



Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development

Annual report
2019



Created in 2004 by the Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale, the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development focuses its activities on the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, people with disabilities and other vulnerable segments of society. The AF4SD is also actively involved in Francophonie and the protection of the environment.

The main objectives of the AF4SD are:

- Contribute to the realization of social, cultural, educational and scientific initiatives,
- Elaborate, support and implement projects aimed at the contribution of the sustainable development in Armenia,
- Provide and foster cooperation in various fields with relevant stakeholders.

Since its creation, the AF4SD has implemented more than 300 development projects with international, European and local partners. Its projects are in line with the priorities of European and international institutions, development agencies and the Armenian authorities.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

01

Migration

The Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development is actively involved in managing the return and reintegration of migrants.

Our expert knowledge in Migrations is not a mere matter of theory but well-founded expertise based on learnt lessons and empirical realities.

We offer our competence for carrying out field assessments, elaboration of policy papers, roadmaps, manuals and toolkits in the field of migration.

02

Education

For ensuring equal access to education for all layers of society and focusing on the most vulnerable, we target also our actions on renovation and equipment of schools and libraries, funding for university scholarships and innovative projects in education.

03

Environment

Along with providing material support to public and private partners, AF4SD carries out numerous awareness-raising and information campaigns aimed at improving practices towards greater respect for the environment.

04

Vulnerable persons

Focusing our activities on promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable persons, we strive to guarantee their equal access to information and education for their better social and economic inclusion into the society.

05

Francophonie

Organizing large-scale Francophone events since more than a decade we aim to strengthen the capacities of Francophone schools, to promote French language in remote regions of Armenia and to implement cultural and linguistic exchange programs for young people and professionals.



Return to Sources

MIGRATION



Since 2005 the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development (AF4SD) together with the French Office of Migration and Integration (OFII) and Association Arménienne D'Aide Sociale (AAAS) has been implementing "Return to Sources" project funded by the EU aiming to support to people who are in irregular situation and want to return to Armenia voluntarily.

Within the framework of this project a Reception and Orientation Centre opened in Paris the mission of which is to provide detailed information to all those who are interested on the economic and socio-political situation of Armenia and organize their return.

The AF4SD ensures social assistance, works out the feasibility study of the project and finally supports the implementation of the business.

Currently, the beneficiaries of voluntary return project have the possibility of receiving reintegration assistance through business creation and vocational training.

As of 31.12.2019 more than 2,052 people have returned to Armenia with the assistance of voluntary return program.



345
created
enterprises

2058
returns



CAROB

MIGRATION



The Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development (AF4SD), in cooperation with OFII (the French Office of Migration and Integration) has been implementing the CAROB project since September 2019.

CAROB (Cooperation for Assistance in Reintegration OFII-BAMF) is a Franco-German reintegration project supporting Armenian nationals when they voluntarily return from Germany when it comes to their reintegration in Armenia.

The AF4SD organizes vocational trainings, prepares the feasibility study, assists in the actual launch of the micro-business and ensures the follow-up..

Currently the beneficiaries of the voluntary return project have the opportunity to benefit from the possibility of the reintegration through an enterprise creation.

Since September 2019, more than 20 people have been resettled in Armenia through a voluntary retirement program.





Single Window

MIGRATION



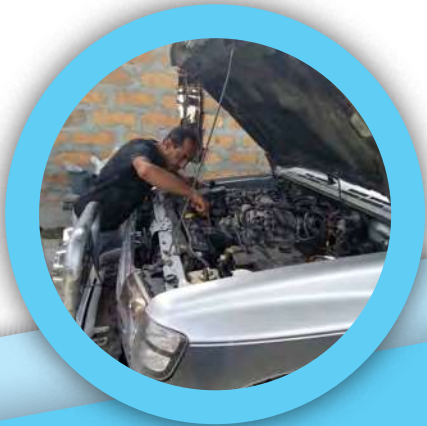
As part of cooperation with the Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia, the AF4SD is ensuring the “Single Window” service since February 2018.

The purpose of this service is to welcome Armenian nationals returning to Armenia and to provide them with information on existing aids.

The AF4SD adviser receives the migrants and then directs them to the competent structures.

It is also responsible for the organization of quarterly forums that bring together actors in the area of migration.





Assessment of social and economic reintegration of return migrants to Armenia

MIGRATION



By decision of the AF4SD Board of Trustees, research work was carried out as part of the "Return to Sources" project on the social and economic reintegration of return migrants in Armenia for the period from 2012 to 2016.

The objective of this study was to assess the efficiency of the reintegration assistance provided to migrants, within the framework of the "Return to Sources" project, funded by the OFII and implemented by the AF4SD in order to discover the extent to which the project has supported the creation of small businesses in 9 regions of the Republic of Armenia (Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir, Gegharkunik, Lori, Kotayk, Shirak, Syunik, Tavush) and in Yerevan in the past five years (2012-2016) and what their current situation was.

Since the project beneficiaries mainly prefer assistance for business creation among the reintegration aids offered, this research focused on the problems of economic reintegration of migrants.

The data presented in this research refers to the 152 companies whose follow-up period ended at the end of 2017.



53 %

Survival rate of
companies 3 years
after creation

152
assessed
enterprises





Inclusion through art

EDUCATION

Since 2014, the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development has been implementing a project that covers the tuition fees of disadvantaged and refugee students from the Ghazaros Saryan art school in the Yerevan city.

The aim is to promote the inclusion of art school children from various vulnerable families into the educational and cultural process of Ghazaros Saryan school of art in the Yerevan City by enabling their self-expression and development possibilities.

The beneficiaries of the project are mainly children from vulnerable families (socially insecure families, children without one or both parents, Armenians from Syria), gifted children, children with disabilities, from large families, children of the RA Military forces officer, as well as those children who play at very rare musical instruments.





Library

EDUCATION

In order to ensure equal access to education, the AF4SD has made available to students more than 300 legal and economic books generously offered by the famous CUJAS Interuniversity Library (Paris, France).

The list of books is available on the Foundation's Website and the Facebook page.





French classrooms

— — — — —
EDUCATION



In 2019 the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development with "Stepan Gishyan" Charitable Foundation opened three classes dedicated to the learning of French in school N ° 8 of the city of Hrazdan, region of Kotayk, school N ° 1 of the city of Ijevan, region of Tavush and school N ° 2 of the city of Spitak, region of Lori.

As part of the project a special class has been equipped with new information technologies and a rich French library.

This joint project started in 2018 with the opening of the first French classroom at school N ° 11 in the city of Hrazdan.

Over 2,000 students in total now have the opportunity to deepen and improve their knowledge of French.





French at school

— — — — —
EDUCATION

In December of 2019, the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development started the "French Club" project at school No. 11 in the city of Hrazdan, Kotayk region.

This is an extracurricular project that values the French language as well as informal approaches to make it applicable (games, kitchen works, staging, debates, role plays, etc.).

The project also provides an excellent opportunity for French professionals as well as all Francophones and Francophiles to unite under one roof, make screenings, discuss various topics, exchange opinions and ideas, develop projects, collaborate with libraries and NGOs.

It is the logical continuation of the “French classrooms” project implemented in 2018 in the same school in cooperation with “Stepan Gishyan” Charitable Foundation .

In fact, a special class had been equipped with new information technologies and a rich francophone library.

A French specialist who was specially hired by the AF4SD animated the extra-curricular activities attended by more than 300 students of the school.





Clean Sevan

ENVIRONMENT



In order to ensure the sustainability of the "Clean Sevan" project, the AF4SD continued its 2019 visitor awareness visits to the public beaches of Lake Sevan.

The time-degraded awareness posters have been renewed. Project volunteers distributed beach ashtrays made of specially designed paper while explaining the importance of keeping our environment clean.

Awareness campaigns on social networks have also been implemented.

Attendance at public beaches is increasing every year and there is evidence that vacationers' behavior towards the environment is improving every year.

The "Clean Sevan" project was funded by the Veolia Foundation in 2017. In 2018 and 2019, monitoring of the project was funded by the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development.



158
trash cans



60
metal panels



Transformation of the N 1 Special Educational Complex into Resource Center in the city of Yerevan

VULNERABLE PERSONS



FZ[e]bd[W]e[S]d[W] AUfaTWaXS' #+i Se[_ b'W]WfWi [fZ.X' V] YXa_ fZWfZESd [e5ZSd]fSTVBag` Vsf[a` S' V333Ez

The aim of the project is to promote the rights of children with behavioural and social problems at the same time reducing the number of children attending the Special Educational Complex.

As part of this project, the AF4SD is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the RA.

The AF4SD has started an in-depth study of the students' personal files in order to establish the flaws in the admission procedure, the reasons for extending their stay in the Educational Complex as well as the possibilities of returning to families.

Social workers and psychologists at the center received vocational training. In turn, the latter will soon train teachers from various schools.





The French Rooster

FRANCOPHONIE

The French Rooster is a contest created by the Armenian Fund For Sustainable Development in 2017 in partnership with the Armenian Association of Social Assistance (www.aaas.fr) for students from IV to XII classes of public schools of the city Yerevan.

In 2019, more than 1300 students participated in this contest.

There are 5 age categories for participants (4th-5th, 6th-7th, 8th-9th, 10th-11th, and 12th classes) with 3 winners for each category occupying the first, second, and third place respectively.

The first stage of the competition took place on March 20 in 2019 in the participating schools and under the supervision of the AF4SD representatives. The final test took place on April 9 in 2019 at the French University in Armenia (UFAR).

The awards ceremony of the contest took place at the Aznavour Center on April 17 in 2019.



Translation competition

In 2019 another competition organized by the AF4SD was intended for French-speaking students. The latter have translated into French an extract from the great Armenian classics.

Three students were awarded for their exceptional translations.



French Club

FRANCOPHONIE

During March and April of 2019 the AF4SD continued to animate French-speaking clubs in the premises of the Fund.

These meetings-debates around current topics allow lovers of the French to meet new people and practice French in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.





French films screening

FRANCOPHONIE

For the third consecutive year, the AF4SD is organizing French-language film screenings in the public schools of the Yerevan city.

In 2019, French students were in charge of organizing screenings in schools which have applied to the Fund. At the end of the film a discussion is launched in order to enrich the vocabulary of the pupils with the newly learned words and expressions.

Students and their teachers have the choice between animation, documentary or educational films. The list of films is subject to validation by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia.





Festival «The Magic of Francophonie»

FRANCOPHONIE

To close the events of the months of the Francophonie in Armenia, the AF4SD in partnership with the AAAS and Boghossian Gardens organized for all the lovers of the French language the festival "The Magic of Francophonie" in the Lovers park on July 4th, 2019.

The festival was an opportunity to bring together all the participants of our previous competitions.

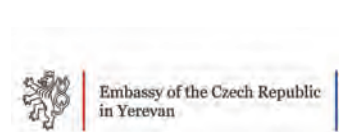
Thus, several activities were organized during the festival: giant coloring for children, exhibition and competition of plastic art "France in my imagination", concert of classical music given by the students of Gh.Saryan Art School who are also the beneficiaries of the Fund.

Mr. Alain TOUHADIAN, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Fund solemnly opened the festivities.

A release of symbolic balloons closed the festival.



Our partners



Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development

Annual report
2019

📍 10/7, av. Azatutyan, 0037 Yerevan, Armenia

☎ 010201840

🌐 www.af4sd.org

✉ info@af4sd.org

📘 www.facebook.com/AF4SD

