



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia in partnership with the British Embassy in Yerevan and Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan came together to nurture the idea and hold a Conference on "Advancement of rural communities", with the aim to gather the representatives of local and international organizations specializing in this field, thus creating a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience. This should also be a wonderful opportunity to learn from the best practices and ultimately lay grounds for further collaboration.

**The Conference will be held at the COAF SMART Center (Debet, Lori) on 9-10 November 2019. It will commence at 1:30pm on November 9.**

The Conference will cover 5 main topics related to the advancement of rural communities: Education, Health, Social Issues, Infrastructure & Economic Development, Migration.

Representatives from local and international organizations implementing rural advancement programs, state and local authorities, local and international experts, as well as private entrepreneurs will be participating in the Conference.



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During the Conference, the 3 winners of the Village Development Program Grant announced by COAF for its beneficiaries will be presented with awards and appropriate funds will be allocated to them to implement the winning projects in their respective communities.

The more detailed agenda, description and format of the Conference are attached to the Press Release.

For more information, please contact:

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***The “Children of Armenia” Charitable 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 51 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak and Tavush regions.

Since 2015 COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – COAF SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies and the environment. COAF SMART will become an exemplary model of development and 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, with an outreach to over 150,000 rural residents.

***The Member States of the European Union*** have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

***UNDP*** partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. UNDP in Armenia was established in March 1993, and supports the government in meeting its development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

***The British Embassy in Yerevan*** maintains and develops relations between the UK and Armenia, working with the Armenian government and other partners. Current UK assistance projects in Armenia are focused on promoting international human rights, good governance and democratic principles; supporting defense and security co-operation; contributing to stability and resilience; fostering sustainable economic growth; and promoting person-to-person contacts between our two countries.



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