

BUILDING TOMORROW'S ARMENIA:

2024 Annual Report



CHILDREN
OF ARMENIA
FUND

coaf.org

Table of Contents

02	Letter from Leadership
03	Armenia: 2024 in Context
04	Infrastructure & Construction
06	Education
11	Child & Family Services
13	Project H.O.P.E.
14	Health & Wellness
16	Economic Development
19	Our Supporters
23	Looking Ahead
24	Financial Overview

A portrait of Dr. Garo Armen, an older man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit. He is resting his chin on his hand in a thoughtful pose.

Letter From Leadership

A Year of Growth and Resilience

Dear Friends of COAF,

In 2024, the global COAF community once again demonstrated the power of standing behind our children, and believing in their potential. This past year marked meaningful progress across every pillar of our work, driven by a shared commitment to Armenia's rural communities.

We began construction of the Armavir SMART Center, laying the foundation for a dynamic, 90-hectare campus designed to serve as a long-term hub for education, innovation, and local economic vitality. In Armavir, we also opened the Youredjian Child & Family Center, significantly expanding access to integrated social, psychological, and educational services for hundreds of children and families each month. Across our programs, COAF teams continued to support families displaced from Artsakh, ensuring care, stability, and dignity during a period of profound transition.

At the same time, thousands of young people participated in programs that offered not only practical skills, but learning experiences that spark curiosity and awaken new passions. Through meaningful connections with peers, educators, and mentors, our young beneficiaries have built support networks that will continue to shape their growth for years to come.

This work is possible because of a global community that believes deeply in rural Armenia. Our volunteers, donors, partners, and friends share a common conviction that opportunity should never be limited by geography. COAF's mission has always been guided by that belief, and in 2024, it continued to open doors to new worlds of possibility.

Together, we are building enduring opportunity for Armenia's next generation.

Dr. Garo Armen

Founder, Children of Armenia Fund



Armenia

2024 in Context

Armenia entered 2024 navigating a complex but gradually stabilizing environment. The country's economy continued to strengthen, creating a more secure foundation for long-term investments in rural regions. Political life remained relatively steady, even as the nation continued to adjust to shifting regional realities and the ongoing peace process. Across the year, Armenia took measured steps toward strengthening its institutions, broadening diplomatic partnerships, and building greater resilience.

For rural communities, this stability has meaning far beyond national indicators. When economic and political conditions improve, families gain the confidence to remain in their villages, invest in their children's futures, and imagine a life of opportunity close to home. This is where COAF's work becomes essential—ensuring that rural Armenia has the educational infrastructure, social services, healthcare access, and economic pathways needed to thrive.

In this landscape of cautious optimism, COAF's mission is both timely and necessary. Our programs not only respond to the immediate needs of children and families—they help shape the conditions for long-term prosperity, empowerment, and community strength across Armenia's regions.

Infrastructure & Construction

*Building the
Foundation
for Tomorrow*

2024 marked one of COAF's most significant years in infrastructure development, with major projects advancing across regions. Each investment reflects our long-term commitment to creating environments where children can learn, families can grow, and communities can prosper.

Armavir Campus Progress

The year's most transformative milestone was the groundbreaking of the **Armavir SMART Center** on September 30, 2024. Joined by Armenia's Prime Minister, Ministers, partners, and community members, this celebration marked the beginning of a project designed to serve thousands of children from more than 30 communities. As the centerpiece of a future 90-hectare SMART Campus, the new Center will house innovative learning spaces, youth programs, and pathways to development that reach deeply into the region.

"The Armavir SMART Center represents more than infrastructure—it's a promise to thousands of young Armenians that their communities will play a central role in Armenia's future."

Liana Ghaltaghchyan
Executive Director



Youredjian Child & Family Center Opens Its Doors

Serving **15 communities**; includes a resource hub for educators and future SMART Campus integration



COAF opened the **Youredjian Child & Family Center** in Myasnikyan—an essential addition to our expanding presence in Armavir. The Center provides early childhood education, psychological services, speech therapy, and family support under one roof, serving hundreds of children each month. The Center is also a resource hub, which provides intensive capacity building opportunities for parents and specialists working with children. Alongside the site of the Armavir SMART Center underway, these two major developments signal COAF's long-term investment in a region that holds deep historical importance to our mission.

Debed School: A New Chapter for Lori

With a capacity for over **190 students** the school will offer modern classrooms, science labs, and spaces for creative learning and collaboration.



Construction of the new **Debed Secondary School** began March of 2024, with completion planned for September 2025. Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the school will offer modern classrooms, improved learning environments. Once opened, it will provide high-quality education with a capacity of 190 students annually—bringing opportunity directly to their village.

Syunik SMART Centers: Expanding South

SMART centers will have the capacity to serve **5000 students** from more than **35 communities**



In 2024, COAF made meaningful progress toward establishing SMART Centers in **Goris** and **Kapan**, bringing the COAF model for rural development to one of Armenia's most strategically important regions. With land preparations, concept design underway, and partnership frameworks well underway, both sites are advancing towards finalization of design. These Centers will play a crucial role in strengthening educational, economic, and social capacity across Syunik.



Education

English Access Program: Language as a Global Gateway

Since 2011, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy, the English Access Program has transformed educational opportunities for rural youth. In 2024, 810 students actively enhanced their English skills, with the program expanding into Lori, Armavir, Aragatsotn, and Shirak regions.

COAF's **Spring Appeal** raised over \$100,000 to provide students with new learning materials—ensuring that every child has the resources they need to succeed.

Program Impact (Lifetime):

- 5,500+ students taught (ages 13-15)
- 42 rural communities across 5 regions
- 60 teachers trained in English instruction
- 9 students awarded competitive FLEX Scholarships to study in the United States

"English proficiency opens doors to global knowledge and cross-cultural understanding, to universities and global careers, —opportunities every Armenian child deserves."

Gayane Vardanyan

Village Programs Department Head

English Speaking Rural Schools:

Transforming Formal Education

COAF provided direct instructional support to Lori's public school system through content creation and teacher training, preparing rural youth for English proficiency.

2024 Achievements:

- 15 beneficiary teachers graduated from AUA CTEFL program
- Comprehensive content developed for grades 3-12
- Curriculum piloted in 23 beneficiary rural schools across Lori Marz
- COAF English textbooks for grades 3, 6, and 8 adopted by public schools nationwide
- Four additional grade levels (4, 9, 11, and 12) won state contests for 2025 adoption



Recognition: COAF received the Ministry of Education Award for contributions to General Education Reform implementation—a testament to the program's impact on Armenia's educational landscape.

Programmatic Expansion

AI Education Launch:

January 2024 rollout at Lori SMART Center positions rural students at the forefront of technological innovation.

AgroGenesis Innovation Hub:

Pending EDB approval, this agricultural education center will train the next generation of agricultural innovators and entrepreneurs.

Youredjian Scholarship Program: Investing in Excellence

Objective: Offering high-performing students access to higher education through comprehensive support including tuition funding, mentorships, internships, and employability skills training.

2024 Growth:

- Current Scholars: 321 (up from 191 in 2022-2023)
- New Recipients (2024): 110
- Endowment: \$5 million established by Jack Youredjian to ensure long-term sustainability



Lori SMART Center: A Flagship for Innovation

The Lori SMART Center remained COAF's flagship hub for innovation and youth development in 2024.

SMART now serves **more than 1200 children and young adults**, each discovering pathways that speak to their unique talents. In 2024 alone, 320 new students joined the community, including **127 youth displaced from Artsakh**, who found stability, friendships, and structure during an uncertain time.

Across every program, students are encouraged to think critically, collaborate, and create—skills that prepare them for roles in a modern, forward-looking Armenia.

Highlights of 2024:

- **Arts Education:** A partnership with the Vahé & Lucie Foundation brought international artists to Lori for workshops, mentoring, and a regional competition that drew hundreds of young participants.
- **Renewable Energy:** In collaboration with Armenia's largest clean-energy provider, SMART developed a hands-on curriculum launching in late 2024, complete with a real-time monitoring dashboard.
- **AI Education (2025 Launch):** The Center secured a partnership with a leading AI education organization, ensuring rural students will soon gain early exposure to machine learning and applied technology—skills that will define the next generation of careers.

Immersive Workshops With Artisans:

The ongoing collaboration with the Vahe and Lucy Foundation brought select artists and professionals from around the world to run workshops with Lori SMART Center students. The 2024 program included 6 workshops, 6 site visits to major educational and cultural institutions, and a regional art competition with an October 15 deadline.



A Model for Sustainability

SMART is built not only to serve today's children, but to remain a pillar of community life for generations. To ensure SMART thrives for years to come, COAF invested in forward-looking infrastructure:

Solar energy systems

Now being installed will reduce energy costs by up to 60%, redirecting resources toward programming.

A new fleet of buses and minibuses

Funded by a \$500,000 gift from Jack Youredjian, is strengthening safe, reliable transportation for students across dozens of villages—while saving an estimated \$5 million over 10 years.





Child & Family Services

Nurturing Development
from the Ground Up

Child & Family Centers: Comprehensive Support Under One Roof

COAF operates four Child & Family Centers (CFCs) providing early childhood education, speech therapy, psychological counseling, and social work services—a multidisciplinary approach addressing the full spectrum of family needs.

Hatsik CFC (Armavir Region):

- Communities Served: 6
- 2024 Beneficiaries: 300+
- Operational Expansion: Extended from 5 to 7 days per week

Karakert CFC (Armavir Region):

- Communities Served: 5
- 2024 Beneficiaries: 400+
- Operational Expansion: Extended from 5 to 7 days per week

Youredjian CFC (Myasnikyan, Armavir Region):

- Opened: September 30, 2024
- Communities Served: 14
- Monthly Capacity: 500

Back to School Campaign 2024:

Campaign raised over \$60,000 toward a \$120,000 goal to support the Karakert CFC, which serves 400+ children and families across 5 underserved communities with crucial early education, psychological and social services.

"By age three, early childhood represents a critical window to shape the trajectory of a child's holistic development and lay a strong foundation for future learning and well-being. Our Child & Family Centers ensure rural children don't miss this critical development window."

Nakhshun Afanessian

Social Work Programs Manager





Project H.O.P.E.

Housing, Opportunities,
Psychosocial Support
& Empowerment for
Displaced Families

Supporting People from Artsakh

In 2024, COAF provided comprehensive support to forcibly displaced children and families from Artsakh through housing assistance, educational opportunities, psychosocial support, health services, and capacity-building empowerment.

Fundraising Success:

Total raised including pledges: **\$900,000+**

Total Unique Beneficiaries:

- Geography: 45 communities across Armenia (Lori and Armavir provinces) with mobile teams working on site.
- 319 beneficiaries participated in individual and group sessions across programs like psychological services, speech therapy, special education, child development, and SMART educational initiatives.

Program Components:

- Hundreds of children and families engaged in COAF's education, psychosocial, and social support programs
- Thousands of people reached through community events, camps, and cultural activities
- Families in crisis connected to essential medical, social, and protection services
- Local specialists trained to deliver trauma-informed care for children and youth
- Displaced Artsakh families supported through safe, permanent housing solutions



Health

Building Healthy
Communities

Preventive Health Programs

Dental Program:

Approximately 1000 children from 24 villages across Lori and Armavir participated in comprehensive dental care, preventing future health complications and promoting oral health awareness.

Healthy Lifestyle Initiative:

22 schools joined the initiative promoting healthy lifestyles, creating a culture of wellness that extends beyond individual participants to entire school communities.

Dsegh Health Center: Pilot for Rural Healthcare Reform

In 2023, COAF established a regional health center in Dsegh village, extending quality care to seven rural communities in Lori. This pilot program, led by COAF in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and aimed at improving primary care services in rural Armenia, demonstrated that modern, comprehensive healthcare can thrive in rural settings.

"Healthcare shouldn't require a three-hour journey to the city. The Dsegh Health Center proves that excellence in medicine can come to rural communities."

Liana Ghaltaghchyan
Executive Director





Economic Development

Creating Sustainable Livelihoods

COAF's social enterprises continued to strengthen Armenia's rural economy in 2024 by creating jobs, developing local skills, and reinvesting revenue directly into programs serving children and families. Through hospitality ventures and agricultural initiatives, COAF demonstrated how mission-driven businesses can uplift communities while building long-term sustainability.

Hospitality Ventures

Concept by COAF and the **COAF Visitor Center** together form the backbone of our hospitality-based social enterprises, drawing visitors, partners, and investment into the Lori region. In 2024, these enterprises completed their second high season, hosting international delegations, cultural events, and conferences—elevating the region's visibility and generating meaningful economic activity.

2024 Impact (January–September):

- 60+ local residents employed in hospitality and tourism
- \$424,000 in revenue generated and reinvested into COAF programs
- Skills training opportunities for youth and adults entering the sector

COAF also partnered with the **EBRD Community Initiative** to build a new playground at the Youredjian Child & Family Center in Myasnikyan. With a \$50,000 anchor gift from Jack Youredjian, individual contributions, and EBRD matching, the campaign raised **\$109,736**—a testament to community-led development.

*"Every room booked
and every meal served
fuels programs that
empower rural youth."*

Dr. Garo Armen

Founder, Children of Armenia Fund



Agricultural Enterprises

COAF's agricultural initiatives expanded their reach in 2024, strengthening rural livelihoods through high-quality production, training, and market access.

CheeseUp: Expanding Dairy Production

CheeseUp produced **67 metric tons of high-value cheese**, nearly doubling output since 2022. With two branded product lines now sold in major supermarket chains and new exports to Georgia, the initiative created increased income for more than **200 farmers**, alongside improved equipment and farming practices.

Bees: A Growing Honey Enterprise

With **110 hives** across Lori, COAF's beekeeping program harvested approximately **2,000 kg** of premium raw honey. A new national distribution partnership with Buy.am expanded consumer access, while quality testing confirmed sugar levels below 1%—far surpassing national standards.

In addition to production, the program delivered **training in beekeeping, business development, and honey processing**, resulting in **14 new micro-enterprises** founded by community members. The SMART Campus Beekeeping Center now serves as a regional hub for education and entrepreneurship.

"From hive to table, COAF's agricultural enterprises create dignified livelihoods while showcasing the best of Armenian craftsmanship."

Shushanik Danielyan

Business Projects Manager





Our Supporters

Spotlight: Jack Youredjian's Transformational Impact

Jack Youredjian's contributions in 2024 significantly advanced COAF's initiatives—fostering education, community development, outreach, and access to SMART programs for Armenia's youth.

Major Contributions:

"Jack Youredjian's visionary philanthropy doesn't just fund programs—it builds infrastructure, creates endowments, and ensures COAF's mission endures for decades to come."

Dr. Garo Armen
Founder, Children of Armenia Fund

Endowment for Youredjian Scholarship Program

\$5 million endowment established to support COAF youth through full-tuition scholarships, ensuring sustainability for generations.



Youredjian Child and Family Center:

In Myasnikyan Armavir, the Youredjian CFC was made possible due to the extraordinary possibility of Jack Youredjian.



Fleet of Vehicles:

\$500,000 gift on June 17, 2024, purchased a fleet of COAF vehicles (shipment en route), projected to save ~\$5 million over 10 years.



Spring 2024 Initiatives:

\$100,000 donation for various fundraising initiatives, including the Love In Action Playground.



Institutional Partners

Recognition of major institutional supporters including:



U.S. Embassy Yerevan



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



European Union



HSBC



ARMENIAN FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES



vahē&lucie
FOUNDATION



Ministry of Education
of Armenia



Առողջապահության
Նախարարություն
Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia



CALOUSTE
GULBENKIAN
FOUNDATION

SAINT SARKIS CHARITY TRUST



21st Annual COAF Holiday Gala Raises \$7M

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) hosted its 21st Annual Holiday Gala on December 14 at Cipriani's in New York City, bringing together more than 450 supporters and raising over \$7 million to advance education, healthcare, and community programs in rural Armenia. The evening featured distinguished guests—including Eric Bogosian, Karren Karagulian, Joe Manganiello, Vache Tovmasyan, and Andrea Martin—with a headline performance by Gloria Gaynor.

Proceeds will sustain COAF's programs through 2025 and support the new SMART Center in Armavir, with additional centers planned for Syunik and an expanded focus on AI education. Honorees Shaké and Vahé Nahapetian were recognized for their enduring support, and Harvard undergraduate and COAF alum Maksim Yervandyan shared a moving testament to the impact of COAF's work. Hosted by Haig Boyadjian and Araksya Karapetyan, the gala reaffirmed COAF's mission to expand opportunity for every child in Armenia.



Looking Ahead: 2025 Priorities

Charting the Next Chapter for Rural Armenia

As COAF reflects on a year of meaningful progress, we also turn toward the work ahead. In 2025, we will deepen our impact across education, health, and community development while advancing major infrastructure that will shape opportunity for generations.

Debed School Opening

The new Debed Secondary School is on track to open in September 2025 with a capacity of 190 students. This modern, Ministry-aligned facility will demonstrate how collaborative investment can strengthen the quality of rural public education.

Armavir SMART Center

Construction of the Armavir SMART Center will accelerate, with essential site development and structural work moving forward throughout the year. As the anchor of a future multi-purpose campus, the Center will lay the groundwork for expanded learning, family services, and community life in the region.

Syunik SMART Centers

COAF's expansion into Syunik will continue through detailed planning for the Goris site and renovation preparation at the Kapan site. These Centers will become long-term hubs for education, innovation, and economic development in one of Armenia's most strategic regions.

Expanding COAF English Textbooks Nationwide

In 2025, COAF will broaden its English textbook initiative to additional grade levels and more public schools. By increasing access to high-quality learning materials, we aim to strengthen English proficiency nationwide and open new academic and career pathways for Armenia's youth.

Advancing Rural Healthcare Through the Dsegh Pilot

COAF will continue its Rural Health Center pilot in Dsegh, using its findings to help inform national discussions on improving primary care. These insights will support efforts to reduce preventable health risks and strengthen frontline healthcare for families across rural Armenia.

Financial Overview

Grants & Donations Received in 2024 *(\$13,797,269 Total)*

\$13,186,424 (95.57%)

Children of Armenia
Fund Inc., New York

Expenses for 2024 *(\$8,336,236 Total)*

\$2,410,869 (29%)
Management and General

\$1,283,259 (15%)
Health Programs

\$548,527 (4%)
Infrastructure
Programs

\$503,251 (4%)
Child and
Family Services

\$1,052,466 (13%)
Education Programs

\$508,577 (4%)
Economic
Programs

\$368,123 (4%)
PR and
Fundraising

\$1,661,164 (20%)
SMART Initiatives



**Building
tomorrow's
Armenia, one
child, one family,
one community
at a time.**



CHILDREN
OF ARMENIA
FUND

coaf.org

[@coafkids](https://www.instagram.com/coafkids)

