



NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

ART THERAPY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN IJEVAN



Funding: SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR) - ARMENIA

Implementing partner: SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ARMENIAN CHARITY FOUNDATION

Project site: SOS Children's Village Ijevan, Ijevan town

Implementation period: November 2022 - October, 2023

Reporting period: February 2023 - April, 2023

Ijevan 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

The «Art therapy for vulnerable children in Ijevan» project started in SOS Children's Village Ijevan on November 1, 2022. The project is implemented with the financial support of SOAR-Armenia for a period of 1 year /from 01.11.2022 till 30.10.2023/.

The goal of the project is to assist in the social inclusion of vulnerable children through art therapy.

SOS Children's Village Ijevan provides safe and caring environment for children in difficult life circumstances to grow and reach their full potential through various activities.

It's been 6 months already the project is implemented for the children through the following workshops:

- Stained-glass workshop;
- Art and craft workshop.

During the courses the workshops' specialists continue to cooperate closely with the village psychologist, who, analyzing the children's work and based on the children's individual characteristics and specific needs, suggests applying various Art therapy techniques.

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. Project description

Art therapy has been found to have a positive impact on vulnerable children. Organized Stained-glass and Art and craft workshops help children with trauma, anxiety, depression, behavioral issues, and other mental health challenges. The workshops provide a safe and non-judgmental space for children to express themselves and process their emotions.

Through art therapy workshops children learn to communicate their feelings, increase their self-awareness, and develop coping skills. Art therapy courses also improve self-esteem and confidence, as children create and take pride in their artwork. The workshops classes support the emotional and psychological well-being of children.



During the reporting period, the Stained Glass and Art and craft workshops' classes continued to be held twice a week, 1 hour per class.

The overall duration of the courses is 10 months, they will be completed at the end of September. In October it is planned to organize an exhibition where the children will present their handiwork.



In the reporting quarter, children were more involved in creative activities. Most of them, after completing their jobs, helped their friends who were having difficulties.

Some of the children chose the works that they could work together with their friends, they took into account each other's opinions, consulted in matters of choosing colors, and they tried to show patience during group works. Even if one of the children was passive, avoided group work, with the help of the specialist and psychologist, the child overcame the difficulty and after a few classes enjoyed working in group.

2.2. Project beneficiaries

Since February 1, Day care center started its activities in Ijevan Children's Village providing services to the children from families in difficult life circumstances. Many of those children would like to take part in the workshops organized within the frame of the project, however due to financial shortage SOS Armenia was able to engage only 11 children. Thus, now there is a joint group of children – 11 from the community and 30 from Ijevan Children's Village. SOS Armenia covers additional material costs for the workshops, caused by increase in the number of participant children.

The inclusion of children from the community is very important for ensuring social integration of all participant children (community and children's village). They worked together on various art projects. In the beginning, the children had difficulty with communicating, but gradually they started working together. They began to open up to the other children and share their stories.

All the children participate in the classes with great interest, other children from the children's village sometimes join them and become participants in various creative processes.

Below please find the number and age group of children in each workshop.

Table 1. Project beneficiaries

Workshop	Number of classes	Number of beneficiaries	Age group
«Stained-glass»	25 classes (25 hours total)	20 children /9 boys, 11 girls/	10-16 years
«Art and craft»	25 classes (25 hours total)	21 children /10 boys, 11 girls/	7-13 years



2.3. Project activities

During the reporting period the children were involved in different group works on the following topics:



1. Stained glass workshop / during the reporting period: 25 lessons (25 hours total).

- Practical work on “Mandala” /4 hours/.
- Practical work on “My hobbies” /6 hours/.
- Practical work on “I am inspired with...” /8 hours/.
- Practical work on “Amazing nature” /5 hours/.
- Practical work on “My favorite home” /2 hours/.



2. Art and craft workshop/ during the reporting period: 25 lessons (25 hours total).

- Practical work on “Creating pictures using colored rice and buckwheat grains” /2 hours/.
- Practical work on “Painting with cotton sticks” /2 hours/
- Practical work on “Gingerbread Man from cotton” /4 hours/
- Practical work on “Fairy house from cotton” –/4 hours/
- Practical work on “Fairy house from turnip” –/4 hours/
- Practical work on “My hobbies: carpet weaving, tapestry, embroidery, coloring, painting” /9 hours/

Success story /the name of the child has changed/

The cotton cubes and balls were already dry. The children sat in small groups, creating their favorite cartoon heroes using various colors and discussing their works.

- Listen, everyone, I learned a new song, - said Nairi and started to sing, he was beating his hand on the table, saying that he provides a tempo for the music. That was the second class to attend for Nairi. Nairi had a difficult time staying focused during the sessions and often acted out to gain attention. He would interrupt others and try to take control of the group, wanting all the attention for himself.

The specialist encouraged Nairi to take the lead on making Fairy house and praised him for his creativity. As Nairi began to feel more included and appreciated, his disruptive behavior began to decrease.

Nairi was proud of his work, but even more importantly, he had learned how to work with others and be a valuable member of the group. Through the Art therapy project, he had learnt to express himself and build important social skills.



Recently, along with making new artworks, the children have also started the preparation of the exhibition. They chose frames and backgrounds of appropriate colors for their finished artworks. By analyzing their works, the children tried to make some corrections. The correction process requires concentration and focus, which help the children promote a sense of calm.



3. BUDGET

The total expenses done during the reporting period are shown in the table 2.

Table 2. Project expenses

N	Main Budget Item		Unit	N of Units	Cost per units (AMD)	Total (AMD)	Balance at 31.01.23	Expenses			Total Expenses		Balance at 30.04.23	
							Cost (AMD)	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	Cost (AMD)	%	Cost (AMD)	%
1	Administration	Project Coordinator	Month	12	100,000	1,200,000	919,032	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	25%	619,032	52%
2	Stained glass workshop	Workshop specialist	Month	10	120,000	1,200,000	840,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	360,000	30%	480,000	40%
		Materials	lumpsum	1	300,000	300,000	137,270	47,500	-	37,250	84,750	28%	52,520	18%
3	Art and craft workshop	Workshop specialist	Month	10	120,000	1,200,000	834,945	120,000	120,000	120,000	360,000	30%	474,945	40%
		Materials	lumpsum	1	200,000	200,000	93,670	-	-	26,700	26,730	13%	66,970	33%
4	Organization of exhibition and master classes			1	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100%
Total						4,200,000	2,924,917*	387,500	340,000	403,950	1,131,450	27%	1,793,467	43%

* According to the procedures established in SOS Children's Village Ijevan, the hobby groups or other courses organized for children do not operate during the children's summer vacation period /1 calendar month/, therefore it was considered to start the workshops from November 2022 to make it possible caring them out over a period of 10 months and complete them by 30 September 2023.

The detailed information about monthly expenses done during the reporting period are shown in the table 3.

Table 3. Project expenses by months

Date	Description	Document	Total
16.02.2023	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - 5930597850	47,500.0
28.02.2023	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - February 2023	100,000.0
28.02.2023	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 28.02.2023	120,000.0
28.02.2023	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 28.02.2023	120,000.0
TOTAL EXPENSES /February 2023/			387,500.0
31.03.2023	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - March 2023	100,000.0
31.03.2023	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 31.03.2023	120,000.0
31.03.2023	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 31.03.2023	120,000.0
TOTAL EXPENSES /March 2023/			340,000.0
19.04.2023	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - 7710154004	37,250.0
19.04.2023	Materials for Art and craft workshop	Invoice - 1552300070	26,700.0
28.04.2023	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - April 2023	100,000.0
28.04.2023	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 28.04.2023	120,000.0
28.04.2023	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 28.04.2023	120,000.0
TOTAL EXPENSES /April 2023/			403,950.0
TOTAL EXPENSES /February 2023 - April 2023/			1,131,450.0



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