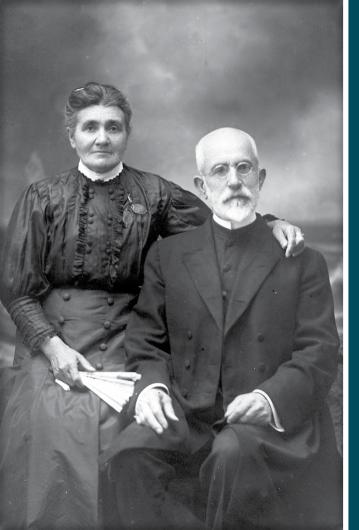


Jinishian Memorial Foundation

# JINISHIAN STORY 2023





## **HISTORY**

Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) began working in 1993 and was legally registered in 1999. For 30 years, we have provided economic, social and spiritual assistance to millions of Armenians through our partnership and collaboration with more than 160 grassroots and local NGOs. Today, we work to implement development projects aimed at overcoming poverty in the area, finding success through collaborative involvement in partnership with different local and global networks to accomplish our shared goals. The JMF is primarily sponsored by the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. In memory of his parents, JMP was established on May 17, 1966 by the bequest of Vartan H. Jinishian with the goal of providing basic services and direct relief to millions of Armenians living through conflict and instability in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Irag, South America, Jordan, Jerusalem, and Armenia.





## MISSION

JMF enables Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to selfsufficiency and hope – through relief, development and spiritual uplift.

## VISION

JMF contributes to economic and social development of Armenia via educating and empowering of children, youth and entrepreneurs through long term intervention and institutionalization of innovative development models.



# **AREAS OF FOCUS**

## • Health

- Economic & Community Development
- Civil Society & Education
- Spiritual Uplift







# **PROGRAM MECHANISMS**

In accordance with these areas of focus, the JMF employs 4 mechanisms to achieve its mission and goals in Armenia:

- Self-initiated projects
- Partnership with local and international organizations
- Small grants for development projects
- Affordable credits through microfinance institutions



## **OUR STUDY TOURS**

JMF's Study Tour Program is a unique experience that exposes participants to our ongoing projects while providing the opportunity to explore Armenia's history, traditions, Christian values, art, cultural events, food, wine and beautiful landscapes. The program typically lasts 12 days and is tailored to each group's specific needs. Proceeds from the cost of the Study Tour Program directly benefit a JMF project of your choice determined after the conclusion of the tour.



For more Information about the program and how to apply, please contact:

#### Eliza Minasyan,

JMP Coordinator/Executive Director

Tel: 001-502-544-9294 Email: eliza.minasyan@pcusa.org











# HEALTH





IMPROVED HEALTH CONDITIONS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED PEOPLE OF ARTSAKH

## **Project objectives:**

 Help forced relocated people from Artsakh to receive on time treatment in Armenia.

The implementation of this project has resulted in the treatment of roughly 5,000 people from Artsakh, including 91 with serious burns, across numerous Armenian hospitals.



**Time Frame:** September 28 – November 10, 2023

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 6,047 Armenian Medical Fund – USD 25,000

### **Beneficiaries:**

Over 5,000 displaced people from Artsakh.



Time Frame: March 1, 2023 – March 1, 2024 (Ongoing since 2022)

Project Budget: JMF – USD 16,875

#### **Beneficiaries:**

28 children with disabilities from Sevan and neighbouring villages.

# TREATMENT AT SEVAN CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER

## **Project objectives:**

 Continued rehabilitation treatment of children after their basic government benefit package ends.

Tigran, 6, has been receiving treatment at the Sevan Children's Rehabilitation Center for 2 years now. He was diagnosed with a delay in psychospeech development and has subsequently been participating in speech therapy and special learning classes at the Center. As a result, improvements have been observed in his behavior, emotional response, communication, attention span, cognition, vocabulary, and speech perception. The ambition is that Tigran's continued cognitive and physical development will empower him to attend secondary school in Sevan during the 2024 academic year.





Arman, 6, has been receiving treatment for a delay in psycho-speech development at the Sevan Children's Rehabilitation Center for 1 year now. Some of the challenges he has faced include underdeveloped communication skills, a lack of age-appropriate interactions, and a preference for solitary play. Arman has been working with a psychologist, special education teacher, and speech therapist at the Center to mediate these challenges; and many improvements have been observed. His attention span, memory and cognitive abilities have improved; his vocabulary has expanded; and his speech has become more clear and accurate. Pleased with these developments, we are excited to announce that our team has approved the level of Arman's mental and physical capabilities and will allow him to enroll in secondary school at the beginning of the 2024 academic year!



Time Frame: November 10, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Budget: JMF – USD 76,500

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Over 150 people with disabilities (including soldiers) in Sevan and surrounding villages.

# NORAYR BABOUMIAN REHABILITATION CENTER IN SEVAN

The goal of this project is to ensure the rehabilitation treatment and improved health status of 150 disabled adults in Sevan and neighbouring villages.

At 35, Knarik faced right-sided hemiparesis and dysarthria post-cesarean stroke. In August, she sought help at the Center, unable to walk, stand from sitting, use her right hand, hold small objects, or feel her right hand and foot.

Under the care of a team including physical therapists, occupational therapists, and psychologists, Knarik made significant progress. She now stands and walks independently, drinks from a glass, manages buttons, experiences improved sensation in her hand.

## NORAYR BABOUMIAN BLOOD BANK CENTER CONSTRUCTION IN YEREVAN

## **Project objectives:**

 To ensure that all Armenian medical/ health clinics have access to the appropriate amounts of blood for transfusions.



Time Frame: March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 650,000 Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia – USD 530,000

## **Beneficiaries:**

People in need of blood services in Armenia.

# CIVIL SOCIETY AND EDUCATION





# CIVIL SOCIETY AND EDUCATION .....

EMPOWERED YOUTH PROACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CIVIC INITIATIVES, LEADING TO TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE, CONTRIBUTING TO ARMENIA'S DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT





Time Frame: March 2023 – June 2024

## Project Budget:

JMF - USD 84,299

### **Beneficiaries:**

400 members of the student councils at 20 schools in Yerevan, Gavar, Gyumri, and Vanadzor; 2,000 students directly involved in the project activities/initiatives.

## STUDENT COUNCIL'S CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (SCCD)

- Ensure that Student Council members have been "legitimately" elected – the election results have been admitted by the students and the elections were organized in accordance with the SC's existing bylaws.
- Ensure that Student Council members have the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in the school and community problem solving and decision making processes.
- Ensure that school administrators:
  - 1. Eagerly and respectfully cooperate with the SCs,
  - 2. Consider SC opinions in the decision making process,
  - 3. Are transparent with the SC regarding school info,
  - 4. Maintain a positive participatory atmosphere in schools.
- The existing SC operating structure and bylaws have been revised (as needed) and are in use at the schools.



Three years ago, Mary Manukyan participated in JMF's debate club project in the hopes of overcoming her fear of public speaking. Today, she is the Student Council president of secondary school No. 87 in Yerevan. Before participating in the club, Mary found it difficult to give compelling speeches and provide evidence to support her opinions; but thanks to her hard work and the services provided by the club, she has overcome her fears and speaks clearly and confidently. In 2023, Mary joined the SCCD project to further develop her leadership skills and enhance her knowledge of operation and management structures. After running a strong campaign that highlighted her experience as a debater and team leader, she was elected by the student body to be the President with confidence that she is able to carry that role.

> Mary Manukyan, Yerevan, Armenia





Time Frame: September 2023 – June 2024 (Ongoing since 2004)

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF - USD 39,913

### **Beneficiaries:**

800 students (13-17 years of age) from 50 schools in Yerevan, other regions of Armenia, and Javakhq (Georgia).

## YOUTH ENGAGED IN SOCIETY (YES)

- Increase the knowledge and interest of Armenian youth in key issues related to the development of civil society, democracy, and human rights.
- Develop communication and critical thinking skills of youth, permitting them to actively participate in the development of Armenian society both today and in the future.
- Add value to the education system and increase the enthusiasm of learning amongst Armenian youth through in-person and online learning methods.



Vahan Bagratyan, a student at Sevan State College, Gegharkunik region, has become one of our program's most accomplished debaters. Intrigued by skill acquisition and advancing his position, he joined the school's debating club. Through dedication, he built confidence, formed friendships, and honed communication and teamwork skills. His leadership guided his team to win first place at the National Debate Championship.

Reflecting on the victory, Vahan emphasizes, "Our hard work paid off; first place exceeded our expectations. Yet, it's essential to recognize that the interregional contacts, networks, and skills gained from this experience are more valuable than the outcome."

> Vahan Bagratyan, Sevan, Gegharkunik Region





#### **Time Frame:**

March 2021 - February 2024 (Ongoing since 2013)

## **Project Budget:**

JMF - USD 25,640

### **Beneficiaries:**

150 students and graduates of Gavar State University (GSU) and 200 young adults of surrounding communities.

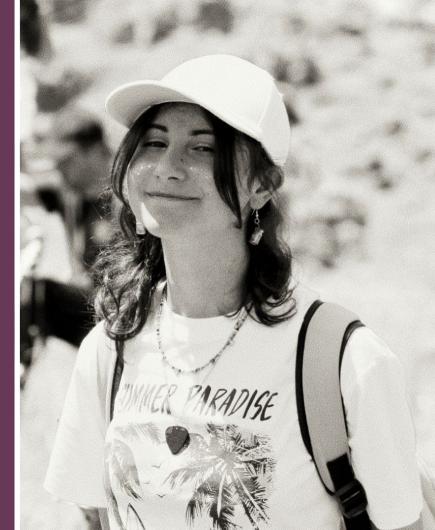
## YOUTH IN ACTION FOR CHANGE (YAC) -GAVAR

- Enhance the knowledge and skills of nearly 150 graduates and students of Gavar State University in the areas of Environment, Human Rights Promotion and Protection, and Economic Stability to prioritize problematic issues in their region, monitor and report on the developments on the issue, and initiate activities directed to the solution of those issues.
- Promote communication and collaboration among the youth of the targeted region and other related organizations working in the areas of Environment, Human Rights Promotion and Protection, and Economic Stability to involve all interested parties in thematic discussions and decision making.



"I joined the YAC project unexpectedly, lacking prior knowledge of community development initiatives. Two years ago, I had no volunteering experience. Thanks to the project's support, I discovered my passion for volunteering. Now, I dedicate hours to working with youth and students while pursuing my graduate degree. Within YAC, I achieved my longstanding goal of 'making a change,' a dream since my teenage years. The project provided a platform for community problem-solving and personal expression. Serving as a YAC mentor and leading a student team helped develop my leadership skills and inspired my dream of becoming a teacher."

Ellen Badoyan





Time Frame:

November 2022 – November 2023 (ONGOING SINCE 2018)

#### Project Budget: JMF – USD 7,063

## **Beneficiaries:**

150 university students/youth in Georgia (most of Armenian origin).

## CIVIC DIALOGUE AND ACTION (CDA) FOR CHANGE – GEORGIA

- Enhance Armenian student/youth civic activities and involvement in public dialogue in Georgia.
- Develop student knowledge and skills in the CS sector and enhance their civic participation.
- Promote university students/ youth to investigate civic issues in the local communities, to find approaches towards the solutions to the identified problems and take appropriate actions.
- Establish collaboration with the State authorities for the solution of the identified problems.
- Enhance a network of communication and collaboration on social and civil issues between the Armenian and non-Armenian youth in Georgia.



"I'm Varduhi Kyurghinian, holding a Masters in Education Management, residing in Georgia. My commitment to advocating for equality and positive changes led me to join the CDA for Change project this year. Through it, I gained insights into crucial topics like gender inequality, civil integration, and human rights. As a member of the Armenian minority community in educational development, in an environment with prevalent gender stereotypes, I find it vital to address these issues and find solutions. With the project's knowledge, I have raised community concerns in Georgian governmental institutions, received feedback, and am confident in achieving reforms in the future.

The CDA for Change project is invaluable to our community, connecting Armenian youth with their heritage and national identity."

Varduhi Kyurghinian, Georgia





Time Frame: February 2023 – December 2023

**Project Budget:** JMF – USD 6,500 Copernicus Science Center – USD 3,900

#### **Beneficiaries:**

260 school students in 26 schools, and 26 mentors of the schools.

## YOUNG EXPLORERS CLUB (YEC)

- Enhance practical knowledge, skills and experience in natural sciences (chemistry, physics, biology, etc.), greening issues, efficient use of energy, etc.
- Improve social and communication skills of the club members: teamwork, knowledge exchange, community cooperation/mentors, parents, school teachers, and creativity.



Tigran Harutyunyan, a student at Yerevan's "Mkhitar Sebastatsi" educational complex, joined the Young Explorers Club (YEC) on the recommendation of peers who sparked his enthusiasm for the project. He values the YEC for deepening his understanding of science, saying, "While in the YEC club, we see life through the eyes of a future scientist."

Participating in the YEC has broadened Tigran's perspective and influenced his career path, leading him to choose a career as a physicist. Reflecting on his experience at the Science Picnic organized by the Copernicus Science Center in Poland, Tigran expressed his ambition to contribute to scientific development in Armenia using cuttingedge technologies. He was impressed by the innovative information and diverse interactions at the event, making friends with fellow science enthusiasts from Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and Georgia, and expressing hope for future collaborations.

> Tigran Harutyunyan, Yerevan, Armenia





Time Frame: March 2021 – February 2023

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 20,367; EU – USD 181,810 WV Germany – USD 20,201

### **Beneficiaries:**

3,760 youth (ages 13-17) from 70 schools; 160 young adults (ages 18-29) from Yerevan and three other regions.

## EU4YOUTH: EMPOWERED YOUTH FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC ARMENIA

- Improve national level youth policies by empowering and engaging youth in decisionmaking processes and public dialogue with state authorities.
- Empower youth CSOs to demonstrate active citizenship and participatory action in their communities.



I'm Varduhi Lazaryan from Chambarak. Before joining the EU4Youth: EYDA program, I was shy and hesitant to voice my opinions. Joining my school's debate club, organized through EYDA, changed my life profoundly. Through the program, I have developed critical thinking skills for persuasive debate and gained confidence in expressing my views with clear evidence. The debate club introduced me to people who feel like family and allowed me to explore topics I never considered before. It has become an integral part of my life, helping me embrace my identity while respecting others' perspectives.

Using games from the 'Compass' human rights education manual, I have gained a deep understanding of law and rights, crucial for pursuing my dreams, now clearly defined thanks to the EYDA program."

> Varduhi Lazaryan, Chambarak, Gegharkunik Region





**Time Frame:** March 2023 – February 2024

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF - USD 18,150 EU - USD 163,350

#### **Beneficiaries:**

7,000 children from 15 schools of 3 regions engaged in the activities of eco-clubs, summer camps and clean-up campaigns.

## EU4ENVIRONMENT: GREEN COMMUNITY - RESILIENT FUTURE

- Advance green urban planning capacities in the beneficiary regions of Armenia.
- Improve living conditions of citizens in targeted cities and neighbouring communities.



Mary, one of the brightest students at Artik School No. 6, eagerly joined her school's eco- club organized by the EU4Environment project to expand her knowledge of environmental issues and develop new skills. Alongside environmental education, Mary enjoys expressing her creativity through ethical arts and crafts. For the past year, she and her friends have been crafting environmentally friendly cloth bags from used clothing under their teacher's guidance, aiming to reduce plastic bag usage and repurpose old garments.

Despite completing her 9-year education at the school and moving on to high school, Mary remains actively engaged in eco-club activities. Currently, she is diligently preparing for an upcoming exhibition showcasing the eco- friendly bags created by the club.

> Mary, Artik, Shirak Region





Time Frame: May 2023 – December 2023

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 3,827 Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs – USD 29,916

### **Beneficiaries:**

20 young diaspora representatives.

## **DIASPORA YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

## **Project objectives:**

 Increase awareness on the political, social, economic, and other issues in Armenia.

The "Diaspora Youth Ambassador" program for 2023-2024 has officially launched and presented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. The program is financed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, along with the support of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation. The program has been implemented for a third year in a row. The program participants range from community leaders, educators, and youth organization members, between the ages of 22-35. Participants are from a wide range of countries such as France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, USA, Canada, Brazil, Russia, and more.



During this critical period, youth from the Diaspora have the opportunity to partake in activities in Armenia over a span of 2 weeks that allow them to better understand the political, social, economic, and other issues in Armenia. Upon returning to their communities, they will continue their efforts, such as raising awareness, and globally sharing information about the current situation in Armenia.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERED AND UNITED COMMUNITIES ABLE TO MOBILIZE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES TO SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS





Time Frame: September 27, 2022 – December 25, 2023

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 9,539 Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports in collaboration with Gegharqunik Regional Administration – USD 20,612

#### **Beneficiaries:**

140 students, teachers, and a staff of 30 administrative members at Small Masrik School.

# WARM WINTER WITH CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM

## **Project objectives:**

- Establish a positive educational environment,
- Ensure the safety of the children,
- Cultivate a sense of faith and interest in the community's future.

The school has since been transformed into a comfortable and appealing environment for studying and engaging in various multifaceted development activities. The past winters were freezing for the kids at school, and even indoors, they faced stuffy classrooms that caused headaches due to the strong smell of oil. The recent heating system upgrade has changed everything, creating a warmer, more comfortable environment and improving students' daily experience.

With this new heating, the school has become a positive and safe place where children feel comfortable learning and participating in activities. The fresh air, warm classrooms, and absence of unpleasant odors have made the school inviting and enjoyable, aligning perfectly with the project's goals: creating a positive learning environment, ensuring children's safety, and fostering hope for the community's future.

This support has truly impacted students' daily lives and strengthened their sense of belonging within the community.





Time Frame: September 17, 2022 – December 25, 2023

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 14,489 "Mshakoutamet" educational and cultural NGO – – USD 49,306

#### **Beneficiaries:**

200-300 school children from the border communities of Tavush, Ararat, and Gegharkunik Regions.

# "MSHAKOUTAMET" YOUTH INITIATIVE -PHASE II

The project aims to engage community youth in cultural education initiatives seeking to inspire new perspectives, fostering a strong connection to the Armenian roots and identity.

Over two years, the "Mshakutamet Youth Initiative project" has actively involved 1,000 schoolchildren and 1,500 adults in border villages, nurturing cultural pride. Despite initial challenges, the initiative plans to expand to two additional communities, showcasing the achievements of around 100 students. The ongoing dedication of the "Mshakutamet" NGO significantly contributes to the cultural autonomy and sustained development of these communities.



Meet Chatyan Ani, a 15-year-old student at Aygedzor Secondary School in the Tavush region. Before the "Mshakutamet" initiative reached her village, Ani was an ordinary student with dreams awaiting realization. Through the initiative, she delved into cultural exploration, uncovering the beauty of national musical instruments. A special connection blossomed with the Qanun, igniting a passion like never before. Fueled by this passion, Ani aspires to become a professional Qanun player in the future.

Ani's evolving story highlights the positive influence of initiatives like "Mshakutamet," narrating a tale of cultural discovery, personal growth, and the emergence of talent. The once-unfamiliar realm of national musical instruments is now Ani's playground, and the Qanun, their chosen instrument, invokes melodies from the heart.

> Ani Chatyan, Aygedzor, Tavush Region





**Time Frame:** September 6, 2023 – May 30, 2024

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 9,550 The Education Department of Gegharkunik Regional Administration – USD 49,306

#### **Beneficiaries:**

134 students and 30 staff from Vanevan Schools.

# A CENTRALIZED HEATING SYSTEM AT VANEVAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

This project aspires to not only enhance the quality of education for the 134 students but to create a more sanitary and hygienic space, fostering a comfortable and conducive atmosphere for both students and teachers. This collaborative effort seeks to address the pressing challenges posed by inadequate heating, ultimately strengthening the bonds within the school and the broader Vanevan community.

# A CENTRALIZED HEATING SYSTEM AT SECONDARY SCHOOL No.4 – CHAMBARAK

By transitioning to a natural gas-powered heating system, the project seeks to not only address the critical issue of inadequate heating, affecting the 63 students and 24 teaching/ support staff, but also to create a conducive and hygienic learning environment, fostering comprehensive and harmonious development for the entire school community.



**Time Frame:** October 1, 2023 – May 30, 2024

**Project Budget:** JMF – USD 9,959 The Education Department of Gegharkunik Regional Administration – USD 44,683

#### **Beneficiaries:**

63 students, 24 teachers and staff at Chambarak School No.4.



**Time Frame:** October 16, 2023 – February 25, 2024

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 1,250 Gulamirian Foundation – USD 25,000 PCUSA – USD 10,000

## Beneficiaries:

626 school children from Sevan, Vardenis and Chambarak.

# WINTER SHOES TO SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM ARTSAKH

#### **Project objectives:**

- Reduce the risk of frequent illness among 700 school-age children and ease their transition into new school environments following displacement.
- Stimulated Armenia's shoe-making industry by providing a temporary income source for local shoemakers.

By addressing urgent needs, the grant program sought to alleviate hardships, support integration, and safeguard the health, education, and well-being of displaced Artsakhi Armenians during the harsh winter months, promoting resilience and preventing negative consequences.



Escaping conflict in Artsakh, 12-year-old Manush found herself in Armenia's Chambarak community, in the village of Martuni. Winter's chill approached, and her worn shoes offered little comfort for the walk to school. But thanks to a JMF project, Manush's worries melted away.

The project provided warm, waterproof boots lined with fur. No more wet socks or icy worries! Now, Manush could focus on school and friendships, her steps lighter with each confident stride.

This project's impact went beyond warm feet. It eased the burden on displaced families and fostered hope for a brighter future, not just for Manush, but for many children from Artsakh.

JMF's collaboration with donors and local shoemakers made a real difference, proving that together, we can face any winter with warmth.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHENED ECONOMIC STATE OF FARMERS, BUSINESS ENTITLES AND INDIVIDUALS THAT CANNOT AFFORD OR DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO EXISTING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES







# **YOUTH BUSINESS ARMENIA (YBA)**

Since 2015, YBA has empowered over 600 young entrepreneurs across Armenia, equipping them with essential entrepreneurial skills and providing subsidized loans to more than 120 individuals to support their business ventures.

Time Frame: October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023 (Ongoing since 2015)

**Project Budget:** JMF – USD 23,573 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation – USD 57,833 Presbyterian Hunger Program – USD 10,000

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Over 150 entrepreneurs for the year 2023.

Garegin Antashyan, originally from Alaverdi in the Lori region, has a strong background in engineering and metallurgy. With extensive experience overseeing the metallurgical workshop at the Alaverdi copper smelter, he has contributed significantly to his field through authored scientific articles and teaching at the State Engineering University of Armenia.

In 2008, Garegin established his own factory specializing in construction products, later diversifying into the fast-food restaurant industry due to market constraints in Alaverdi. Despite challenges posed by nearby road repair works since 2018, his food court commenced operations in June 2023.

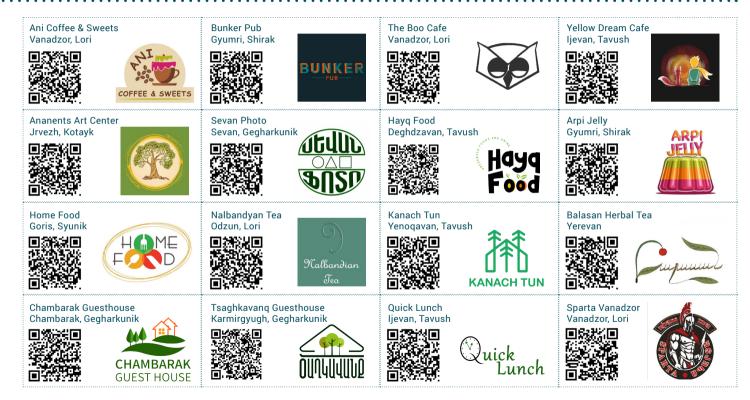
Benefiting from the Youth Business Armenia project, Garegin has enhanced his business skills and secured a subsidized loan for development. Customer satisfaction remains a priority, with Garegin personally preparing dishes in his restaurant. Positive feedback from customers reinforces his commitment to long-term success and business growth.

> Garegin Antashyan, Alaverdi, Lori Region



# **DISCOVER OUR YBA ENTREPRENEURS**







Vignoble du

HAUT LAYON

### **ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS (EYE)**

The EYE program facilitates and promotes the cooperation between European entrepreneurs through the exchange of experiences, stimulating cooperation, and networking among the European business communities.

Time Frame: February 2020 – January 2024

**Project Budget:** JMF – USD 10,296 EU – USD 72,959

**Beneficiaries:** 30 entrepreneurs.

Loucine Sahakian Hayes carries the tradition of winemaking in her veins, ignited by childhood memories of her grandfather's meticulous craft. Her journey, spanning different spheres and countries, has been anchored by an unwavering passion for winemaking. In 2021, she proudly established "Hayes Wines" in homage to her grandfather's legacy.

Despite being a newcomer to both winemaking and entrepreneurship, Loucine sought avenues to deepen her knowledge and handson experience. Through the "Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs" program, she collaborated with Olivier Lecomte, a seasoned entrepreneur overseeing Château de Passavant winery in France. Over four transformative months, she immersed herself in viticulture and enology, working with various grape varieties and learning the intricacies of winemaking.

Returning home, Loucine introduced her inaugural label, "Ubuntu," featuring wines crafted from Armenian grapes for export to France and international markets. This journey has not only transformed her skills but also forged lifelong connections within the wine industry. Loucine eagerly anticipates a lifetime dedicated to the art and craft of winemaking.

**Loucine Sahakian Hayes** 







## SKILL BUILDING OF RURAL FARMERS FOR EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT

#### **Project objectives:**

Provide opportunities to disadvantaged small scale regional farmers to increase efficiency and profitability rate of their greenhouses by building their knowledge and skills on new methods and advanced technologies, as well as ensure financing along with the State subsidy for necessary investments.

Time Frame: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

**Project Budget:** JMF – USD 5,480 HSBC Bank Armenia – USD 14,300

**Beneficiaries:** Over 100 rural farmers. Anna Altunyan, one of the co-founders of Experimental Garden in Spitak town, Lori region, specializes in cultivating traditional and nontraditional crops in an 850 sq/m greenhouse and a 2000 sq/m plot.

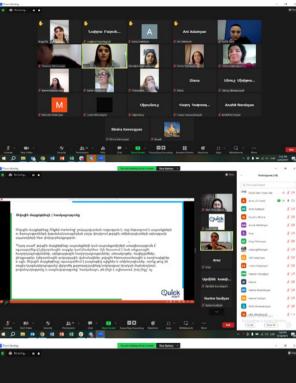
The Skill Building of Rural Farmers for Effective Greenhouse Management project, led by invited expert Gevik Davoodi, has significantly impacted Experimental Garden's efficiency and yields. Modernizing greenhouses and adopting new techniques have optimized crop growth and increased income.

Networking opportunities within the program have fostered valuable business relationships, enhancing the growth and sustainability of agricultural endeavours.

The project focuses on optimizing greenhouse space, exploring innovative cultivation methods like vertical farming, and maximizing resource efficiency. Controlled environments allow for optimal plant growth conditions, and cultivation of high-value crops like remontant blackberries extends harvesting seasons and increases revenue. Participation in such training programs not only benefits individual businesses but also contributes to the broader development and sustainability of the agricultural sector.

> Anna Altunyan, Spitak, Lori Region





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# DIGITAL SKILL ENRICHMENT OF ASPIRING AND ACTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN ARMENIA

The aim of this project is to foster the sustainability and growth of current and aspiring female entrepreneurs by facilitating the digitization of their businesses. Our focus was on empowering individuals residing in rural regions of Armenia by developing their knowledge, skills, and capabilities in the realm of digital entrepreneurship.

Time Frame: January 20 – December 30, 2023

Project Budget: CIPE – USD 15,275

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Over 100 women entrepreneurs.

Lusine Tadevosyan, a confident and goal-oriented individual residing in Hrazdan, Kotayk region, embarked on an entrepreneurial journey to bring modern TRX training and a healthy lifestyle to her hometown lacking fitness clubs. Winning a grant competition spurred her to establish the first women's fitness club in Hrazdan, focusing on agility, flexibility, strength, balance, and endurance.

Participating in the "Digital Skill Enrichment of Aspiring and Acting Women Entrepreneurs in Armenia" Project, Lusine enhanced her digital literacy, marketing, and social media management skills through webinars. She developed a detailed digital strategy, launched a Facebook page and an Instagram account for TRX Fitness Club, and plans to launch a website for showcasing services and success stories. The project also facilitated valuable connections, fostering knowledge exchange and collaborative initiatives.

Equipped with digital skills, Lusine now understands the transformative impact of digital marketing, enabling businesses to reach a global audience and establish a robust online presence.

Lusine Tadevosyan, Hrazdan, Kotayk Region





Time Frame: December 29, 2022 - December 28, 2024

#### **Project Budget:**

JMF – USD 3,221 EU – USD 24,267

#### **Beneficiaries:**

28 women entrepreneurs and 24 adult educators.

# UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The initiative is designed to provide comprehensive support to all individuals, including those with fewer opportunities, in the establishment and development of social enterprises.

The project's objectives are to:

- Enhance the adult education sector by equipping adult educators with coaching skills and competences to effectively guide women on an entrepreneurial path through a blended approach.
- Empower and enhance the skills and competences of women for successful career development, with a specific emphasis on social entrepreneurship. This will be achieved by providing tailored high-quality learning opportunities for adults.

The project envisions online training (MOOC), coaching sessions, and networking and mentoring opportunities at local, national, and European levels to support women in their career journeys.

## YOUTH BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL -YBI'S SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT

To support early-stage or micro businesses led by underserved entrepreneurs in comprehending the interplay and impact between profit, planet, and people within their operations. The goal is to implement measurable sustainability principles into their business practices. The project's objectives were to:

- Create a comprehensive sustainability toolkit encompassing newly developed tools, with a specific emphasis on social and governance topics. Ensure alignment with existing environmental sustainability tools.
- Facilitate co-creation, testing, and learning by forming a group consisting of 5 YBI members. This group collaborated to create social and governance sustainability tools, convening regularly to exchange feedback and insights.
- Conduct a pilot program to evaluate and test the tools, validating their effectiveness and gathering data for ongoing learning. This iterative process aimed to enhance and finalize the sustainability toolkit.



Time Frame: March, 20 – August 31, 2023

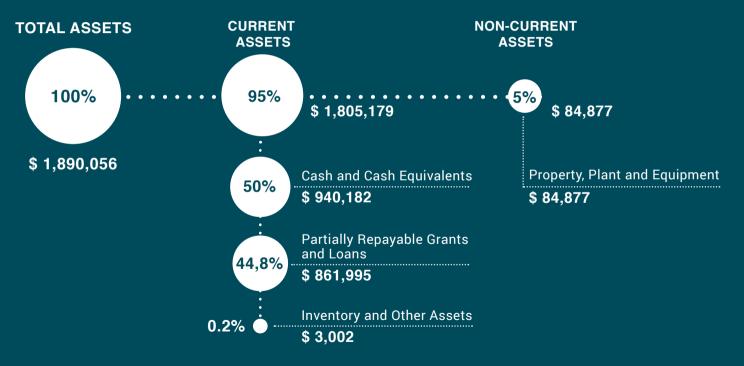
Project Budget: YBI – USD 16,200

#### **Beneficiaries:**

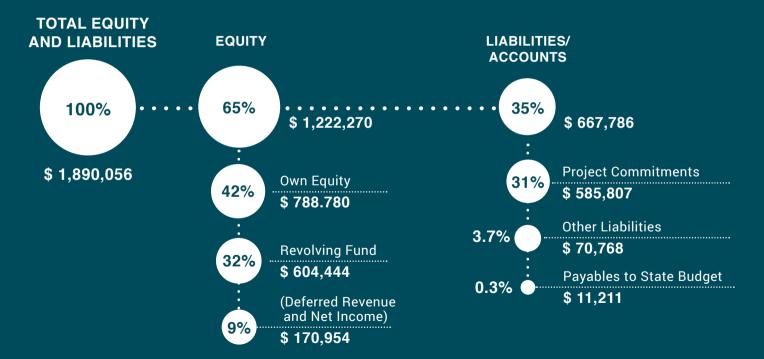
A minimum of 50 entrepreneurs annually will benefit from the developed Toolkit as it will be integrated into the JMF's learning modules.

# **BALANCE SHEET, 2023**

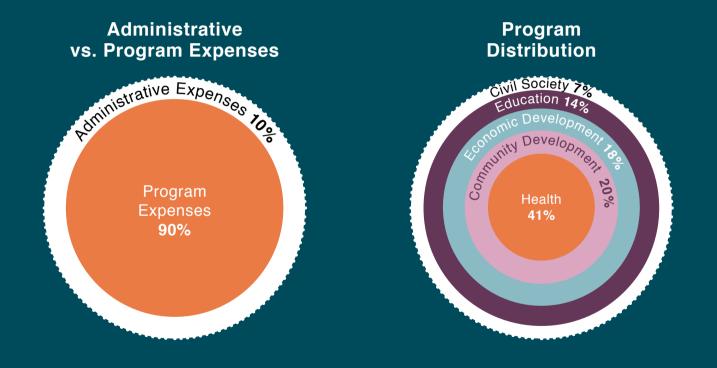
## ASSETS

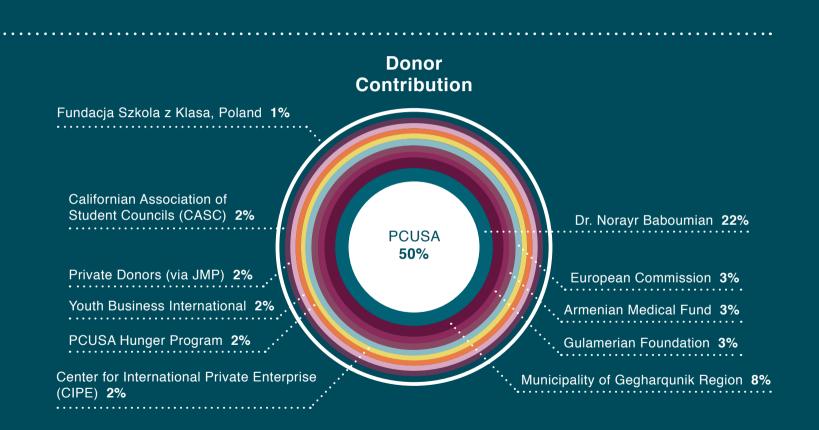


# **EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**



# **BUDGET SPLIT, 2023**







#### **JMF DONORS**



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