



youth empowerment and sustainability



2020 - 2021
ANNUAL REPORT

www.yesarmenia.org | [@yes.armenia](https://twitter.com/yes_armenia)



Youth Empowerment and Sustainability (YES) was established with a mission to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth to the youth of Armenia.

We bring together two powers - the youth and education - to enable sustainable development and constant self-improvement.

Our values contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

We ensure - there is a world of endless opportunities waiting behind every YES!

C O N T E N T S

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A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear friend of YES,

these past two years have been quite challenging for each of us and truly a testament to human resilience.

YES team has been working extremely hard to ensure we reach out to those who needs us the most. Every minute of our work was filled with emotions and moments of loss, despair, hope, love, and warmth.

It is my honour and pride to share with you all the work that our small team has done together with volunteers in all regions of Armenia and across the globe.

I want to highlight the people's stories that are heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time.

None of our initiatives would be possible without our donors and supporters, who trust us and share our vision.

We value your presence in our lives and ensure transparent work and reporting.

Every single donation received by YES is spent to bring the changes in people's lives.

Join any of our projects by providing your time or donating to make our vision a reality.

Stay happy and healthy!

*With gratitude,
Hripsime Amirkhanyan*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hripsime', is written over a light blue rectangular background.



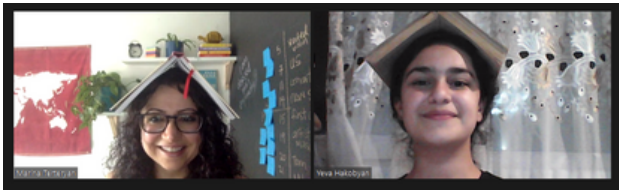
12 MONTHS OF YES



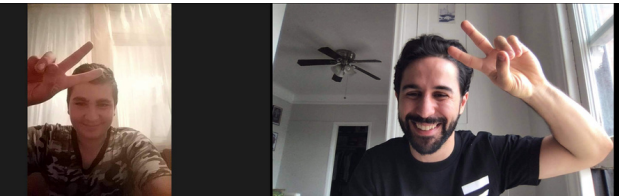


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SEPTEMBER 2020 - HOOYS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Hooys is a career mentorship program that provided the Armenian youth with guidance and support, and helped them connect and empower each other. Hooys created significant connections that will last a lifetime as well as encouraged Armenians to lift each other up!



Overall the project connected 16 young people from rural Armenia with the professionals from various spheres in the US and helped them to improve their education and build future career path. Those two months have been truly a life-changing experience for all.

OCTOBER 2020 - YES TO ARTSAKH: EMERGENCY RELIEF



Starting from September 2020, YES launched an emergency relief project as a response to Azeri aggression on Armenians in Artsakh. YES initiated grassroots campaign delivering emergency aid to the families, who have been forcibly resettled from Artsakh and had to start a new life in different regions of Armenia. Our team members and volunteers hand-delivered food, medications, clothing, sanitary products, and household essentials to families affected by the war. The campaign supported over 800 people in four regions of Armenia. This initiative is still active. Donations accepted on YES website.

NOVEMBER 2020 - WARMTH TO OUR HEROES



Thanks to a generous donation from one of YES devoted supporters, who asked to remain anonymous, YES team was able to provide our soldiers with the sets of body and feet warmers, rain coats, thermo under ware, winter socks and emergency med kits.

Over 200 winter care packages were assembled by the YES volunteers and delivered directly to the soldiers on the borders in Syunig and Tavush regions.

Contact YES team any time at hello@yesarmenia.org if you also want to support our soldiers and we will provide the details.





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DECEMBER 2020 - CHRISTMAS HUG



Every New Year, YES brings Christmas spirit to Armenia's villages! Thanks to our close connections in border villages of Tavush, we are in touch with every child and family in Aygepar, Aygedzor, Movses, and Chinari. These villages are constantly suffering from Azeri aggression as kindergartens, homes, and schools are shelled and under fire. Even though the demolished buildings are rebuilt, not much is done to support and encourage children. This is why we started the Christmas Hug project.

When you give a Christmas Hug, you give a child one piece of warm clothing or shoes, a bag of sweets and fruits and a toy or a colouring Bible.

The campaign is active every year in November-December.

JANUARY 2021 - PROTECT ARTSAKH



YES has implemented a six-month project, Protect ARTsakh, which was funded by the Arslanian Foundation and aimed to support the re-settled families from Artsakh, who have started a new life in Vanadzor, Lori. Prior to starting the project implementation YES team has conducted needs assessment to find out the specific needs of each of the 32 beneficiary families (total of 189 people) and provide targeted assistance to each of them. (Continuation below..)

FEBRUARY 2021 - PROTECT ARTSAKH



The beneficiary families have received necessary food, clothing, bedding, medications, as well as financial support to cover the monthly utility fees during the winter season.

Additionally, one family received construction materials to renovate the bathroom in the old house hosting them, the other family had their gas installed and received gas stove to be able to bake their own bread, and the lastly, one family received bee-hives to be able to earn their living.

The total project budget was 20.000USD.

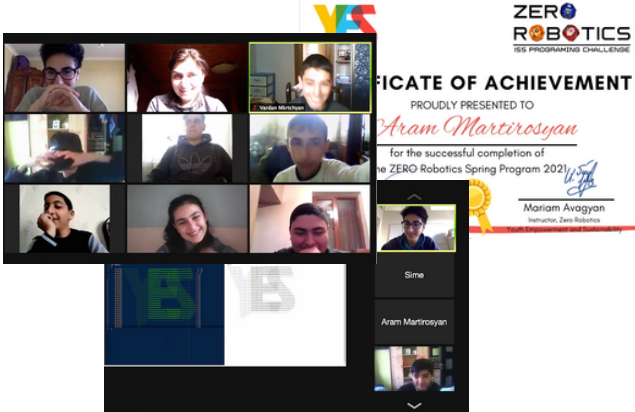
Read stories of families in YES social media under #ProtectArtsakh.





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MARCH 2021 - ZERORO ONLINE CAMP



Since 2018 every year YES is implementing the Zero Robotics (ZeRoRo) camps, where the participants learn coding and robotics, following which they get an opportunity to take part in the international robotics programming competition hosted by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and NASA. In total 54 children from rural Armenia, mostly from the border villages were able to take part in three summer camps and further continue their education in STEM. ZeRoRo project is active every year, follow the updates for support.

APRIL 2021 - YES WEBSITE



YES has received the "Covid-19 Relief Grant Project for NGO Workshop Alumni" grant from the Weiser Center for Europe & Eurasia and the William Davidson Institute, implemented by the Education Foundation for Democracy. The grant funded the technical upgrade of YES website and allowed to develop its versions in Armenian and Russian. The grant also covered part of the social work conducted with the relief project beneficiaries. The total grant budget was 4.850USD.

MAY 2021 - UP&UP PILOT PHASE



This year YES team has implemented the pilot phase of its Up&Up project providing young women with the opportunities to obtain new skills, profession and simultaneously improve their community. During its pilot phase Up&Up project provided vocational training opportunities to six young people who wanted to change their lives and provide more services in their communities. They learned baking, hair dressing, make-up, SMM and web design. Some of the project participants also received the sets of tools for the successful start of their new career. Please donate to our new initiative to give the youth employment opportunities.



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JUNE 2021- FOOD PROVISION IN RURAL ARTSAKH



This month we have received emergency calls from our beneficiaries in Artsakh, as there was an extreme need for food. We stand by attentively to provide our families with necessary aid now, and in the future, therefore we have immediately organised the delivery of fresh food to Baghavard, Taghavard, Berqadzor villages in Artsakh, as well as to re-settled families in Stepanakert.

Overall YES has delivered around 6 tons of food grown by the Armenian farmers and distributed to the beneficiaries in Artsakh.

YES team has received heartwarming hand-written "Thank you" letters!

JULY 2021- SUPPORTING TAGHAVAND VILLAGE



During our visit to Taghavand village for the food distribution a group of local women has asked YES team to provide them with clothing for the kids OR sewing machines for them to be able to sew clothes themselves.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors we were able to do both!

Now there are two sewing machines in Taghavand village of Artsakh for community use and all the kids from 0 to 6 years old have received necessary clothing.

Showing care and love towards Artsakh every day!

AUGUST 2021- BACK TO SCHOOL



Education is the key! Therefore every August we provide the school children in rural Armenia with the necessary school sets and school bags. This time we have also delivered the school sets to the kids in Artsakh.

In total 216 kids received the school packages, each costing around \$20.

This initiative is active every August. Join us in making kids' days at school happier and donate on YES website.





Financials

During the reporting period, from September 2020 up to August 2021, Youth Empowerment and Sustainability (YES) team and our volunteers have been working tirelessly to ensure the full implementation of the educational programs for the youth in rural Armenia, as well as delivering emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Artsakh and our soldiers.

The total costs of all projects during the reporting period is equal to **46.835USD**.

The funding was received from the following sources:

- *The Arslanian Foundation*

Amount: **20.000USD**

-*The Weiser Center for Europe & Eurasia, the William Davidson Institute, and the Education Foundation for Democracy*

Amount: **4.850USD**

-*In-kind donations from individual donors (warmers and med kits for soldiers)*

Amount: **4.800USD**

-*Other donations from devoted donors and supporters during the year*

Amount: **17.185USD**

In adapting to the direct needs of the people in Armenia and Artsakh, we are currently asking for your support in facilitating our major projects in the field of education, relief and development.





Upcoming...

YES upcoming projects are:

- ImPower Youth Mentoring Program

Mentoring program bringing together Armenian professionals from all over the world to give the career and education leads to the youth in rural Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhq.

The cost is \$60 per participant.

- Christmas Hug

YES Santa visits the border villages of Tavush and gives each kid a Christmas Hug that includes one piece of warm clothing or shoes, a bag of sweets and fruits, and a toy or a Bible for colouring.

One Christmas Hug is \$30.

- Up&Up

Giving young people an opportunity to obtain new skills, profession and simultaneously improve their community.

The cost of one training course is \$300-400, plus additional \$300 for the sets of necessary tools.

- Change Agent Scholarship Program

Providing scholarships to YES all program alumni to be able to improve their skills, participate in workshops or conferences, cover the cost of books, tablets or transportation.

Any donation - small or big - is life-changing.

- Humanitarian assistance to re-settled families in Armenia and Artsakh

Providing aid to families, which have been displaced in the result of 44-day war, have lost their loved ones or are in socially challenging conditions.

All donations are accepted on YES website. Please mention your preferred project and we will direct the donation accordingly.



