



Հայաստանի համահայկական հիմնադրամ
The Armenta Fund



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Rural Development Program

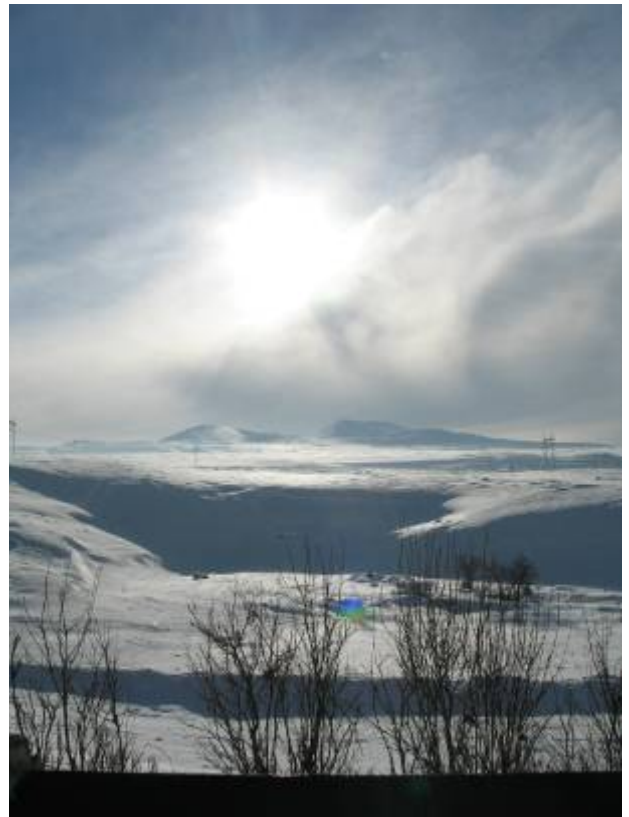
DATE: 25 JANUARY, 2008
FROM: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATE OF THE ARMENIA FUND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This week, we decided to wander off the beaten track of our usual weekly report structure and present you with a photo story that has hopefully captured some of the striking beauty of rural Armenia. These photos were taken by us, during a trip to the pilot cluster of Khashtarak in the Tavush region. The aim of the trip was to organize the purchase and delivery of construction materials for the Azatamut library improvement project.

THE ROAD TO KHASHTARAK



Once you escape the grey urban setting of Yerevan, the world around you completely changes with the square and grounded structures replaced by the quiet grandeur of the nature. This year we were treated to an unusually snowy winter, which is, apparently, the only good thing about global warming.





Our road to the regional center of Ijevan and the villages of the Khashtarak cluster lay through the regions of Gegharkunik and Tavush. Considered to be two of the most beautiful regions of Armenia, they are defined by the landmark lake Sevan in Gegharkunik and Dilijan's dense Alpine forests in Tavush.

After a solid hour of gradual build up, we caught the first glimpse of frozen Sevan: a subject of passionate love in the landlocked Armenia. Not straying away from the national tradition – our little tribute to Sevan.



After Sevan, the road winds into the mountains and sets the scene for Tavush region. The difference between the two regions is striking and is best felt when you enter and exit the tunnel that connects the two parts of the country. The dry, treeless setting is instantly transformed into picturesque hills and forests.



Here is a little glimpse of what many Armenians call our own little Switzerland: Dilijan.



As we neared our destination point of Ijevan, the weather got much warmer and we made stop to catch another glimpse of the magic around us...



...before being plunged back into the real world.

