

LIFE - Livelihood Improvement through Fostered Employment for People with Disabilities



The Livelihood Improvement through Fostered Employment (LIFE) for People with Disabilities Program (2012-2015) is implemented by

Save the Children with financial support from the USAID.

LIFE Program partners are Activa International Foundation, Unison, Human Dignity and Peace (HDP) Foundation, and Full Life NGOs.

LIFE Program cooperates with the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues of Armenia (MLSI), the State Employment Agency (SEA), Medical Social Expertise Agency (MSEA) Employment Centers (ECs), Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), People with Disabilities (PWD), local and marz authorities, service providers, TVET institutions and employers.

LIFE Program works to promote equal employment opportunities and access to employment as a basic human right for people with disabilities.

UP TO DATE RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM

435 PWDs accomplished /participated in Work Readiness and Life Skills Trainings organized by Unison, HDP Foundation and Full Life NGOs, and **20** PWDs with visual impairments benefited from the special courses based on “Arev” and “Jaws” computer programs;

420 young people with disabilities from special and boarding schools took part in professional orientation workshops organized by the Program;

900 PWD were trained in Yerevan, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak vocational institutions;

154 Young Persons With Disabilities entered Technical and Vocational Institutions (TVET) to continue their education;

887 teachers of **44** TVETs in target marzes attended a series of workshops on the main principles of work with PWD and inclusive education;



129 representatives of State Employment Agency and Medical Social Expertise Agency of the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues were trained on main principals of work with PWD;

28 Employment Centers of Yerevan, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak marzes as well as Medical-Social Expertise Agency's Yerevan office were equipped with MAST tests, and **215** PWD were assessed via MAST equipment;

More than **540** employers participated in round table discussions on PWD employment issues organized by the LIFE program partner organizations;

LIFE program facilitated the participation of **945** PWD in job fairs in Yerevan, Vanadzor, Gyumri, Artashat and other cities of Armenia;

17 social enterprises were established in cooperation with NGOs, business structures and municipalities;

305 persons with disabilities have been employed since the beginning of the LIFE program in January 2012;

More than **15** special manuals and handbooks were developed and printed within the framework of the program.

MOREOVER

LIFE Program in cooperation with academic community conducted the *Public Opinion Poll and Research on Needs and Barriers of PWD Employment*;

"We All Have the Right to Work", "It's Time to Realize Our Abilities" and "I am ABLE to Work – Justice Is In Your Hands" nation-wide awareness raising campaigns were organized in 2012 – 2014;

4 public service announcements were produced and aired during the campaigns;

Numerous research and analysis on PWD employment issues were conducted within the framework and in support of the program activities.



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