
UNDP in Armenia Prioritizes Development Projects in Regions

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme / Armenia

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United Nations, Yerevan - On 11 June Ms. Consuelo Vidal, the United Nations Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia and Mr. Ralph Yirikian, the General Manager of VivaCell officially opened the new classes of Arts and Crafts Center for the disabled at -Pyunik- Gyumri branch. The Arts and Crafts Center is one in a series of projects developed by the UN-initiated Global Compact that will enable the disabled children in the northern Shirak region to develop their skills in traditional crafts as painting, embroidery and wood carving. -The Arts and Crafts Center is a wonderful example of corporate social responsibility to other private sector companies in Armenia of what can be accomplished when they pull together their efforts to support social investment that benefits vulnerable groups of society,- said Ms. Consuelo Vidal, head of the United Nations in Armenia. She thanked VivaCell for their financial support to refurbish the Arts and Crafts Center and their commitment to continue providing much needed support to such projects in the future.

-We are extremely proud of our participation in a project that in the long-term will empower people with special needs to act as active members of the society,- stated Ralph Yirikian, VivaCell General Manager.

On the same day Ms. Consuelo Vidal, accompanied by the UN team members, visited the newly renovated Gyumri State Technical and #2 Craftsmanship Colleges. These two middle-level educational institutions are part of the UNDP -Modernization of Vocational Education and Training System- project network. Total amount of capital investments, provided by the Government of Norway, made more than 260,000 USD. Gyumri State Technical College is the only one across Armenia that offers vocational occupations in railway transport and closely cooperates with the -Armenian Railway-. Both colleges enjoy the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sharing the same heating system and being equipped with the necessary educational, IT and laboratory equipment, which makes possible to double the total number of UNDP beneficiaries in Shirak region, reaching more than 600 people.

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 Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
