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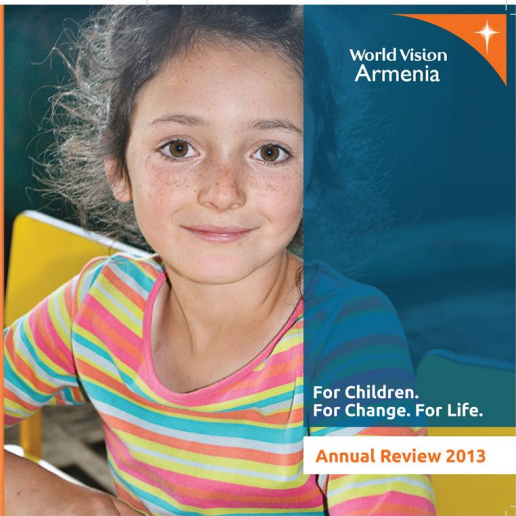
www.wvi.org/armenia



World Vision
Armenia

For Children.
For Change. For Life.

Annual Review 2013





Dear Friends,

2013 has been a year of transitions for World Vision in the South Caucasus; transition into a new leadership structure with shared services and a sharpened and strategic outlook. Through the extraordinary work of dedicated and motivated people, we overcame many challenges and changes while remaining focused on the well-being of children and the communities where they live.

This year's highlights presented in this report bear witness to our efforts to: educate children for life, keep them safe, healthy and protected while also building livelihoods and in healing broken hearts for a more hopeful future. We are thankful to the 27,607 regular sponsors in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Taiwan as well as institutional donors whose faithful commitment contributed towards these achievements.

Overall, World Vision's 2013 total operational budget in Armenia exceeded \$14 million (USD) which has been invested to transform the lives of nearly 468,108 people, including 184,139 children and youth, in some of the most remote and disadvantaged communities in Armenia.

In 2014, we will build on World Vision's greatest asset - over 227 committed staff with a passion for children who are determined to embrace the organisational changes to grow and deepen impact of World Vision's work on the well-being of Armenia's children! I am encouraged to be surrounded by such a dynamic, creative and resourceful group of people, as well as committed partners inside and outside of World Vision.

Sincerely,
Hans Bederski
World Vision South Caucasus National Director



World Vision is a Christian, child focused and community-based organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

World Vision aspires for a world where children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours and where children are cared for, protected and participating.



World Vision Armenia's
overarching goal

**Armenia – home
for children and
youth living
with hope and
dignity**

Child Vulnerabilities:



370,000
children live in poverty



14
out of every 1,000 newborn babies
die before reaching age of five



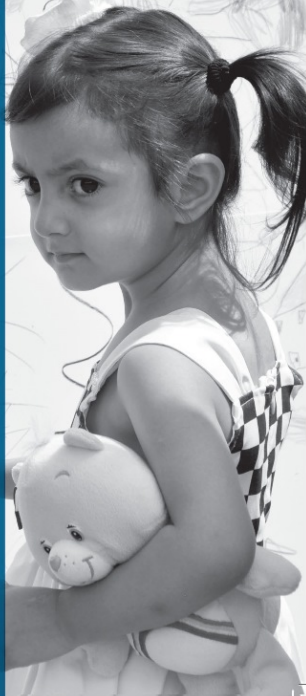
5,000
children live in institutions, while
most of them are just social orphans



18%
of children with disabilities are out
of school



20%
of children under 5 are affected by
chronic under-nutrition





World Vision in Armenia – Our Story in 2013

We continued to bring positive changes in Armenia in 2013 through our Area Development Programmes (ADPs), long-term multi-sectorial programmes.

World Vision Armenia targeted actions:

Child Protection

Education

Health

Economic Development

13

ADPs operate in six marzes of Armenia and Yerevan

240

communities served

32,586

children are direct beneficiaries of World Vision Armenia projects

468,108

people are direct beneficiaries of World Vision Armenia projects



Child protection

Child protection is key area for World Vision, which includes a range of activities, from policy-level recommendations for change to grassroots initiatives. We work at all levels to build capacity and empower everyone involved, directly or indirectly, in child protection.

Through all this, our goal is to make sure that children grow-up in loving families and safe communities, where they receive adequate care and their rights are respected and protected. As part of this work, up to 205 children were reunited with their families, and another 699 avoided institutionalization.

Most of our activities in this area involve children directly; many of them are initiated by children themselves. Children participate in training sessions and then organise campaigns and activities to address community issues including child rights and protection as well as environmental issues and topics such as healthy living.

16-year-old Mariam, from the village of Yeghipatrush, is one of the 30 students who regularly attend the newly-opened Christian classroom in her community school. "Thanks to the Sunday school I am thoroughly acquainted with my church and its history," explains Mariam. "Now I am quite well aware of the Holy Bible, its main tenets, structure, and the Word of God."

Anahit Kocharyan, a volunteer teacher at the Yeghipatrush Christian classroom, says that the children are not idle listeners. "We often engage in healthy debates. Children not only ask many questions, but also actively discuss the topics and express their ideas and opinions."

World Vision also aims to develop the spiritual world of the children of Armenia through a number of Christian education projects. Three new Sunday Schools joined World Vision's network in 2013, increasing the total number to 42.

In close partnership with the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Sunday Schools not only hold spiritual classes, they also offer a variety of recreational activities where children can learn arts and crafts: like embroidery, carpet weaving, painting and others skills, as well as attend computer classes, drama clubs and puppet shows. The schools often become a meeting place for all community members, where they can interact and build healthier and closer relationships.

World Vision also organises Christian summer camps, where thousands of children from the most vulnerable communities benefit from comfortable accommodations, healthy and nutritious food and a variety of recreational and learning activities.

Active children and young people initiated 184 mini-projects in 2013, involving more than 2, 000 of their peers

162 communities benefited from social worker services

568 child protection actors were trained in 2013

3,332 children attended World Vision's summer camps in 2013

19,380 children participated in spiritual education initiatives in 2013

Satik, 15, and Oksanna, 15, are both part of a group of 50 active schoolchildren from three communities who were trained by World Vision during the summer of 2013.

They learned about children's rights and how to act in case of child abuse or other violations of their rights. They also had the opportunity to meet local government representatives and the head of their provincial government.

"We prepared a questionnaire to find out more about the types of child rights violations and violence against children taking place in our community. Most of the respondents answered that child beating is not an example of violence, but rather a method of upbringing," says Satik. "We realised that we need to teach the people in our community what we learned during the training. We have to organise meetings with parents, so that they also understand what violence against children is and learn about children's rights," she adds.

"Before the creation of this team, we didn't pay attention to what was happening around us. Now, we keep an eye on all the children, so that no one violates their rights. We also work with the Guardianship and Trusteeship Committee, and we discover cases of child rights violation and address them during Committee meetings," says Oksanna.

Educating Future Generations

We believe that a quality education translates into better opportunities, economic security and professional growth later in life. It also gives children the ability to think independently, make good judgments and take measured actions as future leaders and responsible citizens. World Vision remains committed to equal access to education for all children, increased vocational training opportunities and the development of preschool education.

In 2013, our evaluation of five special residential schools revealed a number of violations and our recommendations to the Ministry of Education were incorporated in the proposed law on "Mainstream Education," which guarantees equal educational opportunities to all children.

Our work in a number of communities helps to improve conditions and provide better education to children through renovation of schools and kindergartens and the donation of furniture, educational materials, laboratory equipment and developmental games. World Vision also organises workshops for teachers on modern teaching methods and child-friendly educational approaches.

The extracurricular activities organised by World Vision include sports, music, arts and crafts, as well as computer and robotic clubs.

The ART project (Children are Aware, Raising Voice and Taking Action) involves children and youth between the ages of 14 and 22 years old. They participate in workshops on leadership, problem solving skills, communication and human relations. Then they put their new knowledge into practice, creating change in their communities through environmental, cultural, sports and educational projects.

World Vision also provides career orientation and vocational training for children and youth, including classes in hairdressing, tailoring, accounting, baking and food carving. As a result, these young people have a better chance at earning a living for themselves later in life. We also educate children about the positive and negative sides of the Internet, in order to protect them from cyber bullying and other online dangers.



An important component of World Vision's education programme was the creation of a network of school student councils in the Syunik Region. The network allows students to: partner across schools, organise joint events as well as shared experiences, knowledge and resources. It has become a useful resource for solving problems at schools and in communities. World Vision has trained the student council network representatives on social media, blogging and social networks. They have now created their own newspaper, blog and social network page.

Our work with schools has also focused on preparedness training. With World Vision's support, 10 schools developed disaster risk reduction plans in 2013, ensuring a safer environment for the children they serve. We have also responded to the specific education needs of Syrian-Armenian refugee children, who need to be integrated into the Armenian education system. World Vision organized a two-month summer school for 60 such children, better preparing them for the school year ahead.

Vardan is a 14-year-old boy from Gavar, located near the largest lake in Armenia. He was a participant in a workshop organised as part of the ART project.

After three days of discussions, he and the rest of his group formed an action plan focusing on environmental issues. "The pollution of Lake Sevan is an immense issue. Some people do not understand this. They litter the territory around the lake, throw garbage into the water and cut trees. All of this has a very bad impact on the environment in general," says Vardan. "We can organise seminars and educate people about the risks caused by such behaviour, so that they are better informed and do not damage the environment."



3,392 children and youngsters were involved in life skills development initiatives and 1,084 children and youth gained important skills to be prepared for emergency situations



A Healthy Childhood

The core areas for World Vision's health interventions in Armenia include: the prevention of infectious diseases, improving access to health services and promoting proper care and nutrition. We advocate for increased healthcare financing, with a specific focus on primary health care.

Two of our proposed legislative reforms provide alternative sources for health financing, including increased tobacco excise taxes and allocation of environmental taxes for healthcare purposes. Our experts run workshops for parents and caregivers on child health and nutrition. They encourage mothers to include more locally grown fruits and vegetables in their children's diet. These are relatively inexpensive, but are a good source of nutrients and vitamins.

Continuous labour migration to countries with higher rates of HIV and AIDS, combined with a lack of knowledge about HIV transmission, prevention and treatment, put many families and children at risk of contracting HIV. In order to promote awareness about this danger, in 2013 World Vision organised workshops and educational activities for migrants and their families, children and youth as well as the media and general public.

178 primary health care providers updated their knowledge on the management of child illnesses

1,005 parents and caregivers learned about child health and nutrition, and 588 mothers gained knowledge on exclusive breastfeeding

165 community members and civil society organisations were engaged in the monitoring of healthcare services

1,116 people participated in seminars on migration and HIV and AIDS



When the medical centre in Talin received an Electronic Fetal Heart Monitor, it changed the way the town's women experience pregnancy. The equipment, installed through a partnership with Monitis GFI, allowed 300 of future mothers at the hospital to hear their child's heartbeat during their regular pregnancy checkups. The device is portable, which allows personnel to perform the procedure even outside the hospital, increasing the number of mothers and children who benefit from this procedure.

Previously, only ten major hospitals, most of which are located in the capital Yerevan, had similar equipment. Such screening allows the early diagnosis and treatment of health problems in the expected children. "I had no way of hearing my first baby's heartbeat and that, of course, used to worry me a lot until the day I gave birth. Now, with this fetal monitoring, I am sure that my baby's heart is all right, and that he is developing normally," said a 23-year old mother, who is expecting her second child.



Promoting Family Prosperity

Given that more than 41 per cent of children in Armenia live below the poverty line, and 4.7 per cent of children live in extreme poverty, economic development remains one of the most important areas of intervention for World Vision. Economic development projects help parents take better care of their children and provide a higher standard of living.

We implement the majority of these projects in rural communities, where the population is mainly engaged in low-productivity subsistence agriculture. World Vision supports and promotes value chains in the communities by creating opportunities for local producers to meet current market needs. We educate farmers on innovative agricultural technologies and provide them with livestock and assets to promote the diversification of agricultural products and the cultivation of non-traditional crops.

1,323 households, among them the most vulnerable ones, were involved in economic development initiatives

Clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items and other goods worth more than 1,650,144\$ (USD) were donated to vulnerable families through World Vision in 2013

1,055 farmers were trained in new technologies as well as financial and credit literacy in 2013

409 agricultural households applied modern agricultural techniques and improved the efficiency of their methods in 2013

In 2013, the residents of the villages of Arpunk and Kut gained access to clean drinking water. "We used to carry water for almost a kilometre to bring it home," remembers 14-year-old Tigran.

"My brother and I argued every day over who had to go and fetch water from the spring." The old pipes were rusty and dilapidated, resulting in dirty water, often causing various infections.

The residents of these communities now have access to good quality drinking water just a short walk from their homes. According to the village nurse, the number of stomach infections was significantly reduced after the construction of the new water-supply system.

A Culture of Giving

World Vision began local fundraising activities in 2011, aiming to promote the participation of the corporate sector and other stakeholders in addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities and improving the economic situations of vulnerable families.

Our success stories on this front grew in 2013. The Boryan Brothers Museum and the Cultural Centre reopened in Tchambarak in October, 2013, with the support of the Cronimet Charity Foundation. Monitis GFI also worked with World Vision to provide modern weight and height meters for babies and children in six rural health posts.

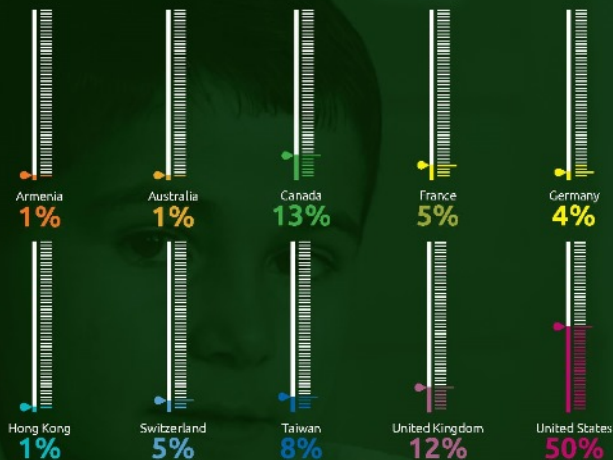
The German Embassy in Yerevan also supported a walkathon that raised funds for the construction of a mini football pitch in Tsovak. Finally, we worked throughout the year with the Orange Foundation, fundraising donations through SMS from thousands of Orange mobile customers in order to return 20 children from residential institutions to their families.





**Financial Report
2013**

World Vision Funds



Total Operational budget for FINACIAL YEAR 2013 was \$14,285,907 (USD)

Total by Funding Source



Our supporters and partners help make this possible

USAID
UNICEF
The European Union
German Embassy in Yerevan
Save the Children
Ministry of Education and Science
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Coordination Center for Syrian-Armenian Issues
Orange Foundation and Orange Armenia
Cronimet Charity Foundation
Monit's CFI
Armenian Apostolic Church
Ministry of Health
Ministry of the Diaspora



