Decent Home - Reality for 25 Families

The best evaluation of the partnership between VivaCell-MTS, Armenia’s leading mobile operator, and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia launched at the beginning of the year is the happiness of the families supported.

Owing to the generous philanthropic support of VivaCell-MTS 25 families-119 persons from 5 communities of 2 borderland regions of Armenia will meet the New Year in their new decent homes.

“At the beginning of the year there wasn’t even hope that the cherished dream of my family and my fellow villagers would come into true. I’m very thankful to the project that helps not only build homes but also lives, not only walls but also hope, not only roof but also belief in future,” shared Varuzhan Avagyan, whose family has been living with his parents and brother’s family for many years without basic necessities.

“Entering a new home is symbolizing the birth of a new beginning in the family life-renewed hopes, new aspirations, new plans, weaved with love and from love, leaving all misfortunes, frustrations in the past. It’s becoming especially important in the borderland. We have to build – and with each of the houses that we build, we rebuild our belief. Our fathers lived in this country, we live in this country, and afterwards, our children will be living in this country, our common descent home Armenia. We will stand firm on this sacred soil, forever, we must, and this is our message to everyone in the country and outside it,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

VivaCell-MTS has invested 55 million AMD for the housing project in the borderland villages of Armenia and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken the implementation of the project.

Embassies Build
Being Human is Given, but Keeping Our Humanity is a Choice.

On 13 September, 2014, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Mr. John A. Heffern, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Armenia, Mr. Eriks Petriks, more than 20 volunteer members from the U.S. Embassy participated in the “Embassies Build” event organized by “Helping Hands” and the FCHA aimed to help build homes for eight vulnerable families who have been living in metal containers (domiks) for more than 26 years.

It was a day of big celebration, a day of unusual excitement in the Taron 3rd district of Vanadzor city, Lori region. The program aimed to assist the families living in these temporary shelters started in 2008 with the trilateral partnership between the Armenian Relief and Development Association Charitable Foundation, Vanadzor Municipality and the FCHA. As a result already 47 families live in their own decent homes, and this year 8 more families will enjoy that happiness.

“Philanthropy really has no borders... so many people came to help us build our dream home. My family and I have been living in a metal container for many years. I couldn’t even dream that one day I will have my own decent home. We are grateful to this program and to all these people who became a helping hand for us in building the long cherished home,” said the future resident of the Taron 3rd district, Hermine Manukyan.

“Three years ago the U.S. Embassy established a volunteer community service organization called “Helping Hands”. Our Armenian and American employees and family members have worked with outstanding organizations such as FCHA on several occasions and this is another great opportunity to help the people of Vanadzor,” said U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John A. Heffern.

To remind, the partnership between U.S. Embassy and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started in 2008.
USAID-Funded ARDI Program Update

The ARDI program is being implemented in 12 cluster communities based on their competitive advantages in three main rural economic sectors/value chains, including Dairy and Fruit Processing, and Rural Tourism. During the first year of operation, eight cluster communities were selected. Because horticulture is the main competitive advantage in the communities of Areni, Arpi, Mets Ayrum and Shnogh, a series of strategies was designed to enhance the fruit value chain. The first intervention that was launched in the four communities was the renovation of the irrigation water systems. With these four projects combined, 316 ha of new land will be irrigated and cultivated and 796 families will benefit.

Rural Tourism was the main competitive advantage for the villages of Shatin and Dsegh. To enhance this advantage, the interventions included building B&Bs as well as training interested community members in the development of Rural Tourism. Three B&B projects were completed in Shatin, and 4-5 will be built in Dsegh next year. During a four-day training session, over 30 participants from each community attended and learned how to develop their businesses and manage them effectively. In eight of the selected rural clusters, entrepreneurship training was conducted to promote economic development. The training included: business plan development, financial management fundamentals, marketing and sales, and entrepreneurship concepts. The program will grant $1,500 to 50 successful women and youth applicants to start or enhance their businesses in 2015.

On October 10, 2014, USAID Armenia Mission Director Dr. Karen Hillard and staff visited the ARDI projects being implemented in the villages of Dsegh and Shnogh. They met with the local beneficiaries and discussed how these projects are stimulating economic development. In Shnogh, the team also visited the newly renovated local irrigation network.

“ARDI program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of ARDI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.”

2015 Schedule for Global Builders Teams

June 17 - June 28, team leader, Cynthia Erickson, Vanadzor
July 1 - July 13, team leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Manouelian, Yerevan
July 11 - July 25, team leader, Suzanne Daghlian, Yerevan
August 30 - September 12, team leaders, Boots and Ramsay Walker, Yerevan

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The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523, Americus, GA 31709, USA
Please add “Armenia” in the memo line.
For “Honoring 100 Years by Saving 100 Families” project please add “Armenia-100”
For “Artsakh Project” please add “Armenia-Artsakh”
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