



ARMENIAN FUND
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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About the Foundation

Projects and initiatives

325

Beneficiaries

19500

Set up businesses

390

The Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development (AF4SD) was founded in 2004 by Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale to contribute to sustainable development in Armenia.

The main objectives of the Fund are:

- To contribute to the realization of social, cultural, educational and scientific initiatives;
- To elaborate, support and implement projects aimed at contributing Sustainable development in Armenia;
- To provide and foster the cooperation in various fields with relevant stakeholders.

Since its creation the AF4SD has implemented more than 325 development projects with international, European and local partners.

We believe that each our project and initiative creates a better community for all of us.





Fields of activity

Migration - Actively involved in managing the return and reintegration issues of migrants, we offer our expertise in carrying out field assessments, developing policy documents, roadmaps, manuals and toolkits in the field of migration.

Education - In order to ensure equal access to education for all members of society and with a focus on the most vulnerable, we also target our actions on renovating and equipping schools and libraries, funding university scholarships and innovative education projects.

Vulnerable people - By focusing our activities on the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable people, we strive to guarantee them equal access to all fundamental rights for better social and economic inclusion in society.

Francophonie - By organizing large-scale Francophonie events for more than a decade, the Fund aims to strengthen the capacity of Francophone schools, to promote French language teaching in remote regions of Armenia and implementing experience exchange programs for young people as well as for professionals.

MIGRATION

Actively involved in the management of return and reintegration of migrants, we offer also our expertise in conducting field assessments, elaborating policy papers, roadmaps, manuals, and toolkits in the field of migration.



Return to sources

To help those who are in an irregular situation in France and wish to return voluntarily to Armenia, the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with the OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration) and the AAAS (Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale) has been implementing the project "Retour aux sources" (Return to Sources) since 2005, co-financed by the EU.

Currently, beneficiaries of assisted voluntary return can benefit from reintegration assistance through business creation and professional training.

The AF4SD prepares the feasibility study, assists in setting up the business creation projects, and ensures their follow-up.

As at December 31, 2021, more than 2080 people have returned to Armenia thanks to OFII's assisted voluntary return program and 365 businesses have been created

EDUCATION

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



Sport Generation 2021

The Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development, in partnership with the UEFA Foundation for Children, continued the "Sport Generation" project in 2021, which is aimed to promote sports activity among Armenian youth.

"Sport Generation" is a nationwide project, funded by the UEFA Foundation for Children in 2020 and renewed in 2021.

To motivate young people and children and help them realise their potential, 41 schools, mainly in rural areas, were provided with sport equipment.

According to the terms of competition, hundreds of schools submitted promotional videos shot by pupils for taking part in the selection process. These short videos had to tell the story of school life, student involvement in the community and environmental protection. Videos had to demonstrate also the motivation of the pupils, by showcasing their achievements in the field of sport.





Within the framework of the project AF4SD organized many sports events, competitions, challenges and meetings with renowned sportsmen such as: Arthur Aleksanyan (Greco-Roman wrestler, Olympic silver (2021), gold (2016) and bronze (2012) medallist, five-time European champion and three-time World champion), Nazik Avdalyan (world weightlifting champion (2009), European champion in 2008 and 2016), Arman Nersesyan (goalkeeper) and Zhirayr Shaghoyan (striker) - Armenian national football team, throughout 2021.

The project also contributed to the inclusion of disabled children in sport activities.

Project outputs in 2021

- 244 schools submitted videos for the project competition
- 25 schools were shortlisted
- 9 892 pupils benefited from purchased and offered sports facilities
- 302 pupils with disabilities with special educational needs benefited from the project
- 25 schools were selected to receive sports equipment



Scholarships for UFAR students

Based on social and academic criteria, the AAAS Scholarship Commission annually awards scholarships to students pursuing graduate and postgraduate studies in France and to students of the French University in Armenia (UFAR).



Within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed in December 2020 by Mr. Alain Touhadian, President of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Fund for the Sustainable Development, and Mr. Bertrand Venard, Rector of UFAR, scholarships have been awarded to 17 UFAR students in 2021.

UFAR and AF4SD has been cooperating since 2004, the year of creation of the AF4SD.



Francophonie

Organizing large-scale Francophone events already for more than a decade we aim to strengthen the capacities of Francophone schools. Our action in this area is devoted to promote French language in remote regions of Armenia and implement cultural and linguistic exchange programs for youngsters and professionals. In this connection several activities were organized in 2021.



Le Coq Français Contest

Created in 2017 by the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development, "Le Coq Français" French language competition brings together the best students from French-speaking public and private schools in Yerevan and other regions of Armenia.

The contest is intended for students of IV-XII grades and has 5 age categories. It is organized in March of each year, the month of the Francophonie.

The first round of the contest takes place in the participating schools. The winners are chosen following the final round which is centralized.

More than 4000 students have participated in the competition since its creation in 2017. 34 students were awarded in 2021.



French classrooms

Very committed to the influence of the French language in Armenia, the Armenian Foundation for Sustainable Development aims to strengthen the capacities of French-speaking schools by creating comfortable and fun rooms.



We have created several comfortable and fun classrooms for schools and this year wasn't an exception. We equipped another French classroom in Azatan (Shirak region).

All necessary equipment was provided to ensure a good quality of French teaching.

All our school classrooms are equipped with computers, projectors, interactive boards and TVs.

The rich library with reading corner is a favorite place for the little francophiles

Vulnerable people

By focusing our activities on the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable people, we strive to guarantee them equal access to information and education for better social and economic inclusion in society.



Humanitarian actions

Following the war that broke out in Artsakh in September 2020, ten of thousands of people took refuge in Armenia. They were forced to flee almost with nothing in the middle of the night, piled up in cars and buses,

This disastrous situation of our compatriots forced us to find emergency solutions to alleviate the daily issues of these displaced families.

Since November 2020 and throughout 2021, the AAAS in partnership with the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development scaled up efforts to help the victims of this war.



Thanks to the supportive partners and generous donors, more than 1,000 people benefited from several humanitarian projects implemented this year.

Several types of aid were provided: distribution of food packages, social support, purchase of essential equipment, and support in the creation of income-generating activities.

Distribution of food and hygiene kits.

It started just after the war in November 2020, to alleviate the financial burden of displaced families from Artsakh by providing them with dry food and hygiene kits.

At the beginning of crisis, beneficiaries were families who had settled in the neighborhood of the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development in Yerevan.

Afterwards the partnership with different organisations have allowed us to increase the number of beneficiaries and expand the geographical area of our action to include the regions of Ararat, Armavir, and Kotayk.

Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR)

In December 2020, the first partnership with the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and its Ayo platform enabled the distribution of food and hygiene kits.

More than 500 people benefited from this first project for 5 months.



We visited about 100 displaced families in and around Yerevan who were identified by us or who contacted us spontaneously.

We realise that the temporary allowances set up by the state were not enough to cover their daily food needs.

There was a need to find financial means to cope with the increasing number of beneficiaries who were in extreme need.



Our action was supported by the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust, the Occitanie/Pyrénées Méditerranée Region, the City of Montmorency and the generous donor Mr. André Yedikardachian, as well as the members of AAAS.

Donation from the city of Montmorency

In March 2021, French municipality Montmorency financed the distribution of food and hygiene kits for 25 displaced families from Artsakh.

Of course, we understood that we were not able to take care all needs of these families, but we did all our best to prepare emergency aid packages which we distributed each month.

The packages contained: pasta, oats, buckwheat, rice, lentils, dried beans, canned vegetables and meat, concentrated tomato, sugar, dried biscuits, sweetened condensed milk, jam, coffee, tea, sunflower oil, butter, paper towels, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste.

A total of 100 packages were distributed monthly to 25 families, in total 119 people, including 69 adults and 50 children.





Donations from individuals

A generous donation by Mr. André Yedikardachian, a member of the AAAS Board of Trustees, allowed many displaced families from Artsakh to benefit from humanitarian packages.

A total of 121 people, including 66 adults and 55 children, received food and hygiene kits during 4 months.

Aid from the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust

This terrible war hurt every member of Armenian nation and everyone suffered. Thousands of people, both soldiers, and volunteers were killed or seriously wounded.

Women stayed alone to take care of families, which were in dire straits and in need of emergency assistance.

With the funding from the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust, we assisted 50 vulnerable families, which have been the victims of the Artsakh war.

In total, 214 people including 137 adults and 77 children benefited from this project by receiving food packages within 4 months.



Social Assistance

Displaced people were often victims of poverty, as they not only had difficulties feeding themselves but also frequently faced difficulties accessing public services.

French Occitanie Region helped us to alleviate the charge of these families.



Solidarity with the Armenian people

In May 2021, thanks to the funding from the Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region and in partnership with the Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale, the AF4SD launched the "Solidarity with the Armenian People" project.

Within the framework of the project 30 vulnerable families were selected and their needs were assessed. These families were supported in their administrative procedures and in social integration.

The beneficiaries of this project were people who lost access to their usual places of residence either due to the total destruction of their homes or handover of territories by Armenia under the ceasefire declaration of November 9, 2020.

Thirty beneficiary families. totally 156 people including 85 children were supported. 85 of the beneficiaries were women.



Support for essential equipment

In addition to social support, resettlement assistance in the form of essential equipment was provided to all 30 families.

The equipment was purchased following needs assessment while visiting beneficiary families.



Project activities improved living conditions of these families, by applying personalized assistance to each family.

The families received cookers, refrigerators, beds, cots, pushchairs, washing machines, bed linen, school supplies and other small household appliances.



Professional reintegration

Considering that the humanitarian assistance will not ensure the empowerment of the victims of the 2020 war, AAAS has taken charge of the purchase of professional equipment allowing the creation of an income-generating activity.

This in-kind contribution enabled beneficiaries to start their economic activity.



Support to the Insurance Foundation for Servicemen

To ensure the long-term financial sustainability of servicemen who were killed and wounded for Armenia, the Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale has been supporting the Insurance Foundation for Servicemen since 2016 by making substantial regular donations.



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Our projects for 2022

During the implementation of our humanitarian projects, our women beneficiaries express their will to be trained professionally and get a financial support for the creation of microenterprises. We know perfectly that income generating activities will ensure their empowerment.

For this reason, we have requested our partners to support us to organize vocational training courses and fund small businesses of women from war victim families.

The Saint Sarkis Charity Trust expressed its interest and consent to fund this project.

We will start the project for empowering the vulnerable women in January 2022.

to be continued ...



Our Partners



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