



Preschool Education Program,
Armenia – Haghartsin (Part II), Kindergarten



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- Name :** Preschool Education Program, Armenia – Haghartsin (Part II), Kindergarten
- Location :** Haghartsin, on the main road between Diljian and Ljieván, Tavush Marz Province, Armenia.
- Object :** Additional rehabilitation of the village kindergarten. Training teachers in new preschool teaching methods.
- Beneficiaries :** 80 children of the district, 14 teachers
- Duration :** November 2009 – August 2010.

Introduction

ASED has wide experience in the field of primary and preschool education and started working in Armenia in 2008 to help improve education in the country. Since then, ASED has successfully completed two nursery school projects in particularly underprivileged areas of the Armenian territory, namely at Sevan and Haghartsin. Phase II of the Haghartsin project comprises the floor covering of the entire building, certain additional renovation items, the fitting out of the kitchen and of the main building, as well as teacher training in new preschool teaching methods. It was financed thanks to the generosity of ERI BANCAIRE. The project was successfully completed and inaugurated on June 3, 2010.

The renovation of the building

Despite the lack of renovation, the Haghartsin kindergarten continued to function with difficulty these last years. But the deplorable state of the building and of its equipment prevented the school from functioning correctly; it had to close in the winter because of the lack of heating. It was impossible to maintain correct sanitation and the children's security could not be assured. In 2009, ASED started phase I of the project: the complete renovation of the building. In November, Phase II was underway and wood floors were laid in all the rooms of the building. Thus, the renovation was completed.





The equipment

The administration of the kindergarten compared prices for school furniture available in various stores in the capital, Erevan, and adequate furniture was ordered and installed. This includes three tables and three chairs for the teachers, two tables and two bookshelves for the administration, nine bookshelves for the children's playroom, 70 chairs and 15 tables for the children, 70 clothes lockers, the kitchen equipment (two chairs, six tables and kitchen utensils), 70 beds for the children, an oven, a laundry room with a washing machine, a refrigerator and a shower.







Teacher training

As of December 2009, the teaching staff of the Haghartsin kindergarten, whose teaching methods were strongly influenced by the communist era, have been attending training provided by a local NGO called “Step by Step” .This method is based on modern educational methods stressing children’s autonomy and well being. It relies on the principles of cooperation and solidarity. Moreover, this training is based on modules that involve the parents as an essential part of their children’s education. This training will be completed in August 2010 and has been very successful. The teachers themselves are very positive. Thanks to this training, the school is now provided with didactic tools, as well as books and educational toys.

The inauguration

Once the project completed, the inauguration took place in June 2010 in presence of the Director of the kindergarten, the local and regional authorities, the representatives of the church, the representative of the Swiss Embassy, ASED and numerous media.

All the participants in this project wish to thank ERI BANCAIRE for having made it possible to offer preschool education to the children of Haghartsin !





ASED's mission

ASED will continue its activities in Armenia. Despite the fact that preschool education has been shown to have an important impact on children's development and success, the Armenian government refuses all financial support to preschools. The district authorities can afford the expense of running a preschool, but cannot finance the renovation of the old buildings dating from Soviet times. Today, the attendance rate is evaluated at 20% of the Armenian preschool population. The present precarious financial situation has also been felt.

As far as we know, ASED is the only NGO that is renovating old kindergarten school buildings and fitting them out with modern equipment.

After completing two successful projects, ASED intends to continue its mission in support of deprived young children in Armenia.

