

Vanadzor Orran- 1st Semester Report

January- June 2017

The following report covers the activities implemented during the period of January to June, 2017 in the following areas.

- General notes
- Academic assistance to children
- Cultural education
- Social service
- Medical and psychological assistance
- Other

1. GENERAL NOTES

One hundred fortyfive (145) beneficiaries (adults and children) attended the Center during the period of January to June 2017. The details are presented in the table below:

	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
Number of Children	97	104	110	115	116	117
Number of Adults	25	25	27	29	29	28
Total Number	122	129	137	144	145	145

The changes that took place were:

32 children were newly admitted and enrolled in relevant junior, middle and senior age groups align and the food program.

16 children exited the Orran program during this reporting period.

4 elders were enrolled in the Elderly Project.

The number of elderly was decreased by 1: Gayane Bariyan passed away.

30 elderly were enrolled in Orran during this semester.

During this reporting period, 117 children enrolled in the Orran Project were involved in align food, educational, social, cultural and psychological programs.

3 children were involved in individual classes.

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12 Orran beneficiary children with various disability problems received individual work and align services.

Since March, Orran started to work with 2 additional disabled children who receive art therapy through involvement in a pottery workshop.

2. Academic assistance to children

2.1. Classes and handcraft workshops

2.1.1 Classes

Orran children have daily academic instruction and assistance provided by teachers and volunteers; they attend acting classes as well as participate in various events. The table below shows the number of children involved in the Orran classes in June.

Number of Children	Junior	Middle	Senior
Total number of children in the groups	41	40	36
Teachers	Marietta Soghoyan	Armine Apresyan	Gayane Manucharyan

2.1.2 Handicraft Workshops

The table below presents the total number of children attending workshops during this quarter:

Workshops	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Macramé, carpet weaving	15	16	19	22	23	26
Woodcarving	7	8	11	9	9	8

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Pottery	14	16	21	24	19	21
Arts	7	7	8	8	7	7
Computer	11	22	22	26	26	26
Journalism	12	22	13	12	13	11
Leadership	11	10	12	12	12	10
Drama	14	12	12	12	12	12
Christianity and religious classes	25	36	34	40	42	30
Sewing	4	5	5	6	6	4
Mathematics	16	16	16	15	15	15
Sculpture	7	8	8	5	4	0
Dance	12	15	15	21	21	23

- **Computer Courses** are conducted for 2 different age groups: 1st group is for beginners (15 students, who are also involved in Mathematics classes) and the 2nd group is for juniors which involves students from other schools of Vanadzor together with Orran children who get more advanced computer lessons at Orran.

The classes are conducted by Ani Arakelyan.

In the next phase the young people will receive training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship after which they will start organizing printing at Orran.

Students of Vanadzor Technology Center (VTC) twice a week work with Orran children as volunteers. US Peace Corps volunteer Boris Brook works with computer workshop students.

- Within the framework of “Speaking of Myself” project, 12 Orran children of middle and senior age groups are involved in **drama** classes. Parallel to “Newcomer” performance, one more performance will be staged with the participation of middle and senior age group students. Gayane Manucharyan is leading the drama classes.

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- Within the framework of the above described project, 12 Orran children are participating in Leadership and Journalism classes. Students of Leadership classes are also involved in Journalism classes and often, as young journalists, are able to apply the skills and knowledge gained during the leadership classes.

Anush Gharagyozyan is leading the journalistic classes.

In addition to conducting discussions on various journalistic topics, students also have meetings with local journalists, try to write articles, and conduct interviews.

- Dance classes are regularly conducted at the center by volunteers. There are 2 age groups: for younger children, where they learn more active and modern dances and for older children where they learn Armenian national dances. The average number of students is 23: 16 children are involved in the younger group, 9 children in the older group.

2.2 Volunteers

Volunteers help children to complete their homework assignments, conduct individual and group sessions, as well as provide support in organizing various events:

- The center is now equipped with 10 new computers and printers as a result of the grant project submitted by **US Peace Corps Volunteer**. As a result, Orran has a computer lab housed in the library and adjacent room. The opening ceremony of the computer center took place on February 2, 2017 (presented below in the events section).
- Cooperation with UWC Dilijan International School is continuing resulting in UWC students coming to Orran and organizing various activities for Orran children every Thursday.
- For the past three years, Orran has been cooperating closely with **Birthright Armenia organization, as well as, hosting volunteers** during the summer. Birthright volunteers share their skills with Orran children in their area of specialization.
- Orran cooperates with Vanadzor Technology Center (VTC). VTC students volunteer at Orran's Computer Lab.

The chart below indicates the number of volunteers who attended Orran during the first semester:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June

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Number of volunteers	12+16(UWC)	14+15(UWC)	22+14(UWC)	21+16(UWC)	26+16(UWC)	24+2(Birthright)
Total Hours /per month/	1734+96 (UWC)+ 48/ Birthright Armenia /=1878					

	FULL NAME	COUNTRY/CITY	INVOLVEMENT IN THE CLASSES
1.	Lilit Danielyan	Vanadzor	Academic classes preparation
2.	Lilit Nalbandyan	Vanadzor	English language
3.	Vard Khoyetsyan	Vanadzor	Social Pedagogue
4.	Artur Badalyan	Vanadzor	Leadership, healthy lifestyle
5.	Diana Gasparyan	Vanadzor	Academic classes preparation
6.	Elen Hovhannisyan	Vanadzor	English language, dancing
7.	Zara Gevorgyan	Vanadzor	Dance
8.	Ani Hovsepyan	Vanadzor	Psychology
9.	Mane Martirosyan	Vanadzor	Russian language
10.	Varduhi Petrosyan	Vanadzor	Russian language
11.	Meline Manvelyan	Vanadzor	English language
12.	Liana Mirzoyan	Vanadzor	Psychology
13.	Silva Karakhanyan	Vanadzor	Psychology
14.	Emma Kroyan	Vanadzor	Social Pedagogue
15.	Haykush Galstyan	Vanadzor	Social Pedagogue
16.	Anahit Eghiazaryan	Vanadzor	English language
17.	Nune Aghajanyan	Vanadzor	Journalism
18.	Sveta Evoyan	Vanadzor	Mathematics
19.	Aren Yerosyan	Vanadzor	Computer, Mathematics
20.	Heghine Bakhchinyan	Vanadzor	Computer, English

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21.	Milena Ohanyan	Vanadzor	Academic classes
22.	Nare Sargsyan	Vanadzor	Academic classes
23.	Anahit Hovhannisyan	Vanadzor	English language
24.	Marina Mesropyan	Vanadzor	English language
25.	Mariam Varosyan	Vanadzor	Academic classes
26.	Albina Garayan	Vanadzor	History of Church, Chemistry
27.	Rima Arustamyan	Vanadzor	English language

3.Cultural Education

3.1. Events

A series of events sponsored by Krikor and Anna Krikorian for Orran Center in Vanadzor attracted guests from and outside of Armenia. The children themselves were invited to educational and cultural events outside of Orran such as concerts, performances, local festivals, and cultural centers. The description of the events is presented below:

- **On January 13** Ter Vahan Azaryan priest conducted “Home blessing” event. Orran salt, flour, and water were blessed.
- **On January 13** the junior group of Orran children attended “New Year Merry Carousel” performance at Drama Theatre after H. Abelyan in Vanadzor.



- **On February 2** the housing ceremony of the apartment donated to Orran beneficiary Nune Ghazakhetsyan within the frames of “Help your brother” project was blessed by Bishop Sepuh.

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The event was covered by local media.

- **On February 2** the opening ceremony of Junior Development Center which was established within the frames of Peace Corps SPA project took place. Charles Enciso/ Country Director, U.S. Peace Corps Armenia and many other guests were present at the event. The event was opened by blessing of Bishop Sepouh Chouljian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church Diocese of Gougark and was covered by Lori and Fortuna TV stations.



On February 25 – Orran hosted HSBC bank staff who visited the center to see the workshops conducted by HSBC funding. The guests became acquainted with general activities of the center.



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- **On March 28** the Students of Dental Department of Mkhitar Gosh University organized a seminar for Orran children on the topic of “Proper Dental Care”. At the end of the seminar the participants were presented with dental cleaning supplies.



- **Since April 1** the middle age group students of Orran started to participate in online English courses conducted by SOAR Berlin Chapter volunteer Arus Shahinyan.



On April 3 Angela Tankian visited Vanadzor center with Orran founder A. Hovannisian.



- **On April 4** several children of Orran’s senior group volunteered at a fundraising event organized by World Vision Armenia when arranging summer camp for community children.

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On April 7 the Juniors of Orran performed at an event entitled “My mother is the sun of our home” dedicated to spring and Mother’s Day.



On April 14 Within the frames of Youth Empowerment project funded by HSBC, 5 beneficiary girls of Orran participated in nailpolishing and hairdressing courses. They received certificates and relevant tools at the end of the courses.



- **On April 14** twelve beneficiaries of Orran participated in Holy Thursday liturgy and “Feet washing” ceremony in Vanadzor’s St. Narekatsi church. The ceremony was led by the Primate of the Gugark Diocese.

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- **On April 15** an online English lesson with participation of 4 middle age group children was arranged. The topic was “My town” when each of the children talked about their own town.



- **On April 19** Easter was celebrated at Orran. The children served themselves with Easter meals, and participated in a blessing ceremony with joint prayer.



- **In April** an article entitled “Motherland for us is not just a piece of land...”, written by the Orran Journalistic club student Aida Zakaryan about the four-day April war, was printed by Lori Marz newspaper. There the war participant Sevak Hambaryan was telling about his and his friends’ life in the army and some details on the April war. The material was printed by Lori Marz newspaper with the support of the chief editor Manvel Mikoyan.
- **In April** Syrian Armenian businessman and soap maker, Shant Khayalyan, conducted a master class on making soap without chemicals and talked about the usefulness of natural soaps.

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- **On April 29** Orran children started their garden work and planted 10 apple trees donated to Orran by a local businessman, Vardan Azatyan.



- **On April 22** a “Clean-up day” was organized at the center. Orran staff and children cleaned the Orran yard and adjacent area.



- **Since May 6** the Culture Discovery Project has been launched for the Orran children with the support of SOAR organization volunteers who come from various parts of the world. They presented the history of their countries, customs and traditions. The children learned about the

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history of Austria, Germany, Mianmar, United Kingdom, Belgium and Bulgaria. The project was very important for broadening and developing the world perception of the children.



- **On May 6** students of Vanadzor center's Mathematics and Computer classes, visited Yerevan Orran Center and participated in a seminar conducted by the HSBC bank officers. During the seminar some topics on mathematics and programming were discussed and games were organized.



- **On May 19** elder group students visited a new exhibition at Vanadzor Art Museum.



- **On May 12** Narek Sargsyan, Head of Personnel of Lori Marzpetaran, together with the Ashot Margaryan, RA Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, as well as Tanya Radochai, UNICEF Country Director along with UNICEF officers, Hayk Khechyan and Artak Shakaryan, visited Orran Center. The team toured the center and became acquainted with the center's activities.

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On May 25 students of the Pedagogical and Psychology Department of Vanadzor State Teachers` Training University visited Orran to volunteer and enhance their pedagogical knowledge and skills.



- **On May 30** the student from Dilijan UWC College, Luis Antonio Servera Bojorkes, who volunteered at Orran for 2 years visited Orran with his parents to say goodbye to the kids. His parents became acquainted with Orran while interacting with the children.



- **On June 1** Orran celebrated International Children Protection Day. Orran children participated in various events organized throughout the city then continued the celebration at Orran.

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- On June 1st students of Orran Drama Club, Samvel Avetyan and Araksya Miskaryan, visited kindergarden children and staged funny performances for them.



- **In June** Orran beneficiary, Lilit Nalbandyan, came back from the US having studied for a year at a high school in the US within the frames of FLEX program. Since June, Lilit has started to volunteer at Orran. She provides English classes, conducts discussions on the topic of Leadership and shares her experiences from the US.



- **On June 6** Matt McKinney, White House Liaison for the US Peace Corps, Sheila Crowley, US Peace Corps Acting Director and Clarissa Hughes, Executive Assistant to the US PC Acting Director, visited Orran Vanadzor Center together with other PC representatives and guests. The guests became acquainted with the center's activities and the work conducted by

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the PC volunteers. They were very impressed by the center's activities including the warmth and care which surrounded the children.



- **On June 14** Orran friends and donors Alvard Barseghyan, Anna and Petros Oruntsagtsil, Sayat and Hermine Oruntsagtsil from the US, visited Orran. For many years they have been supporting Orran and are always happy with Orran's every achievement and success. Raffi Hovannisian accompanied the guests.



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- **On June 26** “Tagharan” national ancient instrument ensemble had a concert on the roof of Orran center with the direction of Maestro Sedrak Erkanyan. Bishop Sepouh Chouljian/,Primate of Diocese of Gougark, made a speech at the end of the concert.



- https://www.facebook.com/hasa.sargsyan/videos/660990114104349/?hc_ref=ARRpEOOxVdDsSG2BEYl4iv72mhOCFRkhGUNPc1gKs5u7zGL-1gUfbfu3Ie4koe5fPB

4. Social Service

During this semester Lusine Akmakchyan, Orran’s social worker, conducted individual work with **149 children** on topics related to education and communication. She also conducted individual sessions with **80 parents**, and as a result most of them have been directed to various institutions. When needed Orran submitted written or verbal statements for solving various issues. Individual sessions were held both with the parents of the children who stopped attending the center and with beneficiary families who have been newly enrolled. During the reporting period Ms. Akmakchyan addressed **7 social cases**, 2 of which are still pending, and 3 which had positive outcomes. She also made **81 home visits**, together with the psychologists and teachers, for new beneficiaries, enrollment, needs reassessment and provision of social support. Twenty-one visits out of 81 were related to case management.

Twenty-three visits to schools were made with the teachers where they met with the class leaders, the school directors and the social worker.

In the table below the quantitative indicators of social work conducted during this semester is presented:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Number of children	97	104	110	115	116	117

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Number of adults	25	25	27	29	29	28
Work with the families of Orran beneficiary children	41	33	31	33	27	33
Visits (to families, other institutions)	2	21	15	18	14	11
Cooperation with other structures (governmental, nongovernmental)	1	2	1	6	4	3
Work with the beneficiaries outside of Orran Center	39	-	-	-	-	49
Phone calls	78	40	110	97	100	113

5. Medical and Psychological Support

5.1 Medical

During this semester Armenuhi Margaryan, Orran Vanadzor nurse implemented the following activities:

- Preventive medical examination of the children.
- Individual explanatory work with children on personal hygiene
- Controlled the hygienic condition of the children's hair and provided them with medicines against lice if needed.
- Conducted a separate meeting with parents
- Contacted Vanadzor Medical Center and followed the course of treatment for children receiving free treatment there
- Followed the results of the examinations of the admitted beneficiaries.
- Controlled sanitary hygienic conditions of the kitchen.
- Developed the menu for the beneficiaries at Orran.
- Conducted seminars for boys and girls aged 12 to 15 on hygiene and behavior.

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- Separate conversation was held with the senior group of girls on sexual development.
- A discussion was held on general hygiene and dental care with the newly enrolled children, toothbrushes were provided.
- Conducted supervision of daily consumption of the products received within the frames of UN WFP Program.

In the below table the medical activities implemented during this quarter period is presented:

№	Description of the activity	Frequency of implementation Number		Beneficiary
		planned	number	
1	Control of the sanitary hygienic condition of the building and kitchen.	daily	once	-
2	Development and update of the beneficiary list involved in the food program.	daily	once	-
3	Testing of food sample	daily	once	-
4	Development and updating of menu	monthly	once	-
5	Supervision of consumption of the food provided UN World Food Program	daily	once	-
6	Home visits together with pedagogues and social workers	-	-	-
7	Conduction of Saturday cleaning	Once a month		children
8	Filling in and updating of the medical cards of beneficiaries	Twice per month	once, and if needed	children
9	Checking of lice	Once a week	once, and if needed	children
10	Provision of first aid	-	55	children
11	Purchase of first aid material	monthly	once	children
12	Blood pressure measuring	daily	74	-
13	Visits to other medical institutions	-	-	-

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14	Conversation with parents	-	41	
15	Implementation of other activities related to the position which includes accompanying of children to relevant healthcare institutions, development of application letters, etc.	31		children
16	Seminar workshop on healthcare topic.	11		children
17	Individual sessions	65		children
18	Provision of different types of aids (fever checking, etc.)	73		children
19	Provision of care supplies	1		Children (23 beneficiaries)

Other

- **Every week** staff meetings were organized at Orran during which ongoing issues and activities were discussed.
- **Once a month** a meeting with parents was organized. Various issues such as children's attendance, organization of events at Orran, children's participation as well as social and other issues raised by parents were discussed.

The parents sign the list for transportation reimbursement of their children.

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- **Once a month** a meeting was organized with volunteers to discuss the work of the volunteers, provide consultations when needed and discuss the planned activities for the coming weeks.
- **Until June 1**, Orran continued to host 80 children every Saturday, from 12 communities of Lori region who received food at Orran, were involved in the workshops and visited various cultural events with the Orran staff.
- **108 children received 540 pieces** of new clothing from FCN organization.
- **Orran provided clothing** to one family in Gogaran village.
- **Vanadzor citizen Lala Manukyan donated 76 winter hats** to Orran children and the elderly (55 children from 25 families and 18 Orran beneficiary elder women, 3 hats to children outside Orran). The hats for donation were provided to Lala Manukyan by Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.
- **Two times during the reporting period** Orran provided humanitarian aid of shoes and clothing (second hand) to Vanadzor Community House residents (Dormitory) for distribution to 38 families (first time) and to 49 families (second time). The relevant documents and distribution lists are archived by the social worker.
- **During the reporting period 25 children of Orran attended pottery**, woodcarving, carpet weaving, hairdressing, nail polishing workshops, stone carving workshops funded by HSBC Bank.
- **Six young mothers of Orran children participated in a one week training course** on Early Childhood organized by World Vision organization, which was conducted by pediatricians and psychologists.