



# 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:** May 2023 - July, 2023

Ijevan 2023



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

SOS Children's Villages is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. Together with partners, donors, communities, children, young people and families, SOS Children's Villages enable children to grow up with the bonds they need to develop and become their strongest selves.

SOS Children's Village Ijevan ensures that children and young people in need in Tavush region live in loving family environment, are self-reliant and full-fledged members of society. Art therapy is a powerful tool with significant positive impact on children facing difficult life circumstances.

Thanks to financial support from SOAR-Armenia, the «Art therapy for vulnerable children in Ijevan» project started in SOS Children's Village Ijevan since November 1, 2022. "Assist in social inclusion of vulnerable children through art therapy" is the goal of the one-year project.

The following workshops are organized in the scope of the project:

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

The cooperation with the village psychologist enables the workshops' specialists to more effectively organize the art therapy group sessions based on the individual characteristics of the children.

## 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1. Project description

During the 8 months that the children actively participated in the art therapy classes, they created many works. Some children enjoyed competing with their friends on who could create more art works and finish faster. This project boosted their self-esteem and confidence, particularly important for children facing difficult circumstances.

During the reporting period (May – July, 2023), children worked more in pairs. The main goal for them was to make their works fully completed and they help each other to achieve this goal. Although they had quite a few paintings on glass and various handicrafts, most of them were unframed or not ready for exhibition.



Working with a partner introduced an element of shared exploration. Children bounced ideas off each other, experimented with different techniques, and learnt from each other's creative processes. They discussed their thoughts, feelings, and artistic choices, fostering deeper connections and friendships. Children provide emotional support during the creative process. If one child faced difficulties or uncertainties, the other offered encouragement and assistance.



Children are looking forward to the exhibition, where they will have the opportunity to organize pair to pair master classes for children invited from the community. The workshop specialists prepare them for the event which should be held on October 2023.

The Stained Glass and Art and craft workshops' classes are organized twice a week, 1 hour per class.

## 2.2. Project beneficiaries

During the reporting period they were 42 participants in the workshops' classes: 30 children from the village and 12 children from the community. The children from the community attends Day Care center opened in Ijevan Children's Village providing services to the children from families in difficult life circumstances. SOS Armenia continues to cover additional material costs for the workshops, caused by increase in the number of participant children.

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» | 18 classes (18 hours total)        | 21 children (8 boys, 13 girls)         | 10-16 years       |
| «Art and craft» | 18 classes (18 hours total)        | 21 children (10 boys, 11 girls)        | 7-13 years        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>36 classes (36 hours total)</b> | <b>42 children (18 boys, 24 girls)</b> | <b>7-16 years</b> |



## 2.3. Project activities

During the reporting period the children enjoyed participation in workshops' different activities on the following topics:

### 1. Stained glass workshop / during the reporting period: 18 lessons (18 hours total).

- Practical work on "Choosing colors to make changes" /5 hours/.
- Practical work on "Making backgrounds for the pictures" /5 hours/.
- Practical work on "Mandala" /2 hours/.
- Practical work on "Our inspiring projects: making clocks, lamps" /6 hours/.



## 2. Art and craft workshop/ during the reporting period: 18 lessons (18 hours total).

- Practical work on “Making frames from different materials” /6 hours/,
- Practical work on “Working with wood” /2 hours/,
- Practical work on “Making dolls” /2 hours/,
- Practical work on “My hobbies: carpet weaving, tapestry, embroidery, coloring, painting”

/12 hours/



### *Success story /the name of the child has changed/*

Varditer is 12 year old girl with psychological problems. She had a hard time adjusting to the workshops' classes and often changed her participation in groups. After one month of attending Art and craft classes she wanted to participate in Stained grass workshop. The workshops' specialists were patient with her decisions. Despite of her occasional difficulties in interacting with the other children and thanks to assistance of the village psychologist, Varditer engaged in the Art therapy activates that helped her to concentrate her attention and gain better control over her emotions.

- What a beautiful bracelet are you waving? – asked she during one of the classes.

- Come and seat here, I will show you the technique of weaving, - said Anahit another participant of the project.

With the help of Anahit she started to wave her own bracelet and since then she made her decision to stay with Art and Craft workshop.

Thus, Varditer not only found her favorite hobby during Art therapy classes but also a best friend with whom she spent her spare time.



### 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 30.04.23 | Expenses       |                |                | Total Expenses May-July 2023 |            | Balance at 31.07.23 |            |
|--------------|---|---------------------|---------|------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
|              |   |                     |         |            |                      |                  | Cost (AMD)          | May 2023       | June 2023      | July 2023      | Cost (AMD)                   | %          | Cost (AMD)          | %          |
| 1            | Administration                                | Project Coordinator | Month   | 12         | 100,000              | 1,200,000        | 619,032             | 100,000        | 100,000        | 100,000        | 300,000                      | 25%        | 319,032             | 27%        |
| 2            | Stained glass workshop                        | Workshop specialist | Month   | 10         | 120,000              | 1,200,000        | 480,000             | 120,000        | 120,000        | -*             | 240,000                      | 20%        | 240,000             | 20%        |
|              |   | Materials           | lumpsum | 1          | 300,000              | 300,000          | 52,520              | -              | 52,500         | -              | 52,500                       | 18%        | 20                  | 0%         |
| 3            | Art and craft workshop                        | Workshop specialist | Month   | 10         | 120,000              | 1,200,000        | 474,945             | 120,000        | 120,000        | -*             | 240,000                      | 20%        | 234,945             | 20%        |
|              |   | Materials           | lumpsum | 1          | 200,000              | 200,000          | 66,970              | 17,906         | 12,100         | -              | 30,006                       | 15%        | 36,964              | 18%        |
| 4            | Organization of exhibition and master classes |                     |         | 1          | 100,000              | 100,000          | 100,000             | -              | -              | 7,000          | 7,000                        | 7%         | 93,000              | 93%        |
| <b>Total</b> |   |                     |         |            |                      | <b>4,200,000</b> | <b>1,793,467</b>    | <b>357,906</b> | <b>404,600</b> | <b>107,000</b> | <b>869,506</b>               | <b>21%</b> | <b>923,961</b>      | <b>22%</b> |

\* 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 project coordinator continues to work on preparation of upcoming exhibition.

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            |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 22.05.2023                                   | Materials for Art and craft workshop                                   | invoice N P 4860900593        | 12,800.0         |
| 22.05.2023                                   | Materials for Art and craft workshop                                   | invoice N U 9970469542        | 5,106.0          |
| 31.05.2023                                   | Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/         | Additional Salary - May 2023  | 100,000.0        |
| 31.05.2023                                   | Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/ | Act - 31.05.2023              | 120,000.0        |
| 31.05.2023                                   | Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/ | Act - 31.05.2023              | 120,000.0        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES /May 2023/</b>             |  |                               | <b>357,906.0</b> |
| 23.06.2023                                   | Materials for Stained-glass workshop                                   | invoice N P 7909984667        | 52,500.0         |
| 23.06.2023                                   | Materials for Art and craft workshop                                   | invoice N U 7627214174        | 12,100.0         |
| 30.06.2023                                   | Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/         | Additional Salary - June 2023 | 100,000.0        |
| 30.06.2023                                   | Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/ | Act - 30.06.2023              | 120,000.0        |
| 30.06.2023                                   | Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/ | Act - 30.06.2023              | 120,000.0        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES /June 2023/</b>            |  |                               | <b>404,600.0</b> |
| 06.07.2023                                   | Materials for preparation of Exhibition                                | invoice N P 3844957212        | 7,000.0          |
| 31.07.2023                                   | Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/         | Additional Salary - July 2023 | 100,000.0        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES /July 2023/</b>            |  |                               | <b>107,000.0</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES /May 2023 - July 2023/</b> |  |                               | <b>869,506.0</b> |



Director G. Tadevosyan