Support of rural libraries

Internet Society
Armenia Chapter

Computers, services, and WiFi Internet for rural libraries

The project was done in two stages. During the first stage of the project, we installed 50 computers. During the 2nd stage 20 more computers and 16 Wi-Fi routers were installed. We also repaired the previously installed computers wherever necessary and do other servicing.

We continued providing rural libraries with computers equipped with a lightweight library management program that allows to register members, books, organize the book circulation, search requested books, track the movement of books, control book check-in and check-out as well as quickly receive any required information on books in the library.

Another problem in rural regions is the absence of computer service skills. Very often libraries in rural areas even having computers can't use them when problems arise, because of the absence of service staff, knowledge and skills. It was clear that they also need help in troubleshooting and repair, operating system and application program installation.

Service of installed systems is a matter of primary importance. We developed a method of remote service by the use of Teamviewer and Anydesk programs, remote desktop tools with the following remote services: Remote Desktop, Remote Access, Remote Control, Remote Support. They let us to provide a quick reaction to rural libraries problems. Each day we receive 3-4 phone calls for service sessions from rural libraries.

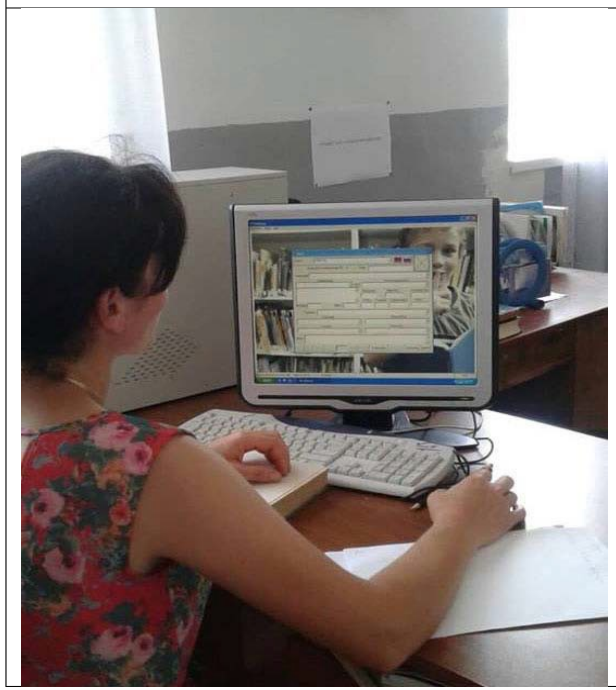
Special attention was paid to the Internet connection. Practically there is no Internet access problem in Armenia. If a library doesn't have a cable Internet, we were persuading heads of village administration to purchase a WiFi adapter stick to connect library to a mobile operator. To create a Wi-Fi media within library we are providing them Wi-Fi routers. WiFi routers were installed in the following libraries:
Hrazdan city regional Library, Zovuni village library, Yeghvard community library, Abovyan city community library, Yeghvard city library, Akunk village library, Tavush regional library, Noemberyan central library, Noemberian children library, Dilijan municipal central library, Goris city cultural center children library, Goris city central municipal Library, Kapan city library, Kapan city Baghaberd and Builders' library, Amrakis village library

During visits to rural regions in addition to the installation of library computers we repaired 16 computers and spent 80 hours for software installation and training.
Several workshops for librarians were organized. One of them is shown here.
As this project covered only 10% of rural libraries needs ISOC Armenia chapter is going to continue the project with the financial help of the Armenian Internet Registry and other sponsors.
We are planning an active fundraising for that.
Below is the list of rural sites where the computers were installed.

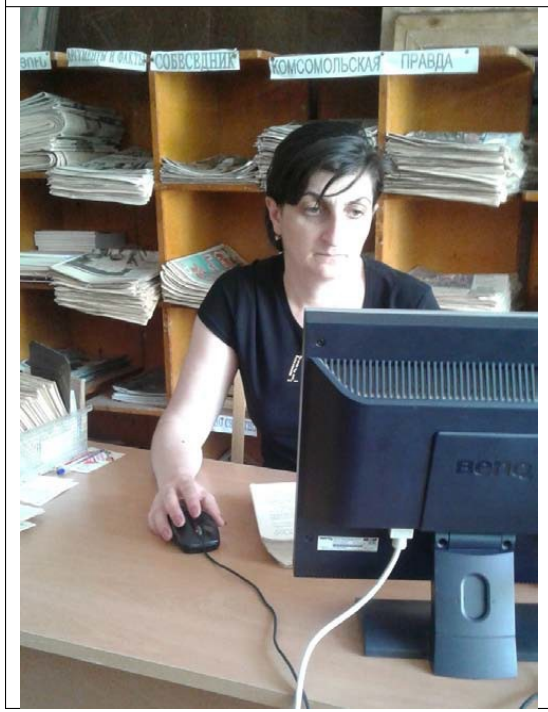
Amrakic village library, Lori region

Gandzaqar village library, Tavush region

Voskevan village library, Tavush region

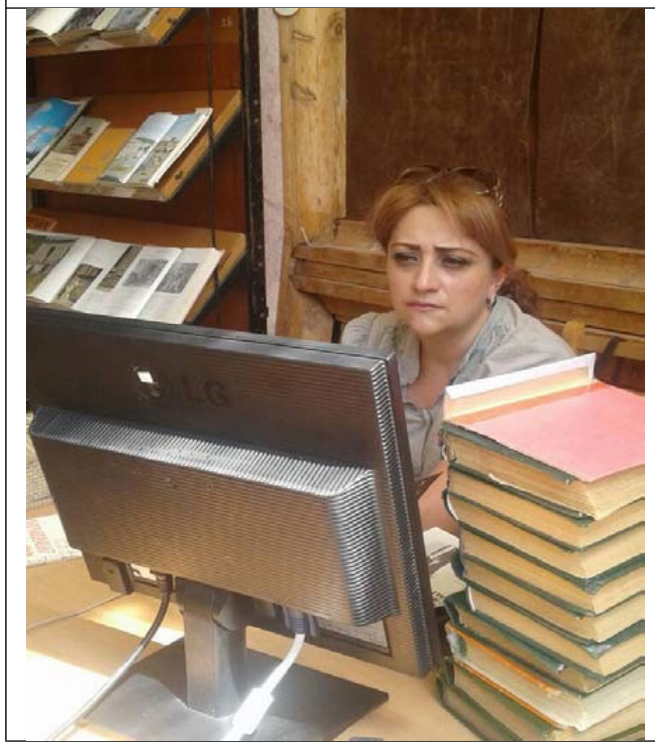


Dilijan city #2 library,
Tavush region

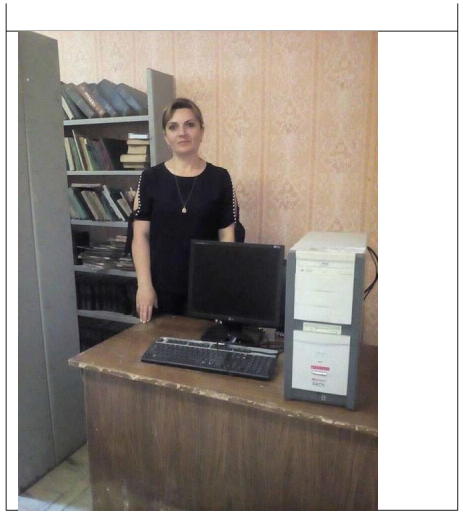


Dilijan city #3 library,
Tavush region

Dilijan city #4 library,
Tavush region



Azatamut village library, Tavush region

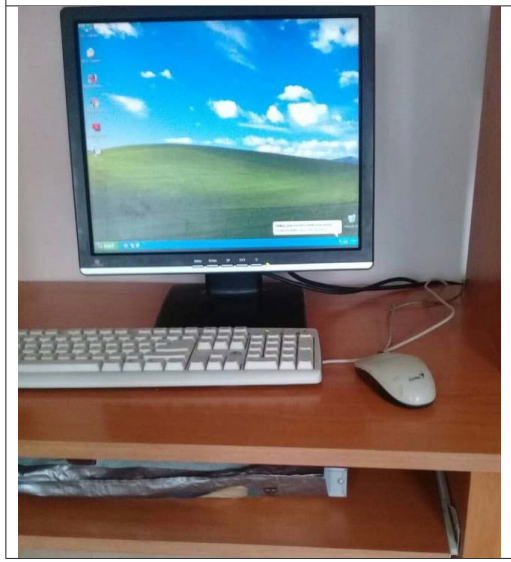


Kothi village library, Tavush region

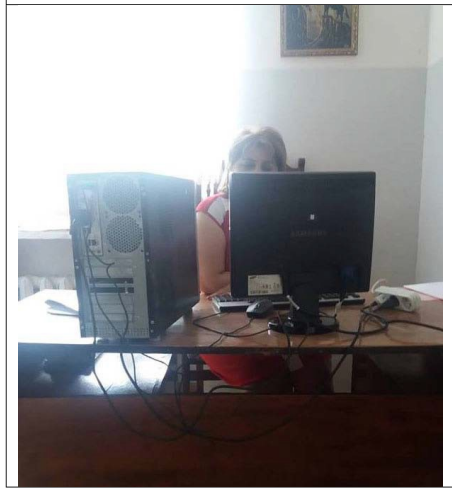
Sevkar village library, Tavush region

Achajur village library, Tavush region

Getahovit village library, Tavush region



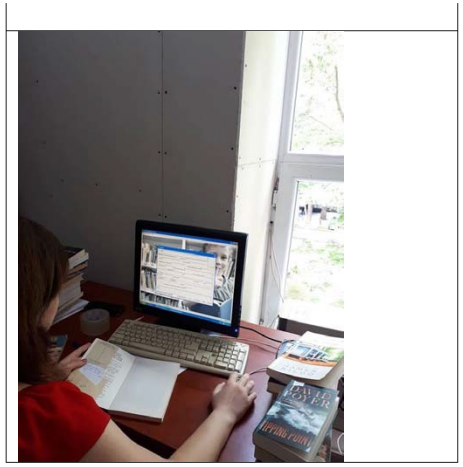
Dovegh village library, Tavush region



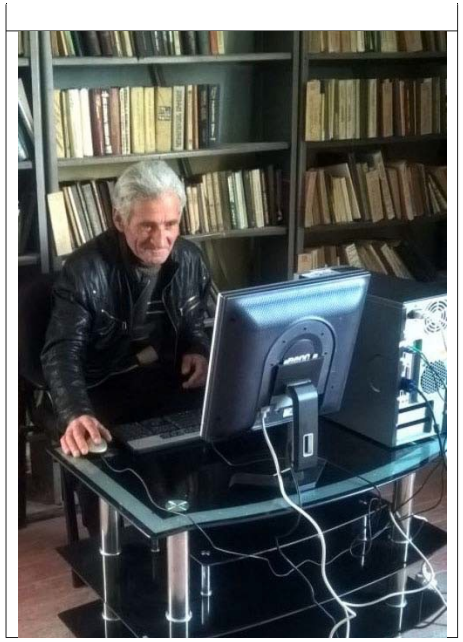
Noyemberyan city children library, Tavush region

Vardashen village library, Tavush region

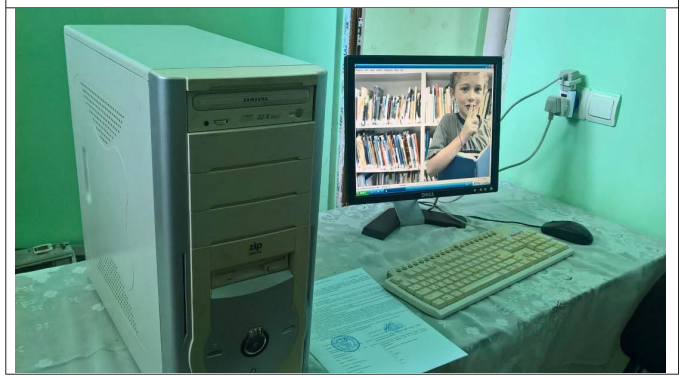
Tavush regional library, Tavush region



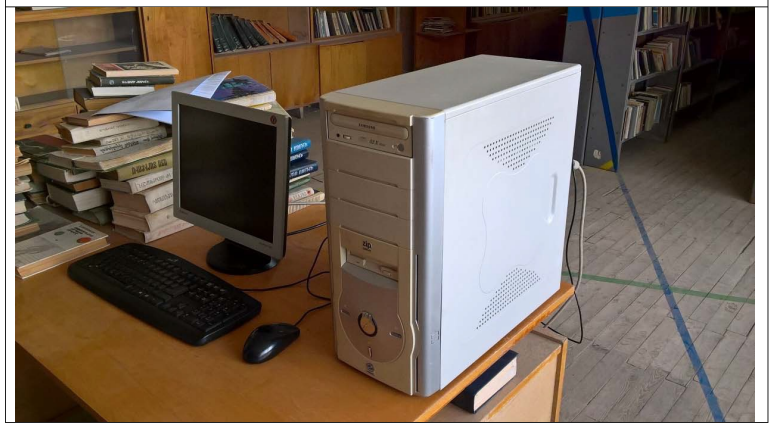
Norashen village library, Gegharqunik region



Varser village library, Gegharqunik region



Tsakhkunq village library, Gegharqunik region



Internet Society
Armenia Chapter

Digitized Internet-connected rural libraries with WiFi access points for library visitors as community network nodes

(Chapterthon 2021)

Project Summary

As a chapter of the Internet Society, we want to help rural communities to have Internet access.
We are strong supporters of the Internet Society slogan “Internet for all”. For Armenia it means first the provision of computers with the Internet access to vulnerable groups of people and organizations to rural communities. In Armenia there is no technical digital divide between cities and rural communities. There is an income gap. Families with monthly income of $200 can’t pay $12/month for broadband Internet. That’s why we are trying to find a way to help them to get Internet access. One of the ways is digitized rural libraries with Internet access and WiFi access points for visitors. For many years we are creating a network of digitized, and Internet connected rural libraries with preinstalled library management software, WiFi access points, and provide necessary services to them.

Internet connected digitized libraries with WiFi access points permitting library visitors to connect to the Internet with their tablets and smart phones are attracting a lot of visitors due to the Internet connection. In villages where people can't have Internet at homes this possibility is invaluable and solves many problems.

We specially developed a library management software that require very limited computer resources. Because of that less powerful computers can be used.

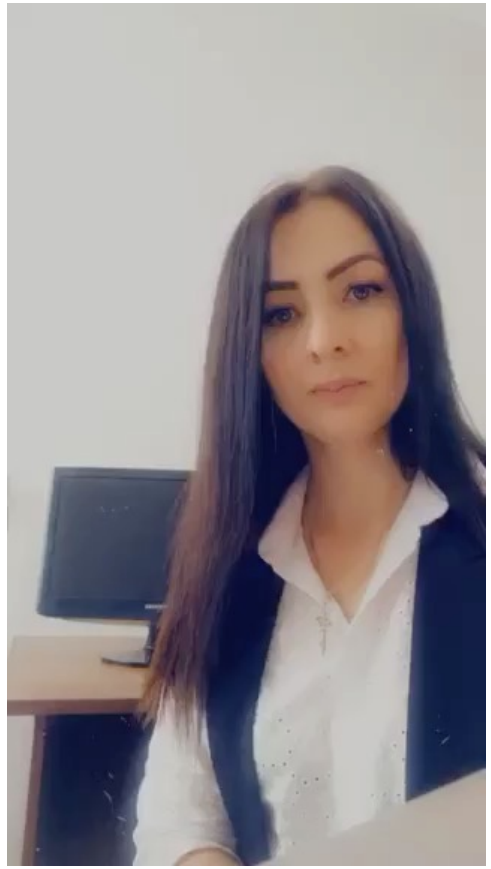
Digitized library network was created with the help of the Internet Society. It became widely known in the country. Presently we digitized about 150 rural libraries. We created rural-libraries.am web site for the network where we designate all rural libraries, where we install Internet connected computers with the preinstalled library management software. Our project does not depend on grants. When we have a grant the digitization of libraries is going much faster. But in the absence of grants, we continue to do the job relying on donations and the help of the Armenia Internet Registry.
We also train librarians to use library management software.

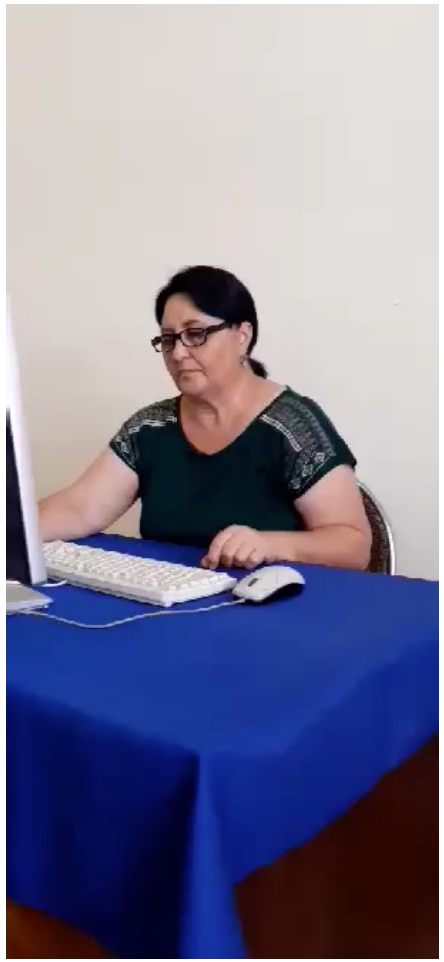
Project Details

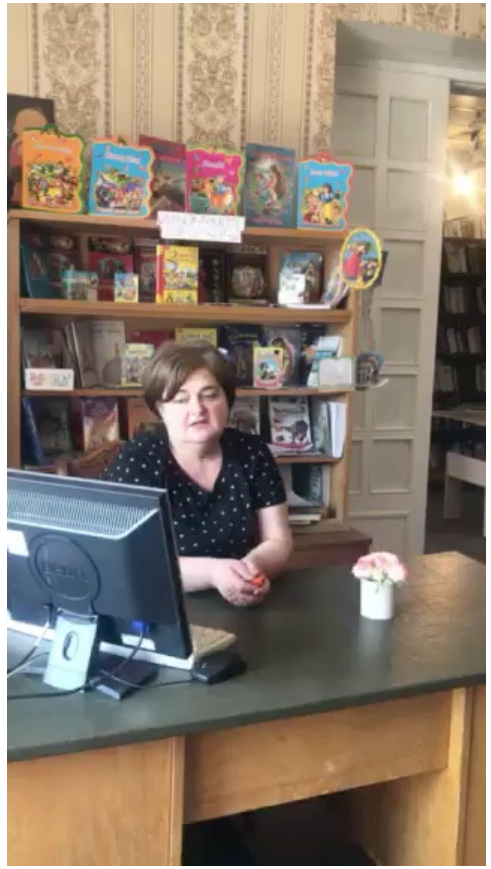
- As we are in constant contacts with rural villages and small town and we know their needs and set the priority of According to our Chapterthon 2021 plan we installed:
- 2 computers and WiFi access point in the Gyumri city central library
- 4 computers in the Gyumri city central library branches.
- 3 computers and WiFi access point in the Martuni cultural center
- 1 computer in the Dilijan city library
- 1 computer and WiFi access point in the VayotsDzor library.
- 1 computer in the Hrazdan city library.
- 13 more WiFi access points are on the way to regions for the following rural libraries in addition to the aforementioned:

Gavar	Karmirgyugh
Gavar, Hatsarat district	Chambarak
Gavar, Artsvakar district	Abovyani
Gandzak	Bakunts
Sarukhan	Lernadzor
Lanjaghbyur	Geghi
Gegharkunik	

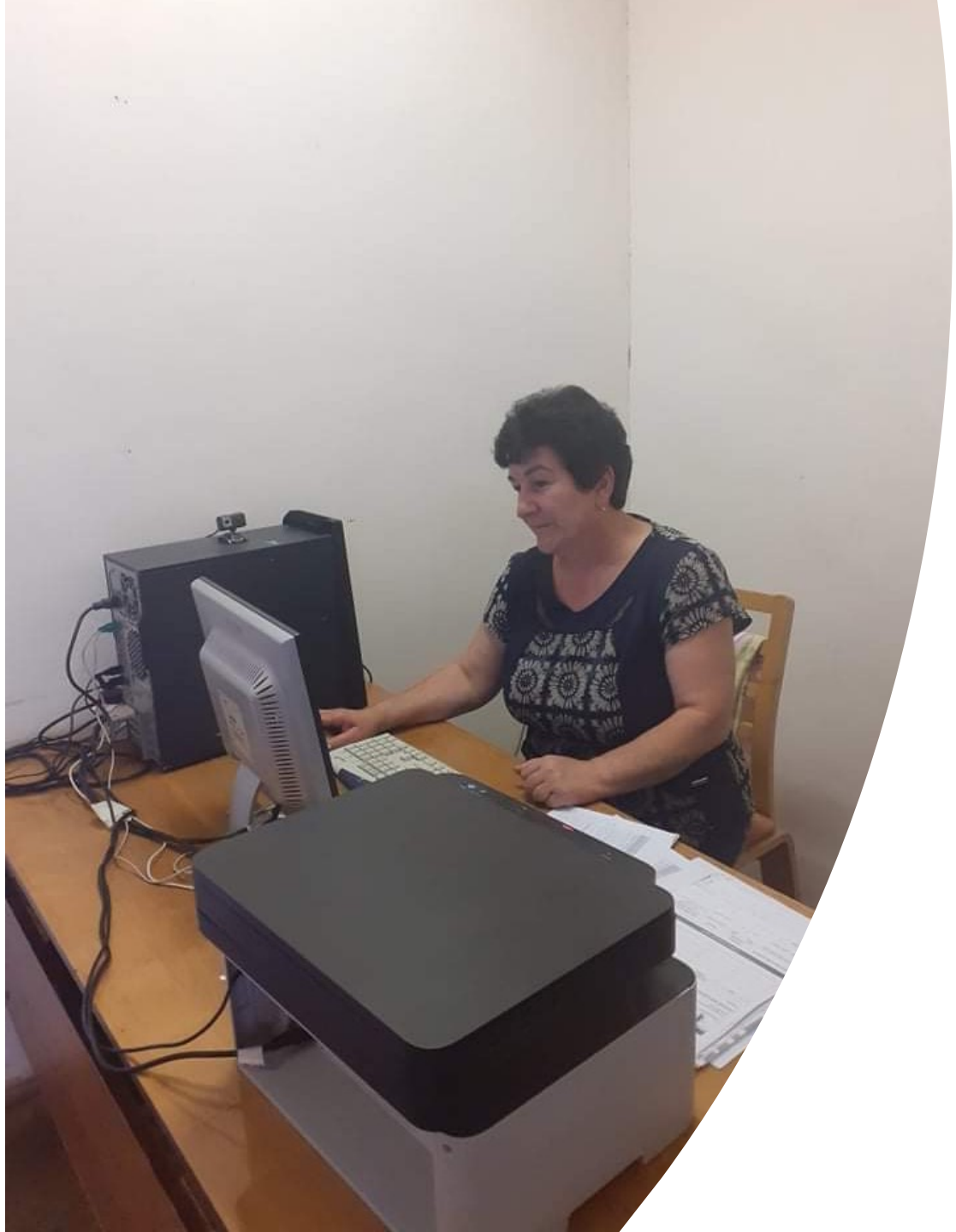
Gyumri Central library



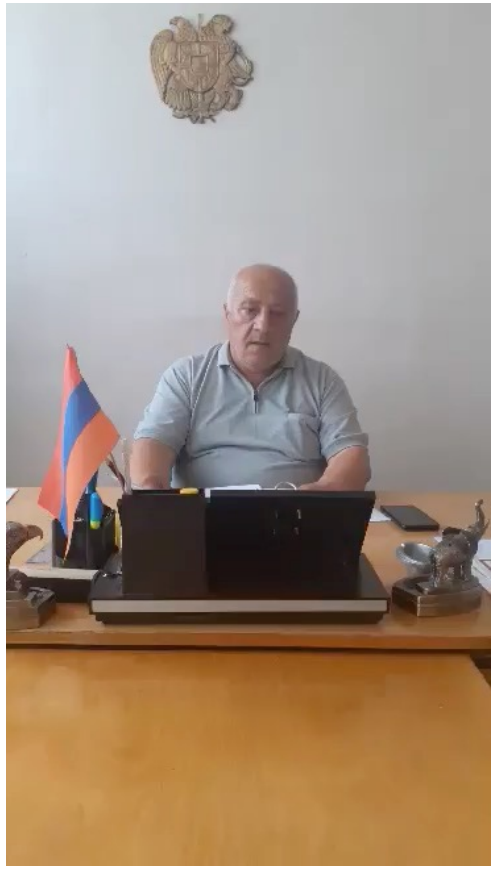




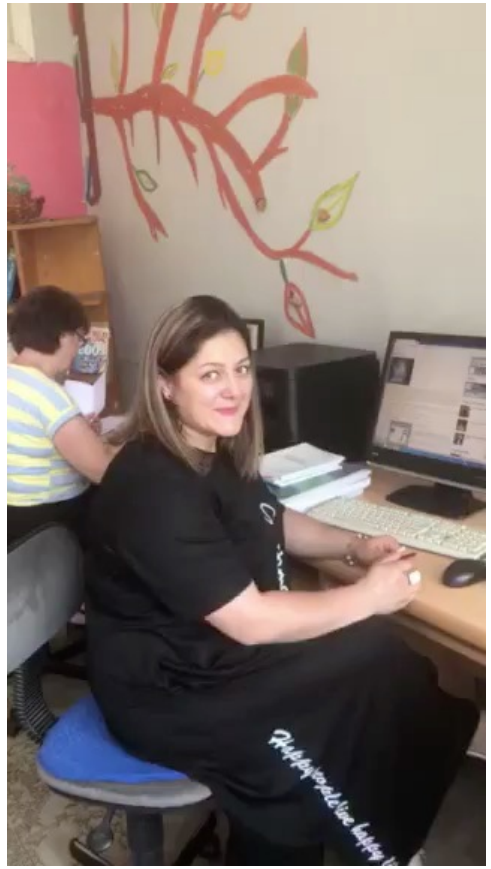
Vayots Dzor Regional Library



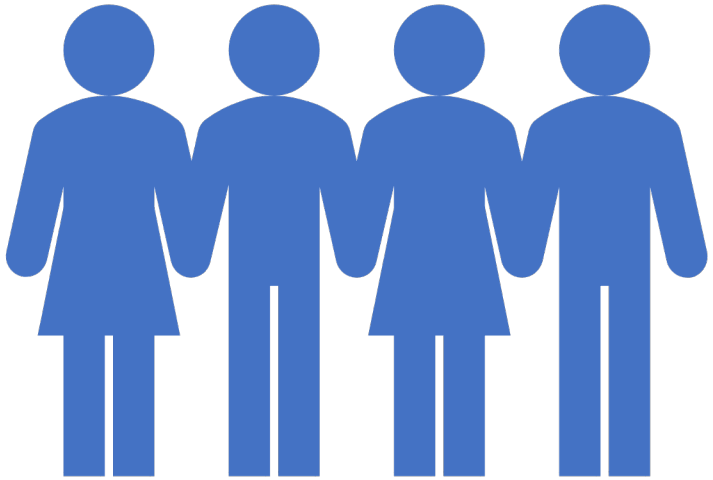
Hrazdan Children and Youth School



Dilijan Library



Jermuk Library



Martuni Cultural Center

tp-link
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benq
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Martuni video1

We are very thankful to the internet Society Armenia Chapter for donating us computers and a WiFi router that will be used by our Center for attracting more people to the Internet and organize on-line training.

Martuni video2

Representatives of the Cultural Center are explaining to ISOC Chapter members, Vahan Misakyan and Valery Stepanyan, their plans of future activity of the Center.

WiFi routers

- 13 more WiFi access points are on the way to regions for the following rural libraries in addition to the aforementioned:
- Gavar
- Gavar, Hatsarat district
- Gavar, Artsvakar district
- Gandzak
- Sarukhan
- Lanjaghbyur
- Gegharkunik
- Karmirgyugh
- Chambarak
- Abovyani
- Bakunts
- Lernadzor
- Geghi

Internet Society
Armenia Chapter

Total 12 computers and 15 WiFi routers were installed in rural libraries