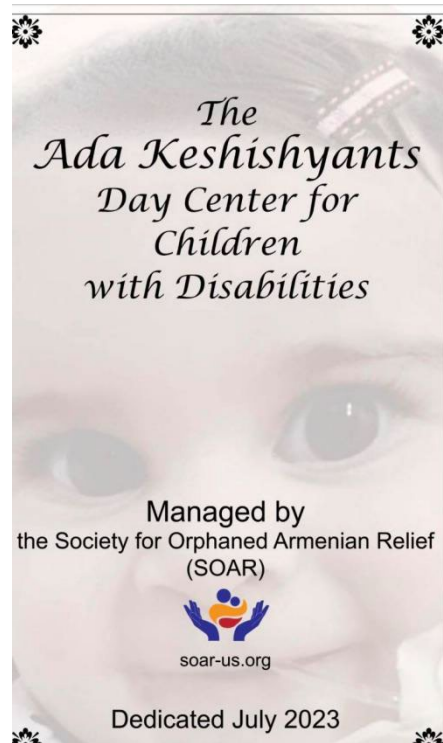




«Ada» Day Center for Children with Disabilities



PROJECT TITLE:
MULTIFUNCTIONAL INCLUSIVE CENTER FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF
CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT LIFE SITUATIONS

FUNDING ORGANIZATION: SOAR Armenia

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION: 16 Tigran Mec St., Vanadzor, Lori region, Armenia

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION: Start July 1, 2023

ACCOUNTING PERIOD: 2024

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 126 children

PROJECT RESPONSIBLE ANI GABRIELIAN , “LUSASTGH” NGO PRESIDENT

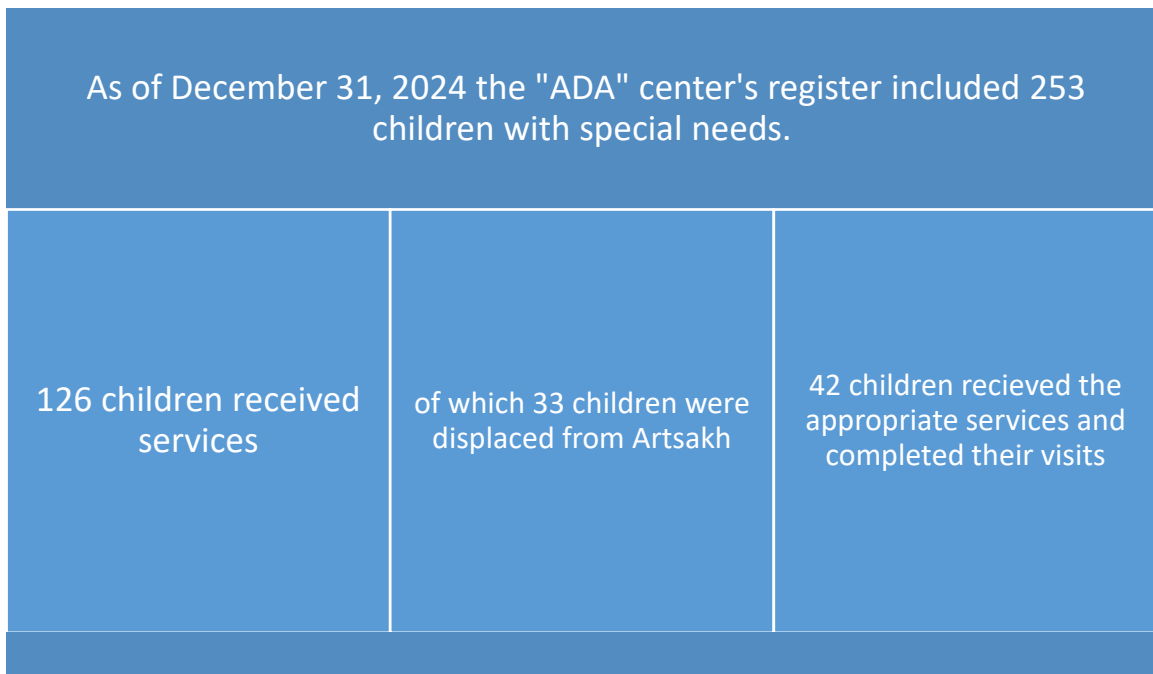
OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the activity of the Inclusive Center is to contribute to the socio-psychological rehabilitation of children aged 0-18 who are in difficult life situations, to increase the quality of life and their social inclusion in society.

2024 summary analysis of service provision

The project's strategy focuses on offering comprehensive, multidisciplinary support to children with disabilities and their families. This support includes services from a variety of professionals such as speech therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, kinesitherapists, art therapists, special educators, and social workers.

In May, a pottery group started working in the center.



At the start of the year, the individual development plans (IDPs) for the children were revised in collaboration with the management of the "SOAR" foundation. Following these discussions, a more affordable and accessible personal development plan (PDP) was restructured and is now in implementation. The plan reflects the children's progress and the outcomes of the services provided. It allows professionals to periodically assess each child's potential and establish both short-term and long-term goals.

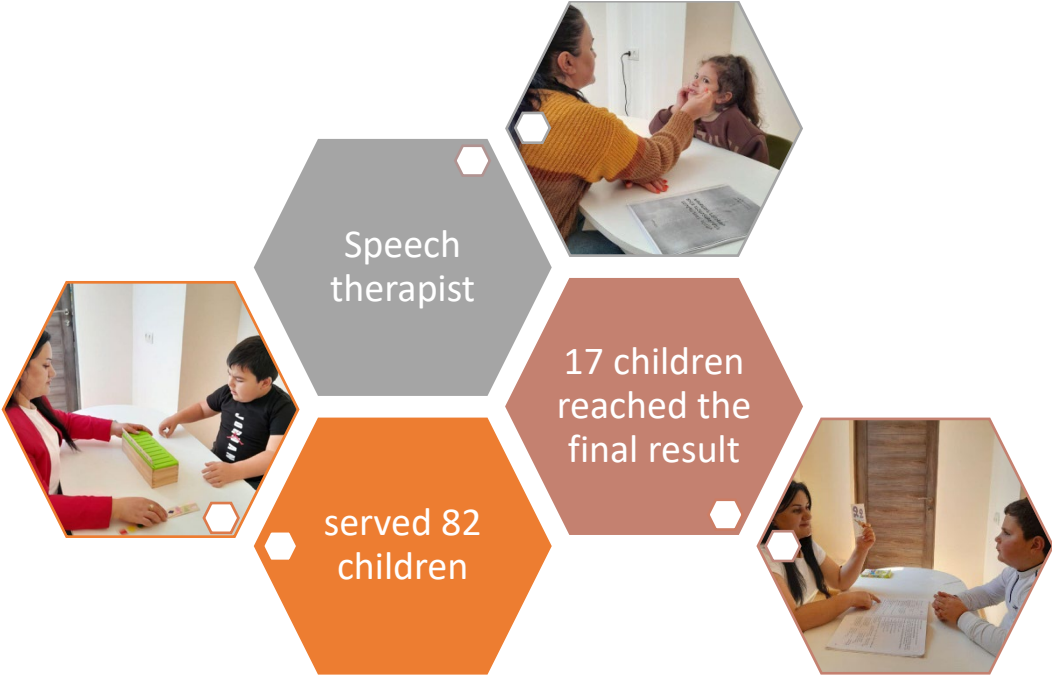
In 2024, the center operated on a very busy schedule, driven by the high demand from many parents who asked to enroll their children in the services offered. To accommodate this demand and include as many children as possible, the staff decided to schedule children with milder issues for services one day a week. This decision made it possible to extend services to additional children as well.

An agreement is signed with the parents of all children, detailing the rules of the center applicable to them. Attached to the agreement are the child's medical documents, personal documents of the child and parent, the individual development plan, and the family needs assessment questionnaire. A child is only included in the service after all these documents are complete.

Currently, we are developing a quality control procedure that will evaluate the work of our specialists on a quarterly basis.

Speech Therapy Service

Speech therapy services were provided to 82 children experiencing speech delays, cerebral palsy, and to children with autism. Among these, 13 children, who were displaced from Artsakh, were referred by schools. Out of the total, 17 children had their speech successfully corrected and subsequently completed their visits to the center.





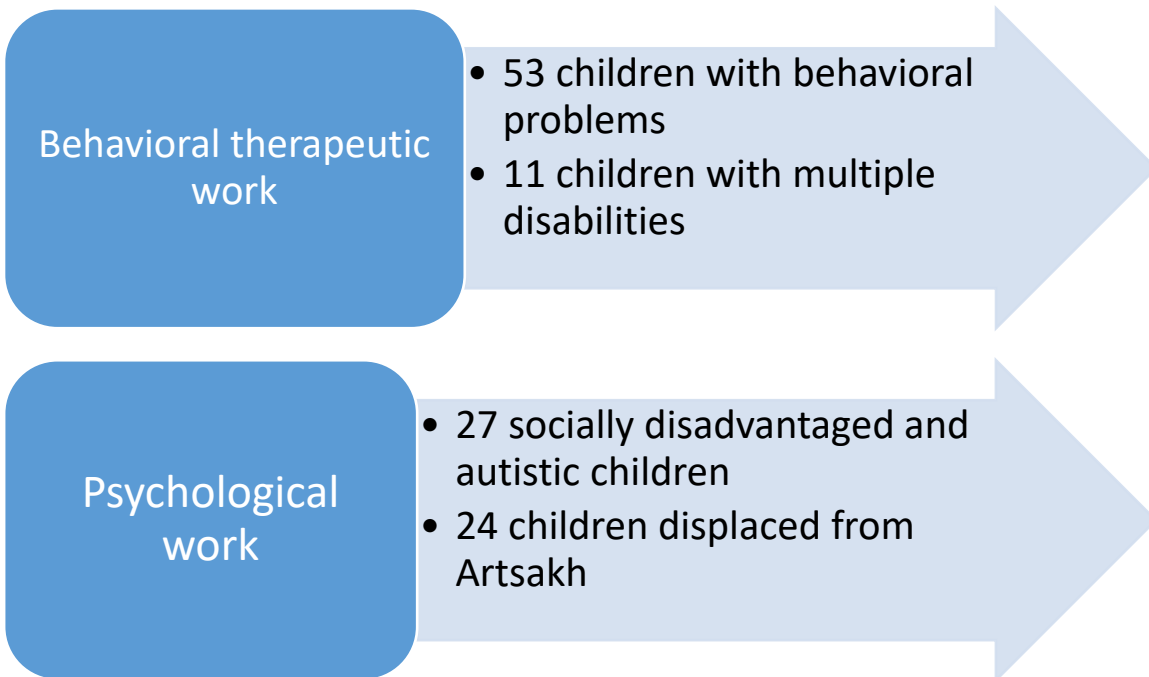
Psychological Service

In the first quarter of 2024, as the "Ada" center gained a positive reputation in Lori Marz, parents of children with behavioral issues began to seek services. It should be noted that the center currently serves 64 children who have complex behavioral problems or dual disabilities.



The psychologist at the center has divided the psychological work into two phases: psychological service and behavioral therapeutic work. This division has facilitated proper work planning and improved operational efficiency.

A significant focus has been on working with children displaced from Artsakh, primarily addressing issues related to fear, particularly fears of loud noises and hung.





Occupational Therapist Services

The service is specifically targeted at children with cerebral palsy, autism, and behavioral problems. During the period under review, 56 children benefited from these services. Occupational therapy focuses on restoring mobility, coordination, and strength, as well as developing fine motor skills, enabling children to perform daily activities more effectively. Additionally, during occupational therapy sessions, children learn to adapt to the use of prosthetics, orthoses, or other assistive devices.



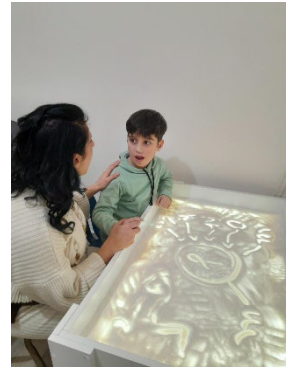
56 children used the services of an occupational therapist



49 of them are in constant need of service



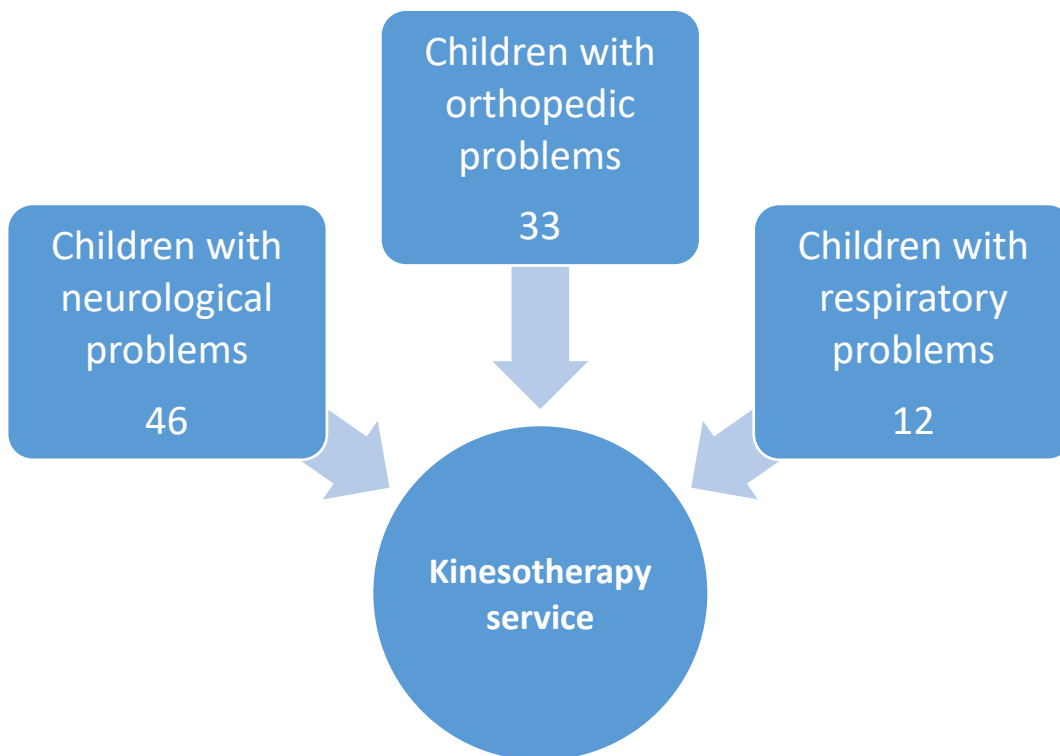
7 of them registered a final result, completed visits to the center

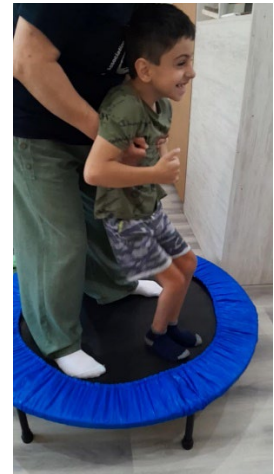
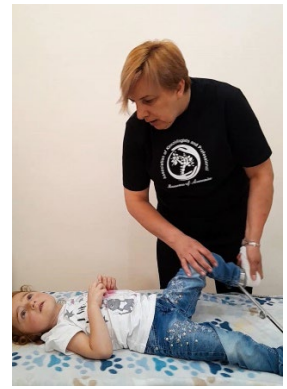


Kinesiotherapy

Physiotherapy is the most popular service at the center, mainly used by parents of children with cerebral palsy, brain injuries, and other neurological disorders. The treatment includes physical exercises, massages, and simulator use. Eleven children with orthopedic issues have finished their sessions and shown improvements in spine and leg conditions.

Children with cerebral palsy are a key focus, including six displaced children from Artsakh.





Service of a special educator



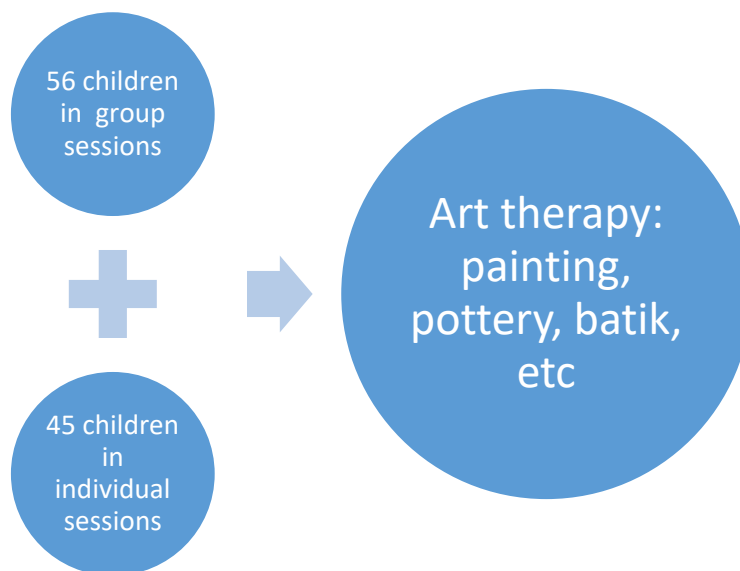
Almost all children at some stage of receiving services use the services of a special educator. The educator ensures the educational and social inclusion of each child, taking into account their individual needs and capabilities.

The special educator develops special educational programs based on the individual needs of the child. It implements the development of skills: concentration, language development, improvement of reading, writing and computing abilities. It also promotes the development of the child's self-confidence belief in his abilities.



Art therapy service.

Art therapy uses different forms of art to support children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. For children with disabilities, art therapy is a creative and enriching way to overcome the challenges they face. Children often find it difficult to express their feelings through speech. Art therapy gives them the opportunity to express their feelings, fears or anxieties in a creative way. It helps to reduce stress, overcome anxiety and to improve emotional self-regulation.



1. Development of social skills

- Group art therapy promotes communication between children, the development of teamwork skills and the establishment of social contact.
- Children learn to understand, accept and respect each other.

2. Development of motor skills and mobility

- Coloring, sculpting, using a brush, and using other art tools improve fine motor skills and coordination.



Children feel that their creations are valuable, which increases self-esteem and contributes to the recognition of the child's personal capabilities and the discovery of his potential.

Pottery is also used in art therapy, which is carried out in 2 groups, each of which includes 8 to 12 children. Periodically, the group is replenished or reduced. Children from socially disadvantaged families with many children are also included in art therapy.



Social work.

In social work, everyone receives an individual approach, an individual plan is developed for each beneficiary, which takes into account his needs, possibilities and priorities. This approach allows to achieve more effective and long-term results.



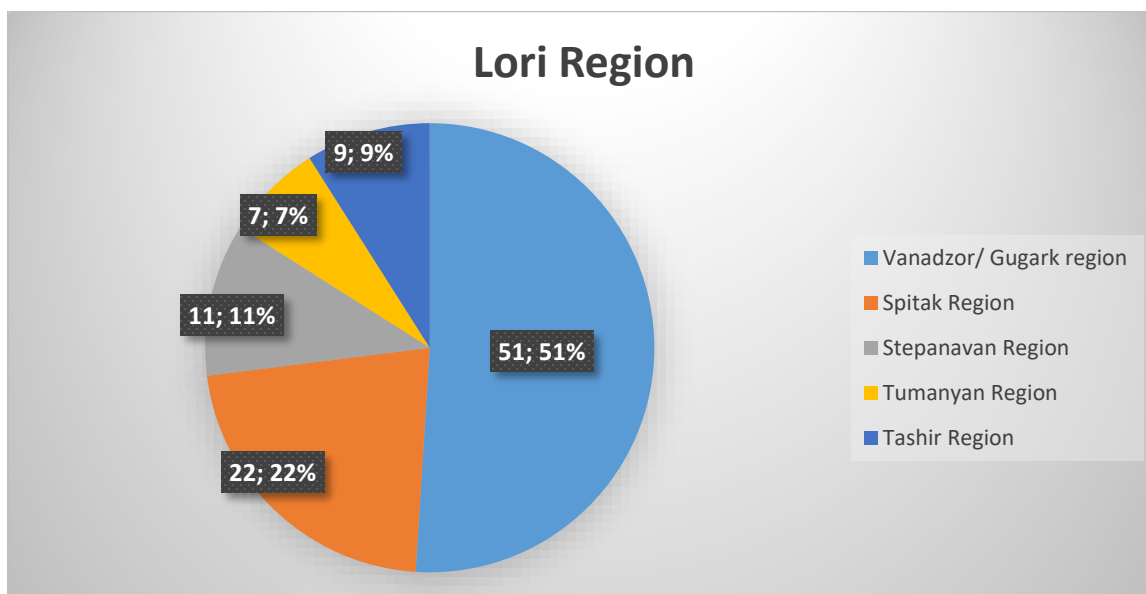
A social worker at the center provides support to individuals dealing with stress, anxiety, family issues, or social isolation. They assist beneficiaries in developing self-confidence and independence. Social work encompasses all families at the center; needs assessment sheets and sponsorship documents are meticulously completed and maintained.

All of Ada Center’s documentation is managed by the social worker and the coordinator, who both bear full responsibility for these records.

Social work plays an important role in the service delivery process, ensuring that the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed and promoting social inclusion. Social workers provide support not only to individuals

but also contribute to community development by creating equal opportunities for everyone.

GEOGRAPHY OF SERVICE PROVISION



2024 the center has expanded its geography and serves 14 communities. At the moment, the centers are attended by the communities of Gugark, Spitak, Stepanavan, Tashir and Tumanyan regions: Vanadzor, Spitak, Stepanavan, Tashir, Alaverdi, Darpas, Arevasogh, Geghasar, Gugark, Shahumyan, Aznvadzor, Dzorages, Bazum.

Children from distant communities attend the center once a week to receive services. Those from the Vanadzor community visit the center 2 to 3 times a week, depending on the specific requirements

and nature of the services needed. All children at the center receive multiple services during their visits.

IMPACT OF THE CENTER ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

"Ada" Day Center is an important environment designed to support children with disabilities and their families. The center aims to promote children's development and social inclusion and support their families.



Physical development

The center offers various therapeutic services, including physical therapy, kinesitherapy, and art therapy. These services enhance children's mobility, coordination, and muscle development.

- These therapies aim to mitigate the physical effects of disabilities and improve the children's mobility.

Psychological support

- Provides emotional support for children, reducing anxiety, fear and isolation.
- Children develop self-confidence and get the opportunity to discover their potential.

Educational inclusion

- The center provides special pedagogical support that contributes to the development of children's learning skills.
- Children are helped to overcome learning difficulties and integrate into the education system.



Development of social skills

- Group programs and courses contribute to the development of children's communication skills.
- Children learn to cooperate, understand and respect the people around them.

Creative and cultural development

- Through art, music and play, the center promotes children's creative development.
- Games and cultural events give children an opportunity to discover their talents.

The impact of the center on parents

Psychological support

- The center provides advice and support to parents to help them cope with stress, fatigue and childcare difficulties.
- Parents gain the necessary knowledge and skills to better understand and support their children.

Social engagement

- Through the center, families have the opportunity to communicate with other families, share experiences and support each other.
- This cooperation contributes to the strengthening of community ties.

Availability of services

- The Ada Center helps parents understand what services and programs are available for their children.
- Parents are able to take advantage of the center's professional counseling and legal assistance programs.

LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE ACTIVITY OF THE ADA CENTER

During 18 months, the activity of "Ada" day center has become a valuable experience in the field of working with children with disabilities and their families. The center plays an important role not only in ensuring children's development and inclusion, but also in changing the mindset and approaches of the community.

However, the needs of children change with their growth, development and environmental influences. The center has learned to constantly review and adapt services to meet the new needs of the beneficiaries. However, due to the lack of adequate resources, many things are not implemented.

In particular, it is necessary to work with children and young people with disabilities from the age of 13-14 through the development of craft skills, which can later become a source of income for them. For example: woodworking, doll making, beadwork, carpet making, etc. In the future, the center will also be able to bring finance to the center through social entrepreneurship.





The experience at the Ada Center underscores that even the smallest achievements—such as a child's first word, a new movement, or a budding social skill—are incredibly significant and deserve celebration and encouragement. This approach boosts the motivation of both families and staff members, fostering greater involvement at the center. Efforts will continue in this direction. However, progress has been hindered by the limited experience of the center's head and a lack of funding.

The accumulated experience during the activity of "Ada" Day Center shows that the support of children with disabilities and their families requires a versatile and adaptable approach. One of the most important lessons of the center is that the key to success is not only professionalism, but also patience, involvement and work done with love and care.

CENTER CHALLENGES

The number of children and families in need of support increases every month. Even if similar centers are opened in Lori Marz, they cannot survive for long and after 3 to 6 months they are closed due to lack of funds. Our biggest challenge is to have our own day center area.

Starting in 2026, the process of providing services by the Social Security Ministry will undergo significant changes. All certified organizations will be able to offer services directly without needing to apply through the ministry. Under this new system, parents will have the autonomy to choose where their children receive services. We anticipate that many children currently on our waiting list will choose to continue receiving services from our center.

Following certification, we will reassess and refine our service provision process to ensure it meets the new standards. This will include not only the mandated services directed by the certification but also additional services that address the specific needs of each child.

In 2024, we applied to the Ministry of Social Affairs to obtain certification to provide state-funded services. Unfortunately, our application was rejected because we did not meet the required standards, specifically lacking a security system and an accessible bathroom. The goal of our application was to expand our services to include 50 additional children, focusing particularly on children from socially disadvantaged and single-parent families, as well as children who are excluded from education.



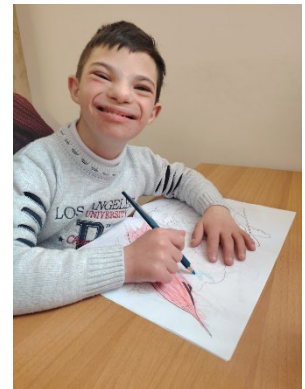
Our aim also extended to addressing the needs of children in Lori Marz, especially those from rural communities, where children from families with low educational levels are often subjected to labor exploitation. In larger communities, it is predominantly children with mental health issues who face exploitation. We plan to address these challenges by enhancing our facilities and standards to reapply for certification.

Additionally, when orphanages were decommissioned and special boarding schools closed, children were returned to their families, often becoming vulnerable targets. During our visits to these families, we've seen many troubling situations. Some parents lock their children with severe mental health issues in a room, give them sleeping pills to make them sleep all day, or never let them out of the room to hide them from society. Community social workers also identify these problems and alert us immediately; Since we do not have the appropriate means and are unable to help, we refer to state institutions. However, establishing a transitional center would be a vital step. This facility could provide temporary accommodation for children who have been exploited, abused by parents with mental health issues, or left out of education. At the center, we could handle their documentation and facilitate their transfer to other state institutions. This would play a crucial role in protecting these vulnerable children and ensuring they receive the appropriate care and support.

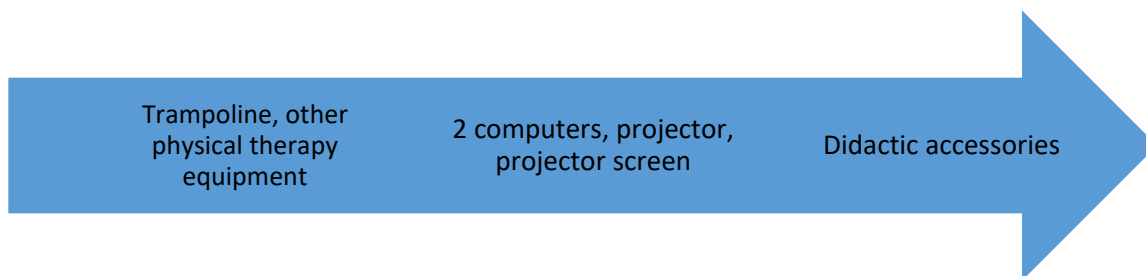


Working with the children's parents is also very important. If the children have the opportunity to stay in the center for 3 to 4 hours, then the parent will have the opportunity to think about planning those 4 hours. He will try to find a job, to specialize in any trade, which will contribute to improving the quality of family life.

Despite the challenges, the "Ada" center continues its important mission to help children with disabilities and their families. These issues give the center the opportunity to improve, develop its approaches and have a greater impact on the lives of beneficiaries. A number of challenges can be overcome through long-term planning, community support, and state and international cooperation.



DAY CENTER 2024 MATERIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



GENERAL CENTER EVENTS

The center is constantly planning events. 2024 we implemented the following events.

Holy Easter

- participated 55 children with disabilities participated and 20 socially disadvantaged children displaced from Artsakh

3 summer events dedicated to Children's Day

- participated 40 children with disabilities and 25 displaced and socially disadvantaged children from Artsakh

New Year Event

- participated 75 children with disabilities and 41 children displaced from Artsakh



During the New Year's event, we bought the children's name gifts with fundraising means, and the SOAR charity foundation also provided gifts and sweets. We organized the summer events at the expense of savings, and the Holy Easter celebration was completely organized under the auspices of SOAR.



CHARITY INITIATIVES AND SPONSORSHIP

2024 the basis for the program of support for the elderly was laid, mainly the 10 selected elderly are single disabled people who regularly apply for support.

Mothers of diaper-using center children and single elderly people also apply for support.

2024 an assessment of Vanadzor nursing home funds was carried out.

Through the center, dozens of families were sponsored by the SOAR charitable foundation, they were given household items, food, hygiene items, as well as many electrical items to start their own business.



We propose developing a monitoring tool to assess the conditions of families after they receive sponsorship. If a family has been sponsored and received funds to start their own business, this tool will evaluate the progress of the family's financial situation after 3 and 6 months of the program. If no progress is made, the sponsorship could be discontinued. Additionally, the tool will help identify the true needs of families selected for sponsorship, particularly in terms of employment, allowing us to tailor the sponsorship more effectively to their specific circumstances.





"Mother and child health" program

The Mother and Child Health program in Vanadzor launched in March, attracting over 30 pregnant women. The program consisted of 8 sessions, designed to cater to the specific interests and needs of the participants.

Throughout the course, the pregnant women met with a range of specialists including a gynecologist, psychologist, dentist, therapist, two pediatricians, a nutritionist, the director of the Unified Social Service, and an audiologist. These experts covered various topics and addressed the questions of the future mothers.

The program received a positive reception in Vanadzor, as demonstrated by the number of pregnant women visiting the center to sign up for the next session.



VISIBILITY OF THE CENTER

We attach great importance to the visibility of the center during its activities. 2024 We hired an SMM specialist on a volunteer basis, who completed a 3-month course. After completing the course, she

created user accounts for the center on social platforms, actively posts advertisements 2-3 times a week on the networks. Currently, she is working on opening an account in LinkedIn.



We cooperated with Depi Hayk structure and 2 volunteers were involved in Ada's services, one as a neuropsychologist, the second as a nutritionist. They also share their opinions about our center in their organization and thereby ensure visibility.

The representatives of SOAR Denmark and Canada visited the center, got acquainted with the services on the spot, talked with the parents, interacted with the children, studied the documentation of the services provided to the children.

