

## First Signs of Success



# 33 & 11

**IMPACT** **SKYE**

Clubs are operating in 11 APs

# 730

Children & youth are registered in the clubs. 50% are RC.

# 72

Volunteer leaders run the clubs.

# 45

Community Projects implemented by the clubs' members. Children and youth of the clubs have fundraised

Additional **\$30000** is saved each month by recruiting volunteer club leaders and hosting meetings in spaces contributed by partners.

# \$5,362

*I greet all participants, you are doing a tremendous work. Take into account, that the school will support you in your initiatives. I would like to see all of the students participating in IMPACT clubs next year. God bless you children.*

*-Arevatsagh School Principal Yericyan Armine's speech during the opening of IMPACT classroom.*

*"After our second mini-project, I understood that money is not the most important condition for an initiative, because if you have a great idea there will always be interested people that would like to contribute."*

*- Seda Shahmuradyan 20, Yerevan ADP SKYE club member*

The major expense per club occurs only at the establishment phase when the club leaders are trained and major supplies are provided. All the following years the club's expense reduce with the growing number of local trainers and increasing fund raising done by the club members. In average, the expenses per club after its establishment counts at around \$200 for each mini project, \$150-200 for club stationary per year. Indirect costs are staff salary and yearly national events. Leaders of the clubs are volunteers and clubs meet in spaces contributed by schools, municipality, church and other partners. WVA intends to advocate for the inclusion of the IMPACT club model in the school curricula, which will ensure the club's sustainability in future.



# Case Studies

## Yerevan Area Program

IMPACT club N103 is one of the 5 Urban clubs that operates in Qanaqer-Zeytun district of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. There are not many activities for students after the school and mainly youth spent their time on social websites or streets, exposing them to a bad influence. IMPACT club was established in the school in 2014 with an aim to enhance students' sense of ownership towards their community and improve their life skills.

Initially the club leaders faced difficulties regarding the motivation of club members, but after a successful community project club members' enthusiasm grew and every next project was more concentrated on their community and wellbeing of others. During one of the recent projects, the club has fundraised enough amount to cover travel and accommodation cost of a community child to participate in chess competition in Georgia, as well as for a medical treatment of another friend.

*"Children involved in IMPACT club have improved their performance and behavior in school. They have become a role model for a younger generation."* - Yerevan, N103 school principal, Lusine Khalatyan,



Smile project. Club Members fundraising for a health treatment of their friend.

## Vardenis Area Program

Vardenis AP 3 SKYE clubs have been established in May 2015. The establishment of the clubs aimed at unifying community youth, developing their knowledge and building their capacities to participate in their community life, implement projects on community well-being and development. During the club establishment period, the SKYE leaders have had difficulties in identifying club members. The youths', especially the girls' family members were not sure about the initiative, as there were no such youth clubs or functioning NGOs in the area. It is already 10 months that SKYE club N1 is functioning in Vardenis. Now the club is famous in the town for its various projects. Regardless of the stereotypes, the club members overcame all the difficulties for the sake of their community development. During these months, the club has implemented one Community Service Learning Project called "Fairy Childhood". During the project implementation, the front part of Banavan district kindergarten was renovated which provided children with safe and nice playground. After participation in the meetings of Social Entrepreneurship module, the club members planned and implemented a range of business ideas and generated funds through selling Christmas wreaths and providing Santa paid service to their community members.

# Case Studies

The 90% of \$300 income the youths plan to spend on implementation of their next community service learning project and business ideas. The remaining 10% of the income will be spent on purchasing New Year gift packs for the most vulnerable children.



*Before having no idea about social entrepreneurship I thought that implementing business ideas is a very difficult process, but after learning the concept and implementing one business idea I got knowledge, skills and inspiration to start my own business.*

*- Lena Tovmasyan, Vardenis SKYE club member*

## Alaverdi Area Program

Alaverdi AP established 5 IMPACT clubs during 2014. The purpose of establishment of these clubs was to take out children from the street life, give them a chance to improve their life skills, and increase the community ownership. Among those 5 clubs, the Alaverdi N12 school IMPACT club was the leading ones. Initially, it was challenging for leaders as well as for the participants to be motivated and gain community acknowledgement of their operation, mission etc. But shortly after, the situation was changed – the first step was implementation of the community fundraising project for supporting the most vulnerable children with books, as a result of which it was possible to help around 40 children. The triumphal progress began and they became role models for other students in their school and community. Furthermore, they started to collaborate with international students for sharing the experience and developing joint projects.



*The more youth are actively engaged in community transformation through various initiatives, the more they are valued and acknowledged as partners by adults.*

*-Lilit Sahakyan, Alaverdi IMPACT club member*

# Lessons Learnt



## Lessons Learnt

### Motivating Volunteers

Encouragement and motivation of the volunteer club leaders is key to club's success. It helps to reduce leader turnaround and maintain a healthy and effective environment of the club. The Aps support the leaders to discover their full potential, they are provided with training and development opportunities and their work is recognized in a variety of ways. This helped to reach 24% of leader dropout within a year and the percentage decreases with every year

### Integrating Clubs into Community

Observing positive changes among club members and benefiting from mini projects, partner institutions displayed initiative to host IMPACT clubs.

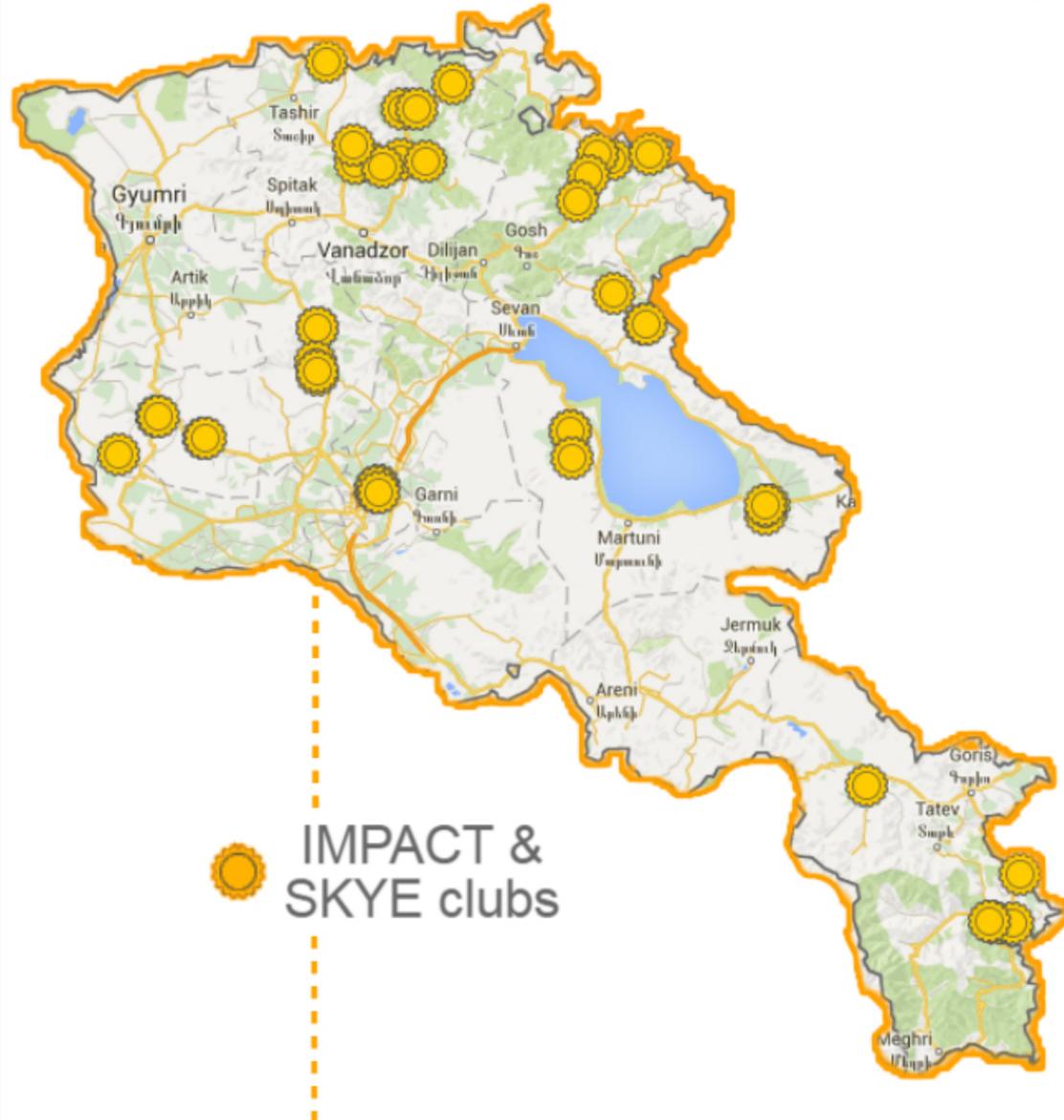
### Ensuring effective learning process for club members

Implementing the Project model in multiple APs provides sufficient information to outline valuable learnings, consequently improving the learning process of the project model.

### Club Sustainability

There are much more girls in the clubs than boys. To achieve a better balance the recruitment process will be more intentional in engaging boys.

## Locations of the Clubs in Armenia



Clubs are active in more than **30** Communities



*After that I have seen the pictures of the club, I want to see my boy attending the clubs, participating at the project implementation I believe it would be very useful for him.*

*-Gohar, Member of Gyulagarak community*



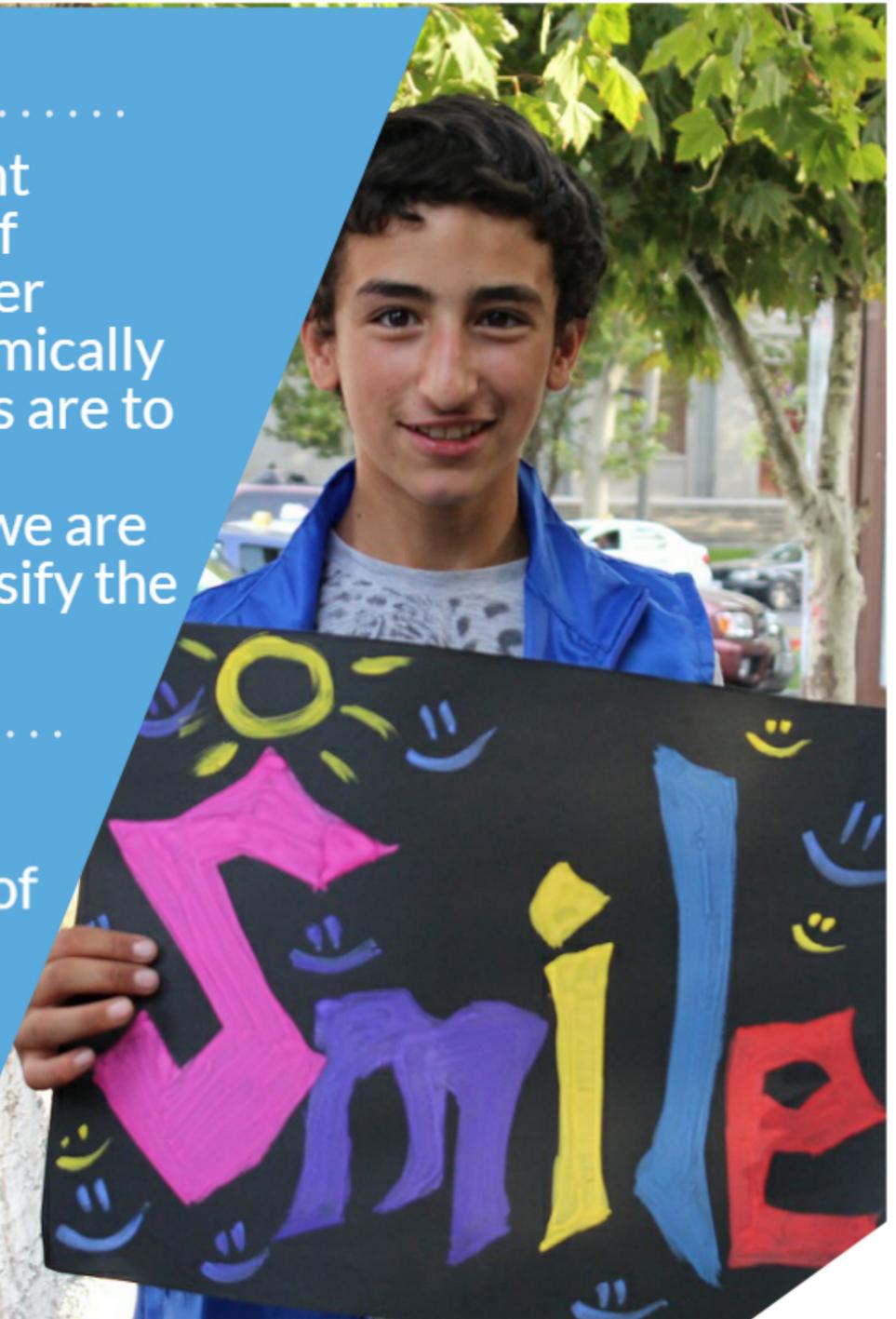
# Lessons Learnt

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The IMPACT baseline assessment showed that a high percentage of IMPACT Club members are higher performing children from economically secure families. As our intentions are to engage poorer performing and vulnerable children in the clubs we are adopting new strategies to diversify the membership.

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According to the SKYE baseline, youth with more than 8 months of involvement into clubs are more likely to be employed than those with less involvement.



The results of the baseline also show that the attitude towards education generally seems to have worsened after attending the club for 10 months. WVA plans to hold series of focus group discussions to identify why our data suggests this trend.

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IMPACT youth who participated in at least one community service learning project are more prepared to contribute to well of their communities than those who have not participated.



# IMPACT



IMPACT and SKYE Clubs are groups of young people who meet together each week to identify community problems, brainstorm, plan and implement community service and social enterprise projects. Adolescents and youth undertake three to four projects each year, and each project is increasingly complex, delves deeper into community issues, and elicits greater leadership, project management and business development skills in the club members.

## What is the IMPACT Club model?

The IMPACT Club model is a holistic and integrated approach to adolescent engagement that fosters the skills, behaviors and attitudes necessary for participation in social, civic, and economic life. The IMPACT Club model encourages the development of confident, self-aware and resilient young people who contribute positively to their communities via youth led community projects. This is facilitated through group based training and support services.

## What is the SKYE Club model?

The SKYE Club model is a youth-focused economic development model. It is a holistic and integrated approach to helping disadvantaged youth develop the skills, behaviors and attitudes necessary to obtain sustainable livelihoods and participate constructively in their communities. This is achieved through group based training and support services.

### Further Info

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