Community competitive assessments (CCA) and value chain (VC) analyses were conducted in program target communities. The results indicated that horticulture is the main economic sector for the Shnogh and Mets Ayrum communities in the Lori region, as well as the Arpi and Areni communities in the Vayots Dzor region. The good climate and rich soil provide the perfect conditions for fruit tree cultivation in these areas.

Following the results of CCA and VC findings ARDI with communities’ involvement initiated implementation of four irrigation projects in these communities. The projects in Mets Ayrum and Arpi are almost completed. The rest are in the process of being completed, and should be finished in fall 2014.

Currently, the Shnogh community cultivates an annual average of 920 tons of fruit, out of which 90% is sold. Besides apples, peaches and pears, Shnogh also produces valuable crops of grapes, persimmons and figs. The irrigation system in Shnogh was established in 1968 and the last renovation of the main canal was in 1987.

“Today the Shnogh community produces just 10% of the fruit crop that was producing a few decades ago. The main reason has been that we lacked a proper water supply for irrigation. With the generous support of the ARDI program, the renovation of the old water irrigation system, to make it fully functional, will greatly improve our community’s socio-economic condition,” said Shnogh Mayor Mr. H. Sahakyan.

The implementation of the project in these four communities will result in positive economic outcomes for the beneficiary families, including increased horticulture production on 135 ha of land. Even before project completion, 5.5 ha of fruit trees, mostly persimmon, were planted. The estimated net profit for the project in the command area is $45,932, with an average gross output per subscriber of $6,214. The number of beneficiaries will be 197 households.

“We believe that investing in issues like helping build homes for families in need is a solid, long-term investment in the life of several generations.”

Hripsime Deghdzunian, ABBC Board President

This year the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started a new and a solid partnership with the Armenian British Business Chamber (ABBC), a partnership that contributes to the sustainability of families living in poverty housing.

ABBC has partially sponsored a home of a vulnerable family, the Voskanyans, from Vanadzor city of Lori Region, who have been living in a metal container (domik) for more than 26 years without a bathroom, a kitchen, with a deteriorated leaking roof… The ABBC team has also voluntarily joined the family helping them with the construction of their home, helping them feel that they are not alone with the difficulties of life.

“Their story is not a life; we are living with rodents… no bathroom, we are using pots for having bath and outhouse for toilet. These conditions have affected my son’s health, he is ill with hydrocephalus. One can’t even imagine what the mother feels knowing that soon this nightmare will end and her children will not pass through the difficulties of life that she did,” said the young mother, Tatev, whose house was partially sponsored by ABBC.

Hopefully by the end of the year the family will move to their new decent home.

USAID-Funded ARDI Program Update
Small Scale Infrastructure Development Improvement of Irrigation Water Supply

The Advanced Rural Development Initiative Program (ARDI) is supporting three main rural economic sectors/value chains of dairy and fruit processing, and rural tourism.

The 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.”
The housing project implemented through the financial investment of VivaCell-MTS has given its first results. On August 26, a long-waited housewarming ceremony was held in the village of Yervandashat. The first achievement of the project launched a few months ago in Arnavir region was marked through a home blessing ceremony.

"Words can't describe the happiness we feel today. We have longed for this day, we have worked very hard to one day have a home of our own, we have dreamed so long that one day our sons would have a strong roof over their heads, but we couldn't... We express our gratefulness to VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia for being next to the people living on the border and sharing our infinite happiness by being present in our home blessing ceremony," the Ghazaryan family mother, Mrs. Gohar, expressed her gratefulness.

"Every single stone here was laid with love and that love carries a belief in bright future. It is particularly important that the villagers living in the borderland villages feel that they are not alone when facing hardships and challenges. People from various organizations have united to help their families stand solidly on the soil of the Homeland. That feeling is the warranty for success," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

"The home for an Armenian is not just a place to live in. It's the soul of the family, the warranty and the cornerstone of the secure and decent life. The project implemented in the borderland villages of Armenia through the financial investment of VivaCell-MTS is aimed at creating decent conditions for each family that will give them an opportunity to live, work and create on their own land in their own homes and to have a base and warranty for future happy life," said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia president, Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

To remind, VivaCell-MTS has invested 55 million AMD for the housing project aimed to assist 25 families in the borderland villages of Armenia and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken the implementation of the project.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide
by Building Homes for 100 Families

“My family faced a lot of difficulties,” shares Lilit Karapetyan from the town of Berdzor in Artsakh. “My father’s family lost their home during the Artsakh War. Later when he met my mother, they had to move from one place to another to find a shelter. In 2010, they managed to buy a dilapidated house with only walls and a roof. They renovated the roof with the support of the local municipality. Since then we have been trying to finish the construction but couldn’t. My parents are hardworking people who do whatever is possible to earn a living for our family, but that’s only enough to live on.

Lilit continues, “When my mom told me that there is an organization that will help us finish the construction of our house, it was overwhelming. I couldn’t believe it! I’ve dreamed of having a home since childhood. I’m 18 years old now. Words can’t describe the gratitude that I want to express to the sponsors and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia for the greatest gift of my life. By the end of the year, we will live in our completed home - in the home of my dreams. Thank you!” Lilit’s house is being built thanks to the generous donations of Candan and Minakian families.

To Honor the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has started a project, called “Honoring 100 Years by Saving 100 Families,” to commemorate the Armenian Genocide in a respectful way. The project will build and renovate 100 homes for 100 vulnerable families. Since the start of the project almost a year ago, 68 families have already been assisted. There are still 32 families to be assisted by the end of 2015.

FCHA is reaching out to Armenians all over the world to support this project and honor the memories of their loved ones who were martyrs or survivors of the Armenian Genocide. A donation of $10,500 will sponsor a completed home. The beneficiary family will receive a personalized, commemorative plaque inscribed with the donor’s choice of message or dedication. When construction is completed, all house-donors will receive a certificate from FCHA and photos of the new house. We already have house-donors like Ms. Arlene Hajinlian from NY, the Candan and Minakian families from NY, Ms. Sandra Shahinian Leitner from NJ, Armenian community of Racine, WI and other generous donors.

“We express our gratitude to all our supporters for joining us and helping honor the memories of the martyrs and survivors of the Armenian Genocide by building homes for families that have no permanent shelter or live in unbearable conditions. We hope to reach our goal of supporting 100 families by the end of 2015,” said Ashot Yeghiazaryan, the president of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

www.fullercenterarmenia.org
Global Builders’ Volunteer Teams
Making a Generational-level Change in the Lives of Armenian Families in Need

Summer! Time full of hard work, fun and happiness, love and good will! It has become our habitual but greatest pleasure to host Global Builders volunteer teams each summer. This summer the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia hosted 5 Global Builders teams led by experienced team leaders Leo and Sona Manuelian, Boots and Ramsay Walker, Cynthia Reimers Erickson, Chris Grant and Jacqueline Elchemmas, people who dedicated themselves to making difference in the lives of people who are less fortunate. Their philanthropy has become contagious for many people who later joined them as team members and became our dedicated supporters as well. This year the 5 teams worked on 14 houses giving hope for the better future to 14 vulnerable families living in Vanadzor city, villages of Lejan and Lusaghbyur of Lori region, Kanakeravan village of Kotayk region and Arpi village of Vayots Dzor region. The teams worked directly with the families making a generational-level change in their lives.

“Helping my sisters and brothers in Armenia fills my heart with joy. There is no other country like Armenia. My roots are here. Working with the Fuller Center gives me such elation that my heart becomes larger than my body! We do God-pleasing work. Our team members and the homeowners all join together, hand in hand, to build a new home. Where they had nothing before, the families now have a home and hope for the future. To see the smiles on the homeowners’ faces is priceless. I will continue to come to Armenia and work with FCHA until the day I die!” said Sona Manuelian, volunteer, who keeps coming to Armenia already many years.

Teams from the Western and Eastern Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church
Building Homes with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia

The Armenian Apostolic Church has always been the pharos around which gather wide-spread Armenians. It is already many years that teams from the Western and Eastern Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church join Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in its mission of eliminating poverty housing in Armenia.

This year a team of 42 enthusiastic people from the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators of the Eastern Diocese, led by Fr. Krikor Sabounjian and the team of Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA) of the Western Diocese led by Deacon Mkrtich Ksachikyan joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in its mission of eliminating poverty housing in Armenia. Both teams worked very hard helping families in need of decent housing build their homes both physically and with their financial contributions.

The team of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators has fully sponsored the Margaryan family house from Lori region, the village of Lejan. Their team has worked for 3 days on Margaryan family house doing really tremendous work and making a real difference in the life of the family.

“This is a unique way of collaboration which has become a strong bridge between the Diaspora and the Motherland. We are expressing our gratitude to both teams for their good will, for the assistance to the families in need, for becoming a helping hand for those who are less fortunate. By the end of the year the families will move to their new decent homes and start a new and a brighter life,” shared Ashot Yeghiazaryan, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President.

The two teams of the Eastern and Western Dioceses came through SIMA Tours, a travel agency which has been collaborating with FCHA already many years.
To support our programs, please make online donation through our website:
www.fullercenterarmenia.org/get-involved/donate

Or send a check to:
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”

Donations are tax-deductible. THANK YOU