

BE PART OF A BIGGER WORLD

CHURCHES
IN PARTNERSHIP



Thank you for your prayers and support.

World Vision is one of the world's leading relief and development agencies. We are a Christian organisation that works with all types of communities, irrespective of religious belief. Worldwide, we're currently helping more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries.

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World Vision

Connecting People Fighting Poverty

Riverside Church Supporting the people of Stepanavan in Armenia



Your regular support through prayer, fellowship and giving means more people in desperate need will get the help they need to lift themselves out of poverty.



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World Vision's Stepanavan, Lori area development programme (ADP) is working in 14 local communities in one of the poorest regions of Armenia.

The ADP work is based in the community of Stepanavan and directly serves around 1,700 people and a total of 36,000 indirectly.

The work is partly supported by the *Churches In Partnership* programme, a special programme linking Riverside Church and other UK churches to the project.



About Stepanavan in the region of Lori

The mountainous Lori Marz (region) is one of the poorest regions of Armenia located in the far north of the country on the border with Georgia. It occupies 3750 km and has a population of approximately 400,000. The largest city is Vanadzor. Historically, the Marz is known for copper production.

The city of Stepanavan, where the ADP is located, used to be an eminent centre for industry, healthcare and tourism, and with its airport it was also valued as the northern gateway of Armenia.

But after the fall of the Soviet Union and the independence of Armenia in 1991, these industries collapsed. Massive job losses and a total lack of privatised land resulted in a sharp drop in the socio-economic situation of residents in that area as well as in substantial emigration as people were forced to look for work in other countries to support their families.



Where is the money going that Riverside Church will raise?

Lori ADP, supported by World Vision UK, has been in operation since 2004 and is expected to run until 2016. The ADP operates in 14 communities of the Marz and directly serves 1,700 people and indirectly as many as 36,000.

Working through locally formed Community Action Groups (CAG) we work with the community to support them in addressing their needs, including clean drinking water and health provision; schools, kindergartens and facilities for the very youngest; guaranteeing natural gas supplies for heating and cooking; improving roads and irrigation in the local area.

The programme takes a holistic approach to development of the local population. *Churches In Partnership* funds several 'mini-projects' which enhance the life of the ADP. for example:

- income-generating projects to provide local people with a sustainable income
- renovating the local schools and kindergarten
- improving the local supply of drinking water
- improving irrigation and the local sewage system



Outside a local kindergarten



Building up the local Church

Despite being the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as its official religion, the level of spiritual awareness and nurture among the people is very low.

Decades of Communism have marginalized the church and reduced the impact of Christianity in everyday life. The lack of clergy in the region means that even those who are spiritually active do not have access to churches. (see left churches lay derelict) Bible study classes are almost non-existent.

Summer Camps World Vision with the support of local churches is helping implement projects such as Summer Camp, organised for vulnerable children from ADP communities.

In addition to spiritual education, the camps provide a unique opportunity for children's emotional and physical growth through access to extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts, games, and music classes otherwise accessible to very few children. Children forget about their fears, chores and responsibilities and enjoy playful and happy time with their peers. Additionally, summer camps provide children with three nutritious meals during the day, access to which is limited to many children from vulnerable families who take part in summer camps.

