

## **COAF, Debet Municipality and Gradarak NGO inaugurate the SMART Village Municipality in Debet**

YEREVAN - On July 31, the renovated and remodeled [Debet Village Municipality](#) (Lori region) will be opened, providing the Debet community with a brand new open working space, a conference room, and a 21st-century library, Gradarak Debet. The opening ceremony will be attended by the Governor of Lori **Aram Khachatryan**, Debet Village Mayor **Ashot Ghazaryan**, Managing Director of the [Children of Armenia Fund](#) (COAF) **Korioun Khatchadourian**, and Co-founder and Director of the [Gradarak Libraries](#) NGO **Arusik Zeynalyan**. The reconstruction of the Debet Municipality and the establishment of Gradarak Debet is carried out within the framework of COAF's "SMART Debet" initiative, set to become an exemplary model for the comprehensive development of rural communities.

The Debet Municipality's modern and technically equipped conference room, built at a cost of \$14,000, provides favorable conditions for meetings and virtual and agile professional communication between the municipality and other bodies and organizations. Complemented by an open working space, the cost of which amounted to \$43,000, the new and improved Debet Municipality creates all the necessary preconditions for increasing work efficiency.

The multifunctional, innovative library located on the 2nd floor of the [Debet Municipality](#) is a product of cooperation between the Debet Municipality, COAF, and the "Gradarak Libraries" NGO. In addition to being just a library, it will also be a comfortable venue to host seminars, workshops, and a variety of other events. The 1,076 sq. ft area features a small and quiet work and study room and a larger hall for events and meetings. As a common space for community members, the library is open to all age groups starting from 3 and is stocked with a wide variety of equipment, including computers, a projector, a big screen, speakers, microphones, unique and comfortable furniture, and more. The number of books available to the community will gradually increase from 400 to 4,000. COAF covers all expenses for the construction and furnishing of the library, while "Gradarak Libraries" NGO will ensure the continuous and smooth operation of the institution, including the provision of a local librarian. Debet Municipality will ensure access to the library seven days a week and cover part of the operational costs. The cost of the project is \$40,000.



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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 the 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.*