

# ARMENIAN CARITAS



German Friendship Project 2023 – 2024

Improvement of Educational Conditions of Artik

School No. 1

Improvement of Resource Centre of Artik School No. 1

Improvement of Ghazanchi School Conditions

Narrative report

Gyumri. 2023

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	4 months
Anticipated Starting date	November 01, 2023
Anticipated Closing Date	April 01, 2024
Implementing Agency	Armenian Caritas
Address	8, H. Sargsyan, Sidestreet 3, Gyumri, Armenia
Executive Director	Gagik Tarasyan
Contact Person	Mkrtich Babayan
Bank Information	SWIFT: MIDLAM22 Bank Name: HSBC Bank Armenia Account Number: 001032689001 Account Holder: Armenian Caritas BNGO
Tel	(+374 312) 57201
Fax	(+374 312) 52849
E-mail	info@caritas.am
Amount Approved	EUR 15,392,00

## Improvement of educational conditions of Artik school No. 4

### Summary

Artik is one of the of the average-size towns of the Republic of Armenia, the second town of Shirak province. It is situated on the north-western slope of Mount Aragats. Artik is connected to automobile roads with the regional centre and the capital, as well as the highways of the republic. The city is connected to Gyumri also by railway. The distance from Yerevan is 120 km, and from Gyumri - 28 km. The administrative territory of the community is 700 square km. The city centre is 1770 meters above sea level.

The development of the city began in the Soviet era, largely due to the extraction of pink tuff stone, the exploitation of mines and the construction of a number of other enterprises. Before the 1988 devastating earthquake and blockade of Armenia, in the town there were more than 10 industrial enterprises with over 3,000 employees. However, at present, these numbers have dropped dramatically because of the lack of previous economic relations and the lack of sales markets. Currently operating enterprises in the city include tuff stone production mines, tile factory, metal-plastic doors and windows manufacturing plants, bakeries, etc. At present, the key problems of the town are unemployment, broken and low-quality roads, lack of irrigation system and other infrastructural problems.

### Population

At present, officially there are 20400 inhabitants in the sub-region, of which 13800 people are living in Artik. Initially Artik was a rural location. Since 1945 Artik received the status of a small town.

- Number of families: 5200
- 47% of population are men, 53% are women
- The total number of population aged below 18 years is 29%, the middle-aged population of 18-63 makes 49%, and the elderly population above 69 years makes 22%.
- 20% of the population has permanent jobs, 21% are retired, 8% do not have permanent jobs
- 800 families are receiving state subsidy
- 97% of the population are Armenians, 3% are Russians, Yezidis, Kurds, Greeks, Ukrainians and other nations.

### Employment

The main field of agricultural specialization is the farming. Population is engaged in growing cereals, melons and gourds, fodder cultivation. Livestock breeding, poultry farming are also widespread.

### Artik school №1

Artik school №1 was founded in 1949. The history of the school was created by the hard work of skilled and honored teachers and talented directors. It has been one of the best schools in the city of Artik and in the whole region. Graduates of the school are teachers, doctors, lawyers, economists, athletes, workers who contributed to the development of the county with their work. Now the school has 550 students and 52 employees.

In 2003 thanks to the efforts of the director, without any governmental support, the school was renovated by the charity organization "Swiss Caritas". During the renovation the windows in the outer part of the school were completely replaced, but the windows in the corridors have not been replaced for 70 years and they have been deteriorated. Over the years, the problems of the school are increasing.

Nowadays, the school has heating system, but in autumn and winter months, damaged windows and window sills, which disrupt the normal operation of the educational process. The school has repeatedly appealed to various state authorities to solve this problem, but with no success. During the discussions held by Armenian Caritas at the school, the staff and parents noted that the problem of windows is a priority for the organization of the normal operation of the school

### **Implementation**

#### *Goal*

Improvement of educational conditions of Artik school №1.

#### *Objective*

Replacement of the old windows of the school corridor to ensure normal temperature for successful organization of the educational process.

#### *Activities*

- *Meeting with the LSG of Artik 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.*

*Armenian Caritas started to implement the project of repairing old windows of Artik School No1 on October 1, 2023. The project was completely implemented within 5 months. Preliminary measurements and calculations were completed by the project manager and engineer. Taking into account cold weather conditions, a schedule for quick and effective implementation of the work, was developed. A meeting was held with the head of Artik community A.Voskanyan and LSG representatives. V. Sahakyan, the director of School No1, also took part in the meeting. During the meeting, the project of German Friendship was presented and the project implementation was discussed. The head of the community highly appreciated the project, noting: "The community is always willing to participate in the implementation of such community development projects".*



The old windows and window sills were dismantled, cleaning was carried out with joint efforts of school employees, parents, active residents of the community and the students of the high school, who volunteered to have their participation in the process.





The selected organization measured windows and window sills. The new metal-plastic windows and window sills were prepared and installed in a very short period of time. Then, polishing and plastering of window sills was carried out.



Slopes plastering



New windows of the school



The entire work process was regularly monitored by the project manager and engineer. The new windows were tested during winter months and proved to keep up the warm atmosphere for the schoolchildren.

## **Improvement of Resource Centre of Artik School No. 1**

### **Implementation**

#### **Goal**

Improvement of Resource Centre of Artik School No. 1

#### *Objective*

To provide a dignified, clean and pleasant space for children with disabilities and their peers during the breaks or different therapies.

#### *Activities*

- *Assessment of the conditions of the resource center of school No. 1, renovation budget estimation.*
- *Development of the Action plan.*
- *Demolition and clean-up of the walls, ceiling and floor of the resource center from construction debris.*
- *Renovation work of the room.*
- *Monitoring on the process.*
- *Acceptance of the work.*

At the beginning of the project, an assessment of the space of the school resource center was carried out. The project manager and the specialists carried out measurement works, calculated the material costs and developed the schedule for the project implementation. According to the schedule, the phased process of procurement of construction materials was organized, which followed by the selection of the workers, renovation and furnishing activities and monitoring of the process by Armenian Caritas, school and community administration.





Floor leveling and tiling work



Ceiling construction work





Newly renovated and equipped resource center





Apart from the mentioned project's activities, Armenian Caritas tries to support the Artik School No.1 through other programs. The one of those programs is the "My Right Next Level. Inclusive Education in Armenia" project implemented by Armenian Caritas. The project's goal is to increase inclusiveness in 12 educational institutions in Shirak region. Within the project "My Right-Next Level", 80 Children with Disabilities have been supported to increase their attendance in educational institutions. The renovation of the Artik School No. 1 was significant as the physical environment of a school is crucial for children with disabilities (CWD) for their attendance. A well-designed physical environment ensures the school's accessibility for CWD. An inclusive physical environment also promotes a sense of belonging among CWD. Classrooms, playgrounds, and common areas designed with inclusivity in mind help integrate CWD with their peers, fostering social interactions and reducing feelings of isolation. And finally, safety is paramount for CWD, who may have different needs and vulnerabilities.



## Improvement of Ghazanchi school conditions

### *Summary*

Ghazanchi village is located on Gyumri-Javakhk (Georgia) international highway, 35 km northwest of Gyumri, the regional center. Ghazanchi is located 7 km away from the Georgian border and 20 km away from the border with Turkey. The village is located at an altitude of 2040m above the sea level. The geographical location is mountainous, the climate is temperate with characteristic short, cool summers, long and cold winters. The absolute maximum of the average annual air temperature is 32, the minimum is -36. The duration of winter is 170 days, the duration of snow cover is 154 days. Ghazanchi settlement was founded in 1857 by Armenians who migrated from the village of Iritsu in Alashkert, Western Armenia. According to the 2011 RA census, the permanent population is estimated to be 502 people. The population of the village is mainly engaged in cattle breeding, cultivation of grain and fodder crops. The village has a kindergarten, a school, as well as a newly built church. Ghazanchi village school was built after the earthquake in 1992 by Caritas Italiana. The school is a one-story modular building and has comfortable classrooms. Around 70 pupils and 27 employees are hosted at the school.

The main problem of the school is the issue of water supply. The old water pipeline of the school created big problems for the normal operation of the school for many years. Most of the year there is no water at the school, since the pipeline freezes during the winter months. Pupils and school staff are not allowed to use the toilets. The school kitchen is also not used due to lack of water supply.

### *Goal*

Improvement of Ghazanchi school conditions.

### *Objective*

To renovate the water pipe-line of Ghazanchi school and ensure the normal water supply all year round.

### *Activities*

- *Study the problem of the drinking water, assessment of the situation, measurement, cost estimation.*
- *Meeting with the LSG of Ashotsk community, presentation of the project, signing of agreement on community contribution.*

- *Construction works.*
- *Monitoring of the process*
- *Acceptance of the works.*

At the beginning of the project, the problem of Ghazanchi village school water supply was studied in detail. Preliminary measurement and calculation of the costs was carried out. The schedule for the implementation of the work was developed. Meeting was organized with the LSG of Ashotsk unified community, Ghazanchi being one of the settlements. K. Manukyan, the head of the community, took part in the meeting. The issue of Ghazanchi school drinking water and the proposed project were presented. LSG representatives expressed special gratitude to German Friendship project, which addresses the issues of remote villages. The head of the community mentioned that despite their scarce financial resources they are willing to participate in the implementation of the project and will make their financial investment.

Taking into account the weather conditions, construction works were carried out in the shortest possible time. The necessary construction materials were purchased. The drinking water pipeline of the school was completely replaced. With the help of equipment, a new trench was dug and a new pipeline was installed.

Now the school of Ghazanchi village has drinking water and the toilets are also used by the schoolchildren and the staff. The problem was finally solved due to German Friendship project.



Construction work of new pipeline



