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - BAGHRAMYAN
  - HUSHAKERT
  - YERVANDASHAT

2008
- 3 KINDERGARTENS BUILT
- 9 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES
  - KARAKERT
  - LERNAGOG
  - BAGHRAMYAN
  - HUSHAKERT
  - YERVANDASHAT
  - ARGINA
  - MYASNIKYAN
  - SHENIK
  - DALARIK

2009
- SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH PROMOTION
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

2010
- REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER OF MYASNIKYAN
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS LAUNCHED
- NETWORK FOR RURAL DOCTORS AND NURSES ESTABLISHED
COAF’S TIMELINE

2011
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
- 2 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 9 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - . ARTENI
  - . ARAGATSAVAN

2012
- DRAMA THERAPY
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH
- 4 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 11 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - . KOGHBAVAN
  - . AREVADASHT
  - . ARTAMET
  - . TALVORIK

2013
- PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM
- WATER FOR 5 VILLAGES
- 1 NEW VILLAGE ADDED TO 15 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES
  - . BAGARAN

2014
- EXPANSION TO NEW REGIONS – “NEXT 10 IS 100”
- SCHOOL-BASED GREENHOUSE
- 6 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 16 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - . VANAND
  - . HATSIK
  - . GETASHEN
  - . SARDARAPAT
  - . DSEGH
  - . TUMANYAN

2015
- 12 SCHOOLS RENOVATED, AND 13 PLAYGROUNDS
- INCEPTION OF COAF SMART
- 9 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 22 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - . AREVATSAG
  - . DZORAGYUGH
  - . VAHAGNI
  - . MARTUNI
  - . METS AYRUM
  - . KARINJ
  - . MARTZ
  - . DEBET
  - . AKORI

2016
- SMART ROOMS & SMART SAFE ROOMS IN 7 VILLAGES
- 13 NEW VILLAGES ADDED TO 31 BENEFICIARY VILLAGES:
  - . AYGEHOVIT
  - . ZORAKAN
  - . HOROM
  - . BERDAVAN
  - . MEGHRASHEN
  - . LANJIK
  - . BENIAMIN
  - . PTGHAVAN
  - . SARNAGHBYUR
  - . GUSANAGYUGH
  - . VARDAKAR
  - . KOTI
  - . ARCHIS

2017
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORNERS
- 10 TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED CREATIVITY LABS ESTABLISHED IN 10 VILLAGES

2018
- COAF SMART CENTER
- 17 MEDICAL FACILITIES RENOVATED
- 30 CAFETERIAS AND 31 BRUSHODROMES RENOVATED
COAF’S REGIONS

VILLAGES SINCE 2004


MARTUNI IN GEGHARKUNIK REGION WAS PART OF “ONE VILLAGE” PROJECT IN CONSORTIUM WITH 7 ORGANIZATIONS

75,000
PEOPLE IMPACTED BY COAF PROGRAMS

44
VILLAGES SERVED

5
REGIONS SERVED

Armavir, Aragtsotn, Shirak, Tavush, Lori
COAF’S PROGRAMS

54
PROGRAMS

3,272
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
PER PROGRAM

20,877
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
COAF’S PROGRAMS

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Social Work
Speech Therapy
Education Therapy
Drama Therapy
Psychology Services
Support to School Psychologists
Child Development
Emotional IQ Clubs

COAF SMART INITIATIVE

Robotics
IT Literacy (for Adults)
Horticulture
Media Literacy
Public Speaking
Music
Design Basics
Theater
Modern Dance
Rosetta Stone Language
Child Development
Parental Skills
English (for Adults)
Cinema Club
Programming
Drawing
Digital drawing
Civics/Volunteering
COAF’S EDUCATION

COAF improves the quality of education in rural communities by creating progressive learning environments. Improving the overall quality of education in rural communities is crucial to COAF’s mission. Non-formal education, expanded extracurricular program offerings, and capacity-building of local educators are the pillars of our educational work. COAF’s programs seek to empower students to shape their own futures and take their communities to new heights.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 9 arts students received university scholarships established in memory of Claire Gregorian
- 40 COAF Alumni students received HSBC-COAF Scholarships
- New Mentorship and Internship Programs sponsored by HSBC
- Foreign Leaders English Exchange (FLEX)
- Taekwondo club won 1st prize in the European Championship
- Painting club participants won 1st and 2nd prizes at the Silva Kaputikyan Museum’s painting competition
- Student-led initiatives developed and implemented by Student Councils (SCs), English Access students in response to community needs
COAF’S EDUCATION

34 VILLAGES
5 REGIONS
3403 BENEFICIARIES
36 STUDENT-LED COMMUNITY PROJECTS

135 LOCAL SPECIALISTS HIRED AND TRAINED

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COAF’S HEALTH

COAF improves the quality of primary health services in villages with programs that promote the wellbeing of the entire community. By educating local health providers, COAF Health programs focus on disease prevention and promotion of healthy behavior starting from primary school age. COAF Health programs conduct hands-on training for local health providers, improve physical conditions of rural health facilities, and implement dental interventions in schools and in the communities at large.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Health education seminars provided to school students’ parents
- Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAPHO) health professionals and a medical mission from Fresno, California, visited COAF beneficiary villages and worked with local health providers
- UK-based professor Gevorg Hopayan and Lorky Libaridian from Royal College General Practitioners delivered courses on Family Medicine for medical students and interns
- Dsegh, Debet, Beniamin, Mets Ayrum and Yeghegnut health facilities renovated
- School nutrition program started in Shirak region. Beniamin, Sarnaghbyur, Horom and Meghrashen school cafeterias renovated and Brushodromes established
- Lori region’s Mets Ayrum and Yeghegnut school cafeterias renovated and Brushodromes established
- COAF Supportive Supervision Program ensured the majority of local health providers to comply with standard protocols for 0-5 year old childcare guidelines
- Dental Unit established at Dsegh’s health center. American-Armenian dentist Avo Samuelian and his team provided services and donated medical supplies to the Dental Unit
- 12 health educators from Tavush and Shirak participated in training of educators on sexual education and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases
COAF’S HEALTH

- 43 VILLAGES
- 5 REGIONS
- 13,184 BENEFICIARIES
- 5 HEALTH POSTS
- 6 SCHOOL CAFETERIAS
- 69 LOCAL SPECIALISTS HIRED AND TRAINED
COAF’S CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

COAF Child and Family Services programs follow a holistic approach to child and family issues through multi-disciplinary service provision by social workers, psychologists, speech therapists and educators providing individualized and group services to children and their families. The program uses interrelated work and cooperation within the multi-disciplinary teams in the communities, with a focus on ensuring quality professional capacity building of local specialists.

SUCCESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The CFS team presented the works done and planned for the year during the community hall meetings

291 parents and teachers participated in workshops to establish child home interaction activities through games and creation of toys

Based on the impact from the previous years, a new approach of collective learning methodology was designed to pilot support to children with learning difficulties during the school day instead of after school learning clubs. For this purpose, teachers of two schools in Aragatsotn were trained on the methodology to use in the classroom and promote within the school at large

“Emotional Intelligence” Clubs were expanded to 7 communities facilitated by community and school psychologists with activities centered on self-awareness, effective communication, control of emotions, and in interpretive theater

“Sunny” Child Development Corner, a room in the local kindergarten with development toys, games and bright learning environment, established in Sarnaghbyur, Shirak.
COAF’S CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

20 VILLAGES
5 REGIONS
3052 BENEFICIARIES
30 LOCAL SPECIALISTS HIRED AND TRAINED

100% of children overcame their speech and learning difficulties.
COAF SPACES

**EDUCATION**

ARAGATSAVAN - Creativity Lab, Auditorium
ARTENI - School & Gym Renovation, Creativity Lab
BENIAMIN - English Language Classroom
DALARIK - School Renovation
DSEGH - Creativity Lab, Art Studio
GETASHEN - School Renovation, Creativity Lab
HATSIK - School Renovation, Creativity Lab, Library, Playground
KARAKERT - 2 Kindergarten Renovations, 2 School & Gym Renovations, Creativity Lab, Art Studio
LERNAGOG - Kindergarten Renovation, School & Gym Renovation, Creativity Lab
MYASNIKYAN - School & Gym Renovation
SARDARAPAT - Creativity Lab
SHENIK - School & Gym Renovation, Playground, Martial Arts Room
TUMANYAN - Creativity Lab
VANAND - Creativity Lab, Gym Renovation
ZORAKAN - Creativity Lab

**HEALTH**

ARAGATSAVAN - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
AREVATSAG - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
ARTENI - Ambulatory, Brushodrome
ARCHIS - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
BAGARAN - Health Post
BERDAVAN - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
BENIAMIN - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
BENIAMIN - Health Post
DALARIK - Ambulatory, Cafeteria & Brushodrome
DEBET - Cafeteria & Brushodrome
DEBET - Health Post
DSEGH - Health Post, Cafeteria & Brushodrome

**SOCIAL & COMMUNITY**

ARAGATSAVAN - Playground
ARTENI - Playground
ARGINA - Playground, Community Hall
AKORI - “Sunny” Child Development Corner
BENIAMIN - Playground
BERDAVAN - “Sunny” Child Development Corner
COAF SPACES

DALARIK - Playground
DEBET - Playground
DZORAGYUGH - Playground
LANJIK - Playground
KARAKERT - Playground, Public Park, Community Center, Child Development Center
MYASNIKYAN - Child Development Center
SARNAGHBYUR - Child Development Corner
SHENIK - Playground
VANAND - Playground
YERVANDASHAT - Playground

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ARAGATSAVAN - Road, Irrigation Water Network
ARTENI - Machinery Park
DALARIK - Irrigation Water Network
MYASNIKYAN - Irrigation Water Network
KARAKERT - Technical Water Network, Water Pump
YERVANDASHAT - New Water Reservoir

COAF SMART INITIATIVE

AKORI - SMART Room
AREVATSAG - SMART Room
AYGEHOVIT - SMART Safe Room
DSEGH - SMART Room
KARINJ - SMART Room
KOTI - SMART Safe Room
METS AYRUM - SMART Room
LORI - SMART Center
TUMANYAN - SMART Room
COAF SMART

25K SQUARE FOOT BUILDING

$5M SPENT

50 ACRE CAMPUS

70+ VOLUNTEERS

1000+ GUESTS
COAF SMART Programs

COAF SMART’s holistic approach to rural revitalization focuses on providing modern technological resources through programs that encourage idea collaboration through education. COAF SMART Center curriculum emphasizes novel teaching techniques, leveraging both project-based and action-based learning. COAF SMART offerings target all ages, with a concentration on the 3-35 age group. The COAF SMART model is designed to be replicated throughout Armenia.

COAF SMART Campus includes a Concept Hotel, with 12 rooms en suite, nestled into a green meadow just east of the Center. This serves as lodging for visiting professionals and lecturers, COAF team members conducting work in the field, as well as tourists and other guests. The Guest House also contributes to local economic development, creating jobs for local residents by training them in hospitality and tourism services.

In addition to the SMART Center, COAF SMART (Safe) Rooms in the communities of Lori and Tavush regions are satellite locations that offer programs and serve as locations for community and other projects.

Impact

COAF SMART Center is COAF’s largest investment since inception. It was made possible through contributions of COAF’s donors who supported in this novel concept of rural development.

The COAF Smart programs launched on July 2, 2018, and two programmatic circuits were finished by December 2018 with a presentation of the completed projects.

“SMART connects” learning format was launched at COAF SMART Center as a platform for exceptional speakers to bring their stories to COAF SMART.

Both COAF Classic and COAF SMART programs, including Robotics club, Legos, and English language learning with Rosetta Stone, were implemented at COAF SMART (Safe) Rooms. Overall, more than 2000 activities were held with around 3000 participating children.

Koti’s Lego robotics club participated in the World Robot Olympiad’s national level. In addition, they learned to work in LabView environment organized by Armenian National Engineering Laboratories.

“To recognize wisdom and guidance” intellectual game was held in COAF SMART Spaces.
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CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS

JENNIFER ANISTON
MATTHEW BRODERICK
LEONARDO DICAPRIO
PATRICIA FIELD
CHER

VICTOR GARBER
ARIANA GRANDE
SEAN HAYES
TOM HANKS
CHRIS ROCK

KHLOE KARDASHIAN
NATHAN LANE
ANDREA MARTIN
HENRIK MKHITARYAN
STEPHANIE SEYMOUR

CONAN O’BRIAN
ALEXIS OHANIAN
TONY SHAFRAZIAN
MARTIN SHORT
JOHN STAMOS

SERJ TANKIAN
USHER
VANESSA WILLIAMS
THE BOARD

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Vartan Gregorian, *PhD, Trustee Emeritus*
Nora Nercessian, *PhD*
Craig Winter, *Teracom Networks*
SMART Center Spaces 34% $1,383,652
SMART Initiatives 22% $904,658
Education Programs 12% $510,873
Health Programs 7% $270,515
Child and Family Support Programs 6% $268,670
Management and General 8% $322,719

Total Income in 2018 $3,661,087

$3,537,110

INCOME IN 2018

Children of Armenia Fund - 2018 Annual Report
$4,325,623
TOTAL RAISED