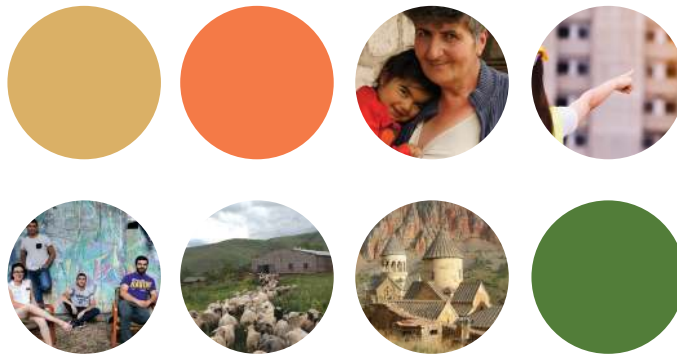




KASA SWISS HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION



REPORT

1997-2017

www.kasa.am

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SUMMARY

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The outcome of the experience a Swiss choir had in Armenia in 1997 is an association in Switzerland and a foundation in Armenia. This report summarizes the 20 years of fruitful partnership with Armenians who have decided to roll up their sleeves and build their republic despite all the obstacles.

We have discovered a society full of energy, where the young people want to determine their destiny, where people are proud of their values and open to interculturalism, who seek a path between individualism and collectivism, merging self-growth with respect for others, in a new endeavour for common welfare.

We are happy to contribute to the development of a vibrant Armenia which invests bravely to take its place among the democratic societies and we want to thank all those in Switzerland, Europe and Armenia who support our activities.

Monique Bondolfi-Masraff, president and founding member of KASA



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2017 was a symbolic year for KASA: we celebrated the 20th anniversary of its active engagement for the sake of the Armenian population. We have tried with this report to summarize what the Foundation has accomplished during these two decades. Besides facts and numbers, we wanted to emphasize the way we chose to work with our beneficiaries, as well as the approaches and methods which we constantly improve and refine to better respond to their changing needs and to the new challenges occurring in the fields we are active in.

I would like to thank personally and on behalf of my team, all individuals and organisations that we collaborated with while implementing important initiatives for the sustainable development of Armenia, and all beneficiaries of our projects together with whom we matured and who have in their turn inspired us. It is due to the constant interaction with them, laden with sincerity and mutual respect that we managed to carry out pertinent and meaningful projects.

I also want to thank the KASA community in Switzerland, Europe and Armenia, where we collaborate with people who share a common vision of a more united, equal and flourishing world and who toil every day to make this come true.

I am happy to have been together with KASA during half of its life and I am honoured to have had the responsibility of heading it during the past six years.

Anahit Minassian, director of KASA

01

GENERAL INFORMATION

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In October 1997, Komitas Swiss choir, headed by Sirvart Kazandjian-Pearson, came with friends to Armenia to celebrate its 10th anniversary in the land of Komitas, and gave two concerts in Yerevan. Struck by the gap between the rich human and cultural heritage of this ancient nation and the contrasting, dire social and economic conditions, several members of the choir founded upon their return in Switzerland the Association Komitas Action Suisse-Arménie (KASA) to support Armenians in their efforts to revive their country.

KASA officially established in Armenia as Fondation Humanitaire Suisse (Swiss Humanitarian Foundation) in 2001 and begun to act, untiringly striving for professionalism, while aiming with increasing precision at the needs which has decided to respond to.

Offering primarily **humanitarian** aid to a country thrice struck - the disastrous earthquake of December 1988, the collapse of the Soviet system, and the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh) war, trying to recover and assume its independence that Armenians dreamt for centuries. KASA started helping two orphanages in Yerevan, as well as hundreds of disadvantaged families in Gyumri.

Parallel to this, 40 **construction** and restoration of infrastructure projects were carried out (water, gas, schools and boarding schools, medical and social centres). The emancipation of the local population from its primary needs was obligatory as to be able to proceed to the next level envisioned by KASA, namely, the development of a person.

A development to which KASA was determined to contribute by means of **education**, convinced it is the most sustainable way to form a democratic society capable of assuring the aspirations of its members and the growth of the country, in a united and equitable way.

Thus, the Foundation combined humanitarian projects with education and training. And from 2008, this became KASA's primary field in which it excels today with projects promoting civic education and participation of the youth in decision-making within the Armenian society and state, by means of face-to-face and e-Learning educational programmes, parallelly developing non-formal learning methods. The foundation also supports the economic, social, and cultural integration of locals, as well as Syrian Armenians and other displaced persons who found refuge in Armenia.

KASA's vision of sustainability is also reflected in **agricultural** projects initiated or supported in several Armenian villages with the aim of allowing villagers to stay on their land.

The same vision is expressed in KASA's approach towards **tourism** - a field which lies at the origins of the Foundation and has significantly contributed to its promotion. Priority is given to the person and the environment: development of personalized trips for groups or individuals, as well as accommodation in Yerevan and Gyumri.

APPROACH

KASA'S CHARTER

A summary of our values

This charter, a product of long deliberations in Switzerland and Armenia, intends to underline our identity and guide us in our activities by offering a common platform. Collaborators and volunteers who sign under this document and implement its principles are part of KASA in Europe and Armenia.

Our vision

To promote a society of open, autonomous citizens who are actors of positive change in a rapidly transforming world.

Our aim

To support Armenians who aim at the sustainable development of Armenia and engage democratically in the economic, social and cultural life of the country.

Our values

- to promote personal development;
- to support him/her in professional development and civic education;
- to aim at a sustainable economy – a third path between collectivism and individualism.

Our priorities

- to respond to the specific needs of the most disadvantaged;
- to encourage learning by simultaneously developing knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills;
- to propagate civic and environmental engagement and solidarity;
- to contribute to the empowerment of women;
- to foster intercultural dialogue;
- to promote the language, culture and values of francophonie;
- to enhance a personalised and alternative tourism approach, in touch with the local situation.

Our methods

- to take dynamic approaches which develop initiative taking;
- to establish structures that combine hierarchy and participative management;
- to subtly combine loyalty and creativity, respect for tradition and taste for innovation.

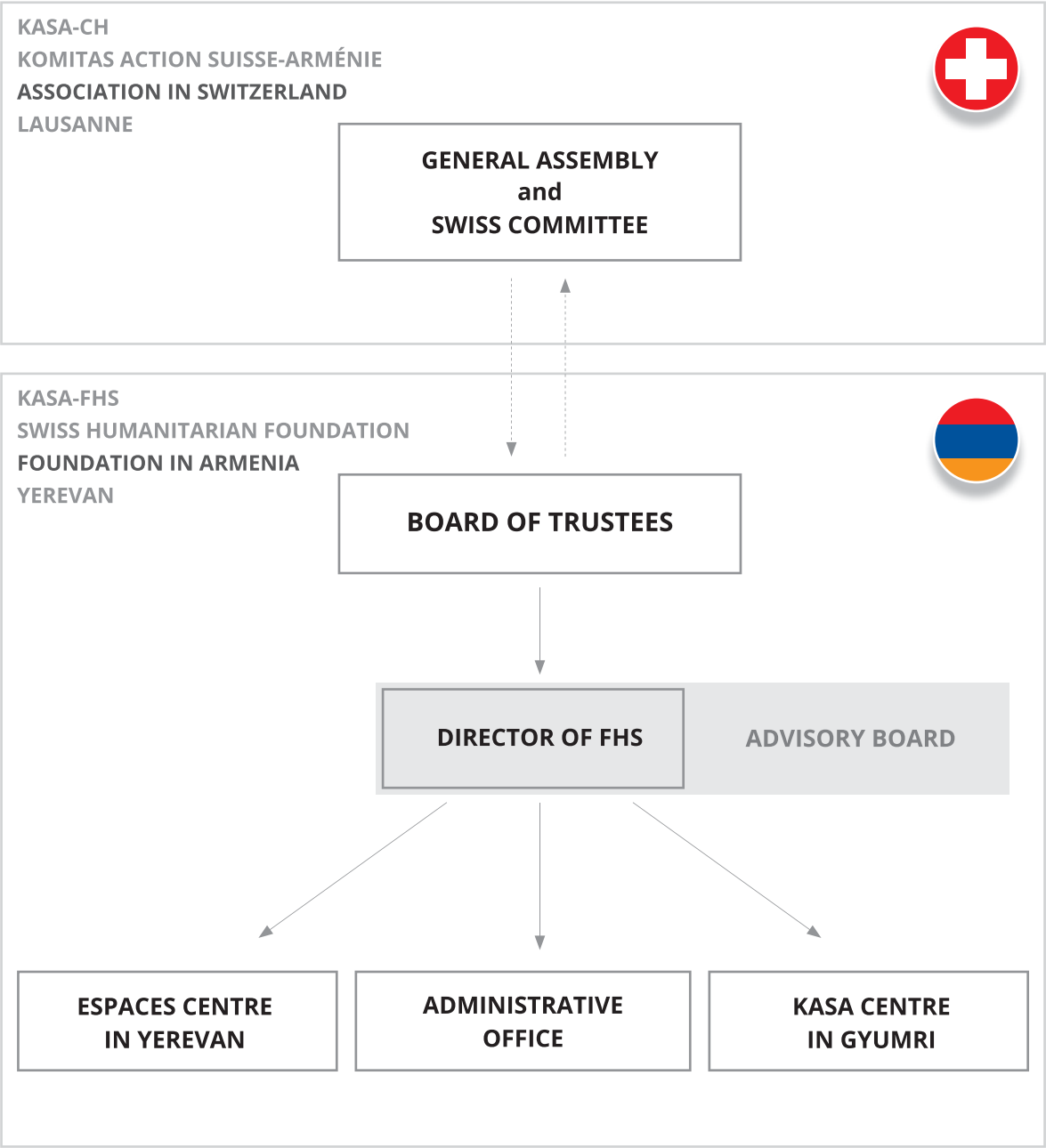
The fields of our activities

- humanitarian
- construction
- education
- agriculture
- tourism

And our challenge? Spreading hope, for KASA and for Armenia!

Lausanne and Yerevan, 20 August, 2012

STRUCTURE



In Switzerland



Members of KASA Switzerland are all those who make donations in the form of sponsorships or one-off allocations or who are active in the association. They are invited annually to the **General Assembly** which elects the members of the Committee and determines directions and major decisions.

The **Committee** of KASA Switzerland is composed of 7 to 11 volunteer members elected by the General Assembly. It gathers 8-10 times annually and engages in supporting the activities of KASA in cooperation with the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

In Armenia



The **Board of Trustees** of KASA Armenia is composed of Swiss/European and Armenian members. Guarantor of the principles of KASA's charter, it maintains the activities of the Foundation in Armenia in close collaboration with the Swiss Committee.

The **Director** appointed by the Board of Trustees is responsible for the entirety of KASA's activities in Armenia. He/she along with the Advisory Board manages the Foundation based on the principles of solidarity and participation. The latter is composed of the members of the top management and sector heads of the Foundation.

On top of that, more than 50 collaborators and a hundred volunteers join their forces in Yerevan and Gyumri working on the implementation of KASA's projects.



Members of the Swiss Committee, Board of Trustees, and the team of the Foundation.

02

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

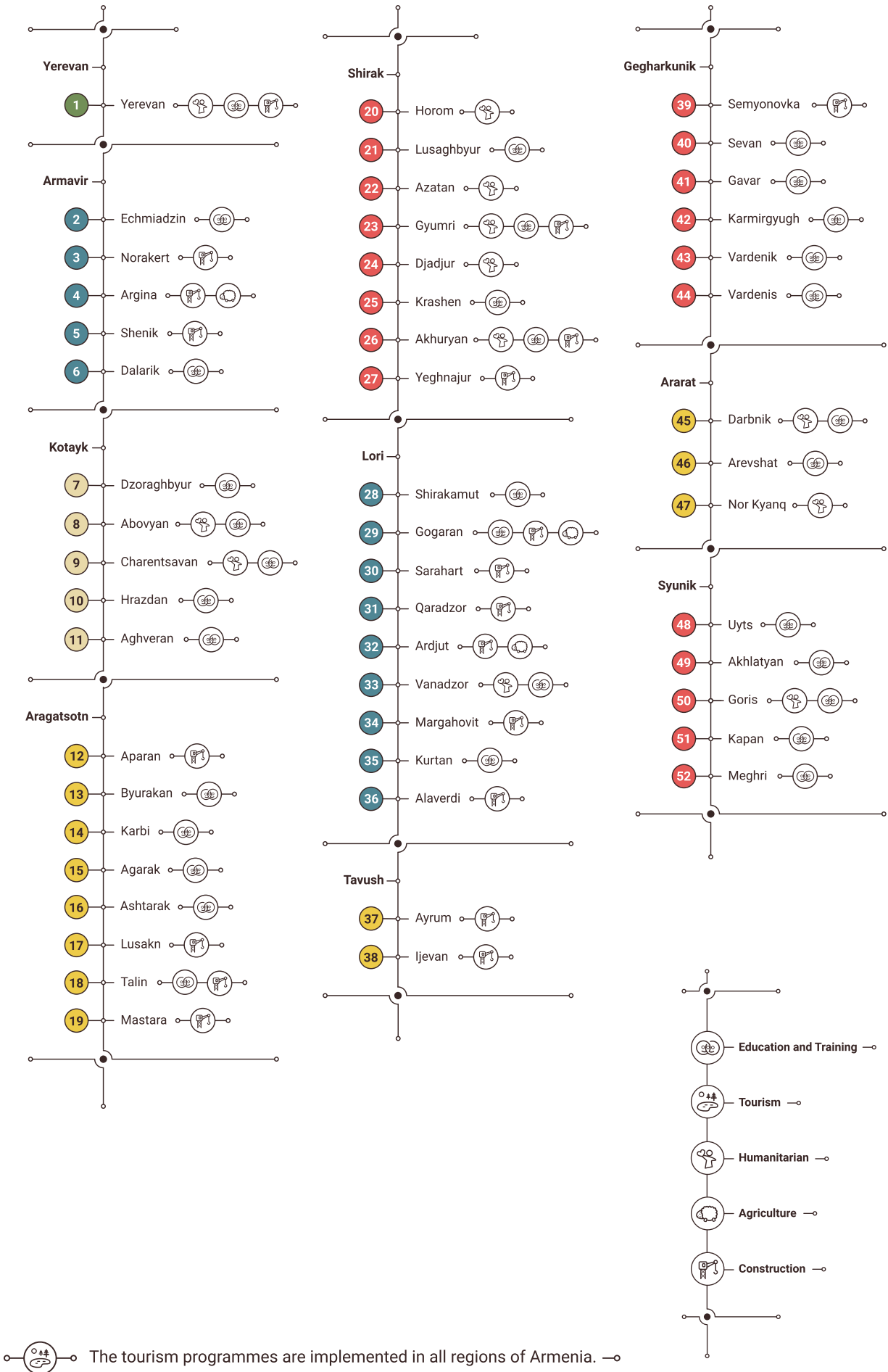


ACTIVITY MAP

Here is the map of the communities where KASA has been active at different levels during the past 20 years of its existence. The choice of areas of activities is based on assesment of the needs to which KASA has decided to respond to, particularly in the northern part of Armenia.

Humanitarian icon is very often associated with the education one. KASA has always aimed for a long-term development, thus its willingness to offer various trainings to those who it supports financially in order to enable their autonomy.

Similarly, agricultural projects often follow a construction project: noticing a disturbing exodus in the villages where it was rebuilding a school or infrastructure, KASA wanted to support the villagers and help them stay with their families on their land.





HUMANITARIAN AID



HUMANITARIAN AID

“Teach to fish instead of giving fish”

The history of KASA is closely linked to the devastated areas of northern Armenia, the sight of which, nearly 30 years after the earthquake, remains distressing: huge industrial wastelands, forsaken buildings and housing estates, phantoms of a lively past, broken roads, entire districts comprised of “domiks” (huts, originally provisional, which remain to date the only home for some of the families affected by the earthquake) villages almost completely deserted or consisting almost entirely of women, after their husbands and sons had to leave to earn their living in Russia.

Since its creation, KASA has invested primarily in the fields of humanitarian aid and assistance. It prioritised the aforementioned regions, but also targeted Yerevan, particularly the boarding schools, as many individuals and foreign or international organisations had done, discovering Armenia after the earthquake and the war.

KASA, however, differed, as its approach was more than simple allocation of materials. Which while indispensable, alone would have been insufficient for the long-term development perspective pursued by the Foundation.

SPONSORED FAMILIES

According to official data, almost a third (29.8%) of the population in Armenia is poor. The region of Shirak has the highest rate than any other region in Armenia, with 45% of its population living below the poverty line.*

KASA's model

KASA's support to families currently takes the following form:

- priority support to vulnerable families with young children, where the adults demonstrate willingness to find a way out and to cooperate;
- allocation of basic material assistance (food, heating). It should be noted that the families make their own monthly purchases, with the advice of the social worker and according to their needs. Thus, they start to feel more responsible, learn to manage a budget and become self-reliant;
- individual monitoring provided by the Arevamanuk Family and Child Care Fund: evaluation of the families' needs, regular home visits from the social worker, psychological counselling, hygiene and nutrition education, parenting school;
- trainings offered aimed at enabling professional (re)integration;
- support in the “world outside” (legal and medical services, etc).

* http://armstat.am/file/article/poverty_2016_eng_2.pdf

Testimonial

When the untimely death of her husband left her alone with three underage children, Christine was forced to look for support and assistance. She would find it at KASA which has been helping her during the past four years financially and psychosocially in collaboration with the Arevamanuk Family and Child Care Fund. Beside the monthly allotted material aid and heating (the winters in the region are particularly harsh), KASA has also financed an operation on Christine's eyes which were inflicted by a grave illness that deteriorated her eyesight almost overnight, while a number of psychologists have managed to bring back the young mother to an active life. *"What has changed in my life during these years? A lot of things! I have started to feel secure. I knew my worries were shared, and their weight became bearable. I have once more started working at the school, where I continue to teach Russian and English. Thanks to the psychotherapy and participation in KASA's project for supporting employability I have regained self-confidence and have returned to knitting!"* says Christine who is now dreaming of opening her own knitting factory one day...



Synergies

Armine Gmyur-Karapetyan, director of the Arevamanuk Family and Child Care Fund

"Our cooperation was born out of KASA's desire to professionalize its project of family support, turning it into more than just financial aid. A lot of progress has been made in this aspect within the course of these years. The KASA-Arevamanuk model is now properly functioning and its approach is clearly distinct from other similar projects carried out in the city. "Help us to help you": this is what we are asking our beneficiaries in order to help them undertake major changes in their lives and to eliminate the barriers between donors and beneficiaries".



Christine's case, a simple narrative of a transformed life due to KASA's support, is one of dozens of examples. But KASA still has a long way to go in her endeavour to support more families and to contribute to the struggle against poverty and fatalism in Armenia!



Donor Mrs. Lucianne Stump with a sponsored family

SCHOLARSHIPS

24.3% of young Armenians give up on pursuing higher education due to the high tuition fees of local universities. These vary between 200 000 AMD / 400 CHF to more than 1 000 000 AMD / 2 000 CHF annually, while the Armenian minimum wage in 2017 did not exceed 55 000 AMD / 110 CHF. Not to mention that 1/3 of young people are unemployed. Hence an obvious observation: in practice, higher education is not available to everyone in Armenia!*

The only options: a state scholarship – a chance that only a very limited amount of students get, or a private scholarship granted by individuals or various local and foreign foundations, KASA being one of them.

KASA's model

- allocation of scholarships to students encountering socio-economic difficulties, primarily in Gyumri and Yerevan, to enable them to study at local universities;
- consideration of the determination and motivation of the students, as well as monitoring their academic accomplishments – a necessary condition to prolong the scholarship;
- encouragement to participate as volunteers in the Foundation's life, along with KASA's other volunteers and beneficiaries.

Testimonial

Student Gurgen Atanessyan discovered KASA thanks to his friends and decided to apply for a scholarship for his studies. His good grades and motivation proved to be convincing. Right from the beginning, Gurgen found his place and engaged actively in the Foundation's life. As a result, he was not only able to pursue his studies at the university, but also to subsequently get a job as an instructor at TUMO, the prestigious Armenian centre for creative technologies. His most important gain with KASA? *"I have come to know myself, to pose basic questions, that require fundamental answers, to identify my dreams and my capabilities of realizing them."*



* <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/georgien/13148.pdf>

SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

There are no state establishments in Armenia where children and teenagers can develop personally and socially. Left between cramped and often miserable housing and a still very rigid school system, they lack an alternative space that would allow them to develop their creativity and initiative taking.

KASA's model

The sight of numerous children sitting on the sidewalk in Gyumri without even playing or running about struck KASA's founders during their very first visit to the city, hence the willingness to offer them a neutral and informal space: the socio-educational project that proposes the following:

- animations and games, art workshops (singing, dancing, acting, photography), chess, language and computer courses. All for enabling the young participants to express their creativity, to exchange experience and impressions with their peers and to come up with initiatives, such as the eco-club which a group of teenagers have recently formed within the framework of the project;
- professional orientation – a still almost non-existent practice in Armenia;
- meetings with experts from different fields, who encourage reflection and sharing around topics concerning youth-related issues;
- culture-oriented trips for discovering their city and country;
- openness to interculturality through meetings and workshops with young people from Europe;
- support offered to parents who are often trying to get by in this difficult period of transition.

Testimonial

Arthur, initially a participant, later a volunteer and youth club leader in KASA states: *“Being active in this project, I was able to discover and develop character traits and skills which I didn't think I had. Back then, I had trouble exchanging with my peers and being tolerant towards particular issues. With KASA, I have matured”*. Today, he visits villages in Shirak as a volunteer of the project of prevention of HIV/AIDS carried out by Caritas NGO, and dedicates a part of his time to KASA, editing articles on the Armenian Wikipedia.



As Arthur's case illustrates, contacts do not wane with the years: many return to KASA as youth club leaders or participate in trainings organised by the Foundation.



KEY NUMBERS

- 20-40 families supported annually.
244 families sponsored up to now;
- 20 scholarships granted annually (including scholarships for trainings organized by KASA).
A total number of 316 scholarships granted since 1988;
- 100-200 children and teenagers per year involved in the socio-educational project workshops.
About 1000 children and teenagers engaged up to now.



CONSTRUCTION



CONSTRUCTION

Schools installed temporarily in “domiks” or dilapidated buildings hardly existing infrastructures – this is what the members of Komitas choir saw during their first trip in 1997 and what draw KASA to establish numerous construction sites to respond to these basic needs.

KASA's approach

To this day, KASA has realised the construction of 40 buildings and infrastructure projects thanks to cooperation with official institutions, individuals and friends, with a total budget of 11 million CHF (the majority of the finances was allocated by the Armenianos foundation (Liechtenstein), which has supported 2/3 of the construction projects). These projects involve 4 main beneficiaries:

The Armenian State:

- 10 secondary schools;
- 2 music schools: Sayat-Nova in Yerevan and Sheram in Gyumri;
- infrastructure projects (water and gas) in three villages: Gogaran, Sarahart and Shenavan.

The Shen NGO:

- community centres, renovation of a school and houses, drinking water, irrigation and gas, solar dehydrators, in different villages of Armenia.

The Arabkir Foundation:

- Arabkir paediatric hospital;
- ArBeS rehabilitation centre with the Day Care Centre in Yerevan;
- vacation centre for handicapped children in Aparan;
- Rehabilitation centre in Ijevan.

KASA:

- KASA's administrative office in Yerevan;
- EspaceS centre in Yerevan;
- KASA centre in Gyumri;
- Guesthouses in Yerevan and Gyumri.

A mere list of all these achievements does not really convey the difficulties encountered on the way to their implementation: differences in reality and mentality between individuals on the construction sites - (workers, architects, businessmen, mayors, donors) the difficulty to procure materials of good quality. These experiences, however, have made it possible to develop a refined **methodology** for new constructions, which provides:

- a preliminary analysis of the social fabric, partners and sustainability;
- proper planning taking into consideration practical requirements;
- regular financing, that facilitates the construction progress;
- weekly meetings of all involved on the construction site, to help bring people together, improve coordination and decision making;
- financial and physical audit.

Backed by experience in the field, a network of honest and shrewd entrepreneurs, while eligible for a humanitarian VAT exemption (20%), KASA can always implement new projects at the request of a third party.

Synergies

Ara Babloyan, founder of the Arabkir Foundation, current president of the National Assembly of Armenia

"The sustainability of the jointly developed projects is what seems most important to me in our collaboration: the buildings are finished, but the activities continue to bear fruit. At the same time, our relation has not only helped us to develop projects in the field of health, but in addition to change our way of thinking, our vision, our approach towards human rights and the rights of children. I have memories of a long, but productive journey which we have made together".



ArBeS rehabilitation centre in Yerevan

40 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MANAGED BY KASA

For the State:

| Establishment | Year | Budget (CHF) |
|--|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. Akhuryan gymnasium | 2005 - 2008 | 260 100 |
| 2. Boarding schools N 5 and N 11 | 2001 - 2006 | 19 000 |
| 3. Sayat-Nova music school | 2005 - 2006 | 83 000 |
| 4. State Special Educational Complex N 2 | 2000 - 2004 | 173 300 |
| 5. School in Argina (heating + equip.) | 2002 - 2003 | 67 000 |
| 6. School in Gogaran | 2000 - 2008 | 929 300 |
| 7. School N 33 in Gyumri | 2005 - 2006 | 1 053 200 |
| 8. School in Mastara (wing A) | 2006 - 2008 | 864 000 |
| 9. School in Yeghnajur | 2005 - 2007 | 145 800 |
| 10. Sheram music school | 2006 - 2016 | 538 600 |
| 11. Talin gymnasium | 2003 - 2007 | 643 400 |
| Total: | | 4 772 380 43% |

In support of rural communities:

| Community | Year | Budget (CHF) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Argina (Argina-Artani road) | 2003 | 9 000 |
| 2. Argina (solar dryers) | 2003 | 72 000 |
| 3. Argina (water reservoir) | 2003 | 12 000 |
| 4. Argina (canning factory) | 2005 | 89 000 |
| 5. Ayrum (irrigation) | 2005 | 90 000 |
| 6. Ayrum 2 (refrigerators) | 2006 | 10 800 |
| 7. Geghashen (water) | 2003 | 9 000 |
| 8. Gogaran (water) | 2009 | 45 000 |
| 9. Gogaran, Sarahart, Shenavan (gas) | 2007 - 2008 | 224 000 |
| 10. Lusakn (community centre) | 2006 - 2007 | 72 500 |
| 11. Margahovit (plans) | 2006 | 13 600 |
| 12. Norakert (community centre) | 2008 | 82 500 |
| 13. Semionovka (water) | 2005 | 14 000 |
| 14. Shenik (irrigation) | 2005 | 15 000 |
| 15. Yeghnajur (apostolic church) | 2006 | 18 500 |
| 16. Yeghnajur (infrastructure) | 2006 - 2007 | 276 900 |
| Total: | | 1 035 300 9% |

For Arabkir Foundation:

| Establishment | Year | Budget (CHF) |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. Aparan vacation centre | 2006 - 2007 | 378 700 |
| 2. Arabkir hospital in Yerevan (block D) | 2006 - 2008 | 960 000 |
| 3. Arabkir hospital in Yerevan (laboratory) | 2006 | 171 600 |
| 4. ArBeS Day Care Center (stage 2) | 2004 - 2005 | 525 500 |
| 5. Rehabilitation centre in Ijevan | 2007 - 2008 | 110 300 |
| Total: | | 2 146 100 20% |

For KASA:

| Establishment | Year | Budget (CHF) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Arevamanuk centre in Gyumri | 2002 - 2008 | 1 454 400 |
| 2. EspaceS centre in Yerevan | 2002, 2005, 2014 | 370 600 |
| 3. Guesthouse in Yerevan | 2006, 2014 | 388 000 |
| 4. KASA office | 1999, 2005 | 68 500 |
| Total: | | 2 281 700 21% |

OTHERS:

Endanik, Mission Armenia, different equipment 746 520

TOTAL 11 000 000 CH



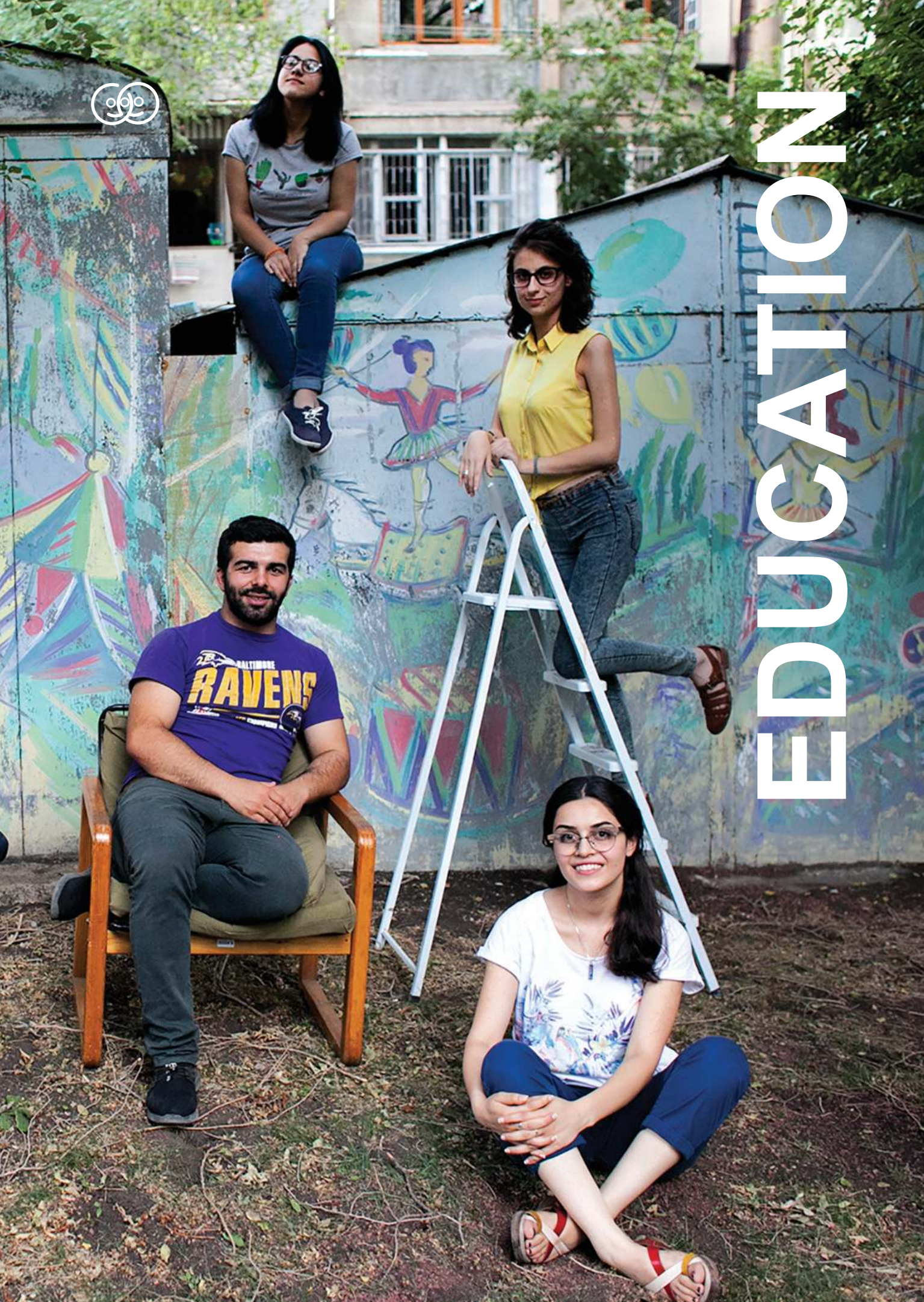
The Arevamanuk building in Gyumri



School N 33 in Gyumri



EDUCATION



EDUCATION

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

Before you start to change the world, it is better to start with yourself and your own corner, your own country. But the objective of educating responsible citizens is still absent in Armenian traditional universities and schools - heirs of the Soviet system. Within this context, institutions such as KASA have assumed the mission of encouraging young people and adults to become actors of their lives and bring about positive changes in their societies.

KASA deploys its initiatives on various levels, combining long-term and short-term visions: on the one hand, civic education and intercultural dialogue for deep changes on the individual and society level, on the other hand, support in employability, so that young Armenians find their place in the current job market, as well as assistance in the social, cultural and economic integration of displaced persons.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

A survey carried out by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of RA has revealed that only 31% of young Armenians never had the desire to leave their country for good. The rest had the intention to leave or were already about to do so.*

32

In a country with a population which decreases and ages at every passing year, KASA promotes active citizenship (“Young Citizens of Armenia”) and supports the development of communities (“Youth at Promise”) by engaging the youth – the Foundation’s main visit card.

KASA’s model

“Young Citizens of Armenia”

- thematic youth clubs: languages, arts, psychology, ecology, human rights, etc. A platform which gives the opportunity to discuss in an informal atmosphere diverse subjects related to problems of individuals and modern-day citizens, to come to know the environment one is living in and to develop creativity;
- education and training, regular support and monitoring of volunteers who run the weekly youth clubs for other youth in Yerevan and Gyumri;
- organisation of initiatives encouraging young Armenians to act and find solutions for local problems they have identified.

* <http://www.msy.am/files/post/1463655073-2.pdf> (arm)

Testimonial

When interviewing applicants for the role of club leaders, it was not Azganush's experience which proved decisive, but her energy and extreme sincerity. *"By participating in this project, I want to improve my relationship with my father"*, the 20-year-old girl said at the interview. And she was offered the opportunity. Azganush did not hesitate when it was up to her to propose an initiative: an idea was already ripe in her mind - to initiate activities for the youth of her native Arshaluys village, thus colouring their monotonous routine.

The idea of involving the other club leaders into her project proved doubly productive, for her colleagues viewed it as a matter of honour to carry out similar initiatives in their own communities. The experience gained is being further augmented and in various forms!

Meanwhile, Azganush managed to change the overly protective attitude of her father and has even obtained his permission to participate in an exchange project in Poland.



"Youth at Promise"

- support of youth projects in the regions through dialogue and cooperation with the local authorities;
- training the participants in issues concerning the youth engagement, project management and social entrepreneurship;
- selection of nine out of around twenty initiatives financed within the framework of the project and realised with KASA's support.

Testimonial

“Hripsime the tractor driver”: this is how she is called in her community of Krashen and the adjacent villages. Her main occupation now, quite uncommon for an Armenian woman, is a direct result of her participation in KASA’s project: “There are no playgrounds in Krashen where children can pass their time and have fun. I had initially come to KASA to suggest creating one. *Afterwards, the evaluation of the needs of the village indicated that a tractor was a more urgent necessity. While technologies are rapidly developing, those living in my village had nothing but their own hands and spades to plough the land with*”. Today, the tractor has alleviated the hard labour of the villagers. Moreover, the modest income from the tractor has enabled her to accomplish her initial idea of constructing a playground, with a direct engagement of all the members of her community.



Some other achievements of the project:

- the Karbi community has now its first youth centre;
- awareness raised among teenagers, parents and teachers in Yerevan on the importance of sexual education;
- the inhabitants of the town of Vanadzor and of the neighbouring villages were given the possibility to obtain information on the terms of bank loans;
- bee-keeping has been re-launched under an improved condition in the community of Uyts securing two handicapped young villagers with employment.

Synergies

Areg Tadevosyan, president of “National Team of Trainers” NGO

“It’s been about ten years since we started to cooperate with KASA. It all began when the Foundation showed interest in the skills of the “National Team of Trainers” in terms of non-formal education. Today, we are carrying out joint projects, constantly thinking of new forms of collaboration, such as modules of intercultural communication meant for KASA’s volunteers, or the project of social entrepreneurship. For me, KASA’s most important contribution to the youth projects is its approach: it works on long-term projects, with young people who have great potential. To the above I would add its work towards systemisation of the educational materials - the manual for youth workers and educational games – which is carried out with a high level of professionalism”.



SUPPORT IN EMPLOYABILITY

According to statistics, about 1/3 of youth in Armenia is unemployed. Hundreds of graduates of law, economics and international relations complete their studies at the universities every year, albeit the local job market does not require that many specialists in the related fields. The gap between the knowledge provided by the universities and the skills and know-how which the employers are looking for is evident in almost all sectors.*

KASA's model

To support youth and adults in a constantly evolving job market, KASA does not cease to adapt its projects and methods in order to facilitate the professional integration of its beneficiaries. It currently offers:

- targeted modules (self-knowledge, research tools, etc.);
- individual consulting;
- personalised support in job search offered by volunteers having successful professional experience (an element called "Two for a Job");
- networking with potential employers;
- training of tourist guides.**

*** More details available in the chapter dedicated to KASA's activities for developing tourism.*

Testimonial

A lawyer by education, Lilit Yeremyan could not find appropriate employment. She was losing hope of being able to achieve her dream, when she accidentally discovered KASA's project. *The diligent research with the help of the volunteer and preparation for the examination of becoming a civil servant have borne fruit: today, Lilit works as a legal secretary!*



Originally from Guinea, Lamarana Djiba Bah found refuge in Armenia seven years ago and has even obtained a permanent residence permit. She is fluent in Armenian, but despite her diverse professional experience, she had trouble in finding a stable job. *KASA helped her become aware of her talent of making African braids. Aided by one of KASA's volunteers, Lamarana was able to create her own production of dreadlocks in Armenia.*



* <http://www.msy.am/files/post/1463655073-2.pdf>

INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

According to the statistics, about 17 000 Syrian citizens, mainly of Armenian origin, have so far settled down in Armenia, placing the country third in enlarged Europe in terms of the number of refugees received as compared to its population. To this are added the refugees, Armenians in their majority, of Iraq, Ukraine and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh). Non-Armenian asylum seekers and refugees primarily from Near East, Africa and Asia, are not numerous in the country, but are equally accorded proper support.*

KASA's model

Responding to UNHCR's demand for facilitating the socio-cultural and economic integration of displaced persons, KASA has adapted some of its activities to the needs of this new target group. Today the Foundation offers:

- support in social integration of displaced families with the help of local volunteers, an enriching experience for both sides;
- Armenian language courses and intercultural events for asylum seekers of non-Armenian origin at the State Reception Centre. Weekly organised activities are a breath of fresh air for these people whose future is still uncertain. The meetings help to improve the quality of their lives in Armenia;
- professional trainings (sewing, cooking, baking and cake decoration, hairdressing, manicure, face care, etc) offered with the help of partners specializing in the field;
- «Yerevan-Aleppo transit» youth club: an exchange platform between the local youth and Armenian youth from Syria. Initiated by KASA in 2016, this project intends to create a neutral space to enable reciprocal cognition of the young people who live side by side without knowing each other, each one locked in his/her own universe.

Testimonial

Margarita Khorozyan (Syrian of Armenian origin) has had the chance to participate in two training courses organised by KASA, namely, baking and cake decoration. Her zeal and desire to improve have finally borne fruit: she now has various baking orders and the circle of her clients is getting bigger and bigger! *"It is my approach towards work that changed in Armenia: in Syria, a woman didn't usually work, the latter being considered a burden. Here, at first I had to work out of necessity to earn a living, this necessity transformed progressively into pure pleasure and an exceptional occasion to create",* says Maggie.



* <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/09/daily-chart-crisis-context>



"For a long time I was looking for a place where locals and Armenians from Syria could meet: in Armenia, my family, my relatives and friends, all those who surrounded me were from Syria, whereas I wanted to discover new people. I finally found what I was looking for at «Yerevan-Aleppo transit» youth club! I impatiently wait for Wednesday evenings, to go there, to not miss a single meeting or activity! KASA makes you feel at home", shares Shant Hayrabedian (Syrian of Armenian origin). He is also a member of the group participating in the English language courses at the American University of Armenia offered with KASA's support to Armenians from Syria.



In 2014, Ossan Karagulyan's family, who had newly arrived to Armenia, participated as beneficiaries in the social integration project for Armenians from Syria. A local Armenian volunteer gave them assistance, directions and support in all questions related to their socio-cultural integration in the country: education, social security, leisure time, etc. This was a contagious example of involvement, as a year later, in 2015, Ossan made the decision to continue her participation in the project, but this time it was her turn to pave another displaced family's way into the Armenian life.

Originally from Ukraine, N. K.* is living at the Reception Centre. The energy and positive approach of this 57-year-old woman towards life are outstanding. In spite of her age, she endeavours to learn Armenian and integrate into society and everyday Armenian life. Moreover, she says that she's fully determined to start her own business if she succeeds in procuring the necessary finances.

* Name and photo are intentionally not shown to protect the privacy of the person.

Synergies

Christoph Bierwirth, UNHCR representative to Armenia

"Integration is a process, and anyone can contribute to it: rich philanthropists may offer apartments or cover housing expenses, young students may help their refugee friends to better orientate themselves in the campus. KASA is one of the key partners in Armenia for the integration of displaced persons. I would describe our cooperation in three words: close, sincere and innovative".



INTERNATIONAL OPENNESS

It is difficult to underestimate the importance of intercultural dialogue in today's world, particularly when one considers the consequences of its absence: radicalisation, armed conflicts and terrorist attacks claiming millions of innocent lives every year. Openness to each other and respect for diversity both on international and interpersonal levels contribute to peace, harmony and social cohesion.

KASA's approach

Having French-speaking Swiss founders and an Armenian team, the intercultural dialogue was and still is a part of KASA's internal life. Together with its volunteers, KASA sees the dialogue through:

Promotion of francophonie

Given the friendship shared between the Armenians and French nations and considering the official steps taken by the Armenian state towards joining the world francophone community (the International Organisation of Francophonie of which Armenia is a full member since 2012), KASA, itself founded by French-speaking Swiss, offers:

- workshops for promoting the French language and francophone cultures in 15 Armenian schools;
- promotion of francophone literature (reading clubs, conferences with Swiss authors or literary critics, such as Metin Arditi, Raphaël Aubert or Doris Jakubec, a rich library);
- publication of the online newspaper "Com'tu veux".



Lukas Gasser, ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia and Raphaël Aubert, Swiss writer



“From Gesture to Speech” workshops, animated by French volunteer Sihame Attia

Hosting and sending volunteers

- The young Europeans hosted by KASA within the framework of EVS (European Voluntary Service), just as the young Armenians sent to other European countries, are involved in different projects according to their skills and fields of interest. Bearers of different cultures, they not only make their first steps into Armenian reality and culture, but also introduce the locals to their own background – an enriching source for developing solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among the youth.

Hosting of Swiss carrying out their civilian service

- The “civilians” – the common word for the people, who carry out a civilian service as a substitute for military service in Switzerland, are regularly received by KASA. They engage in diverse activities supporting development in Armenia, quite similar to what the EVS volunteers are doing.

Testimonial

Jérôme Besset from France is the youngest EVS volunteer hosted by KASA to date: *«All my studies were in the art, so I think, that creativity has been a real contribution in the Foundation, particularly in communication, graphic design work, the different workshops that I run in schools. This experience has opened my mind and moreover, in Armenia I had to develop capacities of adaptation and improvisation, because very often I found myself in unexpected situations. At the beginning it was stressfull, but afterwards I realised how much I had learned».*



Jérôme spent 11 months in Armenia and participated in KASA's projects during this time. Even after leaving the country he continues to be a part of the vast group of volunteers who have grown at KASA and with KASA during its existence. In fact, KASA fosters the development of a volunteering culture in Armenia and relies at the same time on the enormous potential of its volunteers for implementing its objectives. Thus, it would be no exaggeration to say that KASA's activities would not be possible without the amazing young people involved. On the other hand, there are good grounds to believe the volunteers' lives have changed after their engagement in KASA's life.

KASA'S METHODS

Non-formal education

- thorough evaluation of the needs of each project's participants and consideration of their personal experience – a central asset at KASA;
- work carried out simultaneously in three directions: knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills;
- priority given to interactive approaches in all the activities.

Educational tools

- publication of the manual "Youth for Society" conceived for youth workers newly inducted into the field. The manual is based on KASA's 5-year experience in training and educating for active citizenship. [A unique publication compiled in Armenian corresponding to the Armenian government's willingness to prioritise development of youth;](#)
- creation of educational games in Armenian, which allow treating complex subjects, such as social rights, integration of refugees, constitution, intercultural dialogue, etc.

e-Learning

- initially, an Armenian translation of the free software Moodle (2010), used currently by different organizations;
- subsequently, setting up of its own e-Learning platform, <http://elearning.kasa.am>, which now offers e-Learning courses (training of tourist guides, social entrepreneurship, etc.), as well as educational elements to enrich and complement the various face-to-face training programs of KASA.

Mentoring

Interpersonal work and regular monitoring every year of hundreds of beneficiaries from different backgrounds with specific needs, with an objective to enable their personal fulfilment and to improve their skills.

KEY NUMBERS

1. 21 EVS volunteers hosted since 2010;
2. 52 communities in Armenia affected by KASA's initiatives;
3. 1063 users of the e-Learning platform since 2012, of which 44% from the regions;
4. 3085 refugees and displaced persons supported by KASA;
5. 3850 books in 2 French-language libraries of the Foundation;
6. 19500 young participates of KASA's youth projects and initiatives.



Manual and educational tools created by KASA



AGRICULTURE



AGRICULTURE

The development of agriculture in Armenia represents, beyond a purely economic stake, a social challenge. Almost half of Armenia's population works in primary activities, however, the ongoing rural exodus raises concerns about the future of this sector.*

KASA's approach

The Foundation has been involved in agricultural projects to enable the rural population to stay on its land. Most of its activity in the field of agriculture is concentrated in **Gogaran**, a mountainous village nestled in the Lori region, almost destroyed by the earthquake of 1988. The construction of the school has been its first project in the village. But still children had to go into exile with their parents, because agriculture could not feed the family. This is the reason why, as early as 2002, KASA opted for sustainable and cross-section actions to revitalize this village:

- **construction:** a school in 2002 (the very first construction project implemented by the Foundation), water and gas;
- **humanitarian aid:** one-off assistance and academic scholarships;
- **education:** teaching languages, promoting culture (dancing, drawing and singing workshops), youth activities;
- **tourism:** inclusion of the village into KASA-offered tours, creation of a small six-bed guesthouse, launching of archaeological excavations;
- **agriculture:** creation of a cooperative in 2009, acquisition of agricultural machinery, renovation of a sheep pen and dairy, a project of wool production.

KASA's involvement of 15 years in the village of Gogaran, this gradually awakening microcosm, (hence the name of the cooperative - "Zartonk", "awakening" in Armenian), also conveyed in the progressive evolution of the villagers' mentality.

Some other projects implemented by KASA in the field of agriculture:

- **Arjut/Lori:** agricultural machines, farming project;
- **Argina/Armavir:** solar dehydrators, repair of a cistern and of the road, support in producing candied apricots and jam, micro-credits for purchase of forage for livestock.

* <http://report.gov.am/?id=4> (arm)

Synergies

Gagik Avagyan, president of the "Zartonk" cooperative in Gogaran

"Initially I worked on the construction site of the school in Gogaran. After its inauguration, KASA offered me to be their representative at the school, where I took responsibility for heating and logistics. This marked the beginning of a long-standing cooperation. When the Foundation decided to contribute to the development of agriculture in Gogaran, they entrusted me with the presidency of the newly created cooperative. The cooperative has significantly developed today thanks to KASA's support and the engagement of its members. We now have a herd of about 300 sheep and are currently preparing a project for wool production engaging solely the young inhabitants of the village. You can earn your living everywhere as long as you work, but to me, the most important thing in this cooperation is that I can remain on my soil and stand firmly on my feet".



Tractor provided by KASA to the community of Gogaran



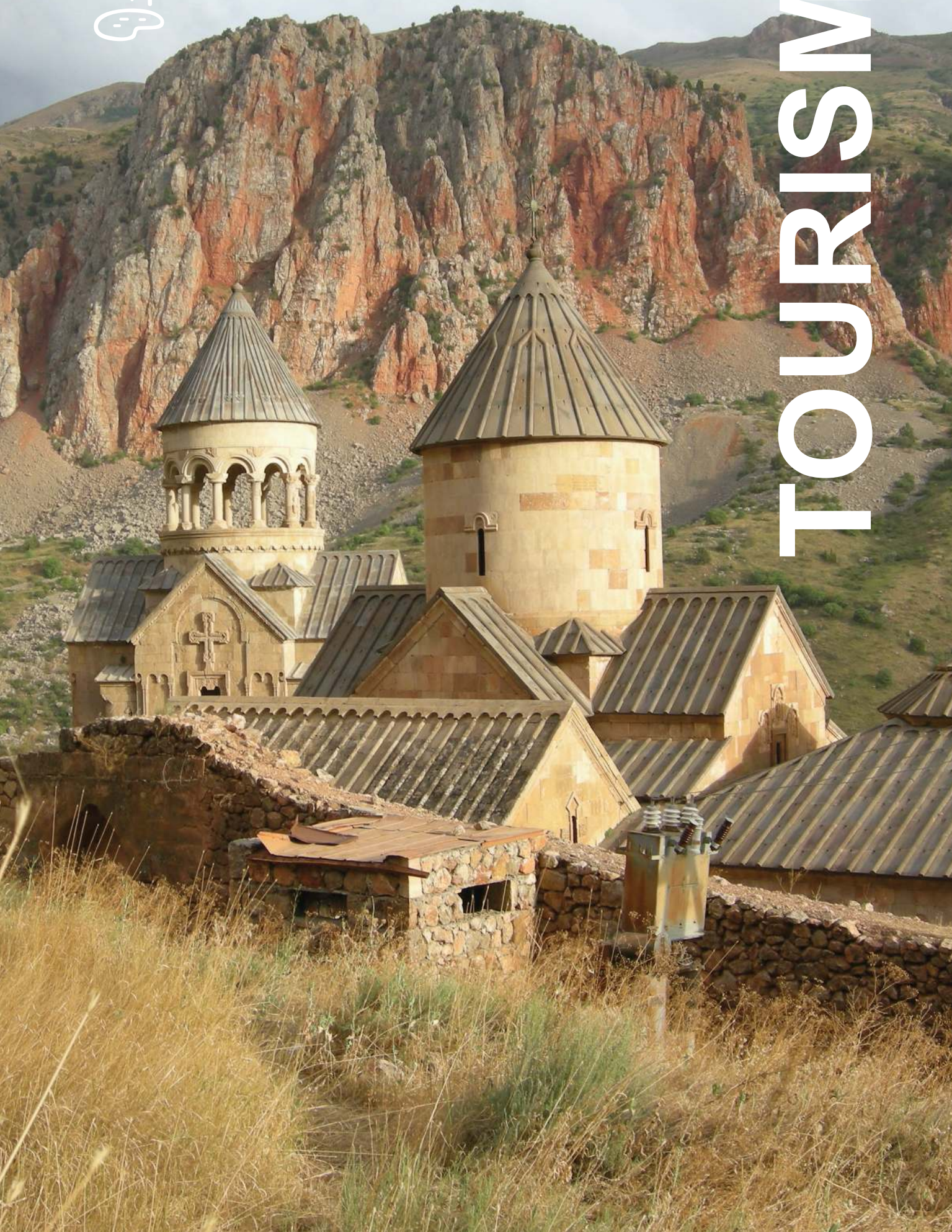
Dance group in Gogaran



Pupils in front of the school in Gogaran



TOURISM



TOURISM

The Armenian government has declared tourism as priority sector of the Armenian economy. The number of tourists having visited Armenia increased by 5,7% in 2016 (1 260 000). Thus, the income gained made up 10% of the GDP, i.e. 2.5 times more than in 2010.*

KASA's approach

The founders of KASA had also discovered Armenia first as travellers. The choice of tourism as a vector of development of the country is obvious, given the wealth of the cultural and human heritage of Armenia. In addition, Armenians speak fluently several foreign languages, a prerequisite for the development of tourism.

Right from the beginning, KASA's activities in the field were distinguished by a very specific approach in all aspects of tourism where it was engaged:

Tours

KASA has chosen to support the development of a sustainable and fair trade tourism, respecting the local population and the environment which:

- combines discovery and interaction with local population, giving access to a more profound Armenia;
- proposes finely organised, tailor-made tours, whether it's for an individual or groups. Hence a variety of options: classic tours, thematic tours (geology, botany, ornithology, archaeology, sacred architecture, oenology, discovery of a specific region, as well as combined options, including tours and relaxation (hydrotherapy), walking or cycling tours.

Trainings of tourist guides

Concerned by the quality of the services provided in the sector and at the same time the issue of reducing unemployment in the country, KASA proposes, a training of **beginner tourist guides**. The 7-month course combines face-to-face and online classes via KASA's e-Learning platform, theory and on-site practice. It is worth mentioning that 60% of the participants find employment after completing, and sometimes even during the training course!

The fast growth of the sector and the emergence of thematic questions led KASA to carry out short-term trainings aimed at **experienced guides**. The trainings, tailored to the needs and requirements of the participants, have become a winter-time tradition at KASA and have gained professional acclaim.

* http://ev.am/sites/default/files/attachments/pdf/TTCR_Press_Release_2017_Final.pdf (arm)



"Sacred Stones of Armenia", published in French, English and Italian with KASA's support



Typical Armenian market



Garni gorge

Publications

The publications supported or developed by KASA that focus on a region, city (Shirak region, city of Gyumri) or a specific topic (sacred architecture) also aim at contributing to the development of tourism in Armenia, as well as to the visibility of the country abroad, considering that the Foundation ensures the translation in many languages. In this way, KASA also supports young Swiss and Armenian researchers!

Guesthouses

Finally, KASA's latest contribution to the development and diversification of tourism offers in Armenia are the guesthouses created in Gyumri and Yerevan. They offer a cozy and affordable place to local and foreign visitors in the heart of the city.



Testimonial

"Everything was perfect: the welcome, accommodation, transport, exceptional meals and especially the extraordinary guide, Azniv Aslikyan, who offered us flawless service, immense knowledge both in history and geology, botany and geography on top of her love for her country which inspired us to think of revisiting it", said Denis Barbey and Jeanine Dubosson Barbey who have travelled with KASA in Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).



Travellers' group near the ruins of Zvartnots cathedral

Synergies

Alain Navarra-Navassartian, doctor of art history and sociology, professor, president of Hyestart NGO and Art Advisory Agency, lecturer for training of guides:

"It is an enriching experience for me to take part in the activities of a foundation which works towards the development of citizenship and offers employment-oriented training in the field of tourism. I would equally like to underline the spirit of the Foundation and the engagement of its team, the place they hold in the Armenian francophonie, the recognition it enjoys from different national and international actors based in Armenia. I highly value our collaboration for the human interaction, eagerness and interest of the students engaged in the training courses, that allow us to address important subjects as art history, while keeping in mind the needs of the tourism sector: visits, establishing contacts with the local population, creation of unique travel routes, etc., through a social approach, turning the guide into a link, an interpreter, a transmitter of the living and evolving Armenian culture".



03

FINANCES

FINANCIAL DATA

From 1997 to 2017, KASA has invested in Armenia 17 million CHF, of which:

- **6 million** for humanitarian aid, education, agriculture and tourism;
- **11 million** for construction.

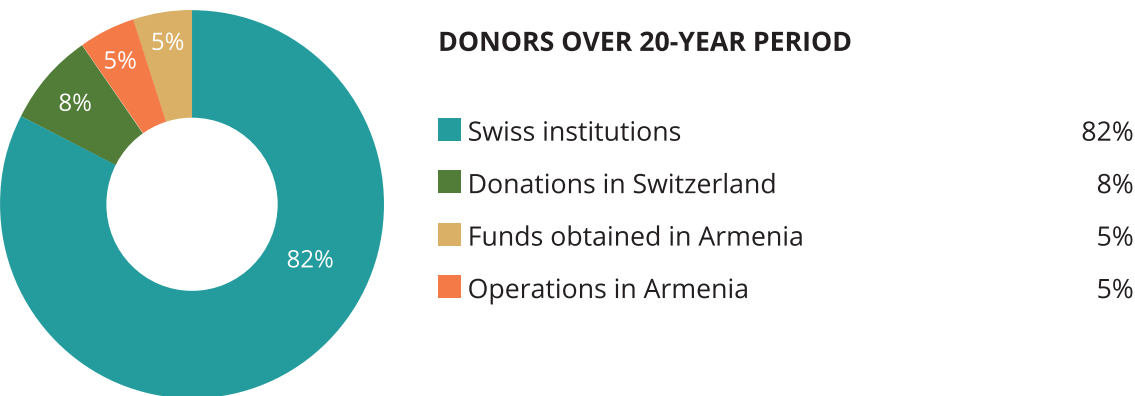
ORIGINS OF THE FUNDS IN 20 YEARS:

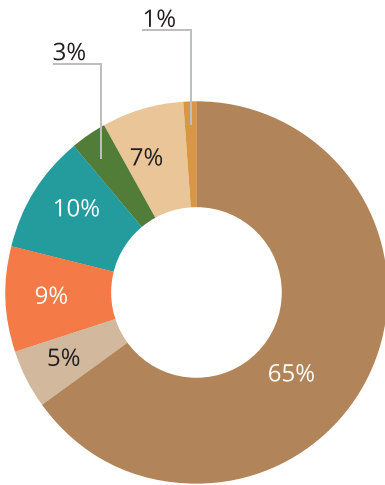
| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Funds obtained by KASA-CH | 15 300 000 CHF | 90% |
| Funds obtained by KASA-FHS | 700 000 CHF | 10% |

Thus, the finances which the Foundation in Armenia has obtained reaches up to an average of 10%. Further, if during the period of 1997-2011 this number did not exceed 3%, it reached 50% during the period of 2015-2017. An exponential growth due primarily to two factors:

- development of goods and services (paid trainings, profit from tours and guesthouses in Yerevan and Gyumri, different rentals);
- active search for funds on the ground, namely in international institutions (UNHCR, UNICEF, Brot für die Welt, different embassies).

KASA's current annual budget is 600 000 CHF.

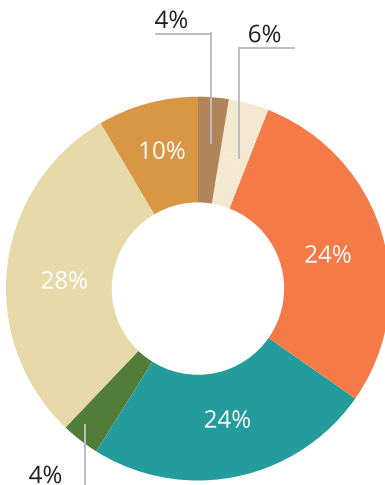




FUNDS UTILIZATION OVER 20-YEAR PERIOD

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|
| Construction | 11 000 000 | 65% |
| Shipping of materials | 880 000 | 5% |
| Humanitarian | 1 500 000 | 9% |
| Education | 1 700 000 | 10% |
| Agriculture | 600 000 | 3% |
| Tourism* | 1 020 000 | 7% |
| Management and 2 centres | 300 000 | 1% |

Listed under **Tourism are only salaries and general expenses.*



FUNDS UTILIZATION (3 year average) 2015, 2016, 2017: 775 000 CHF

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-----|
| Office | 30 000 | 4% |
| Centres | 45 000 | 6% |
| Humanitarian | 185 000 | 24% |
| Education | 185 000 | 24% |
| Agriculture | 30 000 | 4% |
| Tourism* | 220 000 | 28% |
| Construction | 80 000 | 10% |

Starting from 2017, listings under **Tourism include all expenses.*

DONORS AND PARTNERS

State and quasi-state institutions

American Councils / Armenia
Brot für die Welt ("Bread for the World") / Germany
City of Grenoble / France
City of Romans / France
City of Vienne / France
Council of Europe Office in Armenia
Delegation of the European Union to Armenia
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation) in Armenia
Embassy of France in Armenia
Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia
Embassy of Switzerland in Armenia
European Union
Gegharkunik Regional Administration / Armenia
General Council of Isère / France
Government's Charity Programs Coordination Commission / Armenia
Gyumri Youth Palace / Armenia
Honorary Consulate of Italy in Gyumri / Armenia
Intermundo / Switzerland
Komitas Museum-Institute / Armenia
Lori Regional Administration / Armenia
Ministry of Diaspora of Armenia
Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia
Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Armenia
Municipality of Basel / Switzerland
Municipality of Corsier-Bellerive / Switzerland
Municipality of Gogaran / Armenia
Municipality of Goris / Armenia
Municipality of Gyumri / Armenia
Municipality of Lausanne / Switzerland
Municipality of Rapperswil-Jona / Switzerland
Municipality of Sevan / Armenia
Municipality of Vardenis / Armenia
National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia
National Institute of Education / Armenia
Office of the Human Rights Defender / Armenia
Reception Center for Asylum-Seekers / Armenia
Rhône-Alpes Region / France

SALTO EECA (Eastern Europe and Caucasus) Resource Centre / Poland
 SALTO EuroMed and Good Practices Resource Centre / France
 Shirak Regional Administration / Armenia
 Shirak Regional Library / Armenia
 Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center / Armenia
 State Employment Agency / Armenia
 State Migration Service / Armenia
 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Armenia
 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Armenia
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Armenia
 The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Armenia
 Youth Events Holding Center / Armenia
 Youth Studies Institute / Armenia

Educational institutions

American University of Armenia (AUA)
 Burier Gymnasium / La Tour-de-Peilz / Switzerland
 Coppet college / Vaud / Switzerland
 Denis Bergmann's primary school classes / Châtel-Saint-Denis / Switzerland
 Diramayr Vocational School / Armenia
 French-Armenian Professional Education Center / Armenia
 French University in Armenia (UFAR)
 Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute / Armenia
 Henry Dunant Cycle / Geneva / Switzerland
 Piras-Sandoz Francophonie Center in Talin / Armenia
 Saint-François de Sâles Boarding School / Châtel Saint-Denis / Switzerland
 Saint-Maurice college / Valais / Switzerland
 Sayat-Nova Music School / Yerevan / Armenia
 Sheram Music School /Gyumri / Armenia
 Shirak State University / Armenia
 Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences / Armenia
 Yerevan State University (YSU) / Armenia

Religious institutions

Bulle catholic parish / La Tour-de-Trême / Switzerland
 Diramayr Hayastani Convent / Armenia
 Dominican Sisters of Tourelles / Montpellier / France
 Evangelical Reformed Church / Basel / Switzerland
 Holy Saviour catholic parish / Lausanne / Switzerland
 Notre-Dame catholic parish / Lausanne / Switzerland
 Poschiavo catholic parish, women's group / Poschiavo-Grisons / Switzerland

Saint-Etienne catholic parish / Lausanne / Switzerland

Saint-Nicolas catholic parish / Lausanne / Switzerland

Sainte-Thérèse catholic parish / Geneva / Switzerland

Shirak Diocese / Armenia

Young Protestants / Vaud / Switzerland

Private institutions

ACBA-Credit Agricole Bank / Armenia

Agenda 21 / Essertines-Vaud / Switzerland

AGUR Association / Biarritz / France

Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable NGO / Armenia

Apaga Technologies / Armenia

Arabkir Foundation / Armenia

ArBeS Rehabilitation Center / Armenia

Arevamanuk Family and Child Care Fund / Gyumri / Armenia

Armenia Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland

Armenian Caritas

Armenian Center of Troinex / Geneva / Switzerland

Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Armenia

Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Switzerland

Armenian National Union of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

Armenianos Foundation / Liechtenstein

Armenian Red Cross Society / Armenia

Armenian Union of Switzerland

Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC) / Armenia

Article 3 Club / Armenia

ASFAR Association / Lyon / France

Associazione Aiuto Anziani Armenia / Ticino / Switzerland

Association of anonymous donators / Geneva / Switzerland

Association en faveur des lépreux / Vallée de Joux / Switzerland

Association Frères de nos Frères / Geneva / Switzerland

Association Terre et Culture / France

Azad Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland

Berlin Art Hotel / Armenia

Building an Alternative Future Association (BAF) / Switzerland

Caritas / Switzerland

Caucasus Institute / Armenia

Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) / Armenia

ChArm Association / Lausanne / Switzerland

Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) / Armenia

Civic Development and Partnership Foundation / Armenia

Civic Society Institute (CSI) / Armenia

Coromandel Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 Covalence Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 Crain Foundation / Basel / Switzerland
 EcoLab Foundation/ Armenia
 Elmas Foundation / Porrentruy / Switzerland
 Endanik Youth Creative Center / Armenia
 Federation of Agricultural Associations / Armenia
 La Fherté Foundation / France
 France-Armenia Artsakh Association / France
 FrancoMedia NGO / Armenia
 Goukhassiantz Brothers Foundation / Geneva / Suisse
 Group of Retired Educators without Frontiers (GREF) / France
 Gyumri Technology Center / Armenia
 IDeA Foundation / Armenia
 International Center for Intercultural Research, Learning and Dialogue (ICIRLD) / Armenia
 INTRA Mental Health Center / Armenia
 Jeanne Lovioz Foundation / Basel / Switzerland
 Komitas Choir (Sirvart Kazandjian Pearson) / Blonay / Switzerland
 Konrad Adenauer Foundation / Germany
 KulturDialog Armenien / Armenia Louys Foundation / Armenia
 "Medzn Eric" Construction Company / Armenia
 Mission Armenia Charitable NGO / Armenia
 Moser Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 Muscari Association / Lyon / France
 National association of farmers / Armenia
 National Team of Trainers NGO / Armenia
 Open Society Foundations Armenia
 Philipposian Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 Pousekhian-Medjelian Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 Pro Victimis Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 "Pyunic" Armenian Association for the Disabled / Armenia
 Repat Armenia Foundation / Armenia
 A. D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Center, Gyumri branch / Armenia
 Sandoz Family Foundation / Lausanne / Switzerland
 Save the Children Armenian Representative Office

Scouts of France

Semra Foundation / Porrentruy / Switzerland
 Shen NGO / Armenia
 Sona and AraArser Foundation / Switzerland
 SPFA French Charitable Organization / Armenia
 St-John Foundation / Basel / Switzerland

Swiss commandery of the Order of Saint-Jean / Basel / Switzerland
 Teach for Armenia (TFA) / Armenia
 Topalian Foundation / Geneva / Switzerland
 TUMO Center for Creative Technologies / Armenia
 Union of Syrian Armenians / Armenia
 UN Staff 1% for Development Fund / Geneva / Switzerland
 U.S. Peace Corps in Armenia
 Verein Armenien Direkt (VAD) / Zurich / Switzerland
 Wikimedia Armenia / Armenia
 World Vision Armenia / Armenia
 Youth Initiatives Center / Armenia
 “Zartonk” Cooperative in Gogaran village / Armenia

Individuals

Baumgartner Thomas and Maria / Zug / Switzerland
 Bondolfi Dario and Monique / Lausanne / Switzerland
 Bridel Yves and Françoise / Lausanne / Switzerland
 Cabi Akman Leon and Aline / Morges / Switzerland
 Friedli Marc-Henri / Geneva / Switzerland
 Gabrache Vahe / Geneva / Switzerland
 Girardet Blaise and Véronique / Geneva / Switzerland
 Hefti Jean-Jacques and Jacqueline / Vaud / Switzerland
 Huber Bruno / St. Gallen / Switzerland
 Hug Bruno / St. Gallen / Switzerland
 Karakash Ion / Val-de-Travers / Switzerland
 Klein Albrecht and Meieli / Porrentruy / Switzerland
 Kucukyanturyan Agop / Bienne / Switzerland
 Leo Gmyur's friends / Iona-Rapperswil / Switzerland
 Lupi Eric and Annick and friends / Ticino / Switzerland
 Navarra-Navassartian Alain / France
 Peclard Jean and Anne-Lise / Blonay / Switzerland
 Schalaudek Robert and Sharona / Monaco
 Stump Lucianne and friends / Lucerne / Switzerland

And several hundreds of members, particularly in Switzerland, France, Germany and Armenia, in the form of sponsorships and one off donations.

04

HIGHLIGHTS IN IMAGES

HIGHLIGHTS IN IMAGES



October 1997: Komitas Swiss choir (at the origin of the Foundation) in Yerevan, led by Sirvart Kazandjyan-Pearson



October 2002: inauguration of the school in Gogaran, KASA's first construction. Armine, Gaetano and Leonardo Gmyur



12 October, 2007: inauguration of the vacation centre of the Arabkir Foundation for handicapped children, in Aparan. From left to right: Dario Bondolfi, founding member of KASA, Jacques Hochstaetter, president of the Armenianos Foundation, Ara Babloyan, founder of Arabkir Foundation, Monique Bondolfi, president of KASA, Serzh Sargsyan, prime minister of Armenia, Lorenzo Amberg, ambassador of Switzerland to Caucasus, Gabriel Gyozyan, governor of the region of Aragatsotn



November 2010: Richard Stallman, pioneer of free software, invited to Armenia by KASA



October 2010: repair of the Sheram musical school in Gyumri. From left to right: Lucianne Stump, donor, Konstantin Obolensky, first ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia, his spouse Annette Obolensky, consultant at KASA



1 April, 2011: visit of KASA center in Gyumri. From left to right: Micheline Calmy-Rey, president of the Swiss Confederation, Edward Nalbandian, minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Konstantin Obolensky, ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia



2 November, 2014: Stephen Downes, philosopher and expert in the fields of online learning and new media, at the forum "Unbordering Education" initiated by KASA



10 May, 2016: presentation of the manual and educational games for youth workers in Gyumri, created by KASA



3 September, 2017: Committee of KASA-CH at KASA's 20th anniversary celebration in Geneva



14 October, 2017: KASA's 20th anniversary celebration in Yerevan, in the presence of many partners representing the Armenian state as well as national and international organisations



20 October, 2017: first Educational ToolFair in Armenia, organised by KASA

Graphic design: Armen Patvakanyan, Lusine Bekaryan

Text: Arus Khachatryan

Translation: Vahan Melkonyan

Editing: Andreas Kakanis

For more information about KASA's activities, visit the Foundation's website: www.kasa.am

Watch the film summarizing KASA's current engagement: <https://vimeo.com/242541879>

Discover the photo exhibition «Twenty Faces of Change»:
https://issuu.com/kasafhs/docs/20_visages_du_changement

To go deeper, read "1997-2017, Hope that Makes Sense?", the retrospective of Monique Bondolfi-Masraff (available at KASA)



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