



# 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:** November 2022 - January, 2023

Ijevan 2023



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

SOS Children's Villages Armenian Charity Foundation operates in the Tavush region since 2008 launching its activities to support families in difficult life circumstances. In 2010 SOS Children's Village Ijevan was opened to provide quality care to children and young people in difficult life circumstances.

Children in difficult life circumstances face many difficulties throughout childhood which have negative impact on their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development. SOS Children's Village Ijevan provides safe and caring environment for them to grow and reach their full potential through various activities.

Art therapy is a useful tool to help children interpret, express and resolve their emotions and thoughts. It helps them to overcome stress and trauma, reveal and express their emotions, thoughts and desires in a productive and creative way. It can activate the inner potential of every child and contribute to the harmonious development of personality.

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.



## 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1. Project description

The goal of the project is to assist in the social inclusion of vulnerable children through art therapy which is a valuable tool for helping children to resolve issues as well as develop and manage their behaviors and feelings, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem and awareness.

The project is implemented through the following workshops:

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





Taking into account the goal and expected impact of the project, the workshops' specialists closely cooperate with the psychologist of SOS Children's Village Ijevan, who regularly conducts group and individual psychological work with children and, according to their individual characteristics and needs, guides them through assigning individual and group tasks during the workshops. In the reporting period, the workshops were organized at least twice a week /1 hour per class/.

The classes are scheduled to be held for 10 months /December 2022 - September 2023/, and an exhibition of children's works will be organized on October 2023.

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 children participated in the classes with great enthusiasm. The classes had a positive effect especially on those children who were previously subjected to violence, showed intolerance and aggressive behavior in different group activities.



During the workshops, the children got an opportunity to choose the work they are interested in, to decide with what kinds of materials and how to do it. It was important for them to enjoy the creative process. Working with peers helped the children to overcome the communication difficulties.

## 2.2. Project beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project during the reporting period were 30 children /age group 7-16 years/ (see table 1) regularly attending the classes.

Table 1. Project beneficiaries

Workshop	Number of classes	Number of beneficiaries	Age group
«Stained-glass»	24 classes (24 hours total)	15 children /8 boys, 7 girls/	10-16 years
«Art and craft»	24 classes (24 hours total)	15 children /7 boys, 8 girls/	7-13 years

Considering the children's interest in workshops activities, it must be said that other children from the SOS Children's Village Ijevan joined the classes but not regularly. Taking this fact into consideration, during the reporting period, approximately 21 children participated in the Art and craft workshop, and approximately 19 children took part in the Stained-Glass workshop.



### 2.3. Project activities

During the reporting period the children studied the following topics:

#### 1. Stained glass workshop / during the reporting period: 24 lessons (24 hours total).

- Introduction to stained glass painting technology, materials /1 hour/
- Practical work on “Beautiful flowers” /9 hours/.
- Practical work on “Amazing animals” /10 hours/.
- Practical work on “Mandala” /4 hours/.



Story N1 /the name of the child has changed/

Karen chose one of the pictures, sat down in a corner far from the others and began to work silently. He had been trying to outline the picture for several classes, drawing many times and then cleaning up the lines he had drawn. His friends tried to help him, but the boy shouted at them and did not want to communicate. The classes were passing, and gradually Karen began to show interest in doing group activities. "If you outline the picture, I'll fill in the colours," he said to the girl who wanted to help him.

It's been three months since the classes began. Participation in it helped the boy, who prefers staying alone, who could easily leave a job unfinished and start a new one, to become sociable. Now he works easily in a group. Karen is looking forward to participate in the exhibition and present the beautiful works done together with his friends.

#### 2. Art and craft workshop/ during the reporting period: 24 lessons (24 hours total).

- Defining colors /1 hour/
- Practical work on “Golden Autumn” /4 hours/.
- Practical work on “Mandala” /2 hours/.
- Practical work on “Making Christmas decorations” /9 hours/



- Practical work “We draw with fingers” /3 hours/.
- Practical work on “Winter” /5 hours/



*Story N2 /the name of the child has changed/*

Making Christmas decorations was an enjoyable process not only for the Art and craft workshop participants, but also for other children who joined them. The children were very excited to make especially the gnomes: one was knitting the beard, another was making the nose or the hat and they were looking forward to the finished look. Ani fixed the hat on the gnome's head, took it, and whispered something in its ear. "What did you tell him?" asked the younger sister with interest. "I asked him for a Christmas miracle, to get some news from our brother one day". Ani's older brother is still considered missing soldier in the war.

Art therapy workshops help Ani and other children in difficult life circumstances to recover from trauma step by step, express their emotions and feelings, become emotionally stable.



### 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)	Expenses			Total Expenses		Balance at 31.01.23	
							November 2022	December 2022	January 2023	Cost (AMD)	%	Cost (AMD)	%
1	Administration	Project Coordinator	Month	12	100,000	1,200,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	25%	900,000	75%
2	Stained glass workshop	Workshop specialist	Month	10	120,000	1,200,000	120,000*	120,000	120,000	360,000	30%	840,000	70%
		Materials	lumpsum	1	300,000	300,000	130,730	15,250	16,750	162,730	54%	137,270	46%
3	Art and craft workshop	Workshop specialist	Month	10	120,000	1,200,000	120,000*	120,000	120,000	360,000	30%	840,000	70%
		Materials	lumpsum	1	200,000	200,000	106,330	-	-	106,330	53%	93,670	47%
4	Organization of exhibition and peer to peer master classes			1	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-	-%	100,000	100%
<b>Total</b>						<b>4,200,000</b>	<b>577,060</b>	<b>355,250</b>	<b>356,750</b>	<b>1,289,060</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,910,940</b>	<b>69%</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 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
07.11.2022	Materials for Art and craft workshop	Invoice - B 5238390007	62610
07.11.2022	Materials for Art and craft workshop	Invoice - B 2142698013	43720
07.11.2022	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - A 1293729732	3830
07.11.2022	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - B 5238390007	111800
09.11.2022	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - A 6508073218	15100
30.11.2022	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - November 2022	100000
30.11.2022	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 30.11.2022	120000
30.11.2022	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 30.11.2022	120000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES /NOVEMBER 2022/</b>			<b>577060</b>
21.12.2022	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - B 1935837878	15250
30.12.2022	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - December 2022	100000
30.12.2022	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 30.12.2022	120000
30.12.2022	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 30.12.2022	120000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES /DECEMBER 2022/</b>			<b>355250</b>
30.01.2023	Materials for Stained-glass workshop	Invoice - B 1505696940	16750
31.01.2023	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Ashkhen Khachatryan/	Additional Salary - January 2023	100000
31.01.2023	Contract salary - Art and craft workshop specialist /Marine Markosyan/	Act - 31.01.2023	120000
31.01.2023	Contract salary - Stained-glass workshop specialist /Zaruhi Arustaman/	Act - 31.01.2023	120000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES /JANUARY 2023/</b>			<b>356750</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES /November 2022 - January, 2023/</b>			<b>1289060</b>