

ARMENIAN CARITAS



Հայկական Կարիտաս
Armenian Caritas

Replacement of Windows at Merkurov Arts School

Narrative report

Gyumri, 2021

Project Name	Replacement of windows at Merkurov Arts School
Project Location	Gyumri, Shirak region, Armenia
Project Direct Beneficiaries	80 kids and (20 persons) staff
Project Duration	3 months
Anticipated Starting date	April 15, 2021
Anticipated Closing Date	June 15, 2021
Implementing Agency	Armenian Caritas
Address	8, H. Sargsyan, Sidestreet 3, Gyumri, Armenia
Executive Director	Gagik Tarasyan
Project Responsible	Anahit Gevorgyan
Bank Information	SWIFT: MIDLAM22 Bank Name: HSBC Bank Armenia Account Number: 001032689001 Account Holder: Armenian Caritas BNGO
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Amount Requested	EUR 4,600,00

Summary



Gyumri city, the center of Shirak province, has a history of centuries. **Gyumri** (originally called *Kumayri*, later *Gyumri* until 1840, *Aleksandrapol* during 1840-1924, *Leninakan* in 1924-1990) is the second city of Armenia by the number of population and its cultural significance. Gyumri is situated 126 km far from capital Yerevan, in the central part of Shirak plateau, in a plain 1550 meter above sea level. The city is located in the north-west of Armenia, on the left bank of the Akhuryan river. The climate is continental, with relatively warm summers and cold winters. The economic life of Gyumri started to flourish only since 1826-1829 when a large number of refugees settled in the city. The first plan of Gyumri was made in 1836, according to which the settlement had a quadrangular shape with intersecting streets. Since 1846 gradually getting political and economic significance, Aleksandrapol evolved from a secondary provincial center into a leading provincial capital. According to the official data of the census conducted in 2011, the population of the city is 121976.

Gyumri has a strong culture. Since ancient times Gyumri has been a city of arts and crafts. The masters of the city have constructed numerous buildings and churches, many of which have been preserved and reached to us. The city is full of monuments, beautiful gardens and parks. Gyumri is one of the unique cities where architects have worked to keep and preserve Gyumri's architecture.

Merkurov Arts School of Gyumri is unique in its type as it has been operating for 100 years and does not have its equal. The Arts School was unique also when it was founded, being the only arts school in the whole Transcaucasia. During these years, prominent artists and architects studied at school,

such as Sisters Mariam and Yeranuhi Aslamazyan, Zaven Koshtoyan, Minas Avetisyan, Rafik Yeghoyan, Hakob Ananikyan, Shant Sargsyan and some even worked in their dear school. Prominent artists of the elder generation taught at school, such as H. Hakobyan, A. Hovhannisyan, Eduard Artsrunyan, Rafayel Atoyan, Valmar, Emil Gazaz, Sarkis Hamalbashyan, Samvel Sevada.

Before the earthquake, the school had about 400 pupils. Throughout its history; school was located in different buildings of the city. However, for many years following the earthquake, school survived in makeshift shelters. Now, it has more than 80 pupils. School was allocated a one-storey building of the former library named after Tumanyan, located on Jivani Street in the historical core of Gyumri.

However, the old building does not meet the requirements of the educational center. The conditions were more or less improved due to the efforts of current director Jacqueline Sargsyan. As the building is old, there is still much work to do. Replacement of the windows is one of the primary problems. The glasses of the windows are fairly fixed and can fall any moment, causing big damage and danger for children and the school staff. In severe winter colds of Gyumri, the problem becomes more serious.

Total cost of the project	Euro 6.024
Replacement of windows at Merkurov Arts School	Euro 4.600
Armenian Caritas Contribution	Euro 1424

Goal: Improvement of educational conditions of Merkurov Arts School through changing of the windows.

Objectives

- Examination of old school windows and window sills, situation assessment, measurement, estimate.
- Organizing demolition and cleaning of old school windows and window sills, installation of new windows and window sills.
- Construction works, control, monitoring.

Old windows and window sills of school



Activities

The replacement of the windows at Merkurov Arts School started in April 2021. Study was conducted by the project manager and the engineer of Armenian Caritas, necessary materials and construction work were estimated. Taking into account weather conditions, a schedule for fast and effective implementation of work was developed in detail. Due to the efforts of school staff and qualified constructors, the old windows and window sills were demolished and cleaned.



New windows and window sills of high quality and by color combination were made.



The work, planned within the project, was carried out with great mastery and quality. During the project, there were regular visits and monitoring by the project manager and engineer. Every stage of renovation was thoroughly examined.



As a result, due to the joint efforts, care and hard work, Merkurov Arts School in Gyumri has new, beautiful and comfortable windows with quality. Thanks to the project “German Friendship” the hundred-year old school will continue its work and hundreds of children will have the opportunity to study and create.















