



World Vision  
Armenia

CHILD  
HEALTH  
NOW  
Supporting children's health  
and development

# Annual Review 2011



With the continuing economic crises and the shrinking budgets, poverty has increased in Armenia. In 2011, a new Strategy was designed to enable World Vision Armenia to contribute to improving child well-being given the current economic downturn. With the new Strategy we are looking at both the target of 110,000 children in Armenia being directly impacted by World Vision's work, and at over 800,000 children and youth indirectly impacted by World Vision's advocacy work across specific ministry lines focusing on economic development, healthcare, education and child protection.

Economic development is a major drive for us over the next few years. We will start looking at value chains more profoundly to make a tangible impact on two issues - increased income in families and job access. Those are two questions that came up in our focus group discussions across Armenia.

Currently World Vision has eleven Area Development Programmes (ADPs) operating in Yerevan and six regions (marzes) of Armenia. However, we are trying to target the remote areas of Armenia by further expanding in the countryside. It is more of a challenge and logistically difficult as the model is not always suitable for some of these areas with scattered populations. Yet, as we are mandated to work with the most vulnerable children these ADPs will be targeting the Chambarak and Amasia areas, where no international organisation has worked since the earthquake in 1988.

We do not only single-handedly identify the priorities for ADPs and try to address them, but we also bring together local governments and other stakeholders to work on these issues. We are also looking at the available local resources to turn them into value chains - that is our approach of working with communities.

World Vision Armenia's overarching goal reads: "Armenia - home for children and youth living with hope and dignity" - that is what Armenian children need - the hope that the government is going to move in the right direction, that the economy is going to improve and that they will live with dignity.

I am really optimistic that a movement forward will occur in the next few years. Let us all be encouraged to keep looking at that horizon.



Graham Strong  
National Director  
World Vision Armenia



## HEALTHCARE ISSUES IN ARMENIA

Residents in rural areas of Armenia experience a very different level of healthcare to those living in towns and cities. Because of vast discrepancy in access to healthcare, lack of medical workers and shortage of ambulances, residents do not receive even a basic level of medical care and disease prevention; they have no access to healthcare in an emergency or for routine checkups and screenings.

"Doctors avoid visiting small-size rural area health units, and I just want to know how area development projects and health reforms are supposed to work in my community where residents have no opportunity for narrow specialist referral," said Martun Armenyan from Stepanavan.

"Transport issues play a much larger role in health care exclusion in my area. Considering the number of communities served by one family doctor at a time and the distance between the communities, the lack of ambulance in our ambulatory care affects our family doctor service delivery both in terms of quality and availability," explained Alaverdi area resident Garnik Mnatsakanyan.

More alarming, a shortage of pediatricians is hurting Armenian children, especially those living on the peripheries of the country. A World Vision-funded study, initiated as part of Child Health Now campaign, reveals that every second child from the country's rural areas who needs hospital care dies within 24 hours after hospitalisation due to various problems related to both human and physical resources. The number of pediatricians and narrow pediatric specialists has been steadily decreasing since 1990. As of now, there are 694 practicing pediatricians and narrow pediatric specialists in Armenia compared to 2,000 back in 1990. According to the research, currently very few new graduates specialise in pediatrics and during the last five years no pediatrician was referred to any region of Armenia after graduation.

Approximately 582,640 children, or 27% of the child population, reside in areas greatly lacking pediatric resources, where the ratio of children to physicians can reach 2,400 children per doctor.

## I AM A CHILD - DO NOT LET MY HEART FAIL

Ani was born with a congenital heart defect and despite her young age she already has a solid record of referrals and medication usage. Since she was just five months of age she has had to constantly fight for her health. By the time Ani was two-and-a-half her health had gradually deteriorated - she had trouble gaining weight, was constantly groaning, became tired easily and had frequent lung problems. Each time Ani was referred to local doctors with health complaints, she would be diagnosed with pneumonia and had to take the same medications. When the subsequent treatment proved to be ineffective, Ani's mother, Aida, decided to take her daughter to Yerevan for further diagnosis.

"I didn't know what else to do, Ani was so young and yet so ill. The treatment applied in Gyumri never really helped my child. I lost every hope and was in despair," recalled Aida, 36.

In Yerevan Ani was diagnosed with Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA); this heart defect often closes on its own and can be readily treatable. Left untreated, however, a PDA can cause heart failure. Ani was referred to doctors in Yerevan with major complications and that is why her heart surgery could no longer be delayed.

"My child has suffered so much because of poor diagnoses. It is unbearable to think that I could have lost Ani had we stayed in Gyumri back then," said Aida.

The operation done in Yerevan was successful and currently doctors evaluate Ani's condition as satisfactory, however doctors detected arrhythmia - an irregular heartbeat. Now Ani has to undergo

*limited availability of doctors and lack of ambulances are still key issues for residents of Armenia's regions*

*the ratio of children to physicians can reach 2,400 children per doctor in the rural areas of Armenia*

*medical establishments in the regions of Armenia are low in capacity and have truly obsolete diagnostic equipment*

regular check-ups with Holter monitoring in Yerevan, as the examination is not currently available in Gyumri. The associated costs of monitoring, transportation and accommodation in Yerevan far exceed the family's resources.

Aida recalled, "Once I was on my way home in public transport. I remember a woman in the same bus talking to someone about World Vision. She was sharing her positive experience with the organisation and her story was some kind of promise for my child to get her Holter tests."

The same day Aida applied to World Vision's Area Development Programme in Gyumri and received the much-needed support. World Vision has been covering all the expenses related to regular Holter monitoring and transportation to Yerevan since Ani's surgery. Furthermore, Aida has been enrolled in the educational sessions delivered by World Vision in Gyumri.

"My family's experience with the healthcare in Gyumri is unfortunate. Yet I want the day to come when people living in Gyumri can equally benefit from healthcare reforms and optimisation programmes undertaken in Armenia. I want our local hospital to be equipped up to the standards and healthcare services to be affordable and of high quality. I believe that with the current developments and knowledge, our children also have the right to be healthy," said Aida.

**Discrepancies** result from the differences in the quality of healthcare services, distribution and capacity of medical human resources, clinics' sanitary and physical conditions and availability of equipment at clinics. This problem is partly pronounced in the functionality of the emergency transportation system for neonatal and other pediatric cases, and its failure has a drastic impact on whether a child lives or dies.

**Out-of-pocket payments** have created barriers to access health services when people need them and explain why the poorest cannot yet receive the care they need, despite the improved access to healthcare in general.

The World Vision-funded research suggests that the government must develop a human resources strategy to replace doctors to meet children's needs, as well as develop key determinants for the training of pediatricians and their retention.



## THE LAUNCH OF CHILD HEALTH CERTIFICATE STATE PROGRAMME

A new Child Health Certificate State Programme in Armenia aims to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare for children, as well as to reduce child deaths in hospitals and eliminate shadow payments in the healthcare system.

The Child Health Certificate Programme was initiated by the Ministry of Health of Armenia and supported by World Vision through its global Child Health Now campaign, as well as by UNICEF and USAID funded grant programmes. By taking concrete steps such as reimbursing the cost of hospital services provided to children under seven and doubling the salaries of medical workers, the programme promises to reinforce and sustain early initiatives in the areas of maternal and child health.

The Child Health State Certificate will be provided to every child under seven either in polyclinics where the child is registered or in maternity hospitals, together with the Child Health Passport, which includes detailed information and guidance about breastfeeding, child nutrition, an immunisation calendar and child safety issues.

## ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS 4 AND 5

Since launching its Child Health Now campaign in early 2010, World Vision Armenia has been one of the leading organizations, keeping the urgent issues of maternal and child healthcare in public discourse and contributing to their greater attention in Armenia.

To catalyze the voice of civil society actors, World Vision Armenia has brought together 44 NGOs to form the Mother and Child Health Armenian Alliance.

The Alliance seeks to influence national healthcare policy makers through advocacy campaigns. The goals are to increase State expenses on healthcare, improve health policies and promote state policies on breastfeeding in Armenia. As a result, the government of Armenia has recently announced an investment of 7bn AMD (US\$18.13 million) to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for children, especially in the rural and marginalised communities where under-five mortality rates are almost twice as high as among urban populations.

This investment will help achieve the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, aiming to reduce child and maternal mortality, and will address the needs for more medical personnel and proper facilities.

## NURTURING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN THROUGH MOTHER SUPPORT GROUPS

In light of the overall level of awareness in the rural areas of Armenia and because of socio-economic hurdles, not every family can afford a well-balanced diet to ensure a child's healthy physical and cognitive development. Anemia is by far the most common deficiency found in many children in Armenia.

World Vision trains community Mother Support Groups on child nutrition, hygiene, immunisation and physical development with this bridging the gap between the lack of awareness and the should-be practices of nutrition and care in the regions of Armenia. During the training World Vision encourages mothers to give locally-grown vegetables and fruits to their children, including pumpkin and other iron-rich food like beans and greens, which are especially important when the family is unable to purchase meat and include it in the regular diet.

Mother Support Groups conduct sessions on how to grow their own vegetables at home and provide recipes on how to prepare nutritious meals with iron-rich produce. The training participants become peer educators to ensure good nutrition and care practices in their communities. They also work with school-age children and teach them about healthy lifestyles, sexual health and HIV/AIDS.

**Child Health Certificate State Programme aims to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare for children**

**some 7bn AMD (US\$18.13 million) was injected to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for children in Armenia**

**World Vision trains community Mother Support Groups on child nutrition, hygiene, immunisation and physical development**

**World Vision's HIV prevention work is part of its broad health programming**

### **WE CAN BRING HIV INFECTIONS DOWN**

According to healthcare officials, since January 2011, 165 people living in Armenia have been diagnosed HIV positive. This rounded out the 1,136 cases of HIV observed in the country since 1988. Some 332 people living with HIV in Armenia are women and 22 are children. Reportedly 127 women and 11 children are living with AIDS.

The most at-risk among the population are migrants who seek work outside of Armenia and then return to live in their communities without knowledge of the infection, which they can readily pass on. To combat the situation, World Vision launched the cross-border HIV Mobility project with the purpose to prevent HIV among job migrants in Armenia. Since 2008, the project has been implemented in ten communities of Lori region, in northern Armenia. The region has the highest numbers of migrant workers and is home to 106 people registered with HIV, including five children. Intensive training is provided in all target communities and a vast number of learning resources are developed.

Within the HIV Mobility project World Vision partners with the Church, the government, non-governmental organisations and other companies to combat stigma and share best practices in fighting HIV. Information about counseling, anonymous testing and treatment – lifesaving antiretroviral therapy are all widely communicated to the public.

World Vision's HIV prevention work is part of its broad health programming to ensure all children are not only protected, but also enjoy good health towards fullness of life.

### **SAFE MOTHERHOOD, HEALTHY CHILDHOOD GRANT PROJECT**

Safe Motherhood, Healthy Childhood focuses on monitoring the quality of performance of health care providers and capacity building of ADP staff and the project stakeholders in districts.

ADP staff, Community Based Organisation (CBO) and community members received significant capacity building on different aspects of ADP health programming and primary health care provision; grassroot level health care providers participated at different awareness raising and capacity building events that took place at national and district levels.

### **HEALTH FOR FAMILIES – HAPPINESS FOR ALL GRANT PROJECT**

Health for Families - Happiness for All aims to improve the health status of families in the communities of three regions of Armenia (29 villages of Syunik region, 20 villages of Tavush region, and nine villages of Lori region), as well as promote community-based reproductive health, disease prevention and integrated family care and to empower communities and families to advocate for and demand improved quality of primary health care services.

Extensive seminars on child care, family planning/contraception, safe motherhood for pregnant women and women of reproductive age were conducted.

## PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

World Vision organised a series of business tours for high school students and provided vocational classes to teens living in a children's institution, to help them have a better understanding of job opportunities within Armenia and to get them thinking about possible future professions.

Children visited different organisations, including governmental establishments, World Vision Armenia's National Office, UNICEF and Save the Children. They also visited manufacturing companies like SHEN, Asoghik printing house, Mankan toy factory and TOSP sewing company to further explore each profession.

Vocational classes for teens living in a children's institution in Yerevan will give the youth valuable skills to help them find meaningful employment and greater hope for the future.

Classrooms for hairdressing, sewing, bead work, batik painting and cookery have been fully equipped with all the necessary materials to provide quality training for the residents of the institution and also children from the wider community who are from socially vulnerable families.

This was an urgent need since children in institutions not only lack family support but also face prejudice in society. They lack confidence in their own abilities, sufficient life skills and guidance to help them manage the challenges of adulthood. Vocational classrooms strive to fill these gaps and equip these children with the knowledge and skills to be integrated into society and protect themselves from various forms of exploitation.

## ARMENIAN STUDENTS START BUSINESS AND GAIN CONFIDENCE FOR FUTURE

Applied Economics might not be a subject that excites every school student but for teenagers in Mets Ayrum Community in Armenia's Alaverdi region, this new school course has provided a new perspective on gaining future employment and the possibility of staying in their isolated, struggling community.

At age 14, Manane is very aware that money doesn't "grow on trees" and earning an income in her hometown, is especially tough. When World Vision introduced a new Applied Economics subject in her school, it suddenly opened doors that never existed for her and other youths here.

Manane wants to change her life not only because of the high level of unemployment in her community but also because it is very hard for young people to live in this isolated border village where little has changed in decades. Encouragingly, change is happening amongst the students – particularly for Manane and students from the high school who participated in Applied Economics classes.

Together with Junior Achievements NGO, World Vision organised the course in seven community schools within Alaverdi region believing this to be a solid opportunity to educate students for their future life while choosing a profession and earning a living. World Vision wants the children to become confident in their own capacity and to understand that they are able to earn a living on their own merit and without anyone else's support.

The Basics of Economics, Starting a Business, Finance and the Stock Market were included in a four-month-course, taught by the respective school teachers. "The course is very important for the students as it is based on real samples from our everyday life, and it prepares the children for a more aware and set adulthood," said Siranoush Tsukhumyan, the teacher of Applied Economy in Mets Ayrum School.

*World Vision organises business tours and provides vocational classes for children*

*World Vision wants children to become confident in their own capacity*

**70-80% of cyber bullying in Armenia is carried out via social networks**

**6,800 school age children with special needs were registered in Armenia in 2010; only 1,500 of them receive mainstream education**

## CYBER GENERATION IN ARMENIA SURFS AWAY FROM ONLINE PITFALLS

World Vision's support of safer Internet usage in Armenia, across Eastern Europe and in the Middle East is one component of its efforts to ensure all children are cared for, protected and participating in their communities. Through its Keeping Children Safe Online project, World Vision aims to positively influence children's online behaviour and raise awareness about the reality of cyber-bullying and other online threats.

A significant number of children in Armenia are putting themselves in danger while making uninhibited online friends. Police in Armenia report that 70-80% of cyber bullying is carried out via social networks. All too often, parents are completely unaware of how their children are spending time online and what the risks are.

To give parents and teachers a better understanding of these risks, World Vision is providing training courses in six regions across Armenia. Moreover, World Vision conducts training sessions in 22 schools of Armenia, targeting 2,200 students.

The Safe Internet website was created to offer alternative learning and entertainment resources for children. It also offers a Hot Line service to allow children to report online threats, abusive remarks or pejorative labels. The service provides children with socio-psychological assistance and is linked to the Cyber Crime Department of the Police.

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION – A POWERFUL TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

For years low expectations and the challenges of finding capable assistance have created barriers for children with special needs enrolled in the school system in Armenia. Children with disabilities were the last to receive attention, while allowing them to attend schools and be present at lessons was perceived as "good will" on behalf of school staff.

In 1996, a law on integrating disabled children into mainstream schools was passed in Armenia, however years on children with special needs are still being hidden away at home, without the chance of growing up with aspirations and opportunities like every other child, to make mistakes or succeed just like their able-bodied peers. Children with special needs in the country are still left out of mainstream education.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of Armenia, 6,800 school age children with special needs were registered in Armenia in 2010; only 1,500 of them were enrolled in 63 inclusive schools and receive mainstream education.

There are two underlying causes that prevent parents from taking their disabled children to school – first, parents are not ready to integrate their children into society and secondly, the physical condition and accessibility of the educational institutions, which are far below par, cannot accommodate these children.

World Vision, partnering with six Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) in Armenia's four regions, promoted the inclusion of children with special needs into mainstream education. This created vast opportunities for children with disabilities who might otherwise never be able to go to school. World Vision also examined and supported the accessibility of schools and the academic methods applied.

Awareness-raising training is conducted in schools and kindergartens by World Vision to trigger change in the attitude of teachers, students and parents towards the rights of children with special needs and their access to education. Publications that focus on issues confronted by children have been designed and distributed.

## ADVOCATES OF CHANGE

Students from the impoverished Kansker-Zeytun community in Armenia's capital are raising issues important to them and keeping their community authorities accountable through the *Magnifier*, a student-produced newspaper supported by World Vision.

World Vision Armenia has been supporting the newspaper Initiative through its Yerevan ADR, beginning last winter when the students received extensive training in basic journalistic skills. Later they also participated in a number of master classes led by famous Armenian journalists.

The *Magnifier* is covering the realisation of students' rights, creation of a safe and clean environment for children, protection of children with special needs, and the creation of leisure opportunities. As the students are predominantly active members of the student councils in their schools, they also actively communicate the needs and achievements of youngsters in school.

Students not only write about the vital issues in their community, but also ask for meetings with community authorities to share their concerns.

## PROTECTING ARMENIA'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN

While the child protection system operating on the national, regional and community levels has contributed to the protection of vulnerable children in Armenia since its inception, the interrelation and cooperation between the three levels have often let the system and vulnerable children down.

"One paid social worker in each community" is a critical step in an action plan that World Vision has proposed to improve the child protection system in Armenia. Recommendations made to field authorities will build upon improvements in prevention and early detection activities in the country's three-tier child protection system.

The main problem for Guardianship and Trusteeship Committees, which deliver community level child protection, is the low levels of detection. It cannot fully function due to the scarcity of resources and lack of relevant specialists. There are no social workers engaged in the Committees, which makes these bodies alienated from vulnerable children in communities.

World Vision has already trained and currently supports 22 community-based social workers in Alaverdi and Stepanavan cities of Lori region.

"Social workers hired with the support of World Vision are very effective and help both prevent and detect cases of child's rights violation. By doing so, they provide well-rounded information about vulnerable children in their communities. Social workers are integrated into Guardianship and Trusteeship Committees and back the child protection system in communities of Armenia's northern region", said Narek Sargsyan, the head of Lori region's Family, women and children rights protection department.

*students keep their community authorities accountable through the Magnifier, a student-produced newspaper*

*"one paid social worker in each community" is a critical step in an action plan that World Vision has proposed to improve the child protection system in Armenia*

## YOUTH IN INSTITUTIONS CLIMB THE 'TOP OF THE WORLD'

More than 1,790 children in Armenia are spending their childhood inside residential care institutions – also known as orphanages – because their parents do not have the financial resources or skills to care for them at home. Social pressures also force single mothers to abandon their infants, and even more alarmingly stigma can drive parents of children with disabilities to place their son or daughter into care.

For these children, there are few opportunities to learn new skills and broaden their horizon beyond the institution walls. For most, a hiking trip is out of reach, let alone the chance to climb a mountain. But 14 children aged 14 to 18 from residential institutions across the country were given the chance to do just that in September 2011. With World Vision's support, the children climbed Armenia's highest mountain – Mount Aragats (13,419 ft), proving to themselves and the rest of the country that they are determined, capable and deserving of equal opportunity.

Adult and child participants set out to not only reach the summit, but to draw attention to child rights issues in the country. They asked the government to be more caring and thoughtful towards children and to strengthen the existing Child Protection System at the community, regional and state level. And they called on the government to invest more in the country's health care system citing statistics such as 400 infants die every year in Armenia due to preventable causes.

*more than 1,790 children in Armenia are spending their childhood inside residential care institutions*

## KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES FOR WORLD VISION ARMENIA

- ✦ Improved efficiency of operation of three-tier Child Protection System - specifically lobbying for recruitment of a paid social worker at the community level.
- ✦ Improvement in legislation regulating and/or related to child protection sector of Armenia and its enforcement.
- ✦ Improvement of alternative systems of care for children in especially difficult circumstances. In particular, advocacy around consistent follow up of commitments under the National Action Plan for 2004-2015, including reallocation of existing resources or finding more cost-effective models of alternative care.
- ✦ Improved efficiency of deinstitutionalisation efforts. Mainly, advocacy around alternative funding models for institutions' governance and administration to reduce incentives of institutions for having more children. Also, advocacy around improved prevention of institutionalisation.

## TOOLS IMPLEMENTED TO REACH ADVOCACY TARGETS

- ✦ Networking and joining efforts of civil society actors for advocacy around commonly-agreed child protection issues.
- ✦ Fostering relationships with local and international NGOs to bring them into the commonly agreed child protection advocacy issues. Stimulating dialogue between community people and decision makers.

World Vision applies the Citizens' Voice and Action (CV&A) approach on the ADP level, aiming to empower communities, and influence the quality, efficiency and accountability of public services. CV&A helps to strengthen the relationship between citizens and local governments by educating and empowering communities to talk and work with them. Focus group discussions are organised with participation of service providers and service users, i.e. local people, to raise up community issues and find solutions. World Vision actively engages children in community meetings as they are more open to new approaches and ideas and are eager to turn them into action.

## AGRICULTURAL LOANS BRING CHANGE

Farmers in Armenia do not have an easy access to financial resources. The limited number of banks and institutions that offer agricultural loans do not provide options appropriate for different farming activities. But SEF International, World Vision's Microfinance Institution in Armenia, provides agricultural loans tailored to struggling but hardworking farmers like Ararat.

"They offered me a loan at an annual interest rate of 18%. I borrowed some US\$1,500. I was so glad as this amount was enough to buy hay to feed the animals till the pasture season started," explained Ararat.

In the past, Ararat has borrowed from a financial institution that only provided credit to farmers' groups. "It turned out to be a real burden on my shoulders. I was ready to pay back the interest and the principal but the other members of the group delayed the payments," he lamented.

Instead of improving his situation the loan plunged Ararat into deeper problems. To avoid debts and bad credit history in the credit bureau he paid a greater portion of the loan than others.

"The terms offered by SEF International are very favourable. I can borrow money and pay back the principal whenever I have enough extra cash. Though I took this current loan for a two-year period I will pay the money back by October, when the majority of villagers pay me for my services and I have enough cash," explained Ararat.

Ararat intends to use the services of SEF further when again he will need some cash to be able to feed the animals before the pasture season comes. "I like to have some flexibility and apply for the loan when I really need it". "Currently SEF is introducing a new product for farmers – a loan at 14%. This will help them have more financial resources that are so crucial for farming activities," explained Arthur Khachatryan, World Vision's SEF International employee.

World Vision through SEF International is supporting economic development in Yerevan, Sisian, Kapan, Talin, Stepanavan, Goris and Meghri regions in order to help families meet the needs of their children so that they enjoy good health and are educated for life. Almost 97% of SEF clients live in underprivileged communities in World Vision's Area Development Programmes.

## GARBAGE DUMP TO DRIED FRUIT CENTRE

While the 3,800 residents of Arteni village struggle with unemployment, feeding their children and keeping them in school, new hope is stirring with the start of a new community project - a fruit solar drying centre supported by World Vision.

This year Martin and his family sold about 400 kg of fruit through the solar drying centre. For the first time in years, the income generated from the family's orchard not only helped fill the gap in the household budget but also spared the family from having to cut down their precious apricot trees.

"Every spring we used to borrow a lot of money and invest all our time and effort in taking care of the orchard and then during the season we never benefited from the yield; instead our debt used to consistently grow," recalls 32-year old Martin. "This spring we thought about cutting the trees but then the mayor told us about the fruit drying centre and our family decided to wait one more year and see where it takes us," added Martin.

In the past, the villagers would take the plums, grapes, peaches or apricots from their orchards and try to sell them in the markets in Yerevan, the Armenian capital located 90 km away, but because of the long distance or lack of demand, many of them would give up. This daily struggle to put food on the table and meet the most basic of needs is harder than it may sound. Now, they can all take the fruit to the centre to sell it.

**SEF International, World Vision's Microfinance Institution in Armenia, provides agricultural loans tailored to struggling farmers**

**fifty village families are now part of the cooperative created around the fruit solar drying centre**

*water supply remains one of the most serious issues for Armenia despite the country's rich resources of potable water*

*"teacher, I'm late because I had to go and collect water" - used to be a common complaint in Aparan region schools*

## WATER BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO PARCHED VILLAGES

"Teacher, I'm late because I had to go and collect water" - used to be a common complaint in Vardenis community school, until World Vision stepped in and worked with the community to install water pipes in 220 homes in the community in Aragatsotn region.

Water supply remains one of the most serious issues for Armenia despite the country's rich resources of potable water. Water storing especially in rural communities is still a lifestyle for many residents of Armenia. It is a common practice for people to carry water in buckets and tanks from mountainous springs. Moreover, there are communities that are practically waterless having no water springs located nearby.

Thirteen-year-old sponsored child Gayane knows all about being late for school because of being held up to carry water for her family to drink, as well as use for cooking and washing. Gayane recalled, "We would go for water many times a day, as each of us can carry only one bucket. In the winter times it's harder, sometimes we would fall down on the ice and get hurt and dirty; and mom had to clean our clothes as well... I want to share mom's duties; she's always busy with washing, cooking, cleaning and taking care of us. She never has time to have the shortest rest," explained the teen.

Karo Petrosyan, Vardenis community mayor, is also pleased and proud of the results. "I was ashamed to see my villagers - young and adult - carrying heavy buckets over the streets all day long. I asked for help from World Vision to donate water pipes and make the natural water resources accessible to my community," he shared. "Thanks to World Vision our 228 children under 17 have water in their homes. Our community of 220 households has in-house water now."

"None of my classmates are late for school claiming that they had gone for water; it's the same for me. Now I have more time to concentrate on my studies," said Gayane.

Since 2006, World Vision has implemented various projects on drinking and irrigation water pipeline installation and rehabilitation throughout Armenia. As a result, 149 pipelines were put in commission by Aparan, Alaverdi, Stepanavan, Sisian, Kapan, Talin, Vardenis and Tavush Area Development Programmes. For the first time, after long years of waterless existence and dreadful winters, thousands of households in rural communities gained direct access to quality and uninterrupted drinking water supply. Although the pipelines do not always reach the households, for many locals it is only a couple of minutes' walk to get to the water-taps. This has made the life of inhabitants substantially easy.



### A "PRIESTLY" CHALLENGE TO REDUCE POVERTY AND INJUSTICE IN ARMENIA

Helping the poor and oppressed, also known as "diakonia", has been a historical role for the Church in Armenia, but today's priests are being challenged by other issues such as HIV prevention and environmental degradation. Instead of just "giving aid" they are also being challenged to involve recipients of aid in the development process. They're learning how to put "community participation" into practice in communities across Armenia.

"We see lots of issues in the communities that need to be addressed, but the most important issue for us remains the support to educational activities for children and youth, so that they are well-prepared for life," said Father Panforyov.

Since 2003, WorldVision has supported Armenia's Church by training Sunday school teachers and developing books, manuals and tutorials for teachers and children within the Youth Bible Curriculum Programme.

Supporting Sunday school teachers is one way that WorldVision is helping the Armenian Apostolic Church in the spiritual nurture of children, which encourages love for God and others, empowers children, and builds resilience and hope. Sunday schools intend to instill faith in God and teach the values, principles and philosophies stated in the Bible. Besides, through the child, teachers also reach the parents and congregation at large as many of the children take the "spiritual torch" with them into life and also share the light with others in the community.

"Sunday school teachers have an immense mission; they are the backbone, strength and wings of clergymen serving in communities," said Father Vardan Navasardyan to more than 140 Sunday school teachers during a recent five-day-training course organised by WorldVision. The workshops served as a rallying point for the teachers from across Armenia who came together to share their achievements, voice their concerns and gain new teaching skills for children to benefit in their classes.

### CHURCH HELPS TO LEAD FIGHT AGAINST INCREASING DRUG USE

The Armenian Apostolic Church, established in 301, with centuries of experience supporting social needs in the community, in addition to promoting moral values, is once again reaching out to communities following a time of silence during the Soviet Era.

Injecting drug use in Armenia has increased drastically, spurring the Armenian Apostolic Church in Shirak region, together with WorldVision, to address the issue among young people who are among the most vulnerable.

"Entrance to blind alley", a movie featuring individuals attending the day care centre for people living with HIV/AIDS and injecting drug users in Shirak region, is one of the fruits of joint efforts with the Church and WorldVision. "It is already having an impact," say youth that have watched the film that has been broadcast across the country.

### TREASURE OF A DIFFERENT KIND FOR ARMENIAN PRESCHOOLERS

A book for preschoolers called "My treasury" was launched at the Christian Education Centre of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin with WorldVision's support. 3,000 copies of "My Treasury" are being distributed through WorldVision ADPs to children across Armenia.

While "My treasury" shares the biblical lessons and values reflected in the existing country-wide school curriculum on "History of Religion for grades five to eleven, it uniquely speaks to preschoolers, bringing Bible stories to life and enabling young children to interact and become part of the story by colouring the Bible characters illustrated in the book the way they imagine.

*helping the poor and oppressed has been a historical role for the Church in Armenia, but today's priests are being challenged by other issues*

*injecting drug use in Armenia has increased drastically, spurring the Armenian Apostolic Church together with World Vision, to address the issue among young people who are among the most vulnerable*

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES SPENT BY WORLD VISION ARMENIA IN FISCAL YEAR 2011

## TOTAL BUDGET FY 2008 - 2011 (in thousands USD)

	FY 2009 actual	FY 2010 actual	FY 2011 actual	FY 2012 planned
administrative cost	841	1,351	1,785	1,771
loan portfolio	5,873	6,661	10,314	15,000
commodity value	7,553	4,466	2,249	3,000
project cost	7,545	5,930	7,142	6,457
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>21,812</b>	<b>18,408</b>	<b>21,490</b>	<b>26,228</b>

## ACTUAL CASH EXPENDITURE BY SECTORS (DPC+OOC) (in thousands USD)

	FY 2009 actual	FY 2010 actual	FY 2011 actual
area development programmes	3,999	4,420	3,613
child protection	310	391	1,234
christian commitment	246	283	618
economic development	258	124	715
health (including HIV/AIDS)	1,754	419	809
others	364	778	996
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>6,415</b>	<b>7,985</b>

## PROJECT FUNDING BY MAJOR DONORS (in thousands USD)

	FY 2010 actual	FY 2011 actual	FY 2012 planned
EU	506	336	340
GFATM	162		
JERSEY/PPA	156	104	124
USAID	407	798	711
WV SUPPORT OFFICES	6,050	7,689	7,053
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7,281</b>	<b>8,927</b>	<b>8,228</b>

## ACTUAL CASH EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2011 BY FUNDING OFFICES (in thousands USD)



ARMENIA

16



AUSTRALIA

80



CANADA

1,152



FRANCE

422



GERMANY

363



NETHERLANDS

4



SWITZERLAND

626



TAIWAN

851



UNITED STATES

1,494



UNITED KINGDOM

2,977

TOTAL: 7,985

## SEF International MAIN INDICATORS

loan disbursed (in thousands USD)  
 average loan size  
 number of beneficiaries  
 number of jobs created  
 number of jobs sustained  
 number of children supported

FY 2010  
actualFY 2011  
actualFY 2012  
planned

7,574

12,356

13,700

853

944

978

8,410

13,085

14,000

122

143

158

3,167

10,413

14,000

10,587

15,571

20,000

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty.



Our vision for every child,  
life in all its fullness;  
Our prayer for every heart,  
the will to make it so.

World Vision Armenia