



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2013 ART continues to work on three main priority directions that are Integrated Community Development, Capacity Development, Regional Peace & Reconciliation and also Emergency Situations. In this brief Introduction I want to do a brief assessment of the Regional P&R programme and formulate questions which need further reflections.

Number of years we see this programme as a work with partners from Azerbaijan to create more "human" image of each other taking into account black pattern of our countries and nations, that comes mainly from consequences of the military conflict, long lasting blockade and hostile position of Azeri governmental cycles (recent persecutions of CS leaders in Azerbaijan good proof of that).

In the frames of P&R programme we, during more than five years, organize about 200 meetings, discussions in both countries, which were mainly a film screening followed by discussions. Based on that meetings groups of young activists have been formed and we encourage different activities proposed and implemented by them. However the main lessons we learn as result of our joint hard work was very modest positive impact created if we take entire country level. Another big problem was not that we both where criticized within Armenia and Azerbaijan, it was not constant lack of funds and hard talks with donors. The main problem was an increasing feeling that at ART we want to work with a chance that we can really make a difference with implementation of the programme; we eventually want to see visible, tangible change that was created as a result of our work. In the long lasting discussions we came to the question why only Azerbaijan? Why do not deal with more comprehensive reality? Finally, it is more and more clear for that resolution of Karabakh conflict from different perspectives is far away and key of it is in the hands of big international players who are now very busy with other problems. On the other hand, probability of full size military conflict between two courtiers, taking into account that both have well armed and well trained armies, is low. From these and other arguments we made a conclusion that we better reformulate our P&R programme and put question in wider sense, like Development of Peace Culture in the relations with neighboring countries and people with special stress on CSO, including FBOs.

In order to further develop this concept we definitely need discussions with our partners and the Board. Hence, I want to present these short notes as an invitation to discussion.

## WHO WE ARE

**Armenia Round Table Foundation** is an ecumenical organization which in close collaboration with Churches and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) works to actively contribute to the poverty eradication, sustainable community development, active involvement of the church in the social work, overall development of civil society in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

### OUR MISSION

ART mission is to contribute to poverty reduction, strengthen civil society, promote regional peace building and reconciliation, enable a fair and value base society through diaconal and development interventions in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

### OUR VISION

Inspired by the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Christian social teaching, Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation strives to promote a peaceful and just society that respects all of God's creation, practices Christian values in word and deed, and ensures a dignified life for the vulnerable, with equal rights and opportunities for all.

### OUR VALUES

ART attaches importance to Christian fundamental values, vigorous expression of love, faith and hope. Based on the biblical belief that people are made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated equally, ART in its activities is adhering to the following guiding principles:

- Promote human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Care for the needs of vulnerable groups of the society,
- Protect environment,
- Maintain accountability, transparency and participation, mutual trust, impartiality and consistency,
- Achieve high efficiency and impact of the activities,
- Evaluate continuously the quality of the provided services, results achieved and impact, and where needed, introduce necessary changes,
- Encourage team work and cooperation.



## ART MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERS

### ART is a member of:

- ACT Alliance
- ACT Alliance Executive Committee
- ACT Armenia Forum
- ACT Psychosocial Support Community of Practice
- Advisory Group on Climate Change Advocacy of ACT Alliance
- Eastern European Church Anti-AIDS Network
- Eurodiakonia
- Europe and Central Asia Faith Based Organizations and UNFPA Partnership Network on Population and Development
- The "East" Foundation
- Disaster Management Country Team, UNDP

### ART cooperates with the following organizations:

#### **Church**

- Armenian Apostolic Church
- Armenian Evangelical Church
- Armenian Catholic Church

#### **NGOs**

- "Aragats" benevolent youth union
- "Eco-Globe" NGO
- "Judges Association of RA" NGO
- "Republican Institute of Reproductive Health, Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynecology" Limited Joint-Stock Company
- "Tatul Krpeyan Union" NGO
- "Voluntary service of Armenia republican headquarters of student brigades" NGO
- "Caravan-88" NGO
- "Family and Community" NGO
- "Union of Women after the Virgin St. Sandukht" NGO
- "Youth of Jervezh" cultural-educational NGO
- "Center for Coordination of Syrian Problems" NGO

**Foreign partners**

Action by Churches Together, Switzerland (ACT Alliance)

Church of Sweden (CoS)

DiakonischesWerk/ Bread for the World, Germany (DW/ BftW)

Fondation Pour L'aide Au ProtestantismeReforme, Switzerland (FAP)

International Orthodox Christian Charities, the Netherlands (IOCC)

Norwegian Church Aid, Norway (NCA)

Swiss Inter-Church Aid, Switzerland (HEKS/EPER)

The "East" Foundation

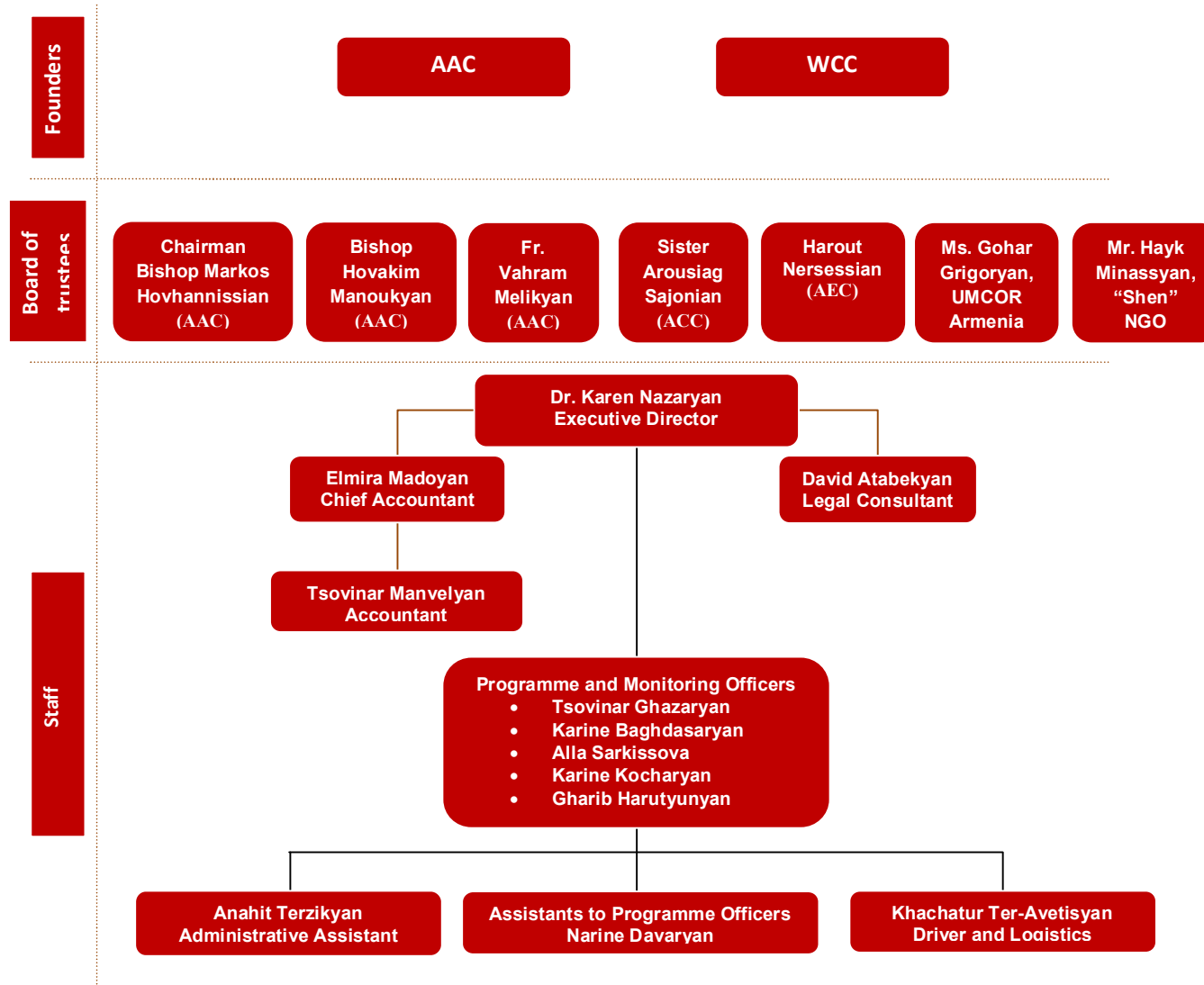
The United Population Fund(UNFPA)

World Council of Churches, Switzerland (WCC)

Euro diakonia

Interdiac

## ART BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE STAFF IN 2013



## INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

#	Project code	Project title	Implementing organization	Donor
1.	13-ICD1	Improving socio-economic conditions in selected provinces in Armenia 2011-2015	Gegharkunik Diocese, AAC	NCA
2.	13-ICD2	Gyumri social centre	Shirak Diocese, AAC	EED
3.	13-ICDm1	Community development in Armavir	Armavir Diocese, AAC	D. Werk
4.	13-ICDm3	Community development centre in Jervezh	"Youth of Jervezh" cultural - educational NGO	EED
5.	13-ICDm4	PR on "Green Pilgrimage in Etchmiadzin" project	ART	EED
6.	13-ICDm5	Reconstruction of water distribution well and water system in Haritch	Artik Diocese, AAC	EED
7.	13-ICDm6	Renovation of Karakert Community Centre	ART	EED,COAF
8.	13-ICDm7	Support to Ecumenical Center in Armenia	Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin	NCA, ACN
9.	13-ICDs24	First steps of St. Mariane Centre in Ashtarak	Aragatsothn Diocese, AAC	D. Werk
10.	13-ICDs25	Assistance to improvement of behavior and education of marginal children in Metsamor	Family and community NGO	D. Werk
11.	11-ICDm8	Young Generation Project Development in Artsakh	Artsakh Diocese, AAC	FAP

12.	13-ICDm2	Computer Literacy for Everyone/ Fostering Culture of Communication	ART	EED
13.	13-ICDs28	Establishment of a computer room in "Shogh" Community-Based Child Day Center	Armenian Missionary Association of America Armenian branch	EED
14.	12-ICDs9	Protection of labor rights and development of communication skills of young people	"Union of Women after the Virgin St. Sandukht" NGO	D. Werk

In 2013 ART, together with its local partner Churches and NGOs, implemented 34 big and small scale projects in the most vulnerable and remote areas of Armenia and Nagorno - Karabagh. The number of direct beneficiaries stood at more than 16000 with about 60% women participation. At the same time, programs like *"Green pilgrimage in Etchmiadzin"*, *"Dialogue room"* and *"Volunteer camps for children,"* *"Warm winter and joyful New Year,"* *"Completion of Family Library,"* *"Summer Camp"* targeted wide layers of population throughout Armenia in searching ways for alleviation of social problems, easing economic hardships and addressing environmental problems.

2013 was a decisive year for the ART as the final year of the Programme 2011-2013 aimed at promotion of just and sustainable livelihoods of people in Armenia. The Integrated Community Development (ICD) component of the Programme continued in 2013 with a number of successful initiatives towards sustainable communities based on justice.

ICD, as seen by the ART, is a process which engages communities in defining own needs, setting priorities, seeking for resources and solutions by representative participation, accountability and transparency which will bring lasting change in the lives of people. In line with "Do No Harm" approach ART ICD offers an integrated vision and definition of strong sustainability.

ART ICD includes activities within its four main components: social, economic, environmental and spiritual.

## Social improvement

Social projects of the ART ICD could be summarized as follows:

- Infrastructural improvement, i.e. repair and expansion/diversification of activities of communal/social centres in Gavar, Karakert, Jervezh, Armavir, Verin Getashen and Gyumri, establishment of social/community development centers in Ashtarak and Vardenis, rehabilitation of water pipelines in Aygut and Harich, etc.

E.g. In Verin Getashen two rooms were furnished with ping-pong and chess tables to serve for leisure time to the community youth. This village in Gegharkunik region among the other challenges had identified the lack of any type of entertainment as a reason for youth for either leaving the village in case of an opportunity or developing unhealthy behavioral patterns. The village has employed a chess trainer to teach children, and the youth organizes ping-pong contests regularly. Currently, more than 100 young people and children use the two sports rooms, thus providing the community quality leisure time alternative.

- Cultural activities (art groups, painting and singing groups, excursions to historical sites, etc) in Gyumri, Gavar, Vardenis, Jervezh, Armavir, etc.

- Civic education for local people in various aspects of development, such as community development, human and children rights, GBV, HIV prevention, etc.

## **Economic improvement**

The main directions related to promotion of economic sustainability of people, projects and social/communal centers were vocational training and encouraging income generating activities.

## **Vocational training**

- Computer literacy is considered as an important element of this component of ICD. In six computer centres in Armavir, Gyumri, Gavar, Shushi, Jervezh and Gai 403 students were trained in basic computer skills, web design, accounting, Corel Draw, and used the Internet resources and different programmes for communication. Capacities of trainers were enhanced through two ToTs a) network administration and b) Microsoft Access 2007. More than 1390 beneficiaries got various services in computer centers, such as scan, print, use Internet for getting information, support to prepare documents, reports, create business cards and leaflets, etc. In March 2013 ART launched "Fostering Culture of Communication" project on computer literacy for 153 elderly, a unique project in Armenia. Paid services initiated in these computer centers covered part of the expenses for their operation Total income of 6 centers is 885,000AMD. The most important outcome: 11 people found employment, and 28 teachers saved their jobs.



- Mastering dress making, sewing, hairdressing, carpet weaving, furniture making, hand work, table design and many other useful skills for self-employment and getting jobs carried out in the communal and social centers in Gavar, Vardenis, Gyumri, Karakert, Gai, Armavir and elsewhere, included both youth and adults, often children and their parents. The results were empowered and more self-confident communities and people.



E.g Interesting was establishment of a carpet weaving workshop in Karakert Centre together with Tufenkian Trans-Caucasus Foundation. It involved 20 unemployed women, who, after three-month training, started working and got salaries. Moreover, an agreement was obtained with Tufenkian Foundation as a consumer of the products in future. At the moment the workshop had completed 36 ready carpets which were going to bring income for the Centre maintenance.

### **Income generating activities**

- Sales of produce, such as hand work items, bread, various cookies, as well as gradual introduction of paid services, such as computer courses, internet services, classes in dress making, turned to be income source not only for the beneficiaries, but were becoming a basis for continuation of the existing and launch of new projects. Gavar and Gyumri felting groups participated in an exhibition in Yerevan Museum of Folk Art held on April 27- May 5. It was entitled "The Dawn of Flower-Felts". Sales was 25 000 AMD for Gavar and the same for Gyumri.
- One more approach for employment and sustainability of projects and existing centers was establishment of social enterprises. Impressive were activities at the social enterprises in Gyumri, Gavar and Karakert.



- Diversification of donor base through more active support by self governance bodies/ authorities, Diaspora and local business could be illustrated through Karakert Center, where local authorities support the Center with co-sharing on a regular base the Centers' maintenance costs. Business support to establish social enterprises through consultancy and on-job training could not be underestimated.
- In 2013, too, Gavar and Mughni bakeries, felting workshops in Gyumri and Gavar, as well as furniture making and mini printing-house in Gyumri centre successfully continued earning income for centre operations.



Sustainability remained the main challenge for further continuation of projects upon the end of funding. Income generation through small business initiatives, sales of handwork, felt pieces, furniture made at Gyumri workshop and produce of the bakery in Gavar continued covering part of Centres' expenses. It was worth mentioning that sales were rather difficult because of limited market volume in the targeted areas. At the same time, new unexpected sources were found, such as sales of books published through a small grant to Gavar centre from Youth Bank of Armenia, or USD 1000 award received by Gavar puppet theatre in the festival in Bulgaria. Ties with local business were becoming closer. Step by step new options were identified. ART, too, tried to diversify its funding sources in anticipation of the ever-narrowing range of ecumenical agencies willing to fund work in Armenia.



## Environmental protection

Environmental sustainability requires that mankind only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. If we translate it into ART ICD the following activities were in line: awareness raising in nature protection, tree planting, waste cleaning, establishment of environmentally friendly maintenance practices, and, the last, but not the least "green" pilgrimage. Etchmiadzin, the spiritual centre of all Armenians and an important touristic site, had been included into Green Pilgrimage Network of Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). The aim of these projects was step by step turn world pilgrimage areas into models of care for the environment and leaving a positive footprint on the earth. Church and Etchmiadzin municipality participation in this endeavor added to the activities aimed at turning Etchmiadzin into a model of green pilgrimage in the region. Promotion of visibility and attractiveness of the environmental projects implemented in Etchmiadzin, uniting various actors around the idea of "green" pilgrimage through a range of interconnected activities was the main direction in 2013. "Green Hospitality" film, made in the frames of the project, showed that environmentally friendly activities had started in Etchmiadzin.

## Spiritual renewal

Recognition and respect for Church as one of the key actors in change remained a priority for ART projects. If compared with many other community development models it was easy to find an important addition to ART model: spiritual dimension. ART is a FBO and our approach is Christian: believing in justice, fairness, peace, stewardship, integrity and relevance, working in a participatory relationship, driven by a compassion for the poor and the helpless. Spiritual counseling, baptism, pilgrimages, Bible studies, spiritual lessons were some of the activities in this area.



## Conclusion

At the end of ART 2011-2013 project, ART commissioned an external evaluation to learn from experiences of the three year work, as well as for identifying strategies for the coming period. The evaluation examined ART as an organization engaged in implementation of projects in the areas of Integrated Community Development and Diakonia, Capacity Building, Regional Peace and Reconciliation, and Emergency Response. Institutional development of civic action groups and their capacities in developing projects proposals, implementation and monitoring, mobilizing community members to ensure participatory and transparent implementation of projects proved to be successful in pursuit of social equity, economic prosperity, environmental quality and spiritual renewal.

Through November 2013- January 2014 ART developed its strategy plan for 2014-2016 in broad consultations with its partners.

*A 4<sup>th</sup> grade girl first came to the Gavar Centre for English classes. She was immediately distinguished as an ill bred scandalmonger interfering with everybody's work. Alas, gossiping and lying go hand in hand. She used to blame her classmates for her own mistakes. A number of discussions, numerous talks with her of the teachers and clergy gave their result. Today she has joined also in felting class showing great abilities. Who could imagine, she is showing a caring attitude towards her friends, positive changes were visible.*

## HIV prevention, care and support to PLHIV in Armenia

#	Project code	Project title	Implementing organization	Donor
1.	11-ICD3	HIV prevention, care and support to PLHIV in Armenia	ART	D. Werk
2.	11-ICD3/1	PLHIV Day Center	Araratyan Diocese, AAC	
3.	11-ICD3/5	I am protected	"Aragats" benevolent youth union	
4.	11-ICD3/6	A Christian is strong	Gougarats Diocese, AAC	
5.	11-ICD3/7	HIV prevention and pastoral care for PLHIV in Shirak marz	"Shirak" Diocese, AAC	

Activities carried out in the scope of the project are aimed at providing care and moral support to People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

and Injective Drug Users (IDUs), prevention of HIV epidemic through awareness raising, and fighting stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV. The Day Centre for PLHIV, which is located in Yerevan and operates under the auspices of the Araratyan Pontifical Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC), offers a complex set of support services not only to the people living with HIV but also to their families.

The Day Center started its operations in 2009 and it has provided services to more than 270 people countrywide including 11 children living with and nearly 150 children affected by HIV. 17 IDUs have regularly attended the Centre during the reporting year working towards their re-integration into the community and return to a healthy lifestyle through talks with the pastor, participation in the life of the community and volunteering for the center. People who attend the Centre regularly have found an opportunity to have a place where they could socialize and feel safe for speaking out their common concerns. Overall, the services offered at the Day Centre include provision of pastoral care and support, psychological counseling, moral support through Bible study classes, peer-to-peer counseling and self-help groups, assistance with documentations connected to social allowances and medical issues, home visits, club and social reintegration activities, etc.



With the purpose of improving the capacities of the beneficiaries for income generation, six vocational trainings were organized during the year on pottery, makeup art, and bead weaving. The big majority of participants to these training courses are women who have lost their husbands to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and in addition to their health condition are in vulnerable social-economic conditions in most cases having to raise their children without any support from the extended family.

The priests of the Armenian Apostolic Church realized awareness raising and educational activities aimed at HIV prevention among youth and high-risk population, in particular targeting Yerevan and the communities with highest rates of seasonal labor migration with main destination being Russia and Ukraine. About 900 people (teenagers and adults) participated in the educational sessions providing information on HIV, ways of transition, as well as Christian approach to prevention.

### **Emergency Response**

#	Project code	Project title	Implementing organization	Donor
1.	12-E1	Support to Syrian refugees in Armenia	ART	NCA, UMCOR, Wider Church of Ministries, USA, Disciples of Christ

As a member of ACT Alliance, ART emergency programme aims to contribute to increasing resilience of the affected society, mainstreaming Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) approach in response activities and strengthening disaster response preparedness of its partners. In 2010 an emergency network was established joining together local partner NGOs, clergy from all Dioceses, including Artsakh, and later the ACT Armenia Forum. The members of the network were trained to act during emergencies and conflicts for immediate response and have experience working with Syrian refugees, are guided by strong international standards and regulations in their response strategy. This ensures the best possible practice in dealing with problems of refugees providing them humanitarian aid and psychosocial support.

ART is the only organization in the field of emergency situations representing Church in Armenia and the one that has a network of clergy from all regions trained on provision of psychosocial support to victims in emergencies. Combination of efforts, resources and coordinated actions is to address the affected and vulnerable people's psychosocial wellbeing. ART strives to



combine all the components of recovery efforts from the very beginning of refugees' arrival: humanitarian aid, psychological and social support building the existing local capacities with the intention of enabling the community to be self-sufficient to a certain extent. Moral and spiritual support by the clergy through regular communication and counselling aim at building resilience and enhance social-psychological capacities of the families.

In response to refugee needs in Armenia, ART with support of Araratyan Patriarchal Diocese implemented two humanitarian projects in 2012 and 2013 through the funding of ACT Alliance; NCA; UMCOR; EED; Wider Church of Ministries, USA; Disciples of Christ, USA. An innovative approach of using plastic cards that gave free access to food purchase restricting cigarettes and alcohol was used by ART to contribute in addressing food security more than 1,000 refugee families/ 4000 people. Besides plastic cards for food, ACT Armenia Forum assisted refugee families also with non food items, i.e. hygiene kits, blankets, school kits, infant kits, tooth paste and brushes from IOCC and hygiene kits from UMCOR, Armenia. A documentary film (in English and Armenian) reflecting on issues of Syrian refugees and relief activities was shot and introduced on different opportunities. (For details see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWzbbwikafg>).

ART regularly implemented needs assessments of the refugees by filling in sociological survey, group or face to face meetings, home visits in all phases of the projects.



## **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

#	Project code	Project title	Implementing organization	Donor
1.	11-CB1	How to write a successful proposal	ART	WCC/EF, EED
2.	12-CB2	Monitoring of Socio-Economic Reform and Sustainable Development of ENP Implementation in Armenia	ART	APRODEV
3.	13-CB1	Capacity building for ART partners	ART	D. Werk,
4.	13-CB2	Prevention of Gender-Based Violence through Gender-Transformative Approach	ART	UNFPA
5.	13-CB3	Capacity building for ART staff	ART	D. Werk

The objective of the *capacity building programme* of ART is to promote development of civil society by increased human and institutional capacity development, systematic learning and distribution of information in different fields for Churches, NGOs and their networks.

Being one of the priority areas of ART work, capacity building, strengthens and supports conceptual growth and programme management of civil society organizations by an enlarged range of intervention areas taking in systematic learning and tailor-made courses on a variety of fields including project cycle management, organizational development, strategy planning, monitoring, environmental care, HIV-AIDS, gender based violence, drug abuse and others on an ongoing basis.

ART implements the programme in cooperation with qualified external experts and with gradual involvement of own staff in mastering and training delivery on Organizational Development, Social Diakonia, Do no harm, Monitoring, Community Based Psychosocial Support, etc., thus strengthening own capacity and steady development into knowledge base and service delivery organization.

For implementation of capacity building programme ART contracts sector specialists and consultants to ensure quality delivery of capacity building interventions.

## Civil Society Strengthening

In 2012 ART has obtained an agreement with the management of **Managing Development Foundation/ MDF** is a global training and consultancy agency, with over 25 years of experience in international co-operation which provides services in the fields of enhancing competencies of staff members, assisting organizations to improve performances, maximizing the impact of partnerships, networks and focusing on sustainable results in projects and programmes. As a practical result of the agreement a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ART and MDF. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a general framework for co-operation between the parties for the implementation of a sustainable strategy for a variety of capacity building and development activities. Parties agree to seek and identify through collaborative efforts opportunities for engaging into implementation of international/regional and local/Armenia based programmes and activities which enable Parties peruse common interests and priorities in accordance with the availability of funds. Without limitation, the Parties will collaborate in the areas of developing, sharing and transferring capacity development tools, methods and best practices, exploring possibilities for engaging into joint programme implementation and follow-up training and capacity building activities, sharing and promoting exchange of good capacity building practices, proven to achieve results, informing the public of Parties' cooperative efforts and their results as appropriate, training of social workers/development practitioners/civil society organizations in different fields of development work. The first joint training course is planned to implement in Armenia in 2014.

Since 2012 ART staff initiated **"Programmatic work skills development" long-term study course** which consists of three modules. After passing the first module **"Development of competitive project proposal"** the participants of the training course were invited to develop a project proposal and apply for a small scale grant from the ART. The selection committee selected the best project proposals based upon evaluation criteria which were financed by the ART. The other two modules of the training course **"Project management"** and **"Project sustainability"** were delivered by ART in 2013. 2 different groups participated in all 3 modules. Totally 26 participants from 23 CSOs /including NGOs, Churches and community groups/ gained knowledge and skills on programmatic work. As a result of the training courses, 11 small projects were financed and implemented successfully by the participants. The projects were innovative approaches and included various areas of work, such as promoting volunteerism and Christian value system among different groups of society, providing safe conditions for leisure of children, supporting social adaptation of vulnerable groups, supporting the vocational trainings, renovating drinking water system, etc.

The ART plans to organize such series of training courses continuously and become a service provider in development work field for civil society organizations and community groups.



### **Supporting the Well-being of Armenian Family through prevention of Gender-based Violence**

The project aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge regarding gender issues, rights and equality, and family values among selected target groups. The activities included series of discussion on gender concepts, gender-based violence and its prevention for high-school students and their parents in eight Armenian regions and in Yerevan. The meetings were held by community priests who later worked also on family and individual levels through individual and couple counseling, as well as paying home visits. The series of meetings were as well realized at Armenian Army for conscripts. In the result of the project activities about 6200 people were sensitized on gender issues and developed better understanding of the values of a Christian family. The project is funded by UNFPA Armenia.

Within the framework of the Prevention of Gender-based Violence through Gender-transformative Project, the eleven AAC priests carried out educational seminars at schools in eight marzes (RA administrative regions), as well as in RA army units in two marzes and in Yerevan to encourage women and men/girls and boys to reflect on their perceptions and convictions regarding the gender role and highlighting the issues underlying GBV. Capacities of the priests were developed through developing and strengthening their knowledge on GBV prevention and role of men in ensuring family well-being through responsible fatherhood and participation in care-taking, issue of transfer of aggression attributive to the service in Army, peculiarities of work with



teenagers in a classroom setting aimed at challenging their knowledge-stereotypes and sensitizing on gender-based violence issues.

11 parish priests closely collaborating with public schools in eight marzes of Armenia and in Yerevan were selected to carry out the awareness raising and counseling on family well-being emphasizing gender equality and importance of men engagement in prevention of GBV and in sharing responsibilities in a family. They worked under supervision of CEC and the CEC regional coordinators helped with organizational tasks. At the 3-day training organized in the beginning of the project the priests with the lead of the expert-trainer, engaged into discussion of the behavior models, development of expectations with regard to gender roles in a given society and the flexibility of those roles, as well as good parenting and responsible fatherhood. Two invited speakers from the Church leadership made presentations on gender equality in the Bible, and principles that guide the work with families. Follow-up one-day training was organized at the ICHD for priests who work at the Army. The training discussed the controlled aggression that is cultivated in the Army setting and the problem of transfer of aggression to the other spheres of life even long after the release from service. Three follow-up trainings that discussed the peculiarities of educational work with the adolescents, history of term "gender", its meanings and implications in the Armenian context, and the role and influence of a spiritual father in preventing violence in families through the work with the adolescents at school and maintaining communication with the parents.

Awareness-raising activities were carried out in 40 schools and four Army units and the Army hospital in Yerevan. Seminars at school included three meetings with each group of students (age range was 14-18) and one meeting with teachers and parents. Meetings with each group of conscripts included three to five meetings. In total, about 5400 people were reached and sensitized through group awareness-raising activities.

Generally, all four indicators were surpassed, which in partly was because of, to an extent, cautious planning and also, more conscripts were included than it was planned, since one more Army unit was added during the project with initiative of one of the priests. Work with families and individuals also turned out more intensive, since more people approached the priests almost in all the communities that the involved priests serve. This can be attributed to the continuous character of the awareness-raising activities, which has build trust among the communities throughout the years of project implementation.

### **Capacity building of ART**

As 2013 was the last year of ART 3-year programme period 2011-2013 and ART needed to learn from its experience and make any necessary changes to ensure that its work remains relevant, effective, efficient, impactful and sustainable. Based on the prepared Terms of Reference (TOR), **ART external evaluation** was conducted by a team comprised Bruce Britton, an independent consultant and member of the Framework collective, Dr Anna Voskanyan, a lecturer in social work at Yerevan State University and independent consultant. This evaluation focuses on ART as an organization implementing three main areas of programmatic work as described in the ART Programme Proposal 2011-2013. The main objectives of the evaluation were to examine ART's overall capacity as a grant-making and support organization in the context of Armenian civil society, to identify

the results (outputs and outcomes) of ART's three main programme areas, namely: Integrated Community Development, Capacity Building and Peace & Reconciliation and its wider work, to identify good practices and areas for further development of ART's programme priorities and its wider work, to examine the value added by ART and progress that ART has made towards becoming a knowledge-based organization, to contribute to ART's understanding of the main social problems in Armenia and identify the most effective roles ART can play in supporting the Armenian Churches and ART's faith-based and secular partners to address these problems, to assist ART in possible re-conceptualizing and re-strategizing of its work in the future. The evaluation was primarily intended for the ART Board and staff, local partners and international partners of ART. The findings and recommendations from this evaluation provided important data for the strategy development process.

Based on the main findings and recommendations of the above-mentioned evaluation, **2014-2016 Strategy Plan (SP)** was developed with the direct involvement of the main stakeholders of the ART, particularly, ART Board of Trustees, ART staff, local and international partner organizations. The planning process was based on a few key principles, such as: SP is a document, that will be reviewed and updated regularly, SP responds to the problems of the society and is directly dependant on external and internal situations, and the progress of the SP shall be regularly monitored, evaluated and reported by the ART staff.

### ***Participation in capacity development events***

Armenia Round Table Foundation was invited to take part in the **Christmas Readings of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC)**, which took place in the Department of Church External Relations of the ROC, Moscow, on January 25-26, 2013. Karine Baghdasaryan and Karine Kocharyan from ART participated in three round-table discussions organized by the Russian Round Table on the following topics: "Church and problems of domestic violence", "Participation of the Russian Orthodox Church in HIV/AIDS prevention" and "Ecological activities within the Church social service: experiences and potential". Specialists of psychology and education, representatives of Church structures and faith-based organizations made presentations on the following topics: psychological background of violent behaviors, children in the families with the issue of domestic violence and violence against children, projects aimed at prevention of domestic violence. After the planned schedule, ART featured a presentation on parenting and responsible fatherhood. Karine Kocharyan presented the projects implemented by the organization aimed at family well-being and prevention of domestic and gender-based violence. The audience was particularly interested with the gender-transformative approach applied in the project activities, as well as the innovative method of forum. Karine Baghdasaryan made a presentation about the ART experience related to nature protection and ecological projects. The audience was particularly interested in introduction of nature protection into the curriculum of theological seminaries of the Armenian Apostolic Church, which was regarded by the audience as a unique experience in the former Soviet Union area. Another topic of interest was "Nature Protection and Theology" publication presenting the Church views on the role and responsibilities of the man in the love and care for all God's Creation.

ART is a member of ACT Alliance Psychosocial Community of Practice (PS CoP) that like all the members of ACT Alliance has a common commitment to protect, without discrimination, the rights and dignity of the individuals with whom we work during our responses to emergencies and distressing events or long time stressful situations. Next in turn **Annual meeting of Psychosocial working group** members took place in Uppsala, Sweden, in March of 2013 with participation of members from all continents. ART was representing Alla Sarkisova. The ACT PS CoP assists ACT staff in providing community-based psychosocial support (CBPS) work with countries around the world and mainstream the approach in programme level. CBPS adds a mental and social dimension to traditional humanitarian aid and has assumed considerable significance as a focus for relief efforts. It has been shown that when the affected people's psychosocial wellbeing has been addressed, they are more likely to benefit from the other components of recovery efforts.

HEKS-EPER South Caucasus office organized two-day training on **"IMC – Integrated Marketing Communications"** in Tbilisi through April 3-4, 2013, for the members of HEKS-EPER sponsored programs from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The trainer was invited from Georgian "MARNET Associates" Ltd. ART was presented by Mrs. Karine Baghdasaryan and Ms. Narine Davaryan. The training covered topics like contemporary marketing challenges, integrated marketing strategy, market analysis, 4Ps, consumer, branding, planning IMC etc. The attendees were granted with Certificated of Participation at the end of the training.

On April 5, 2013, a conference on **"Community work – foreign experience of community foundations and existing challenges for its development in Caucasus region"** was organized by a Georgian NGO CSRDG (Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia). Experience related community foundations in Georgia (CoDeCo – Community Development Coalition) and Europe (Angus McCabe, University of Birmingham) were presented. Mrs. Karine Baghdasaryan made a presentation including ART and "Women for Development" NGO work. The main focus was put on the activities of the newly established social enterprise in bread production and two registered foundations: "Meghrik" and "Sustainable Development of Communities".

In April 2013, **"Outcome and Impact Oriented Planning and Monitoring" workshop** was conducted for Bread for the World Partners in South Caucasus. The workshop was to be an experience exchange on outcome and impact orientation (OIO) in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) in South Caucasus and a follow-up of the first workshop on the topic conducted by EED in 2011. ART was represented by Gharib Harutyunyan, ART monitoring and evaluation officer, who presented the topic «Outcome orientation in PME within an organisation - the case of ART»

**The annual meeting of the East Foundation Council** took place in Warsaw, Poland, on September 10, 2013. where ART was represented by Karine Baghdasaryan. The 2012 financial and narrative reports were presented by Miroslaw Matrenczyk, Chairperson. Council members shared information on their ongoing and planned projects and discussed a number of issues, such as East Foundation financial situation and future activities, regional networking in HIV/AIDS, migration/trafficking and environmental protection.

Representatives of the Interdiac partner organizations held their **fifth Honorary council meeting** in Český Těšín, 11th -13th November. ART was represented by Gharib Harutyunyan. The International Academy for Diakonia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe, o.p.s (Interdiac) is an international, ecumenical organization which is providing training, building networks and

developing research for diakonia in the region. The Honorary Council brings together the representatives of fourteen partner organizations from twelve counties in the region. Two lecturers from the Diakonia University of Applied Sciences also attended the meeting. The meeting should serve to building the learning community among the partner organizations coming from different organizational and national contexts. Joint exchange of experience and expertise and previous collaborative efforts on the development of the curriculum of the double degree programme has shown the results and the implications of participatory work that the discussions at this gathering can build on. Additionally, the ideas about the further Interdiac developmental actions in terms of main 4 pillars of Interdiac's vision were introduced.

### **PROMOTING DIALOGUE FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME**

#	Project code	Project title	Implementing organization	Donor
1.	11-PB1	Promoting Dialogue for Regional Peace and Reconciliation	ART	EPER
2.	10-PB1	Armenian Genocide Memory Healing in Armenia	ART	WCC, D. Werk

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh remains deadlocked since 1994, at an enormous socio-economic cost to both Armenian and Azerbaijani societies. As a political settlement has yet to materialize, people of both countries suffer profound consequences of war. In the absence of a fundamental peace settlement, both Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to grapple with the dire consequences of the conflict.

To promote regional peace building at the grassroots level, an initiative group from Armenia and Azerbaijan, represented by ART, "Shoghakat" TV studio, Internews Azerbaijan and Ganja Media Centre launched a comprehensive public awareness campaign for creating channels of public discussions over reconciliation in Armenia and in Azerbaijan.

A three year project launched in 2011 aimed to promote a process of reconciliation at the public level in Azerbaijan and Armenia by encouraging more receptive ideas for peaceful conflict resolution and peace-building in both countries.

It comprised three types of interconnected, but different set of activities, which worked towards making peace message accessible to more people on one hand and trust building and attitude change with a selected group of people on the other hand.

Activities per project objective in 2013 were carried out as the follows:

## **Public Discussions**

### **Azerbaijan**

- 38 public discussions with the participation of 400 people carried out by Internews Azerbaijan. Discussions were carried out in Guba and Sheki, Ganja and Sumgait, Baku in Internews office, office of Civil Solidarity Political Party, AEGEE office and at European movement office.

### **Armenia**

- 20 public discussions were carried out in Armenia with participation of 330 people. Discussions were carried out in Yerevan State University (YSU) in the departments of political and Turkish studies and international relations, in the youth unions of Armavir, Gyumri and Jervezh, "Lousavorchi Kantegh" youth union, etc. Moderators of the discussions met the same groups time over again, some of the second meetings were video-taped by "Shoghakat" TV company with an intention to share the videos with colleagues from Azerbaijan and lay ground for a new joint documentary, as a source of real and unbiased information. "Peace with God", mergers of previous sets "Prisoners of War" and "Bitterness of War", and the novel by Azerbaijani author Akram Aylisli – "Stone Dreams" were introduced during the discussions. The Azerbaijani story raised different reactions ranging from surprise to acknowledgment. Discussions stirred interest and positive feedback especially with YSU students, many of participants expressed the wish to be engaged in face-to-face meetings and joint activities with peers from Azerbaijan.



## Face-to-face meetings

- A core group - consisting of 12 young people from Armenia and 11 from Azerbaijan - was distilled from the most active and involved participants of public discussions by moderators and project implementing partners.

The Armenian core group members had a number of meetings and capacity building activities. ART hosted a meeting-introduction of the peace and reconciliation project to the youth. 5 day training on "Conflict Transformation" was conducted by a highly qualified locally identified expert. 3 day training was held before the bi-national meeting and 2 days followed up after it. The training communicated essential information and contained role play and group work on such areas as essence of the conflict, constructive and destructive potential of the conflict, positive and negative conflict transformations, official and public diplomacy measures, usage of young people's potential in conflict transformation, observation of possible models of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict transformation, case studies, development of future cooperation strategies.

- The core group members had their first face-to-face meeting in Tbilisi through April 27-29, 2013. The meeting was facilitated by Ilham Safarov, Naila Babayeva from Internews Azerbaijan, Ara Galoyan from "Shoghakat" TV company, Aram Safaryan from YSU and Narine Davaryan, ART. During the meeting the young people shared on youth issues in Azerbaijan and Armenia, brain-stormed and worked out ideas for a small-scale project, elaborated more in-depth 3 project ideas and plans for future cooperation.

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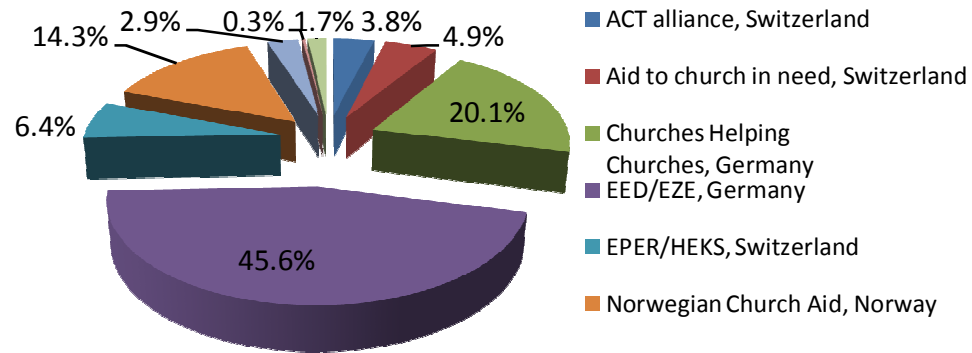
A visiting team from HEKS-EPER met the Armenian core group on July 16, 2013 at a discussion arranged with 19 participants in "Shoghakat" TV company.



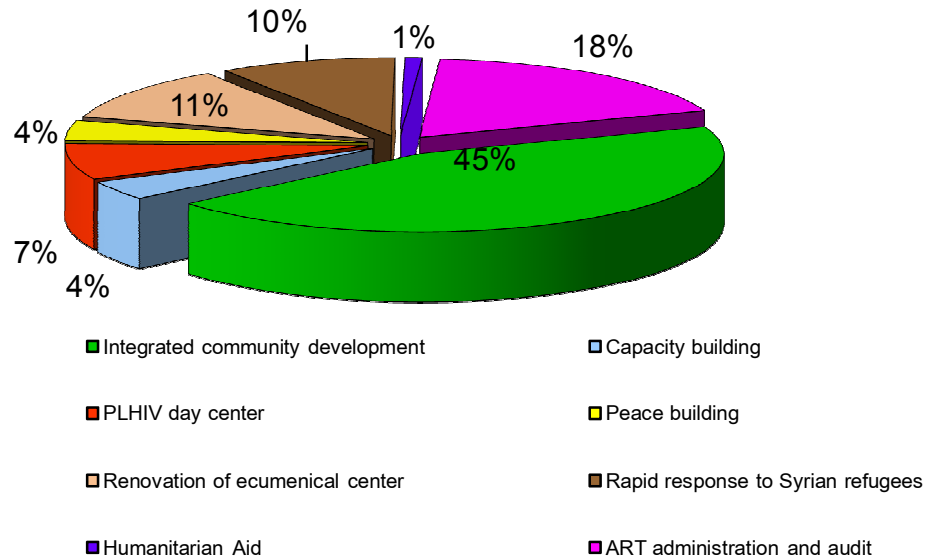


Given difficult context in Azerbaijan, ever narrowing space for engagement of civil society into 'track II' diplomacy and working with Armenian counterparts, the project has split activities at the end of 2013, and for the year 2014 and onwards it has been decided, further to recommendation of HEKS-EPER, to focus more on creating stronger linkages and synergies within the country with other existing actors and projects in the field of peace building.

## Funding in 2013 (AMD)



## Expenditures by programmes 2013 (AMD)




ACT Alliance, Switzerland	12,910,791	3.8%
Aid to church in need, Switzerland	16,598,958	4.9%
Churches Helping Churches, Germany	68,175,748	20.1%
EED/EZE, Germany	154,586,844	45.6%
EPER/HEKS, Switzerland	21,580,000	0.4%
Norwegian Church Aid, Norway	48,555,923	14.3%
UNFPA, Armenia	9,723,098	0.9%
US Embassy	851,025	0.3%
Bank interest	5,873,677	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,856,063</b>	

Integrated community development	182,106,498
Capacity building	16,489,101
PLHIV day center	30,267,050
Peace building	17,151,721
Renovation of ecumenical center	45,806,653
Rapid response to Syrian refugees	38,662,804
Humanitarian Aid	3,548,141
ART administration and audit	75,147,765
<b>Total</b>	<b>409,179,733</b>



# AUDIT REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT № 10**

*On the financial statements of WCC Armenia Round Table Foundation  
for the year ended 31 December 2013*

To the Management of the WCC Armenia Round Table Foundation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of WCC Armenia Round Table Foundation (the Foundation) which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2013, and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

*Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

The management of the Foundation is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain reasonable audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the foundation's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respect, the financial position of WCC Armenia Round Table Foundation as at 31 December 2013, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

04 March 2014  
SOS-Audit LLC



Manvel Ghazaryan  
Director



Gnel Khachatryan, FCCA  
Auditor

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