



հայաստան համահայկական հիմնադրամ  
The Armenia Fund



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Rural Development Program

DATE: 04 April, 2008  
FROM: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATE OF THE ARMENIA FUND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In our first report in April, we want to invite you to a very springtime photo journey to Tavush. We made the trip to deliver a TV, DVD player and a whole collection of educational and recreational DVDs to the Azatamut community library as part of the small projects initiative. We also used the opportunity to visit Aknaghbyur community, which will also soon benefit from the small projects initiative and did a bit of scouting around for our buy-a-cow project.

### TAVUSH REVISITED

With the TV, DVD player and all the accessories for the newly renovated Azatamut library already purchased, we couldn't just let it sit in our office and jumped at the first opportunity to deliver it to the beneficiaries in this border community.



The spring is very much in the air here in Armenia and every meter of the 160+km journey to Tavush was a testament to the nature's awakening...



...from roads framed with blooming trees...



...to greening vineyards and people selling Asparagus on the roadsides...



...to gravity defying Armenian cows back to their vertical pastures.





By the way about defying gravity, the following is not a scene from a sci-fi movie (did you guess from which one?), it's just us exiting the tunnel connecting Sevan to Dilijan.



Science fiction aside, it's good to know that the police will always be there to bring you back to reality. When the officer found out that we were from the Armenia Fund Rural Development Program, he asked us to also look at the problems of his home village of Teghut (a small community near the town of Dilijan).





After around two hours on the road and several detours to other border communities (more on that in our next report), we finally reached our destination point of Azatamut. Anahit Tarverdyan, the community librarian (and a very, very proactive person) was there to greet us by the library with several community members who helped us carry the equipment inside.



Although the renovation of the library is already complete, the place is still empty as the bookshelves are yet to be painted to accommodate the renewed book stock (courtesy of Shakeh Havan, the sponsor of the initiative). After the boxes were inside, we didn't waste time and started assembling the TV stand, to show off our (not very impressive) construction skills.



With the school out, the children of Azatamut started gathering at the door of the library, curious to find out what is going on...



...finally the stand was assembled and with the TV and DVD in place, yet another small project came to life. We hope that this project will help the library become the user friendly educational and pastime environment that the community needs so much.



We returned home with a clear understanding that there is still a long way to go till our job here is done. At the same time, we believe that with each similar project we come one step closer and that is a very good feeling.

