



ASSOCIATION ARMÉNIENNE
D'AIDE SOCIALE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

SOMMAIRE

What we do	04
Our projects in Armenia	05
Women's empowerment in Armenia	06
Direct Aid from Australia	07
Testimonials	09
Support from Saint Sarkis Charity Trust	10
Testimonials	12
Arev Society support	13
Voluntary return	15
Le Coq Français	16
French classrooms	17
Nursing Home Management	18
Armenian Residence of Montmorency	19
L'eglantier Residence of Gonesse	20
Armenian Home Residence of St Raphael	21
Our perspectives for Nursing Homes	22
Our perspectives for 2025	23
Support our Actions	24
Our addresses	25
Membership form	27

NOTRE ACTION

Vulnerable Women's empowerment in Armenia



+100

Income-generating activities created since 2022

Education



+8000

Educational project beneficiaries

Migration - Return to Sources



+400

Small businesses created since 2005

Nursing Homes



3

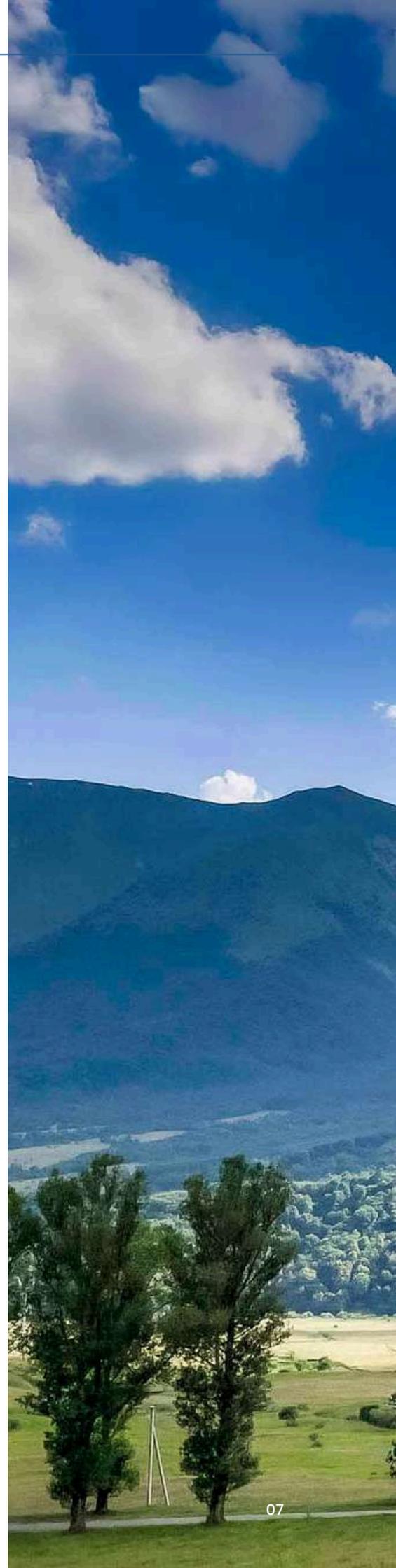
Nursing Homes with 150 employees committed to ageing well

OUR PROJECTS IN ARMENIA

The year 2024 marked a new milestone in our commitment to development and support for vulnerable populations. Through our projects, we continued our work in key areas, including migration, education, assistance to those in need, and the promotion of the French-speaking community.

Among these initiatives, particular attention was once again focused on empowering vulnerable women, especially refugee women, wives of military personnel affected by the 2020 war, and subsequent military conflicts. Through concrete and targeted programs, we supported their resilience and opened new prospects for the future.

This 2024 annual report reflects the progress made, challenges overcome, and successes achieved. It testifies to our constant commitment to supporting women and displaced persons from Artsakh toward sustainable autonomy. Through these pages, we invite you to discover the impact of our actions and the promising perspectives for the future.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ARMENIA

In 2024, AAAS, in partnership with the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development (AF4SD), intensified its efforts to support forcibly displaced women, refugee women, and widows from the 2020 war. These women, particularly affected by war and military conflicts, often find themselves in situations of great precarity, facing the loss of family support and dire living conditions.

Given the severe impact of these hardships, we have focused on providing practical, long-term support. Our goal is to help individuals overcome these challenges by restoring their economic stability and financial independence, both of which are crucial for successful reintegration into society. We have developed targeted programs that build essential skills and create new career opportunities.

With this in mind, two major projects were launched in 2024 as part of the "Vulnerable Women Empowerment Program." These two projects were realized this year thanks to financial support from the Australian government and the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust. The program aims to provide professional training tailored to the needs of the Armenian job market, covering areas such as crafts, agriculture, and digital skills, and to create income-generating activities, thereby offering beneficiaries concrete opportunities for subsistence. These initiatives have already begun to yield payoffs. By addressing both immediate financial needs and long-term career development, we're creating pathways from vulnerability to self-reliance.



DIRECT AID FROM AUSTRALIA

REFUGEE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ARMENIA

In 2024, we continued our tireless efforts to advance the self-sufficiency of women affected by war. Thanks to the support of the Australian Government through its Direct Aid program and a partnership with the Armenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, we implemented this project to support refugee women from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

The project established 18 income-generating activities and funded 15 professional training programs, providing vulnerable women with pathways to economic independence. Participants gained expertise across diverse fields, including agriculture and artisan production, as well as sewing, hairdressing, and accounting, allowing them to choose careers aligned with their interests and market opportunities.

It's worth noting that, for two consecutive years, our partner, the Armenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, has received invaluable support from the Australian government for our "Vulnerable Women Empowerment in Armenia" program. Through this cooperation, the program has successfully established 29 micro-enterprises and organized 30 professional training programs.



These projects were rolled out using a systematic approach: through detailed screening and field evaluations, the project distributed grants via in-kind contributions to the most viable ventures. The supported women received personalized, hands-on assistance tailored to their unique situations, enabling them to tackle and resolve the economic and social barriers they encountered.

A CONTINUING COMMITMENT

Our partnership reached a pivotal moment in April 2024 when the Australian Government delegation, led by the Ambassador, visited Armenia. This visit enabled Australian officials to witness firsthand the impact of their investment, as they met directly with beneficiaries, toured flourishing micro-enterprises, and observed tangible results in action.

The women shared powerful stories of transformation, describing how they had overcome significant challenges and the profound impact this support had had on their lives and families. These personal accounts demonstrated not just individual success but the broader community impact of our collaborative efforts.

The stories of our beneficiaries are ones of resilience and determination. Each training session completed, each business established represents a step toward regained independence and a more stable future for them and their families.

We remain convinced that economic empowerment is an essential key to enabling them to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence. Thanks to the commitment of our partners and the courage of these women, these projects are not just one-off interventions, but sustainable levers for social and economic transformation.



We will continue to work with determination to provide our beneficiaries with the tools and opportunities they need to build a more promising future for themselves and their families.

TESTIMONIALS

The day of our departure will be forever etched in my memory. Our big family, composed of children, a pregnant woman, elderly people, and I, with my six-month-old daughter and my two sons, went through extreme hardships.

We fought to stay alive, following twisted trails through suffocating wilderness. For years, I buried these memories deep, unwilling to relive that nightmare. But my husband is convinced that we must preserve and share with the world all that we endured. To him, these scars weren't just personal wounds; they were the threads that wove together our past and would shape our future.



Shamam, 3 children

Refugee from Martakert, Artsakh



Although I lost my husband, the news of my son was like a glimmer of hope through the darkness. It reminded me that even in the most challenging moments, there is always something to hold onto, a reason to keep going. It is this connection, this hope, that allowed me to stay strong.



Ninel, 2 children

Refugee from Artsakh



Find more testimonials by scanning the QR code

SUPPORT FROM SAINT SARKIS CHARITY TRUST

For several years, the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust Foundation and Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale (AAAS) have collaborated to enhance the social protection of vulnerable women in Armenia. This collaboration continued in 2024 with reinforced commitment in favor of refugee women and war widows, offering them material support to rebuild their future through training and economic opportunities.

Building on the actions carried out in 2023, when 17 economic projects and 16 professional training programs were funded, our program enabled us once again this year to support women affected by conflicts. Following a call for applications in February 2024, 44 funding requests were received. After a rigorous selection process, five agricultural projects and five professional training programs were selected and funded for this session.

The beneficiaries are women aged 21 to 55 who were forcibly displaced from Artsakh in September 2023. They aspire to develop small businesses, particularly in the agricultural sector, a key area for their integration and economic autonomy.



AN EXPANDED PROGRAM AND STRONG ENTHUSIASM



This program is not limited to simple financial support: it is a true lever of emancipation, promoting women's economic autonomy and their reintegration into society.

Thanks to our partners and the determination of the beneficiaries, we continued to work to offer these women the means to transform their resilience into sustainable success.

The commitment of the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust Foundation was also materialized by the launch, in September 2024, of a new project.

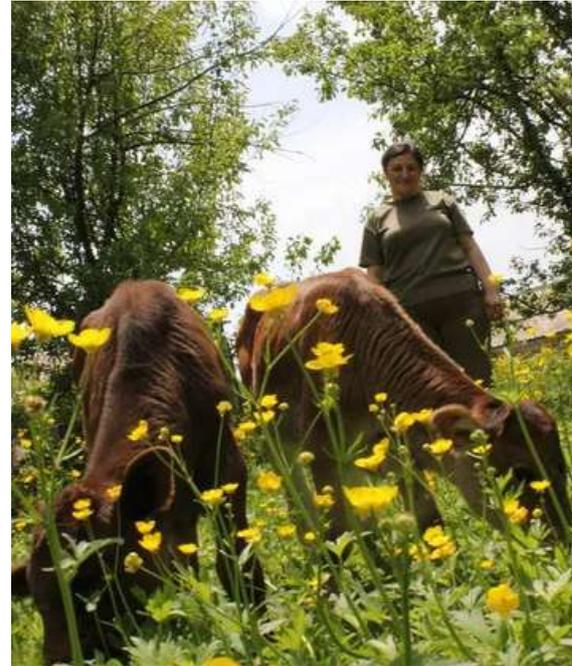
Interest in this project exceeded all expectations, with 175 refugee women expressing their desire to participate. Among them, women aged 18 to 65, from displaced families, as well as widows and mothers who lost a loved one during the 2020 war or recent hostilities.

In October 2024, 95 candidates participated in an intensive workshop covering business plan creation, accounting basics, and entrepreneurial coaching. These women acquired essential skills to structure their projects and gain a better understanding of business management. However, beyond practical teachings, this workshop provided a genuine space for sharing and mutual aid, thereby strengthening solidarity among participants.

TESTIMONIALS

For more than 15 years, I taught history in Martakert, Artsakh. I never would have imagined becoming, in turn, the involuntary actor of such cruel and unjust historical events.

The real turning point came when I understood how much my dark thoughts weighed on my children. The pain in their eyes revealed to me how deeply my suffering had affected them. I then knew that I had to change, not only for myself, but especially for them.



“ Shushanik, 4 children
displaced from Martakert, Artsakh



JI spent countless nights crying and praying for my husband to come back to me safe and sound. But that never happened. Depression slowly invaded me, and to tell the truth, I will never fully recover from the loss.

I'm not really able to put my feelings into words after launching this activity, but I think it constantly keeps me busy and helps me stay focused on the present moment. I also felt a sense of accomplishment and connection with the land that my husband loved so much.

“ Zhanna, 2 children
war widow

Find more testimonials by scanning the QR code



AREV SOCIETY SUPPORTS WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Since 2020, our partnership with the Arev Society has played a crucial role in supporting vulnerable women in Armenia, particularly through their support for our "Vulnerable Women Empowerment" program and funding of micro-enterprises. This cooperation has also enabled us to identify a crucial need: the need for digital literacy.

In an increasingly digitized world, mastery of computer tools has become an indispensable lever for professional insertion and entrepreneurship.



This is why, in 2024, a digital training program was designed and implemented. Starting in June, the Arev Society launched courses designed to strengthen the basic computer skills of beneficiaries, focusing on the use of Microsoft Office, online job searching, and awareness of cyber risks. This project is part of our commitment to promoting the autonomy of refugee women from Artsakh and war widows, thereby providing them with the means to better integrate into the job market and develop their economic initiatives.



Furthermore, upon the request of the AF4SD, the Arev Society initiated an in-depth analysis report on the empowerment program for vulnerable women. This document will evaluate the effectiveness of our economic empowerment program for refugee and vulnerable women. The study involved more than 100 women entrepreneurs, analyzing the financial, psychological, social, and personal aspects of their experiences.

 **AREV
SOCIETY**

SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS

We need you!

Make your donations by following the link
below or by scanning the QR code

www.aaas.fr/contribution





VOLUNTARY RETURN

For more than 20 years, the Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale and the Armenian Foundation for Sustainable Development have been committed to supporting Armenian migrants in irregular situations in France, offering them a new chance to rebuild their future in Armenia in partnership with the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII).

These individuals benefit from comprehensive support, which combines voluntary return assistance with economic and social reintegration programs.



Behind every application submitted to the granting committee lies a deeply personal ambition, a dream waiting to unfold. Whether it's opening a neighborhood business, launching an artisan workshop, or cultivating a small farm, each proposal represents hope transformed into action. The committee's decisions are based on a thorough analysis of each venture's potential, guided by one unwavering goal: ensuring sustainable success that unlocks lasting opportunities.

But the assistance doesn't stop there. Beyond financial support, beneficiaries are accompanied at every step of their journey. AAAS and AF4SD teams conduct regular visits to monitor project evolution, provide guidance, and adjust support as needed. This hands-on approach not only ensures the viability of emerging businesses but also instills renewed hope and positive momentum in entrepreneurs who have chosen to rebuild their lives from the ground up.

LE COQ FRANÇAIS

"Le Coq Français" has become the premier event for young French speakers in Armenia, inspiring students to pursue excellence in the language of Molière.

Each year during Francophone Month, schoolchildren from across Armenia showcase their linguistic prowess while celebrating their passion for French culture.



The 2024 edition achieved remarkable success, drawing over 2,500 students from every region of Armenia. Their enthusiasm and linguistic mastery highlighted the growing significance of French within Armenia's educational landscape.

This year's competition flourished thanks to the invaluable partnership of the French Embassy in Armenia, the French University in Armenia (UFAR), and the French Institute of Armenia. Their collaborative support transformed the event into an enriching experience that exceeded all expectations.



Building on this momentum, "Le Coq Français" continues to expand its reach, providing young Armenians with an exceptional platform to showcase their linguistic abilities while strengthening the cultural ties between Armenia and the global Francophone community.



FRENCH CLASSROOMS

Since 2018, the Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development (AF4SD) has partnered with the Stepan Gishyan Charitable Foundation to champion French language education by establishing dedicated French classrooms in Armenia's remote regions.



This transformative initiative has already created nine state-of-the-art classrooms, each designed to provide students with an engaging and immersive learning experience. Far beyond traditional teaching spaces, these classrooms serve as vibrant cultural hubs where students explore and embrace both the French language and Francophone culture.

The project exemplifies AAAS's steadfast dedication to educational excellence and cultural exchange in Armenia. By investing in these learning environments, we empower young generations to expand their horizons and build futures enriched by multilingual competency and global cultural awareness.



NURSING HOME MANAGEMENT

In France, our dedication to elderly care is demonstrated through our comprehensive work in nursing homes, known as EHPADs (Etablissement d'Hébergement pour Personnes Âgées Dépendantes). Recognizing the complex challenges of aging, we are committed to delivering exceptional care, compassionate support, and peaceful living environments where our elders can thrive with dignity and respect.

Through strategic partnerships with healthcare professionals and the medical-social sector, we tailor our services to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each resident. Our person-centered approach ensures that individual well-being, safety, and dignity remain our highest priorities in every interaction.

These facilities transcend traditional accommodation models, evolving into vibrant communities where genuine warmth and personalized attention create environments of comfort and security. Each day, we strive to foster spaces where our elders feel valued, respected, and truly at home.

ARMENIAN RESIDENCE OF MONTMORENCY

Throughout 2024, the Armenian Residence nursing home demonstrated a firm commitment to resident well-being through dynamic programming, community engagement, and continuous service enhancement.

The residence offered an extensive calendar of activities designed to foster social connections and personal fulfillment.



From art exhibitions and dental health awareness sessions to birthday celebrations featuring live musical performances, each event was carefully crafted to enhance residents' quality of life. Significant were the intergenerational meetings that bridged age gaps and created lasting bonds within our community.

In parallel, the facility undertook comprehensive preparation for the quality evaluation by the High Authority of Health (HAS), scheduled for January 2025. A thorough self-assessment conducted in September 2024 identified both institutional strengths and opportunities for enhancement, reflecting our commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.



Dedicated working groups comprising residents, families, and staff members were established to examine critical aspects of care delivery. This inclusive approach ensures that all voices are heard and that improvements reflect the needs and perspectives of our entire community.



L'EGLANTIER RESIDENCE OF GONESSE

The Gonesse nursing home prioritized resident engagement and facility enhancement throughout 2024, implementing comprehensive programming that encouraged community connections while advancing infrastructure improvements to elevate care standards.

Cultural enrichment initiatives formed the cornerstone of our 2024 activity calendar. Residents participated in curated excursions to regional exhibitions, museums, and cultural landmarks, providing intellectual stimulation and meaningful social interaction beyond facility walls. These outings demonstrated measurable benefits in resident engagement and overall satisfaction scores.

Within the facility, structured creative workshops and adaptive physical therapy programs were implemented to maintain and enhance residents' motor and cognitive functions. These evidence-based activities not only supported therapeutic goals but also facilitated peer relationships and community building among residents.



Family engagement initiatives were expanded in 2024, including themed social events and informal gathering opportunities. These programs successfully strengthened intergenerational connections while providing families with meaningful participation in their loved ones' daily experiences. Attendance rates increased by 23% compared to the previous year.

ARMENIAN HOME RESIDENCE OF ST RAPHAEL

The year 2024 was marked by a rich program of festive and cultural events, bringing joy and dynamism to the Armenian Home. Celebrations punctuated daily life with special meals, creative workshops, and precious moments of sharing between residents and families. Fun and gourmet activities also occupied a central place: making apple compotes, gardening, mini-golf, an Egypt workshop, sewing, and creating photo albums.

Well-being remained a priority, with dedicated workshops, zotherapy sessions, and even a boxing demonstration, offering residents the opportunity to experience varied and stimulating experiences.

Finally, the magic of Christmas illuminated the establishment, transforming it into a truly fairy-tale setting. A festive market, Santa Claus's arrival, and intergenerational activities strengthened the bonds between schoolchildren and residents, particularly during activities such as pumpkin decoration and nativity figure-making. These intense moments illustrate the Armenian Home's commitment to offering a warm, animated, and enriching living environment for all.



Find out more:

www.ehpadhomearmenien.fr

www.facebook.com/people/Animations-EHPAD-Home-Arménien/61561494868962/

OUR PERSPECTIVES

for Nursing Homes

AAAS will continue in 2025 its multi-year plan to support users through the living environment improvement program in its residences with support from ARS (Regional Health Agencies), CNSA (National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy), Departmental Councils of Val d'Oise and Var, the Bank of Territories (CDC) as well as the municipalities of Gonesse, Montmorency, and Saint-Raphaël:

- at EHPAD Résidence l'Eglantier (Gonesse), continuation of room expansion work started at the end of 2024 by mounting metal structures and frameworks on facades, installing windows and motorized roller shutters, and delivery of the first 10 redesigned rooms starting at the end of March 2025;
- at EHPAD Armenian Residence (Montmorency), continuation of the renovation-extension operation with completion of phase 4 work, which will bring the total number of rehabilitated housing units to 68 out of a planned capacity of 84 beds and launch of phase 5 of the program;
- at EHPAD Armenian Home (St Raphaël), validation by supervisory authorities of the Multi-Year Investment Plan including the architectural project, submission of funding requests to lenders, continuation of the kitchen standards compliance project, the program to replace roller shutters in rooms with solar models, improvement of SSI room accessibility and development of a rest room on the 3rd floor ;

For all three residences, progress in negotiations with pricing and control authorities allows AAAS to envision concluding Multi-Year Objective and Means Contracts in 2025. The High Authority of Health's evaluation of the three nursing homes will be conducted in the first quarter of 2025, as per the programming orders.

AAAS continues to implement its QLWC (Quality of Life and Working Conditions) approach by offering well-being workshops for employees in 2025.

Finally, in daily life, through innovative projects and territorial partnerships (such as the creation of dedicated places for non-residents in Gonesse and Montmorency, and open tables for neighborhood seniors in St-Raphaël), our organization continues to promote its commitment to healthy aging.

OUR PERSPECTIVES

for 2025

- ✓ Social and economic reintegration program for migrants in the context of voluntary return, in partnership with OFII and the AF4SD (since 2005 to date)
- ✓ Socio-economic empowerment program for vulnerable women, war victims, forcibly displaced and refugees, in cooperation with the Arev Society (since 2020 to date)
- ✓ Training and education programs (creation of French classes in schools in Armenia's regions since 2017 to date)
- ✓ Sports initiatives (Generation Sport Project, UEFA Project since 2020 to date)
- ✓ Promotion of French-speaking culture (Francophone Month with a national competition "French Rooster" bringing together more than 2,500 French-speaking students since 2017 to date)
- ✓ Scholarships for students at the French University in Armenia (UFAR) since 2004 to date
- ✓ Capacity building program in digital literacy and AI tools for women war victims and refugees in cooperation with the Arev Society (since 2024 to date)
- ✓ Improvement of the AI-based prototype to predict the success and failure rates of businesses created by returning migrants. This diagnostic tool, as a human-controlled decision-making assistant (ADM), after validation, could be adapted for other target audiences and in different contexts to facilitate decision-making with non-subjective criteria.
- ✓ Various social projects adapted to local needs

SUPPORT OUR ACTIONS

You can support our actions by joining AAAS, making a bequest, or simply through your donations

AAAS membership means:

- Join France's oldest Armenian organization
- Support our actions both in France and Armenia
- Exercise voting rights at the General Assembly and thus participate in its activities
- Receive the AAAS newsletter and annual report

Annual membership amounts:

- Student or retired - €20
- Member - €40
- Benefactor member - €1,000



A membership form is available at the end of this report or can be downloaded by clicking here



All donations are tax-deductible in France, with significant savings for donors:

- Individuals: Deduct up to 66% of your donation amount
- Companies: Deduct up to 60% of your donation amount

Actual cost for individuals after tax benefits:

- €150 donation = €51 out-of-pocket cost
- €100 donation = €34 out-of-pocket cost
- €50 donation = €17 out-of-pocket cost

Your support makes our work possible. Every donation directly enables us to implement vital projects that transform lives in France and Armenia.





Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale

Recognized as being of public utility by the decree of June 8, 1956

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L'eglantier Residence of Gonesse

Tel.: +33 1 39 85 24 24

OUR ADDRESSES

IN FRANCE

AND IN ARMENIA



Armenian Residence of Montmorency

Tel.: +33 1 39 83 20 67

info@af4sd.org

www.af4sd.org

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Armenian Fund for Sustainable Development

10/7, Azatutyan avenue

0037, Yerevan, Armenia

Tel.: +374 10 20 18 40



Armenian Home Residence of St Raphael

Tel.: +33 4 94 19 51 50



Our Partners



L'Agence des Médecines
Complémentaires Adaptées



Bundesamt
für Migration
und Flüchtlinge

www.arsa.fr



DEMANDE D'ADHÉSION

Veillez remplir et imprimer le formulaire ci-dessous pour pouvoir adhérer à l'Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale¹. Pour que votre demande soit présentée au Conseil d'Administration pour validation de votre adhésion, votre bulletin doit être accompagné d'un chèque correspondant au montant de votre cotisation annuelle ou de votre don², ainsi que d'une copie de votre carte d'identité.

Madame / Monsieur³ Nom : _____ Prénom : _____

Adresse : Rue : _____ Ville : _____ Code Postal : _____

Téléphone fixe / portable : _____ / _____ Courriel : _____@_____

Né (e) à _____ le ___/___/___ Profession/Occupation : _____

Après avoir pris connaissance des règles régissant l'AAAS, je souhaite adhérer à l'Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale en tant que : adhérent /bienfaiteur⁴

Fait à _____ Date : le ___/___/___ Signature _____

CADRE RESERVÉ AU CONSEIL

AVIS : FAVORABLE / DÉFAVORABLE

Décision prise le _____

Signature : _____

Signifié (e) le _____

RÈGLES QUI RÉGISSENT L'A.A.A.S.

Association à but non lucratif créée en 1890 et reconnue d'utilité publique par décret du 8 juin 1956, l'Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale (anciennement Société de Bienfaisance des Arméniens de Paris) a été toujours présente lors des événements majeurs qui ont fait l'histoire des arméniens en France.

Indépendante de toute tendance politique ou confessionnelle et se fondant sur des valeurs de solidarité et d'entraide, l'Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale a pour objectif de favoriser le progrès social et d'apporter sa contribution pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations vulnérables.

¹ Conformément à la loi "informatique et libertés" du 6 janvier 1978, vous bénéficiez d'un droit d'accès et de rectification aux informations qui vous concernent.

² Votre cotisation et vos dons donnent droit à une réduction fiscale de 66% (dans la limite de 20% du revenu imposable). En cas d'avis défavorable, vous serez notifié(e) et votre chèque vous sera retourné à l'adresse figurant sur ce formulaire.

³ Rayer la mention inutile

⁴ Rayer la mention inutile



L'AAAS appartient au secteur privé non lucratif. Son activité principale consiste dans la gestion de son groupe d'EHPAD. Elle dispose également d'un pôle projets destiné à la mise en œuvre de ses missions qui sont les suivantes :

- Apporter une aide sociale
- Étudier et mettre en œuvre des solutions d'assistance et d'accompagnement en matière sanitaire, sociale et médico-sociale
- Œuvrer au développement durable et solidaire
- Renforcer la coopération en matière de mobilité avec les intervenants dans le domaine socio-économique en France, au sein de l'Union Européenne et à l'international
- Renforcer les capacités des partenaires intervenant dans le domaine socio-économique et culturel.

L'importance de ses actions est liée aux dons que reçoit l'Association et qui sont déductibles des revenus imposables.

La cotisation minimum est de :

- 20 € pour les étudiants et les retraités.
- 40 € pour les membres adhérents.
- 1000 € pour les membres bienfaiteurs (membre à vie).

La qualité de membre se perd par :

- démission.
- non-paiement de cotisation.
- radiation pour motif grave.

La modification éventuelle du montant de la cotisation est soumise à l'approbation de l'Assemblée générale annuelle.

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