

“BERKABER COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT” PROJECT

Berkaber, Tavush Region, Armenia
2016 - 2018



Progress Report
prepared by Sahman NGO



PROJECT SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The “Berkaber Comprehensive Community” Project (BCC) consists of 3 fundamental components: Agriculture, Education & Public Health.



OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES



Create the necessary pre-conditions to ensure a stable family through economic development opportunities:

- Construction of two greenhouses to grow vegetable (tomato, cucumber, pepper) seedlings



Support the development of the younger generation through access to equal education opportunities:

- Organize after school classes through extra-curricular groups for training/education
- Create a state of the art IT lab as a vocational training opportunity to allow youth to obtain adequate skills to ensure an alternative source of income as well as build a community communication center around the IT lab



Improve community health through public health initiatives:

- Improve sanitary conditions at the pre-school nursery and the high school of the Berkaber village
- Conduct training on various community development, public health and other issues for different groups of the Berkaber rural community (young women, youth, school children, farmers, etc.)

The project is implemented in Berkaber, a community 160km from Yerevan and less than 800m from the Azerbaijan border with significant security issue due to the ongoing conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan.



AGRICULTURE (seedling greenhouses)

There are currently 18 greenhouses in Berkaber which source their seedlings from as far away as the Ararat Valley (175km away) resulting in a scientifically high cost per seedling as well as some loss during transportation. Given the high demand of seedling within the community, two 150sq meter greenhouses were constructed to supplying tomato, cucumber and sweet pepper seedlings to greenhouse cultivators both within the village as well as the surrounding communities.



BENEFICIARY SELECTION

The project was announced within the community and 9 applications were received. Following an extensive vetting process including home visits, interviews, soil samples and ability assessment, 2 applicants were selected:

SUREN KHUDAVERDYAN



SVETLANA MADATYAN



GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Offers were received from 3 construction companies, with the eventual winner selected based on the best price and quality assured. The construction began on December 5th 2016 and ended two weeks behind schedule on January 1st 2017 due to bad weather conditions.

Several heating system options were considered, and a selection made based on the cost of construction and maintenance as well as the expected outcomes.



AGRICULTURE (seedling greenhouses)

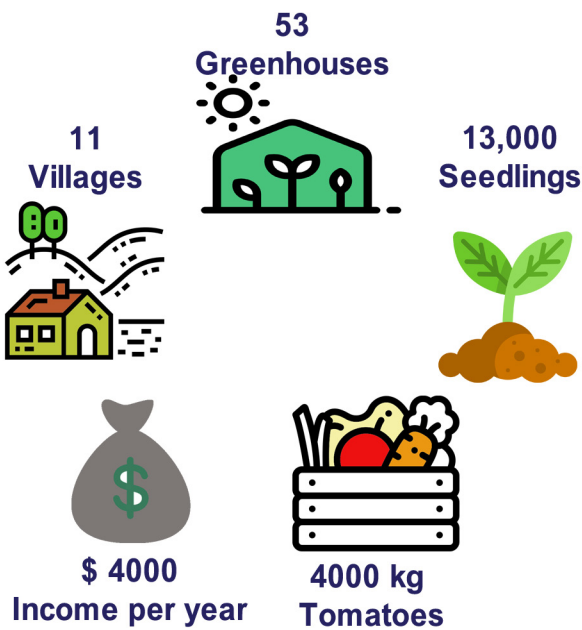
GREENHOUSE CULTIVATION, EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The procurement of seeds for each greenhouse was based on the number of pre orders received from potential clients. The seedlings were supplied to 11 communities (Chinari, Aygedzor, Nerkin Karmiraghbyur, Ditavan, Sarigyugh, Aygehovit, Kirants, Lusadzor, Tsazkavan, Gandzakar and Berkaber) in total 53 greenhouse in these communities were cultivated using the seedling from the two BCC greenhouses.

13,000 tomato, cucumber and sweet pepper seedlings were sold at a 20% discount (compared with those sourced from the Ararat Valley). These seedling greenhouses were used by the families to cultivate their own vegetables during the rest of the year with revenues totaling \$ 4,000 per year.

Continued consultancy, training sessions and literature were provided by an agriculture expert over the course of the cultivation season.

Given these numbers, it is evident that the project is certainly justified and will continue to be sustainable in the coming years.



MONITORING VISITS



EDUCATION

KINDERGARDEN RENOVATION AND OPERATION

The renovation component began in April and was completed and furnished in October. The kindergarten is designed for up to 20 children.

The kindergarten was registered by Berkaber's Council of Elders in January 2018 and all assets of the kindergarten were signed over to the council, who have agreed to take full responsibility for its further operation.

As part of this component, 2 educators from the community were selected and took part in a week-long training program at Yerevan's private Montessori City daycare center in October.

BEFORE RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION



OPENING



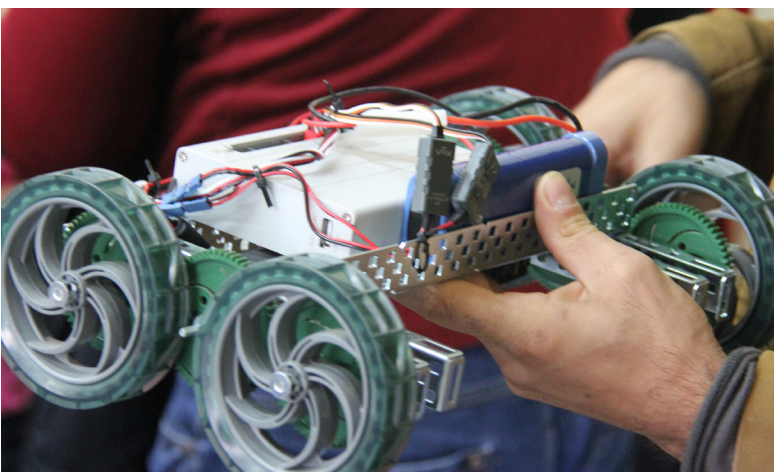
EDUCATION

ARMATH ENGINEERING LAB

A proposal was received from the “Union of Information Technology Enterprises” the creators of Nyiri Lab and Armath network, which fully complied with the requirement put forward by Sahman for the engineering lab. The engineering lab at the Berkaber School was fully equipped with the necessary technical equipment and began operating on June 19th. Following the proven outcomes of the Engineering Lab, UITE incorporated the Berkaber school lab into their Armath network joining over 900 schools around the country.

The total cost of this component was \$5,050, significantly less than the initial expected cost of \$10,700 due to large discounts provided by UITE and a revision of the original list of required items.

An additional \$320 was provided to the school for the costs associated with the procurement of the raw materials needed for the CNC & 3D printers. This additional cost will ensure the long-term use of these tools at no additional cost to the school budget. Some of the skills acquired at the Engineering Lab is expected to be used in the making of small souvenir items to be sold at community events with the revenue going back to the Lab for future expenses.



DIGICAMP

The “Camp Participation Fees’ component of this project has allowed 6 students from Berkaber to take part in UITEs Summer Innovative Ideas and Digi-Camp initiatives.

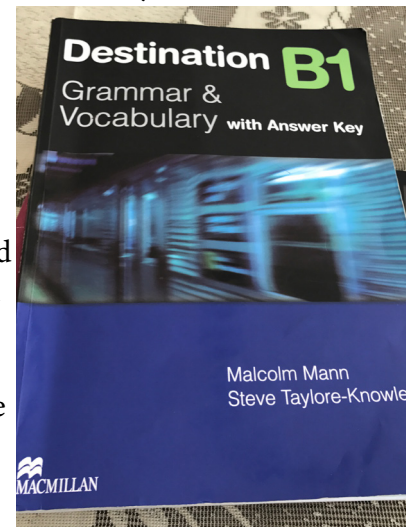
EDUCATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HOPPY GROUP

English language classes took place at the Berkaber school from March 1st 2017 to May 2018. The goal of this component was to give the students a fundamental understanding of English to be used to further develop their language skills and supplement the engineering lab classes by using their newfound knowledge to research and analyze online articles in English.

Twenty-five students are currently enrolled in the classes. They study in groups which are broken down by age with five students in group 1, 10 in group 2 and 10 in group 3. In June, all the participants underwent mid-term testing. Based on the results, new groups were created divided into “stronger” and “weaker” students. The “stronger” continue to study according to a more complicated curriculum and they use Macmillan Grammar and vocabulary B1 manual. It is an excellent publication to provide grammar skills and enrich vocabulary.

We are proud to report that the English language teacher was retrained at the AYB Private School in Yerevan whereshe was able to learn new teaching methodologies to be implemented in the classrooms in Berkaber.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

As part of the Agricultural Education Program of the BCC, a 50sq meter greenhouse was constructed in the school grounds with the goal of educating the students on sustainable farming. The produce from this greenhouse is expected to be used in the school cafeteria to supplement the “Sustainable Schools Meals” program.



A sustainable farming class will be added to the school’s curriculum taught by an agriculture consultant, given the specifics of the village the emphasis will be on greenhouse horticulture.



PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPROVING THE SANITARY AND HYGIENE CONDITIONS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

The previous lavatories in the Berkaber school posed significant health and safety concerns and were considered wholly inadequate for the 47 students using them daily.

A needs assessment was carried out in November 2017 and upon favorable weather conditions in March 2018 4 lavatories in the school were renovated and brought up to the required standard of sanitation to ensure against any potential health and hygiene issues.

As part of this component, running water was also restored to all bathrooms and the school cafeteria/kitchen.

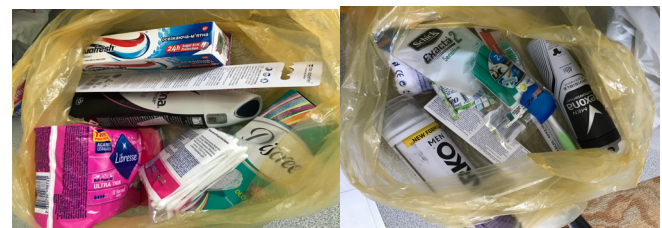


PRIMARY HEALTH AND HYGIENE EDUCATION

A series of workshops on subjects including but not limited to Adolescent Health, Emotional Development, Sexual Development in Adolescents and Puberty were carried out by a World Vision certified nurse for all 5-12th grade students as well as the women of Berkaber between March and May of 2018. All materials and workshop plans were certified by World Vision.



The trainings included lengthy Q&A sessions and all 28 participating students were given Hygiene Packs consisting of necessary items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, napkins, sanitary pads, shaving kits etc. Additional sessions on “Early childhood development, Infant Infections and Women’s Health were also carried out for both parents and the overall community, 42 community members participated in these sessions.



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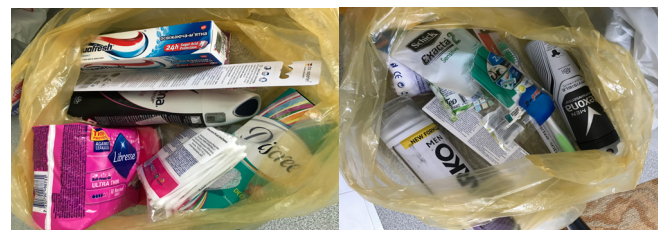


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500 POPULATION
150 HOUSEHOLD LIVING
 800M FROM THE ARMENIAN -
 AZERBAIJAN BORDER



AGE 3-6

20 CHILDREN GOT OPPORTU-
 NITY TO PLAY AND LEARN TO-
 GETHER IN A SAFE PLACE WHEN
 THEIR PARENTS GO TO WORK TO
 KEEP THE SOCIETY DEVELOP



AGE 6-18

47 STUDENTS DAILY USING
 LAVATORIES IN THE SCHOOL
 WHICH HAVE THE REQUIRED STAN-
 DARD OF SANITATION



IN 2019 COMMUNITY WATER
 PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE IM-
 PLEMENTED BY GOVERNMENT
 WHICH WILL ALSO RESOLVE
 BERKABER MEDICAL UNITY
 WATER ISSUE AND SUPPLY RUN-
 NING WATER TO THE MEDICAL
 UNIT



2 FAMILIES HAVE AVERAGE
 \$4000 YEARLY INCOME
53 OTHER FAMILIES HAVE
 GET THE SEEDLINGS 20% CHEAPER



AGE 6-18

25 STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO
 EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNI-
 TIES THROUGH EXTRA CURRICU-
 LAR GROUPS



AGE 6+

28 STUDENTS
42 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF
 PUBLIC HEALTH WORKSHOPS



VELVET REVOLUTION
 BROUGHT CHANGES TO BERKABER.
 NEW MAYOR AND ADMINISTRA-
 TION ARE NOW THE ONES WHO
 GUARANTEE THE SUSTAINABILITY
 OF THE GG PROJECT. NEW ORGA-
 NIZATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN
 INVOLVED BASED ON GG SUCCESS-
 FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

“BERKABER COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT” PROJECT HAS BEEN FINANCED WITHIN GLOBAL GRANT RECORD- GG1529572 WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN HAMAR VEST AND THE YEREVAN ROTARY CLUBS.

THE PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED BY SAHMAN NGO.



HAMAR VEST ROTARY CLUB



YEREVAN ROTARY CLUB



SAHMAN NGO

