



CHILDREN
OF ARMENIA
FUND

Press release
13 April 2021

COAF enhances cooperation with Armavir Province Government and Hatsik Village Municipality

YEREVAN - On April 12, the **Children of Armenia Fund (COAF)** signed a memorandum of understanding with the **Armavir Province Government** on the implementation of COAF Education programs, Health, Child and Family services in the Armavir region, and an agreement with **Hatsik Municipality** on a Child Development Center's establishment in Hatsik village.

COAF kicked off its activity from Karakert village of the Armavir region back in 2004. During 17 years of its on-the-ground experience, along with enhancing its programs in Armavir, it expanded its geography to the Aragatsotn, Lori, Shirak, and Tavush regions.

Though COAF's two massive rural community advancement initiatives, such as COAF SMART and SMART Debet Village, are implemented in the Lori region, Armavir continues to be in COAF's focus. It is not by chance that the Fund has fulfilled large-scale educational, health, and social programs in eight rural communities of the region. It was in connection with the continuous implementation of these programs that COAF and the Governor of Armavir **Hambardzum Matevosyan** signed a memorandum of understanding.

"To bring an example of the impact COAF's programs have had in our eight beneficiary villages of Armavir region, there are high-level social workers, psychologists, and speech therapists working in all those villages nowadays even when cities lack such specialists, especially speech therapists," mentioned COAF Managing Director **Korioun Khatchadourian**.

As COAF continues to invest in the villages of Armavir, COAF Managing Director Korioun Khatchadourian and the Mayor of Hatsik **Arthur Yeghiazaryan** signed an agreement on establishing a new Child Development Center in Hatsik village for children, aged three to six. The goal is to ensure children's comprehensive development through a healthy upbringing environment, activating strengths, and strengthening weaknesses.

"Nowadays, 70 percent of children in Armenia are not enrolled in pre-primary education. Hence, our Child Development Centers come to solve this problem in rural communities," summarized Korioun Khatchadourian.



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About COAF

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life

in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF's target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 64 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting more than 107,000 beneficiaries.

Since 2015, COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. As an exemplary model of development COAF SMART will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was inaugurated on May 27, 2018, near the village of Debet, Lori Region.