

CHILDREN OF ARMENIA FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ADVANCING RURAL ARMENIA WITH SPEED & INNOVATION





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JOIN US	

We still live in a world where parents will skip a life-saving surgery to provide for food or choose to leave their families for years to sustain them. Students give up their dreams of education to chase opportunities that will cover everyday needs. This is the reality because poverty is still prevalent. The rapid development of technology and the way information is shared, as well as how education & services are distributed, contribute to people living in poverty's exclusion from the normal dayto-days of our world. This exclusion leads to the inability to access the basic requirements for life.

This is very much the case in Armenia. Besides indicating the low level of income to live and meet basic needs, poverty levels also show that people are deprived of access to food, water, electricity, education, healthcare and sometimes even basic human rights. Dilapidated infrastructure throughout rural communities is also commonly observed.

Armenia faces all these challenges with the rural areas being the most vulnerable and affected, with 34.2% of the population living in poverty. In 2018, the poverty rates in Yerevan (27.7%) and rural (34.2%) communities present a large gap. Despite the World Bank-reported growth (7.6%) in 2018, poverty levels still remain high, with the rural population being the most affected.

Sometimes, poverty is not seen as a problem that can be solved, but merely an unchangeable state to live with. The psychology of a 'receiver' or one who always asks for help still prevails in our society, the post-war and post-earthquake years being far in the past. Although the Velvet Revolution proved that a generation of 'change-makers' and 'action-takers' is starting to form, the change needs to happen systematically and faster.

WHY CHANGE MATTERS

CHANGE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

It all began with a glass of water back in 2003, when COAF Founder & Chairman Garo Armen first travelled to Armenia. While visiting the village of Karakert, he asked an elderly man sitting on his front porch for a glass of water and was shocked to learn locals lacked access to clean water. This encounter laid the groundwork for what would become COAF.

Garo realized swift action needed to be taken to revitalize rural regions of Armenia. Karakert became the first village community where COAF launched its efforts the following year, with the renovation of one of the local schools being the first major project implemented. COAF soon realized the needs in villages went beyond just infrastructure improvements. Creating education, healthcare, social services and economic development programs designed with a community-based holistic approach in mind were needed as well.

COAF remains committed to providing children, youth and their families with opportunities to realize their potential and reach for the stars. Empowering people living throughout rural Armenia, has brought about dramatic results in terms of individuals defining their own futures and being active participants in the ushering of a new Armenia after enduring many setbacks throughout history.



OUR VISION

ALL CHILDREN OF ARMENIA ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTEN-TIAL AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE WORLD AROUND THEM.



OUR MISSION

PROVIDE RESOURCES TO CHIL-DREN AND ADULTS WITH COAF SMART INITIATIVES TO ADVANCE RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH INNOVATION.

WHAT MAKES US EFFECTIVE

Since 2004, we have seen firsthand how our programs has strengthened the communities we work in and how every person was empowered to dream big, achieve their full potential and contribute to the advancement of their communities.

From our villages to our SMART Center, our office in Yerevan to the office in New York, our beneficiaries to our donors, these values build on our vision and unite us to make our mission possible.

HOLISTIC MODEL

e see community development holistically, targeting economic and infrastructure development, to ensure people's health and social-psychological stability and empowerment them through education.

100% PLEDGE

very donation goes directly to our programs in rural Armenia. Our Founder/Chairman and Board of Directors underwrite all administrative costs.

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

hether we invest in people or in the community as a whole, our interventions aim to create long-term value and self-sufficiency.

DUR SMART CENTER

OAF SMART Center is a non-formal education hub with a curriculum tackling the holistic development of an individual. Our goal is to replicate the model now operating in Lori and have SMART Centers in all the regions of Armenia.

COAF ALUMNI

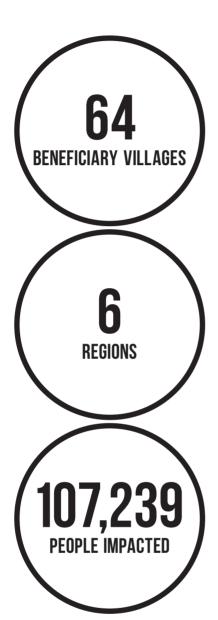
HUNEL

ur Alumni are our true impact. We have built strong relations and trust with our youth and each and every one of COAF Alumni is part of our large community. Several of our Alumni have become COAF employees in 2019, the others always volunteer or share our work in different ways through the platforms they are part of.

PAYING FORWARD

e encourage our programs' beneficiaries to pay forward to their community by volunteering, initiating and implementing various development programs. Some of our programs have a separate component of implementing a community initiative or service.





SHIRAK

- 1. Beniamin
- 2. Gusanagyugh 3.
- Horom Meghrashen 4.
- 5. Vardakar
- Lanjik 6.
- 7. Sarnaghbyur

ARAGATSOTN

- 1. Aragatsavan
- 2. Arteni

ARMAVIR

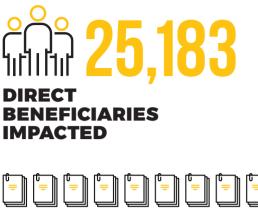
- 1. Arevadasht
- 2. Argina
- 3. Artamet
- 4. Bagaran
- 5. Baghramyan 6.
 - Dalarik
- Getashen
- 8. Hatsik
- 9. Hushakert 10. Karakert
- 11. Koghbavan

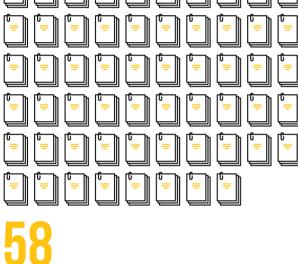
7.

- 12. Lernagog
- 13. Myasnikyan 14. Sardarapat
- 15. Shenik
- 16. Talvorik
- 17. Vanand
- 18. Yervandashat



THE YEAR IN REVIEW





UNIQUE PROGRAMS

IMPLEMENTED

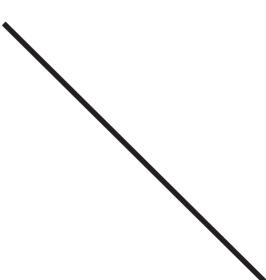
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GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION 17 2 IN LORI IN TAVUSH

95.6% SATISFACTION RATE FROM

BENEFICIARIES









CONCEPT HOTEL

12 rooms en suite, and nestled into a green meadow just east of the Center. The hotel contributes to local economic development, creating jobs for local residents by training them in hospitality and tourism services.

VISITOR CENTER

located on the junction of M6 and H22 roads, serves as both educational and commercial purposes, by providing necessary comfortable services (ATM, payment terminal, soft drinks, quick snacks, charging spots, etc.), as well as information on Lori Region and COAF SMART Center to travellers.

THINK & CREATE THROUGH EDUCATION

35 VILLAGES

COAF's Education programs seek to empower students to shape their own futures and take their communities to new heights. Through implementing non-formal extracurricular education programs, using project-based real-life learning and improving the learning environment, COAF aims to improve the quality of education in rural communities of Armenia.

IMPACT & Achievements

390 Aflatoun social-financial program's students implemented 12 business projects and used the revenue for 11 social projects.

627 students participated in Summer Schools on media literacy, arts, environment and ethnography.

492 Student Council members implemented community development projects.

1203 students participated in after school programs of arts, crafts & sports. kids of Tavush Judo clubs participated in a regional championship. 4 students won medals: 2 bronze and 2 silver.

3,560

BENEFICIARIES

students graduated from the English Clubs in cooperation with the British Council.

354 Debate Club students became more media literate, aware on political, social topics and able to discuss their points.

321 students made an informed and aware choice of profession through the Professional Orientation program. **5** REGIONS

40 STUDENT-LED COMMUNITY PROJECTS

COAF Alumni gained employability skills.

250 adults from 10 regions of Armenia graduated from the Social English online program in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Armenia.

2000 works of 245 students were showcased at different exhibitions.

teachers and school principals learned new teaching methods and education management skills. COAF works to improve the quality of primary health services in the villages with programs that promote the wellbeing of the entire community. COAF Health programs focus on disease prevention through promoting healthy behavior starting from primary school age. We conduct hands-on training for local health providers, improve physical conditions of rural health facilities, and implement dental & health screening interventions.

IMPACT & Achievements

school cafeterias in Myasnikyan, Vahagni, Aygehovit, Vazashen, Odzun and Shenik 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.

Village programs HEALTH THROUGH PREVENTION

2587 people were screened for early detection of breast, thyroid, prostate cancer.

2 cases of cancer were early detected and complications prevented.

teeth were treated among 218 kids.

students had knowledge and skills increase on healthy lifestyle topics. **Drs. Rose and Roland Simpsons** from the UK visited Vahagni, Dsegh, Tumanyan, Arevatsag villages, consulted 150 patients with local doctors and nurses, as well as family medicine students.

UK-based professor Gevorg Hopaian and Lorky Libaridian from Royal College **General Practitioners** delivered courses on Family Medicine for 15 medical students.

11,383 BENEFICIARIES

> **45** LOCAL SPECIALISTS HIRED AND TRAINED



REGIONS

Village programs SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

COAF Child and Family Services 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 and therapies to children and their families.

IMPACT & Achievements

⁵ "Sunny" Child Development Corners established in Dzoragyugh, Yeghegnut and Shenik.

291 parents and teachers participated in workshops to learn games and make toys to use with children.

83.6% of children in therapy overcame their speech and learning difficulties.

53.2% knowledge increase was observed on speech therapy related topics among villagers. 20 VILLAGES

> **5** REGIONS

7,439 BENEFICIARIES

14 LOCAL SPECIALISTS HIRED AND TRAINED

5 awareness raising topics implemented by social workers: human rights, parenting, elderly, people w/ disabilities, domestic violence.

local trained.

psychologists

COAF joined the international PopUp Festival for emotional intelligence awareness raising.

COAF Drama Therapy troupe performed at the COAF's 15th and Tumanyan's 150th anniversary event in Dsegh's Tumanyan Museum

Village programs ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

14 VILLAGES

5 REGIONS

The COAF Economic Development program focuses on business and infrastructure development in villages. In the framework of the program, the village is thoroughly assessed and evaluated to identify competitive advantages and investment opportunities. Based on this and closely working with the local government and the residents of the villages, business and infrastructure projects are designed, developed and implemented that are unique and specific to each community.

IMPACT & Achievements

6 school cafeterias & Brushodromes established and renovated in Myasnikyan, Vahagni, Aygehovit, Vazashen, Odzun and Shenik.

5 "Sunny" Child development corners established in Dzoragyugh, Yeghegnut & Shenik kindergartens.

SMART Safe Room established in Vazashen.

16 INFRASTRUCTURE UNITS

Solar panels installed at Aragatsavan school.

5 playgrounds and sports grounds established in Meghrashen, Zorakan and Vardakar.

Health facilities renovated in Karinj and Vahagni.

Children of Armenia Fund | 2019 Annual Report

SMART INITIATIVES

A GROWING SMART ECO-SYSTEM



A RASPBERRY FIELD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNDP

COAF launched the Sustainable Income through Effective Household Management project in partnership with the UNDP aimed at developing a specific product value chain, through raspberries. The project components included berry seedlings provision, drip irrigation system establishment, training on berry production and cultivation. 81 local households from 3 SMART settlements have participated in the trainings and each of them has started a berry production. The capacity of the COAF SMART Center in Lori is used as a hub for training, product promotion and marketing, as well as a demo site.

A FOREST NURSERY IN Partnership with my Forest Armenia

COAF's partnership with My Forest Armenia plants seeds of growth in Debet, empowering sustainable development in the region. By empowering local communities, under the direction of scientists and expert foresters, the goal is to decrease carbon in the atmosphere, sustainably increase forest coverage and preserve biodiversity using numerous endemic species.



SMART INITIATIVES **SMART ROOMS**

1. Hubs for COAF Educational programs (satellite funcion):

- Robotics / Lego
- Aflatoun
- English Access Microscholarship Program
- Debate Clubs
- Arts and Crafts Clubs
- Summer Camps in Drawing and Ethnography

2. Technology-equipped rooms for community initiatives (support function):

- Media and Movie Clubs
- **Community Council Gatherings**
- School staff and parental meetups
- **Student Council Meetings**
- Group work and research hub for students
- **Engineering clubs**

1 NEW SMART ROOM

Opened in September 2019 in Vazashen

A new SMART room was opened in Vazashen, a borderline village within only one km distance from the state border. With three SMART rooms in the region a new project was initiated in partnership with Startup Club Armenia Foundation to educate local youth in entrepreneurship, identify and develop local startup ventures, prepare pitches and find investors to bring them to life. About 50 students participate in the clubs from three communities.

479 BENEFICIARIES

8 SMART ROOMS

in Lori & Tavush Regions

- Akori
- Aygehovit
- Arevatsag

- Karinj
- Vazashen
- Mets Ayrum
- Koti
- Tumanyan



SMART INITIATIVES SMART CITIZENSHIP

OUR NOVEL CURRICULUM

Based on one year of piloting an educational program at COAF SMART Center since its opening in May 2018, the educational model was in the making in the first half of 2019 to suit the three unique age tracks and to ensure continuous learning. The inception of the new model started from September 2019 from one community to another, gradually growing into the following network of future SMART citizens:

SEED 3-6 years old Seed age track students cover a comprehensive 3-year program that emphasizes emotional, social, mental and physical development. Students aged 5-6 are also prepared for transition from kindergarten to school.

218 BENEFICIARIES

STEM 6-18 years old COAF SMART Center Curriculum for Root track was designed as a 2 to 3 year-long quest for SMART Citizenship, an idea focusing on:

- Educating the individual as a whole,
- Envisioning responsible, competitive citizens,
- Turning education into experience.

1546 BENEFICIARIES



LORI

The Stem track beneficiaries were formed by two groups:

A. Adults who studied General English and completed Al Level.

B. Parents of Seed track students, who received parental education through three different educational activities:

- Seminars
- Trainings
- Parental Art Workshop.



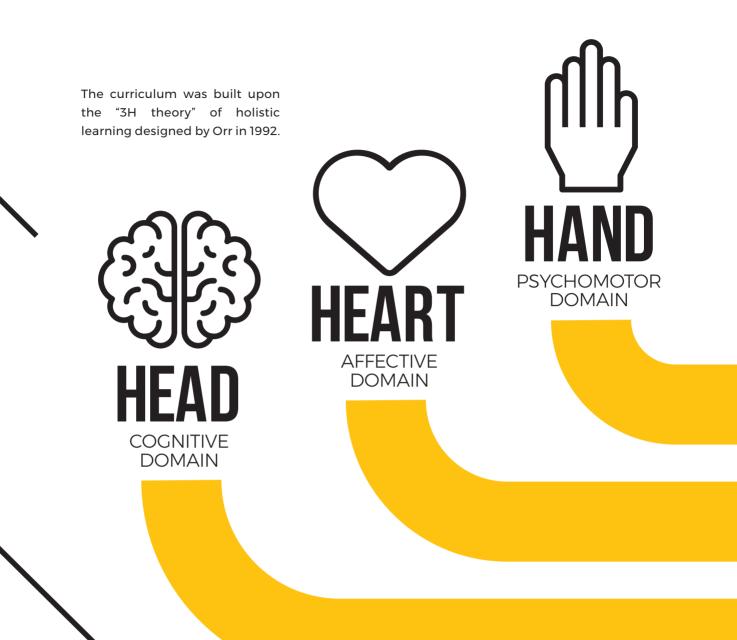
THE GEOGRAPHY

27 COMMUNITIES COVERED

10 EXISTING RURAL NEW RURAL NEW URBAN

- 1. Akori
- 2. Alaverdi
- 3. Arevatsag
- 4. Arjut
- 5. Aznvadzor
- 6. Bazum
- 7. Chkalov
 8. Darpas
- 9. Debet
- 10. Dsegh
- 11. Dzoraget
- in Distance
- 12. Dzoragyugh
 13. Gugark
- 14. Hagvi

- 15. Karinj
- 16. Lernapat
- 17. Lorut
- 18. Margahovit
- 19. Marts
- 20. Odzun
- 21. Pambak
- 22. Shahumyan
- 23. Tumanyan
- 24. Vahagnadzor
- 25. Vahagni
- 26. Vanadzor
- 27. Yeghegnut



Starting in September 2019, COAF held open enrollment for students village by village, age group by age group on a weekly basis- with over 100 students enrolling per day. The first step for the SMART Curriculum is the participation of prospective students and parents to take part in the introductory day and complete the Intro Week, which highlight the essential parts of COAF's programs:



22

The philosophy behind COAF SMART's educational concept is that of COAF's mission to provide resources to children and adults with SMART intiatives to advance rural communities through innovation.

In order to successfully complete the SMART Citizenship curriculum and become a SMART Citizen, each student needs to embark on a personalized journey through 6 learning formats:

ENGINEERING

- Mechanics
- **Programming**
- 😹 Agritech

ATHLETICS

- <u> </u>KR Fitness
- 🖌 Dance
- ர் Yoga

ARTS

- 🔏 Performing Arts
- I Drawing
- I Digital drawing

MUSIC

- Q⇒ Vocals
- 🖭 Sound Design
- Ausical Instruments

LANGUAGES

- Mandarin
- English
- Russian

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 🔊 Finance
- 🔜 Management
- harketing 🌾



1. SMART ESSENTIALS

To become a SMART Citizen, students are required to take one program in each dimension of the 3H theory. Students select one of two program offerings in each dimension, which sets their 3 classes twice a week schedule for 15 weeks.

2. SMART 1:1S

The SMART Education Counselor conducts individual meetings with every student to assess their learning progress, as well as to provide professional orientation resources for further career and education.

3. SMART PROJECTS

During the third level of each essential program, the instruction transitions from teach-centered to a collaborative learning experience. By utilizing project-based learning, students define and implement community SMART projects.

4. SMART TRIPS

The purpose of these trips is to introduce students to exemplary institutions and demonstrate reallife application of knowledge in each field. SMART Trips are carried out both in Lori region and beyond.

5. SMART CONNECTS

"SMART Connects" gathers the COAF community together with professionals in different fields who share their success stories and lessons learned.

6. SMART WORKSHOPS

In addition to essential courses, it is mandatory for students to participate in one intensive workshop related to their program led by international or local experts. This learning format helps to projectize knowledge and achieve results within a short timeline.

URBAN MEETS RURAL Students from the two most populated urban communities of Lori -Vanadzor and Alaverdi are now on the SMART map. They travel daily to rural Debet, (COAF SMART Center), a community with a population of roughly 900 to receive nonformal education, starting a unique dialogue and exchange of values.

THE INDIVIDUAL TOUCH

COAF SMART Center is а unique educational institution with an interdisciplinary team of specialists who work with each student individually, in groups and within families to solve complex issues. The team consists of Counselor, Psychologist, Social worker, Education analyst, Education programs manager.

AUTOMATION LEARNING OF MANAGEMENT

order to automate the In learning management easier with over 1700 students, COAF has partnered with Tutor Platform to build a tailor-made digital platform. The platform serves as a database for SMART : Citizen app that is used for news, messaging, as well as accommodating a gamified e-learning experience.

THE QUALITATIVE IMPACT THE QUANTITATIVE IMPACT

24/7 EDUCATIONAL With over 250 students visiting daily on weekdays, and over 700 students on weekends COAF SMART Center has become a 24/7 education hub

GROWING NUMBER OF STUDENTS In less than 4 months, over 40% of school students from rural beneficiary communities have joined SMART Citizenship curriculum.

CREATION JOB FOR LOCALS Over 90% of our Lori team are local, meaning that 50 educators, artists, and others have gained opportunities to fufill their professional potential at COAF SMART.

AN EXPANDING COAF SMART CAMPUS CONFERENCE CENTER

The Conference Center will be a part of the social enterprise generating revenue and reinvesting into COAF's programs in the region. It will promote an even higher flow of people and organizations to Lori. The idea is to become the main regional venue for local and international organizations in conferencing, professional training, summer schools and exchange that will provoke economic activity in rural communities. The Conference Center will set a new standard for organization of conferences and professional conventions, implement best practices in the field and become a learning environment for the business and a platform for professional development extending COAF SMART Center capacities. It will consist of two conferencing venues and 22 hotel rooms that will be managed in combination with the 12 rooms of the Concept Hotel currently functioning on site. The Center will be enhanced also with technological solutions ready to meet a wide range of challenges. Besides the in-house services there will be outsourced options for tourism related activities, printing and publishing, transportation and other complementary products and services.









THROUGH THE EYES OF COAF KIDS



MANUSH Avagyan

I started dreaming with COAF. I saw COAF doctors take care of our villagers and I wanted to become a doctor as well. COAF has taught me the importance and the power of giving back to my community. And now I am a pediatric hematology oncologist.

LIANA Sargsyan

COAF organized basketball club has really changed my life. Basketball is not just a hobby for me. It has changed my personality. I used to be very shy. Playing in a team has turned me into a more outgoing person. I studied in Yerevan, became a professional coach and returned to my community to run the local basketball club.



HARUT Chatinyan

Just like for many of my friends and community members, COAF became the reason I started to see rural life from a different perspective. I learned to appreciate little things we often take for granted. I love my home village Dsegh, and I will do my part in developing my community.

ARGISHTI Aleksanyan

COAF programs have influenced my decision on my future profession, programming. Being the youngest student in COAF's Logic program in Dalarik village, I tried to take the utmost from the opportunities the program offered us. Children of Armenia Fund | 2019 Annual Report



THE CHANGE MAKERS

Our team is comprised of 95 smart, generous, hard-working people who are committed to changing rural Armenia together.

This wide-ranging group of experts draws their knowledge from a variety of industries and backgrounds in an effort to advance the rural communities of Armenia. In 2019, we were thrilled to add 31 new full-time staff members to our team—more than triple the number of new hires from 2018.

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garo H. Armen, Agenus Inc., Founder and Chairman Diron Jebejian, Credit Suisse, President of the Board Michael Aram, Michael Aram, Inc. Natasha Avanessians, Partnership for New York City Peter Balakian, Colgate University Khalil Barrage, Invus Group, LLC Hasmik Dombalagian, Private Practice Vahe Dombalagian, Madison Dearborn Partners Gregory Ekizian, U.S. Trust Larry Feinberg, Oracle Investment Management Shaké Nahapetian, C.V. Starr & Co., Inc. Vahé Nahapetian, Entrepreneur Debbie Ohanian, Music Producer Mary Pendergast, Pendergast Consulting Alice Saraydarian, Private Practice John Saraydarian, Private Practice Jack Youredjian, Youredjian Family Charitable Fund **†** Herb Alpert **†** Clare Gregorian

† Antranig Sarkissian

Our COAF team has and will continue to assist our people with vital educational, medical and humanitarian assistance, a role we proudly play and lead.

Diron Jebejian, President of the Board

COAF ARMENIA BOARD

Garo H. Armen, Agenus Inc., Founder

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Lauren Taschen, International Art Consultant

ADVISORS

Vartan Gregorian, Trustee Emeritus Nora Nercessian, PhD Craig Winter



COAF 2019 GALA

RAISED



16th COA

OUR PARTNERS



WE ARE **GRATEFUL** For your **Support**

OUR CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS



Alexis Ohanian



Andrea Martin



Ariana Grande



Cher



Chris Rock



Conan O'Brien



Henrikh Mkhitaryan



Jennifer Aniston



John Stamos



Khloé Kardashian



Leonardo Dicaprio



Martin Short



Matthew Broderick



Nathan Lane



Patricia Field



Sean Hayes



Serj Tankian



Stephanie Seymour



Tom Hanks



Usher



Vanessa Williams



Victor Garber

FINANCIALS

Income \$5,830,505

Total Expenses \$3,419,769

Health Programs	\$306,508		
Education Programs	\$728,027		
Child and Family Services	\$293,983		
SMART Initiatives	\$1,230,233	81%	
Capital Investment	\$175,252		
PR and Fundraising	\$362,352	10%	
Management and General	\$323,414		

THANK YOU

I am reminded of our last gathering as a COAF community at our gala in December and its stark contrast with the reality we now experience. In a few short months, the COVID-19 pandemic has gripped the world and illuminated just how precarious our global health and unity are. I would be remiss if I began my letter without acknowledging this reality and affirming that COAF remains steadfastly committed to our mission to advance rural Armenia.

This past year was enormously successful for COAF. We solidified our programs and expanded our impact to include over 107,000 beneficiaries. We continued to develop our village programs throughout Armenia, growing from 10 to 28 villages in the province of Lori alone. We launched our expanded SMART Campus with a Concept Hotel and Conference Center. At the end of the year, we celebrated a record-breaking gala, raising \$6M
USD. This will help us continue to advance and innovate programs for the benefit and well-being of the children of rural Armenia.

 The most exciting of all our accomplishments, however, was the introduction of our COAF SMART Citizenship Curriculum, the highlight of 2019. This curriculum was piloted at our SMART center in Lori, Armenia, and offers a unique unique education model targeting cognitive, emotional, and psychomotor skills. It has been very rewarding to watch students from throughout the Lori region holistically develop through this pro-

gram and thus embark on the journey to becoming active participants in civic society. The success of this curriculum and of our traditional programs made 2019 an incredibly important year for our organization overall.

I am grateful for your support, both in 2019 and especially during these challenging times. The breadth and scope of our work can continue to flourish only through the strength of our community. I know your dedication to the youth and families of Armenia is as unwavering as ours. As we look towards the future of our initiatives and programs, we are prepared with your help to continue this exceptional work for years to come.

Thank you,

• • • • • •

Garo H. Armen Founder & Chairman



JOIN US



VISIT

Pay a visit to one of our villages: see COAF schools and meet our talented youth, visit the health facilities and see the incredible work of our local health providers.

To explore Lori's amazing nature and see the state-of-the-art COAF SMART Center, visit our Center in Debet, and have a stay at the Concept Hotel by COAF SMART.



NTERN

Share your knowledge and skills by having an internship with us and contributing to the development of rural Armenia. Visit our webpage to apply for an internship.



PARTNER

If you see change as we do, let's walk hand in hand and make the difference together.

FOLLOW

You will be first to see updates about our everyday work and the progress our communities make. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and subscribe to our Youtube channel.



SPREAD THE WORD

If none of the above is possible, just spread the word about the work we do. Every kind of support matters to us.



DONATE

Your contribution goes directly to the work we do in rural Armenia. Donate once, monthly or annually, have a birthday pledge or start a fundraiser. Every dollar makes a change. Donate here



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WRITE TO US

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COAF SMART CENTER

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THANK You

2019 WAS A BIG YEAR FOR US, WE BELIEVE THE BEST IS YET TO COME



www.coaf.org