

ARMENIAN CARITAS



German Friendship Project 2025

**Improvement of educational conditions of Dzitankov
village school**

**Improvement of educational conditions of Arevik
village school**

Improvement of Resource Centre of Arevik School

**Improving the conditions of the kindergarten
in Harich village**

**Narrative report
Gyumri. 2025**

Project Name	German Friendship Project 2023 – 2024
Project Location	Artik, Ghazanchi /Shirak region/, Armenia
Project Direct Beneficiaries	Artik 550 pupils and 52 employees Ghazanchi 70 pupils and 27 employees
Project Duration	5 months
Anticipated Starting date	November 01, 2023
Anticipated Closing Date	April 01, 2024
Implementing Agency	Armenian Caritas
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Executive Director	Gagik Tarasyan
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Amount Approved	EUR 22,829,00

Improvement of educational conditions of Dzitankov school

Summary

Dzitankov settlement is located in the south of Shirak province, within the administrative territory of the enlarged community of Ani. The village is located 40 kilometers away from Gyumri, on the western slope of Mount Aragats, at an altitude of 1750 meters. The settlement is characterized by cold, snowy winters and cool summers. The average annual air temperature is 10-12 degrees Celsius. The average annual precipitation ranges between 350-500 mm. The village of Dzitankhank was founded between 1793-1795 by families who migrated from the Alashkert, Basen, and Kars regions of Western Armenia. In 1884, a parish school was established in the village, and at the beginning of the 19th century, Catholic and Apostolic churches were built and operated. These churches have been preserved to this day. In the 1850s, an oil mill was built in the village, where linseed oil gained great fame and recognition in the region. This reputation led to the village being renamed "Dzitankhank" (meaning "with an oil mill"). The settlement experienced its main development during the second half of the 20th century. Today, the village has a secondary school, a community center, a kindergarten, a library, and a post office. The population of the village is 1,358. The residents are primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. Some households are involved in poultry farming, beekeeping, and the cultivation of vegetables.

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Dzitankov school

The village of Dzitankhank has a three-story secondary school that was built in 1967. To this day, the school has not been renovated, and over the past 57 years, numerous problems have appeared. It has local heating, a sport hall, a library, a canteen and an event hall. The school has 185 students and 35 staff members. It also includes a preschool program. Until 2002, the school had 345 students. However, the village's severe climate conditions and difficult economic situation have forced many families to emigrate. Today, the most pressing issue for the school is the replacement of the old windows. The windows in the classrooms are large in size and have deteriorated over the years. The old windows are beyond repair and cannot be restored. Many classroom windows are completely covered with cellophane on the inside to protect against wind and cold, which has been harmful to the students' health over the years. To address this issue urgently, the school administration has repeatedly appealed to the regional authorities and the Ministry of Education, but has not received any response yet.

Implementation

Goal

Improvement of educational conditions of Dzitankov school

Objectives

- Meeting with the LSG of Ani community, presentation of the project.
- Assessment of the conditions of old windows, measurement and preliminary calculation.
- Removal and cleaning of old windows.
- Preparation and installation of new windows and window sills.
- Repairment of window slopes.

In January 2025, Armenian Caritas started the "Improvement of Educational Conditions of Dzitankov School" project. The project was fully implemented within five months. Taking into account the cold weather conditions, a fast and efficient work schedule was developed. A meeting was held with the head of the Ani enlarged community, A. Saribekyan, and representatives of the Local Authorities. During the meeting, the "German Friendship" program was presented, within the framework of which the project for improving the conditions of Dzitankov Secondary School was to be implemented. The participants

highly appreciated the program, which supports the improvement of educational conditions in remote rural schools. The head of the community also noted that he is aware of the school's issues and that the Ani Municipality is ready to contribute to the implementation of the project. Armenian Caritas organized a bidding process and selected a supplier organization to carry out the works. The removal of the old windows and window sills, as well as the cleaning work, were carried out through the joint efforts of the school staff, students, parents, and active community members.



The selected organization had previously taken measurements of the windows and window sills. The transportation and installation of the new metal-plastic windows and window sills were organized in a way that did not disrupt the school's classes.



After the installation and fastening works, the process of leveling and sanding the window slopes was quickly organized and carried out.



New windows of the school





At the end of the project, Dzitankov Secondary School had classrooms equipped with new, comfortable windows, which will provide a warm and welcoming environment for the students. The "German Friendship" program once again extended a helping hand to students in a remote village. The project results were covered by local media, posted on the Ani Municipality's official website, and shared on the school's social media pages.

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Improvement of educational conditions of Arevik school

Summary

Arevik village was founded in 1815-20. The former name of the village was Tapadolak. It was renamed "Arevik" in 1945. In 1805, when Shirak became under Russian rule from Persia, 12 families from Karin, Mush, Basen and Alashkert settlements of Western Armenia, migrated to safer places, especially Shirak. They were mainly Catholics. Arevik village of Shirak province is located south-east from the provincial center Gyumri, at 1500m height of sea level. It is 10km far from Gyumri and 125km from the capital Yerevan. The administrative area of the village is 1580ha. The climate is temperate mountainous, winters are long and cold with permanent snow cover. Summer is warm and relatively wet. The amount of annual precipitation is 500-600mm. Around the village there are basalt reserves of industrial importance.

In 1843, the village initiated to construct a catholic church named after St. Gregory Illuminator which lasted almost half a century. A philologist, translator Barsegh Sargsyan from Arevik made a great contribution. He was head of the printing house of Mkhitaryan Congregation.

In 1970-80s the village got supplied with gas and telephone connections work. The village is still supplied with gas which is used in 95% of economies. The village has a two-story school. It also has a kindergarten, musical school, cultural house, library. In recent 3-4 years, several projects of social-economic importance have been implemented in the village which have had a positive impact on the lives of the villagers. According to the data of National Statistical Service, the number of residents is 1709. The gender composition is 45% men and 55% women. The age groups are distributed as follows: pre-working age – 29%, working age – 52%, post-working age – 19%. It has 315 households. The agricultural lands are irrigated with water from the Shirak Canal. The main sources of livelihood in the village are farming, livestock breeding, and migration work. Nearly all agricultural land is used as arable land, covering 888 hectares. Residents are also involved in fruit growing, cultivating grain, vegetable crops, forage crops, and potatoes. In the past, large areas were dedicated to sugar beet cultivation, and the raw material was processed at the Spitak sugar factory. As a result of the earthquake, the factory was completely destroyed, and the cultivation areas were almost entirely eliminated.

Arevik school

The school in Arevik village was built in 2002. It is a two-story standard building that includes a sport hall, library, cafeteria, event hall, and a local heating system. The school has 230 students and 33 staff members. Some of the school's windows have been replaced, while others are old wooden windows that cannot be renovated. During the winter months, these windows are covered with plastic wrap to protect against wind and cold. The school administration has repeatedly appealed to the regional authorities and the Ministry of Education for an immediate solution to this issue, but has not received any response yet. In numerous discussions held at the school, the replacement of the old windows and the provision of proper heating during the winter months have been highlighted as a primary concern.

Implementation

Goal

Improvement of educational conditions of Arevik school

Objectives

- Meeting with the LSG of Akhuryan community, presentation of the project.
- Assessment of the conditions of old windows, measurement and preliminary calculation.
- Removal and cleaning of old windows.
- Preparation and installation of new windows and window sills.
- Repairment of window slopes.

The implementation of the “Improvement of Educational Conditions of Arevik School” project began in January 2025. Before carrying out the planned works, we conducted final measurements and signed a contract with the supplier organization. A meeting with the head of Akhuryan community, Z. Manukyan, and representatives of the local self-government was organized. The meeting was also attended by the principal of Arevik School, S. Simonyan. During the meeting, we presented the "German Friendship" program, which has been improving children's educational conditions and addressing the primary needs of schools and kindergartens in Armenia since 2003. The participants highly appreciated the program and emphasized that the community is always ready to take part in the implementation of such important initiatives. The activities and timeline of the project were developed. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Akhuryan community to ensure the required community contribution to the project. The dismantling of the old windows and window sills was carried out with the joint efforts of the school's students, staff, and parents.

Dismantling and cleaning of the old windows



Installation of new metal-plastic windows and window sills



Leveling and sanding of window slopes



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Goal

Improvement of Resource centre of Arevik school

Objectives

- Meeting with the local authorities of Akhuryan community
- Assessment of the old room's condition, measurements, and preliminary estimates
- Demolition, cleaning, and fastening works
- Renovation of the Resource Center
- Furnishing of the Resource Center

The implementation of the project began on April 1, 2025, following the approval of project funding in March 2025. A meeting-discussion was organized with the head of Akhuryan community, Z. Manukyan, and members of the local self-government. The project for improving the Resource Center of Arevik Secondary School was presented and the planned activities were discussed. The participants emphasized the importance of the approved project and promised to present it to the Council in the near future for discussion and to confirm the required community contribution. To ensure the organization of project activities in accordance with the new legal requirements, a formal letter to the Regional Administration was sent, presenting the project and the planned works. Two weeks later, an official approval from the Regional Department of Education was received to proceed with the implementation. A detailed action plan was thoroughly prepared. Initially, the demolition and cleaning of the old ceiling, walls, and floor were organized



The entire floor of the center was reinforced and renovated, with a new metal-plastic window and door installed.



Detailed plastering and smoothing works were carried out on the walls and ceiling.



A new electrical wiring system was installed, along with new lights and sockets. After the renovation and interior finishing works were completed, the center was furnished with tables and chairs.



By the end of the project, Arevik Secondary School finally had a newly renovated and furnished modern Resource Center.

Goal

Improving the conditions of the kindergarten in Harich village

Objectives

- Meeting with the Local Authorities of Artik consolidated community
- Assessment of the condition, measurements, and preliminary estimates
- Ordering furniture for the kindergarten
- Furnishing the kindergarten

The implementation of the "Improving the Conditions of the Kindergarten in Harich Village" project started in January 2025. In accordance with the preliminary agreement, a meeting was held with the head of Artik community, A. Voskanian, and representatives of the local self-government. The "Improving the Conditions of the Kindergarten in Harich Village" project and the planned activities were presented. The head of the Artik community, Mr. A. Voskanian, expressed his strong support for the German Friendship 2025 program, within the framework of which the Harich Kindergarten is to receive primary assistance. He also emphasized that the Artik consolidated community highly appreciated the annual support provided by the Cardinal-Fringe-Gymnasium, which over many years has contributed significantly to the improvement of educational facilities in various village schools and kindergartens. He also stated that the Artik consolidated community is always ready to participate in the implementation of the German-Friendship-program. With the efforts of the Armenian Caritas German Friendship project manager and specialists from the selected supplier organization, the necessary measurements for the furniture of the Harich kindergarten were carried out, and a schedule for the planned activities was developed. A detailed assessment and mapping of the kindergarten rooms were conducted. Following that, the furniture was produced, which was regularly monitored and evaluated by the project manager.

New tables and chairs for the children



With the expertise of skilled specialists from the supplier organization, the furniture was carefully transported and installed at the Harich kindergarten.

Wardrobes and seating benches designated for the children



Children's cabinets for toys and educational materials

At the completion of the project, the children, parents, and staff of Harich Kindergarten expressed great satisfaction. The kindergarten was finally equipped with essential furniture, including children's tables, chairs, cabinets, wardrobes, and benches—items that had been long awaited. According to the

kindergarten director, the German Friendship program has revitalized the kindergarten by providing much-needed resources and improvements.





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