

COAF SMART Center is opening its doors in 10 days

On May 27, 2018, the COAF SMART Center of Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) will open its doors in Debet village of the Lori region.

[The SMART innovative concept](#) changes the image of rural Armenia, making it an integral part of the international community. With a \$5 million investment, the program aims to develop local resources and create opportunities to use them in rural communities.

[COAF SMART](#) is a comprehensive non-formal education environment, providing equal and adequate opportunities for 150,000 young people and adults in rural areas, aged over three.

The four pillars of the SMART Center concept are **innovation and creativity, language communication, entrepreneurship and local economic development, active citizenship, and personal development.**

Information technologies and foreign languages are the basis of SMART programs and their teaching materials.

The regional partner of SMART in the field of robotics and programming is **the Next-Gen laboratory of the automated resource management company SAP. The Cafesjian Center for the Arts** is a partner in developing innovative approaches in the art studio.

COAF's **benefactors, supporters, partners, as well as the leaders and ambassadors of Armenia**, will be attending the opening ceremony of the COAF SMART Center.

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 44 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting over 75,000 people.



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Since 2015 COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. 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 opened on May 27, 2018, at the village of Debet, Lori region.