It’s already the fifth year VivaCell-MTS makes a secure social investment in the protection and development of Armenian communities becoming part of the mission of eliminating poverty housing in Armenia through a striking example of corporate social responsibility.

The 2016 housing project implemented jointly by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and VivaCell-MTS launched in Margara village of Armaavir Region with the construction of Gevorgyan family house. It was noteworthy that the house was the 100th milestone house being built by the financial investment of VivaCell-MTS.

The Gevorgyan family of 7 has lived in a two-room soil house without basic housing conditions with the danger of the house to collapse each moment.

"I have grown up in a soil house and have dreamed of a decent home all my life. Years ago, my father started the construction of our house. After he passed away, I tried to continue the construction but could not complete it. Now I have my own family; I’m a father of four and I do want my children to grow up in a healthy environment.

Many thanks to both organizations for making the dream of my family a reality," said the father of the family, Hovhannes.

"Today is a special day: the housing program in success cooperation continues. It is both a pleasure and a matter of concern. If viewed from an optimistic perspective this program solves a major problem for the 100th family. However, we are most concerned with the fact that there are still families who are deprived of homes. And they need to be supported. We have to continue the work we have started years ago. That is the only way to solve the prevailing problems. The support is more than important for those who live here; here our task is not just the support to the villagers, but to disarm our enemy by our will and commitment. We are strong together," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

In 2016, VivaCell-MTS invested around AMD 105 mln. for the housing project (in 2015 it was AMD 100mln.). This is a beginning of a new life for 41 families. Since 2007, in the frames of the housing project, 93 families benefitted from the financial support of VivaCell-MTS. This year the number will be replenished by another 42 families assisted with the total number reaching to 135.

Since 2010, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and the International Committee of the Red Cross have been partnering under a cooperation agreement to help families of the missing rehabilitate their homes.

Since the beginning of 2015, in the frames of the same agreement, the partners started assisting also the victims of mine/ERW (explosive remnants of war) by rehabilitating their houses.

The Mikaelyan family of six lives in Avshar village in the Ararat region. Their house was built in 1970. In 1994, at the age of 19, Romik Mikaelyan lost a leg in a mine explosion during the war between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. Just after he came back from the war, his father passed away, making young Romik the only one who could care for the family’s needs.

Despite his disability, Romik continues working to support his family, but his income is not enough to provide decent housing conditions. This year they will be assisted within the partnership and have decent housing conditions.

Owing to the partnership between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia 92 families have been assisted since 2010. Till the end of 2016 the total number of the families assisted through the partnership will reach to 115.
ARDI is a 5-year program funded by the USAID and being implemented by FCHA and Heifer Armenia. The program aims to increase rural employment by tackling constraints to rural economic development of select rural communities in the Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Lori regions of Armenia. The program supports interventions in three main rural economic sectors/Value Chains involving Dairy Processing, Fruit Processing and Rural Tourism. To read ARDI program updates please visit our website.

On March 18, 2016, in cooperation with Shtigen LTD, FCHA made a renewable energy presentation for the residents of Yervandashat village, Armenia.

The village is located 1 kilometer from the Armenian-Turkish border and does not have natural gas supply.

Shtigen CEO, Mr. Hayk Shekyan, presented the practice of implementation for renewable energy solutions in Armenia and gave practical advice to people on how to optimize their household energy expenses.

Already three families are assisted through this partnership.

"Having solar heating solution system will cut our family expenses a lot... We work hard and earn enough for living, but soon our children will graduate from school and we should do savings to be ready for their expenses. This is a great support for us. Thank you! " shared Martin, one of the members of the partner families.

It’s already the second year UWC Dilijan College students from different parts of the world join Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to help build a home with and for a family in need of decent housing.

This year volunteers from Sudan, Serbia, Argentina, Germany, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and USA joined to help build a multi apartment building which will house 12 families currently living in metal containers (domiks).

The multi apartment building is being built through a trilateral partnership between ARDA Charitable Foundation, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and Vanadzor Municipality. Owing to this partnership already 55 families moved from metal containers into decent homes. This year the number of families assisted will be replenished by 12.

During the period of May 21-24 the 10 enthusiastic volunteers from UWC Dilijan College worked hard doing concreting of floors to ease the burden of the families who have longed for a decent home for more than 25 years.

By helping families to move to their long cherished homes sooner the volunteers got something back, sth. very important – a healthy boost of self esteem and sense of pride. It was a rich experience for all volunteers as they could give a hand up to families who needed it most and also could interact in an out of a college environment and make new friends.

Tom Roby, a teacher from America, shared: “The students took part in something really meaningful. They enjoyed the physical work, and they developed a real sense of teamwork. Even more so, meeting some of the families who had been helped and will be helped had a real impact on them. This is a project we hope we will stay involved in. It has been a great experience.”

"It’s encouraging to see how foreign people come to help us. We have been living in this metal container for more than 25 years. Now when we see how these young people dedicate their time and efforts for us to live in better conditions even the terrible memories of the past are forgotten... Words can’t express our happiness..." shared one of the future homeowners of the multi apartment building.

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.

Donations are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!