
UNDP Supports Socially Disadvantaged Communities in Armavir Region

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme / Armenia
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United Nations, Yerevan - On 9 July, 2008 Ms. Consuelo Vidal, the United Nations Resident Coordinator / UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Armenia visited Karakert, Shenik and Yervandashat rural communities in south-western Armavir region to monitor on-site the community-based development projects implemented by UNDP Community Development Project in partnership with the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and the USAID Global Development Alliance. These villages have been in the focus of UNDP since 2005 as they are among the most socially disadvantaged in the region, with a high rate of unemployment and poor conditions or lack of major socio-economic infrastructure.

In cooperation with the USAID Global Alliance and the COAF, UNDP renovated secondary school #2 in Karakert community, including installation of a new heating system, which improved the quality and accessibility of secondary education for 750 children in Karakert community. In 2006-07, the same partners undertook the full reconstruction of the local Community Center, which offers 4,150 residents of Karakert and neighboring villages with services and leisure activities, such as the community library, Internet club, leisure room for chess, table tennis, and a performance hall with a capacity of 320 seats.

In Shenik community, UNDP, together with COAF and the USAID Global Development Alliance, fully renovated the secondary school, which in December 2007 opened its doors to 176 children and the staff.

In 2006 UNDP helped Yervandashat community to produce its 2006-08 development plan, which resulted in prioritizing the implementation of several projects. At the end of 2007, UNDP in partnership with the COAF, completed the renovation of the community's 5-kilometer long potable water network, which serves 750 households of the community supplying them with clean water round-the-clock. The installation of a dried fruit vacuum packaging workshop in Yervandashat supported the revival of the local private sector and the creation of seasonal jobs for the local residents. As a result, the annual volume of dried fruit production over the last two years increased by 20%. With technical assistance and guidance from UNDP, Yervandashat Development Center NGO was established in 2006. The Center, in addition to many other activities, tries to integrate socially vulnerable groups by involving them in business sector activities. It also publishes a local periodical on a quarterly basis highlighting the daily life of the community. Financing of the periodical is organized through the leasing mechanism of the dried fruit packaging workshop project.

UNDP is on ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. UNDP in Armenia was established in 1993 and supports the Government of Armenia to reach its own development priorities and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
