

THE URBAN FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF, 2019

DEMOCRATIZATION AND VALUATION OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

In 2019, the Urban Foundation contributed to more transparent governance and more active citizenship at local and national levels, in number of public sectors throughout Armenia.

Participatory Utilization and Resource Efficiency of Water (PURE-Water)

Through the 3-year **USAID PURE Water** project, the Urban Foundation led a sound intervention that contributed a lot to all stakeholders' behavior change in order to use decreasing groundwater resources more efficiently and productively. This has been done through intensive citizen participation, public education, sharing best practices by fisheries, drafting a number of laws in cooperation with decision-makers, helping water user associations and decision-makers to make water governance more transparent, using ICT tools, and improving drinking and irrigation water infrastructures.



PURE Water partner communities

MILESTONES REACHED

- ✚ **Improved water infrastructure**
 - **3,200** people have 24-hour water supply in Aratashen community of Armavir marz
 - **13,400** people will enjoy cleaner air in Vedi (Ararat region) as green areas increase thanks to the installed drip irrigation system
 - **10,000** people will benefit from improved irrigation system by mid-2020

- ✚ **Mobilized communities**
 - **8,300** people in 12 communities voiced the need for efficient water use and management.
 - **2,600** people from 12 communities participated in the identification and monitoring of water-related problems.
 - **2,200** people from 12 communities, including children from schools and kindergartens, have enriched their knowledge of efficient water management and use.
 - **1,000,000** people in the Republic of Armenia became aware of the Ararat Valley problem.
 - Armenia's water problem also was covered for the international audience:

<https://medium.com>; globalwaters.org.

- ✚ **Enabling environment for participatory water governance**

A strategic document with a road map and 3 draft laws on:

- Water User Associations
- Ecological information
- Ecological policy

- ✚ **More transparent and accountable governance**

- An online platform for water use permits for the RA Ministry of Environment
- Online information, complaints and recommendations platform on water issues for Vedi community
- Armavir Water User Association website: <http://armavirwua.am>
- An electronic phones survey instrument as oversight/feedback tool for 10 communities

Additional support from the global **Coca-Cola Foundation (CCF)** to enhance the USAID PURE Water activities.

CCF contributed to developing and disseminating public information materials on water resource management, organizing study tours to fisheries and wetland, providing training for schoolchildren and preparing targeted public service announcements to raise awareness and foster behavioral change among waters users and managers:

[Water Users: Find your way to save water](#)

[Drip Irrigation: Find your way to save water](#)

[Fish farms: Find your way to save water](#)

The First Municipal Benchmarking Exercise in Armenia: Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing

In 2019, the Urban Foundation launched the Empowerment through Comparative Learning (**ECoLearn**) Project funded by the **Embassy of the Netherlands** in Tbilisi.

9 consolidated communities were trained to conduct a municipal benchmarking exercise in four areas:

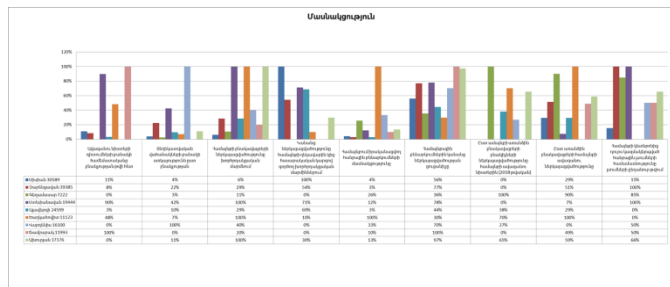
- Solid waste management
- Citizen participation
- Pre-school education
- Social services

The learning process was based on the Netherlands experience:



The Netherlands practice

Following the benchmarking exercise, the pilot communities presented findings to each other, learned about their weaknesses as compared with their peers.



Benchmarking in citizen participation

Based on the findings the partner communities developed action plans and currently are implementing the projects for the improvement of services where they identified gaps.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2019 was marked by continuous work toward community mobilization, participatory management, efficient building management, environmental protection, and education

Waste Governance in Communities

The two EU funded projects in Syunik and Vayots Dzor region - Clean Alliance: Accessible Services to Goris and Gorayk Communities, and Introducing Construction Materials from Plastic Waste - reached important milestones in 2019.

The first batch of construction materials made of plastic waste is delivered

Kapan inaugurates the production of construction materials with recycled plastic and sand. The long-awaited plaque unveiling ceremony took place on May 11, 2019, symbolically on Europe Day celebration in Kapan, Syunik region. **Currently, 5 communal demonstration sites are being improved** due to construction materials produced from recycled plastic.

The idea to create a value chain from plastic waste has occurred to the Urban Foundation years ago, since the first attempt of separating plastic waste from household garbage back in 2009. Since then, with the support of various donors, the Urban Foundation has created considerable capacities for separating, baling, storing and transporting plastic waste in more than 20 communities throughout Armenia.

The Clean Alliance Project Reaches Apex

While plastic waste is adding value in Kapan, another EU-funded project, the Clean Alliance is reaching its apex.

In total, the 2 projects provided:

- 4 garbage trucks
- 381 containers for general garbage
- 455 bins for plastic waste
- 7 balers

After procurement of garbage trucks and containers for recycled garbage, Kapan, Goris, and Gorayk are now well-equipped for carrying out effective waste management. The Clean Alliance project got better momentum after the Sisian municipality joined the project in 2018.

With support from the **Japanese Embassy**, the Urban Foundation provided an **additional 80 general garbage bins** to the Sisian community. It is a valuable addition to Syunik's EU-funded and waste management, separation, and recycling initiatives, implemented by the Urban Foundation.

A great deal of capacity development has been carried out by the project that is resulting in highly effective waste management in three neighboring consolidated communities - Goris, Sisian, and Gorayk. Thanks to strong citizen mobilization and public education campaigns plastic waste separated and collected in partner communities is being sent to Kapan for recycling or sold (as in the case of Goris) for a lucrative price to replenish the budget for waste management.



Kapan: A new garbage truck is removing the waste collected in a new bin

Transparent and Efficient Building Management

The Urban Foundation with UNDP support reviewed and analyzed data to be included in the sample forms of building passports. Our experts developed sample forms of building passports and piloted them for public and apartment buildings. We also drafted Terms of Reference for developing an online platform for integrated building management.

[Report: Sample building passports, ToR- building management online system, best practices](#)