The 2015 partnership between VivaCell-MTS, the leading mobile operator in Armenia, and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started with a momentum; this year VivaCell-MTS invested AMD100 mln. (last year AMD 55mln.) for the housing project and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken its implementation. This year the dream of 40 Armenian families of 10 regions of Armenia will come true - 20 families will have improved housing conditions, another 20 families will complete the construction of their half-built houses.

On April 17, 2015, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, staff members from the company and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team launched the project in Shgharshik village of Aragatsotn Region with the construction of Khamoyan family house.

“A whole life, almost 20 years, my family has lived in this half-built house with cement floors, leaking roof and damp walls. Two of our children have serious health problems; my daughter was born with a heart disease. My son was born blind in one eye, he is also ill with brucellosis. My wife and I seem to have lost hope that anything good could happen in our life. And now, when our dream comes true, I am the happiest man in the world,” said the father of the family, Mushegh Khamoyan.

“I don’t believe in fairytales but this is a real fairytale. It is already many years that my family has been living in the wet and dark basement of our half-built house without any necessary living conditions. Now when I see how my recurring and unreal seeming dream comes true, how can I not believe,” said Gagik Babajanian, the father of another partner family from Khachik village of Vayots Dzor Region. Khachik village is one of the many villages in Armenia where housing is not only of vital importance but also of strategic. The border is behind the village and many houses are severely damaged. One of the ways of preventing migration from borderland villages is to help the families have safe roof over their heads and decent housing conditions.

In 2008 four more houses were built in the borderland village of Khachik through the generous financial support of VivaCell-MTS.

“VivaCell-MTS is pleased to support the implementation of this project. In addition to the strategic importance, it holds the idea of unity, the idea of helping and encouraging each other. I am filled with special joy, when I see that the employees of our company are guided with these ideas and express willingness to voluntarily participate in the construction works of these families’ houses. This proves that the values of our company are spread among, accepted and practiced by our employees. This group of volunteers is here today not only to construct a house but also to nurture the belief in a better future,” VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

“Unfortunately, there are still many people in Armenia who do not have a safe roof and basic housing conditions vital for living. Is there anything more pleasant than to have a home in your homeland? It is so gratifying to see the happiness of these people. I hope that every stone we put for the house foundation strengthens our faith; we build homes, thus we build communities and a homeland. A man who loves his home will never leave it,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yegiazaryan.

Through this partnership 53 families live in decent homes. This year, another 40 families will replenish the list.
GOOD WILL HAS ONE LANGUAGE – HUMANE

U.S. Embassy and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Continue Partnership

It has become an annual tradition for the U.S. Embassy in Armenia and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to team up to help Armenian families have a decent home.

On May 23, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Richard M. Mills, Jr., the US Embassy’s Helping Hand Organization volunteers and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team joined forces to help two families from Ujan Village of Aragatsotn region: the teams installed carpet tiles at Zorik Avetisyan’s house (the carpet tiles were donated to FCHA by the U.S. Embassy in 2014 to help families with low income). Later the teams joined another family in need of decent housing, Serob Avetisyan’s family, helping them with the house construction.

“Volunteerism and community service are vibrant components of American culture, and we’re glad to demonstrate those values in Armenia, including through the partnership between the Embassy’s Helping Hands organization and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia,” said the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Richard M. Mills, Jr.

“We have longed for a decent home of our own for 10 years living without basic housing conditions. Today it’s a double happiness - my family has a decent home and it is gratifying to welcome people who helped us have our own home and now help make it more improved by installing carpet tiles,” said Larissa Avetisyan, the mother of the family, whose house became more improved through the carpet tiles donated by the U.S. Embassy.

“It has become a tradition to work with the U.S. Embassy community volunteers and it is important that the partnership results in building a home thus building hope, belief in the future and desire to create,” said the president of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

To remind, the partnership between the U.S. Embassy and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started in 2008.

LIVING WITH ABSENCE
Continuing Partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Help the Families of Missing to Rehabilitate Their Homes

In Armenia, many people went missing during the armed conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh. They remained lost long after the guns have gone silent.

Since 2010 the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has been partnering with the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist the Families of Missing to rehabilitate their homes. Till now already 68 families have been assisted through this partnership. This year 16 more families will be assisted.

Very often the grief of the Families of Missing is worsened through financial insecurity and other difficulties. The Verdys moved from Nagorno-Karabakh to Hrazdan city in 1992, and have lived in a metal container (domik) over 23 years without basic living conditions.

Norayr is a constructor; he leaves abroad to earn a living by doing construction work. The mother of the family works in a military office. But the family’s income is not enough to care for the family needs and meantime buy a house.

In 1992 there was an accident at the workplace and Norayr lost his leg. He is paralyzed but keeps working and still cares the family needs.

During the 1990s Norayr’s grandfather, Hrant, was declared missing during the war between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan; at that time he was 39 years old.

Hopefully a house was purchased for this family through the partnership with ICRC and now the family lives in their decent home after many years of awaiting.

Since the beginning of this year, in the frames of the same Cooperation Agreement, the households of mine/ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) victims are being assisted to rehabilitate their houses.

To support our programs, please make online donation through our website: www.fcharmenia.org

Or send a check to:
The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523, Americus, GA 31709, USA
Please add “Armenia” in the memo line.

For “Honoring 100 Years by Saving 100 Families” project please add “Armenia-100”
For “Artsakh Project” please add “Armenia-Artsakh”
Donations are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!