

# Biennial Report 2020-2021



AGBU



ՄԱՅՐ ԱՌՈՒ Ա. ԷԶՄԱՆ  
ՀԱՅԿԱՆ ԲԱՐԵԳՈՐԾԱԿԱՆ ԸՆԴՀԱՆ

### ԲԱՐԵԳՈՐԾԱԿԱՆ ԾԱ

Սիրելի հարձակ

Համայն ժողովրդիս հետ միասին ունի ժողովրդի  
տարածված համակարգի անվտանգ և  
դիմադրությունները հնչան անվտանգ, այսպիսով կարող  
է՛ք օգնել մեր ժողովրդին ծառայել  
Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր  
Ինքնակազմակերպությանը և կարողանալ մեր  
հայրենիքը մեր հա

...սանք գանձանալ  
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Scan here to find this report online in Western Armenian or English. Or go to [agbu.org/financials](https://agbu.org/financials).

AGBU scout distributes food boxes to the needy in Armenia, 2020.



*Commemoration ceremony one year after the start of the 2020 Artsakh War, Goris, Armenia.*

## President's Message

World history will forever mark the years 2020 and 2021 as a time of epic crisis for humanity. With the spread of the Covid-19 global pandemic, societies were forced to focus on saving lives, taming economic chaos, adapting to new norms in everyday living, and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of nations, leaders, and citizens.

Armenian communities were no exception, although sadly for us, the turbulence and upheaval didn't stop there. In fact, the dark clouds ahead only grew stronger, adding new chapters to the history of our people that reprised an all-too familiar theme: tragedy and loss followed by heroism and resilience.

During this two year cycle, three watershed events impacted Armenians in ways that few could predict, although, in hindsight, many have come to realize that it was only a matter of time. While the pandemic that began in early 2020 was raging across the globe, the disastrous explosion at the Port of Beirut in August of that same year only added to the financial insecurity and political instability of many Lebanese Armenians who lived in close proximity to the disaster zone. Then, one month later, the devastating attack on Artsakh and the ensuing 44-day Artsakh War left the Armenian World reeling from the tragic outcome and its precarious aftermath throughout 2021 and beyond.

Plunged into a dark and dysphoric period of reckoning in

which the fault lines in Armenia's relationships with the international community and within the body politic became apparent, we understood more clearly than ever what our roles and responsibilities are to one another as Armenians.

Therefore, perhaps the only positive news that surfaced from this recent onslaught of trials and tribulations was that AGBU managed to succeed in meeting the needs of thousands of beneficiaries in different hotspots in the world, largely concurrently. In the process, we rediscovered the great extent to which our members, supporters, friends and partners stood united behind our efforts to relieve human suffering and fill in the humanitarian gaps where governments fell short. With the urgencies playing out on the local level, our regional districts and chapters—with their legions of inspired volunteers—rose to unprecedented challenges in profoundly impressive ways.

In Lebanon, no burden seemed too heavy to bear for our young AGBU scouts, students, athletes, and YPs along with other Lebanese Armenian community members with special skills and expertise. In their quest to mitigate the misery that descended upon thousands of victims, they became the standard bearers of best practices in humanitarian relief work. Moreover, within days of the blast, the AGBU global network

rallied with the financial support to allow us to reassure the AGBU Lebanon Disaster Unit Committee that they were not alone in their massive responsibilities to serve the critical needs of Armenians and their neighbors.

Likewise, when the Artsakh War broke out in September 2020, the tidal wave of common purpose spread to every corner of the Armenian World. This triggered a major surge in donations and volunteerism that reaffirmed the power of giving to redeem broken lives. Within a week's time, funds had poured in from every direction, including fundraising drives among our youth and young professionals, adding even more momentum to the worldwide Armenian response to an Armenia and Artsakh thrust into geopolitical isolation.

The infusion of funds allowed us to quickly ramp up new relief initiatives in line with changing conditions on the ground. In turn, we were able to enlist volunteers across the world to distribute aid and supplies, share expertise, and provide emotional support to imperiled families and traumatized children.

Furthermore, we demonstrated our ingenuity in adapting to limitations imposed by crisis with an unlimited supply of inspiration, creativity, and determination. Our Armenian Virtual College (AVC) team created the Learning Zone, a free supplement to its usual course content and our Young Professionals kept pandemic-weary Armenians engaged with a webinar series on timely topics, showcasing Armenian talent and expertise from their own ranks.

These acts of leadership across every generation should remind us of why AGBU remains the most recognized and trusted name among Armenians worldwide and how the motto of our founders *In Unity is Strength* was so prescient and relevant today.

We also highlight Armenian resilience in our section on the AGBU EmpowerHer program which launched in 2017, continued to grow throughout 2018 and 2019, and further expanded in 2020 and 2021. What we didn't expect was how the participants, especially those from Artsakh, forged ahead with their trainings and enterprises, even though their everyday

**"As we look back on the 2020-2021 cycle, we can say with certainty that while Armenians worldwide sustained life-altering losses and grave disappointments, resilience and unity emerged as the key words of these turbulent two years. Our global network was ready to match the severity of these catastrophic events with an equal, if not greater, intensity to do the greatest good for the greatest number of Armenians facing crisis."**

Some of these ad hoc projects have already transitioned to full-fledged programs that will serve us well when and where adversity strikes next. One is the AGBU Global Relief Fund that proved to be crucial in helping the Lebanese Armenians and displaced civilians from Artsakh regain their footing after the terror and horror they endured through disaster and war. Another is the opening of Camp Nairi in Armenia, an exclusive overnight summer camp dedicated to the children of lost or disabled service members. The AGBU Armenians Come Together (ACT) program also attracted many able-bodied diasporans to the homeland to distribute aid and provide expertise wherever needed. Many more such initiatives are detailed in the reports herein.

What emerged from these crises is concrete evidence that AGBU has grown and accelerated its capacity to take a frontline position when adversity strikes. We can organize ourselves strategically and globally while our chapters and district offices execute these interventions with their community of local volunteers, experts and affinity groups. Without their compassionate actions, all the funding in the world would not meet the needs of our people with the speed and substance necessary.

lives were derailed by war, displacement and loss. Their quiet courage to stare down the enemy with hard work and effort reflects on the dedication of these empowered women to advance their careers and contribute to the national interest against all odds.

As we look back on the 2020-2021 cycle, we can say with certainty that while Armenians worldwide sustained life-altering losses and grave disappointments, resilience and unity emerged as the key words of these turbulent two years. Our global network was ready to match the severity of these catastrophic events with an equal, if not greater, intensity to do the greatest good for the greatest number of Armenians facing crisis.



Berge Setrakian  
AGBU President





Members of YP Yerevan distribute essentials for displaced Armenians, Stepanakert 2021.

## AGBU Central Board of Directors

### President

Berge Setrakian

### Vice President

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### Treasurer

Nazareth A. Festekjian

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Eric Esrailian

Armen Sarkissian

Sam Simonian

Sinan Sinanian

Berge Setrakian, *Ex Officio*

# Financial Reports 2020–2021<sup>(1)</sup>

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & Certificates of deposit	\$ 33,467,635	\$ 32,920,596
Investments, at cost <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	247,834,529	220,736,203
Contributions receivable	1,634,977	4,579,720
Other receivables	4,759,524	5,677,837
Other assets <sup>(4)</sup>	13,594,995	4,498,589
Real estate, at cost <sup>(5)</sup>	103,764,868	103,420,558
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	3,172,608	3,367,804
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 408,229,136</b>	<b>\$ 375,201,307</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 9,126,727	\$ 8,360,493
Loan payable (PPP)	–	791,100
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,126,727</b>	<b>9,151,593</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General purpose <sup>(6)</sup>	39,376,750	35,739,574
Special purpose <sup>(7)</sup>	88,329,937	64,959,179
Endowments <sup>(8)</sup>	271,395,722	265,350,961
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>399,102,409</b>	<b>366,049,714</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 408,229,136</b>	<b>\$ 375,201,307</b>

- (1) Consists of consolidated financials for 2021 and 2020 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the worldwide subsidiaries, districts, chapters, and schools.  
(2) Total fair market value of the investments were \$278,565,128 as of 12/31/2021 and \$264,289,318 as of 12/31/2020.  
(3) Increase in investments at cost is due to liquidation and reinvestment of investment assets at the direction of new investment advisor.  
(4) Increase in other assets is due to the recognition of AGBU's interest in outside trusts managed by 3rd parties as per accounting guidelines where AGBU is the major beneficiary.  
(5) The Central Board of Directors estimates that the current market values of real estate properties are significantly higher than the historical costs reported above.  
(6) General purpose are unrestricted net assets.  
(7) Special purpose are temporarily restricted net assets designated for specific purposes.  
(8) Endowments are permanently restricted net assets and include real estate endowments.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Biennial Financial Report: 10-Year Comparatives

	2021	(a)%	2020	(b)%	2010
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$408,229,136	8.8%	\$375,201,307	13.12%	\$331,670,127
<b>Total Revenue</b>	71,091,215	13.7%	62,551,684	57.04%	39,830,669
<b>Total Expenses</b>	45,880,149	-18.5%	56,302,957	32.13%	42,612,748

(a) Yearly % Increase (Decrease) (b) 10-Year % Increase (Decrease)



# Financial Reports 2020–2021<sup>(1)</sup>

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES—YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	General Purpose	Restricted	Total
<b>Public Support and Revenues</b>			
<b>Public Support</b>			
Contributions	\$ 8,451,688	\$ 13,967,771	\$ 22,419,459
Special events and other income	3,146,921	6,220	3,153,141
	<b>11,598,609</b>	<b>13,973,991</b>	<b>25,572,600</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Investment income <sup>(2)</sup>	10,454,132	18,023,402	28,477,534
Rental income	1,327,351	4,216	1,331,567
Tuition and other school income	15,709,514	–	15,709,514
	<b>27,490,997</b>	<b>18,027,618</b>	<b>45,518,615</b>
Satisfaction of specific program funding	39,089,606	32,001,609	71,091,215
	8,234,179	(8,234,179)	–
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>47,323,785</b>	<b>23,767,430</b>	<b>71,091,215</b>
<b>Program and Administrative Expenses</b>			
<b>Program</b>			
Educational	22,926,442	–	22,926,442
Cultural	12,859,155	–	12,859,155
Religious	1,433,738	–	1,433,738
Humanitarian <sup>(3)</sup>	4,658,392	–	4,658,392
	<b>41,877,727</b>	–	<b>41,877,727</b>
Administrative	3,258,234	–	3,258,234
Fundraising, Development & Outreach	744,188	–	744,188
	<b>4,002,422</b>	–	<b>4,002,422</b>
<b>Total Program &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>45,880,149</b>	–	<b>45,880,149</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>1,443,636</b>	<b>23,767,430</b>	<b>25,211,066</b>
Transfer of net assets to unrelated entity <sup>(4)</sup>	–	–	–
Foreign currency translation gain (loss)	158,252	–	158,252
Inter-fund transfers/Adjustments/Appropriations & release from restrictions	2,035,288	(3,948,317)	(1,913,029)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>3,637,176</b>	<b>19,819,113</b>	<b>23,456,289</b>
Prior period adjustment <sup>(5)</sup>	–	9,596,406	9,596,406
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>35,739,574</b>	<b>330,310,140</b>	<b>366,049,714</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 39,376,750</b>	<b>\$ 359,725,659</b>	<b>\$ 399,102,409</b>

(1) Consists of consolidated financials for 2021 and 2020 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the worldwide subsidiaries, districts, chapters, and schools.

(2) Increase in investment income in 2021 is due to the recognition of capital gains from the liquidation and reinvestment of investment assets at the direction of new investment advisor.

(3) Humanitarian expenses in 2020 includes support for Artsakh.

(4) Transfer of net assets is in recognition of the formation of UGAB Foundation in Switzerland as an unrelated entity.

(5) Prior period adjustment is the recognition of outside trusts managed by 3rd parties where AGBU is the main beneficiary.

# Financial Reports 2020–2021<sup>(1)</sup>

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES—YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	General Purpose	Restricted	Total
<b>Public Support and Revenues</b>			
<b>Public Support</b>			
Contributions	\$ 7,923,529	\$ 22,541,248	\$ 30,464,777
Special events and other income	2,902,795	–	2,902,795
	<b>10,826,324</b>	<b>22,541,248</b>	<b>33,367,572</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Investment income <sup>(2)</sup>	9,031,380	3,480,369	12,511,749
Rental income	1,331,611	1,560	1,333,171
Tuition and other school income	15,339,192	–	15,339,192
	<b>25,702,183</b>	<b>3,481,929</b>	<b>29,184,112</b>
Satisfaction of specific program funding	36,528,507	26,023,177	62,551,684
	15,303,395	(15,303,395)	–
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>51,831,902</b>	<b>10,719,782</b>	<b>62,551,684</b>
<b>Program and Administrative Expenses</b>			
<b>Program</b>			
Educational	22,526,095	–	22,526,095
Cultural	12,826,121	–	12,826,121
Religious	677,967	–	677,967
Humanitarian <sup>(3)</sup>	15,935,110	–	15,935,110
	<b>51,965,293</b>	–	<b>51,965,293</b>
Administrative	3,453,192	–	3,453,192
Fundraising, Development & Outreach	884,472	–	884,472
	<b>4,337,664</b>	–	<b>4,337,664</b>
<b>Total Program &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>56,302,957</b>	–	<b>56,302,957</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>(4,471,055)</b>	<b>10,719,782</b>	<b>6,248,727</b>
Transfer of net assets to unrelated entity <sup>(4)</sup>	(14,035,509)	–	(14,035,509)
Foreign currency translation gain (loss)	739,270	–	739,270
Inter-fund transfers/Adjustments/Appropriations & release from restrictions	2,103,651	(2,103,651)	–
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(15,663,643)</b>	<b>8,616,131</b>	<b>(7,047,512)</b>
Prior period adjustment <sup>(5)</sup>	–	–	–
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>51,403,217</b>	<b>321,694,009</b>	<b>373,097,226</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 35,739,574</b>	<b>\$ 330,310,140</b>	<b>\$ 366,049,714</b>

(1) Consists of consolidated financials for 2021 and 2020 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the worldwide subsidiaries, districts, chapters, and schools.

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# Themes and Trends 2020-2021

ARTSAKH  
STRONG  
RECOGNIZEARTSAKH

ARTSAKH  
STRONG  
RECOGNIZEARTSAKH



*Children help raise funds for Artsakh at an  
AGBU Plovdiv open-air bazaar.*



# On the Frontlines of Crisis

In 2020, the world became a very dangerous place for Armenians. A global health crisis, a massive explosion in the heart of Lebanon, and the outbreak of a brutal war perpetrated by Azerbaijan and Turkey against the Armenians of Artsakh all took place within months of one another. With thousands of Armenians in harm's way, AGBU took the lead in responding to all three crises concurrently, delivering an array of solutions and services informed by shifting conditions on the ground.

In 2021, these post-war, post-disaster recovery strategies continued, as we sorted through the wreckage and ruins of overwhelmed communities. The goal was to stabilize innocent victims and support their efforts to reclaim their lives. AGBU also pioneered new initiatives to help ease the many hardships faced by Armenians of all ranks and walks of life—emotionally, physically and financially.

Our local volunteers stood out as the everyday heroes in extraordinary times. Their proactive and responsible attitude will long be remembered by the people whose lives they touched under the most desperate of circumstances.

The following summaries demonstrate how the AGBU global network moved mountains to remain a rock of support for Armenians challenged by an uncertain world.

*A cargo shipment with PPE arrives at Zvartnots Airport for receipt and distribution by AGBU. Yerevan, 2020*



## Combating Food Insecurity Worldwide

From Los Angeles and Sydney to Montreal, Yerevan, and Beirut, AGBU made humanitarian food distribution a top priority. The weekly and monthly deliveries, as well as daily hot meals, provided sustenance to vulnerable seniors and families unable to access enough food and staples to prepare nourishing meals and stay healthy. Some found themselves in need due to sudden unemployment or they tested positive for the virus and were alone in quarantine.

These were the times when our AGBU Scouts and other AGBU youth groups sprang into action, putting principles and slogans into practice. They set up food package depots for pick up or made home deliveries. As a gesture of gratitude to hospital personnel working around the clock, some raised funds to have hot meals from local restaurants delivered to overworked healthcare personnel.

### AGBU Food Package Programs by Hotspot (2020–2021)

- 1 **Armenia:** AGBU Armenia and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin worked together to assure seniors in and around Yerevan and Vanadzor received necessities through the AGBU Senior Dining Centers.
- Argentina:** AGBU Buenos Aires delivered hot meals to a city dining center for the most vulnerable.
- Lebanon:** AGBU Lebanon established a process for addressing food shortages efficiently and equitably when the Central Bank restricted cash withdrawals at banks, causing high unemployment and business closures.
- 2 **United States:** “AGBU LA Cares” initiative distributed over 1000 weekly food packages to anyone in need in the Los Angeles community.
- 3 **Canada:** AGBU Montreal delivered fresh meals weekly to 50 vulnerable households and observed Father’s Day at the drop-in center for the homeless and indigent. AGBU Toronto fed 250 vulnerable families throughout the city’s Community Share Food Bank.
- 4 **Australia:** AGBU Melbourne provided a month’s worth of food vouchers for 76 Syrian Armenians in Armenia. In Sydney, care packages were sent to communities with an invitation to sign up for regular food deliveries.
- Syria:** The district distributed food packages to 500 families.
- Uruguay:** The chapter joined a coalition of Armenian organizations in distributing food packages, including homemade dishes prepared by local volunteers.



## Keeping Communities Connected

### 5 AVC Learning Zone

At the height of the lockdown, AVC Learning Zone, built by the same team that created the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) a decade earlier, was a welcome and constructive distraction for old and new users staying at home. This free offering included online classes, interactive daily meet ups, virtual tours and more, attracting over 1000 users. In addition, over the two-year period, enrollment to AVC's standard classes increased threefold, helping users study Armenian language, history and culture at their own pace or complete the coursework as a group.

### YP Live Digital Productions

With the widespread cancellation of in-person events, the AGBU Young Professionals found an effective way to stay in touch with their local peers while expanding their reach to 37 YP groups across the globe. Under the banner *YP Live*, the first episode in the virtual series "YPs Got Talent" was launched by YP Los Angeles with subsequent weekly episodes produced by YP groups from Boston, Toronto and Houston to Buenos Aires and the UAE.

The rich variety of content connected diverse audiences from as far as New Zealand, South Korea, and Russia. Examples of the wide-ranging topics included *YP Live Cultural Series: YPs Got Talent*; *Texas Two Step*; *Coast to Coast Comedy*; *Armenians in Film*; *Music for the Soul*; *Easy to Bake Cakes*; *Hamov Hodov Chikufta*; *Beginners Yoga Class*; *Navigating Covid-19: Empower Your Well Being*; *Boozy Brunch Recipes*; *Embracing Change: How to Navigate a Career Transition*.

During this cycle, *YP Live* connected with over 1200 avid participants with new log-ins increasing every week.

### Virtual Exhibitions

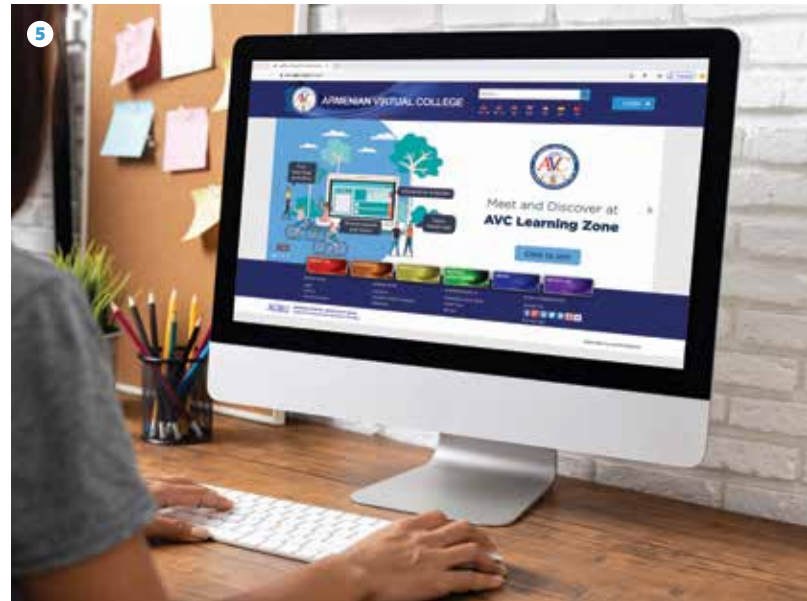
**AGBU São Paulo** promoted an online series on great museums, including the History Museum of Armenia, the Aram Khachaturian Museum, and a virtual gallery tour of fine oriental rugs.

## Transitioning from Traditional to Virtual

As soon as the Covid-19 mandates for lockdowns of schools and businesses went into effect, AGBU made the hard pivot to an exclusively virtual platform.

Our New York world headquarters closed its doors on March 16, 2020 and in less than a week the entire operation went virtual—from communications, finance and accounting to program management, outreach and development. Our regional districts and chapters followed suit, and, in less than a month, our global network was functioning at full capacity. A very high level of productivity was maintained across all departmental disciplines through the end of 2021, reflecting on the dedication of staff and volunteers to go the extra mile, day in and out.

This all-digital crossover soon made it possible to put the power



of communications technology to our advantage. By hosting virtual panel discussions and how-to videos, along with live streamed cultural performances from remote locations, our typical audience reach grew exponentially for each event. What began as a solution to a problem became an opportunity to bring our constituents across borders closer together with shared cultural and learning experiences that unify us as Armenians.

The persistent challenge to all the private, public and non-profit sectors of activity was how to keep their employees, customers and constituents safe without bringing their necessary products and services to a complete halt. As a global organization, AGBU was no different.

### Remote AGBU Schools

With educational centers closed for public health and safety, AGBU Schools were among the first to comply with a full transition to remote learning. The relatively quick and seamless shift was owed to the dedicated school administrators and faculty as well as the AGBU electronic learning technologies already in place to not only provide access to digital resources, but also to teach curricula online or on a hybrid basis, leveraging the programming models, created by AGBU's Armenian Virtual College (AVC).

In addition to videoconferencing and online platforms used to teach core subjects, AGBU schools kept up with their Armenian Studies with an array of virtual alternative learning tools: the *ATLAS* by AGBU digital library, AVC online courses and eBooks; AGBU *WebTalks* videos and four educational apps.

The AGBU Western Region signature teen-mentoring program Generation Next aka GenNext also transitioned its model to the virtual space with an online afterschool tutoring program and activities program for teens of all backgrounds struggling to stay connected with their peers while keeping up with their schoolwork. The mentoring component also continued online, adding an extra layer of support during the public health crisis.

### Modified AGBU Summer Camps

While many AGBU camps worldwide were forced to close in 2020 due to the pandemic, they reopened the following year with various modifications to ensure health and safety for campers and staff. AGBU's flagship Camp Nubar in upstate New York remained closed for the summer of 2020, but camp leadership found inventive ways to engage the children remotely with daily counselor-led activities ranging from crafts to Armenian dance to sports, cooking, and nature care. In collaboration with AGBU's Education Department, weekly group trivia challenges brought regular interaction among participants from Armenia, Canada, Turkey, UAE, and the U.S. By the summer of 2021, the camp reopened on a limited basis for a shorter session, keeping health foremost in mind.

In Bulgaria, HayLer camps run by AGBU Plovdiv and AGBU Sofia were modified to day trips. Others including Hayortyats Camp d'Ete in Montreal, Camp Amaras in Los Angeles, and AGBU Lebanon's Demirdjian Center Summer Camp operated with strong anti-Covid measures in place, including more outdoor activities wherever possible. Colonie De Vacances in Haute Savoie, France invited a limited number of campers to enjoy the traditional in-person experience under strict national health and safety precautions but added a livestreamed remote dance and song recital especially for the parents.

Confronted with the need to mitigate the trauma of a new generation of children of war, in 2021, AGBU Camp Nairi, located in the Hankavan region of Armenia, was opened exclusively to 200 children of fallen or disabled soldiers who served in the 2020 Artsakh War. The new hybrid overnight summer camp and healing retreat provided the campers with two 2-week sessions, complete with therapeutic specialists and a full program of outdoor and indoor activities.



Colonie De Vacances

### Live-streamed Cultural Experiences

AGBU Performing Arts Department (renamed AGBU Arts in 2022) expanded its repertoire of concerts and film screenings with live stream performances, many organized to benefit humanitarian relief efforts in Armenia and Artsakh, on virtual platforms. At the same time, our AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia were able to reach children around the world with their virtual dance lessons and musical performances as well as arts and crafts instruction.

### Virtual Versions of Signature Programs

AGBU Musical Armenia Program (MAP), Global Leadership Program (GLP) and Goriz Leadership Development Program are three ever-popular AGBU program mainstays that always involved interpersonal engagement and travel. In 2020 and 2021, these programs were modified to function successfully online.

#### Musical Armenia Program

AGBU's Musical Armenia Program (MAP) went virtual in 2021, drawing a more international mix of 42 participants, including non-Armenians, from 8 countries. Master classes and live musical performances took place remotely over the course of 3 weeks.

#### Global Leadership Program (GLP)

In 2020 and 2021, AGBU replaced the GLP in-person experience with virtual mentorships. Participants were matched with industry professionals and experts from the AGBU Young Professionals network. As many as 113 participants were enrolled, representing 18 countries, including Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Lebanon, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. Over 115 YP mentors worldwide volunteered their time and shared their expertise in the fields of architecture, business, finance, engineering, international relations, for a total of six weeks.

Besides their one-on-one meetings with their assigned mentors, participants attended professional development workshops on topics ranging from resume building to the importance of networking, etc. They also attended field specific panel discussions, social meetups, Armenian culture and history meetups, as well as Armenian language classes.

#### Goriz Leadership Development Program

This international gathering of young professionals shifted from the conference table to the webinar screen due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, in 2020, it attracted hundreds of participants from 41 countries to join the discussions from prominent thought leaders in the Armenian world. In 2021, this format was repeated, with featured speakers joining from different European countries for a six-part series of online seminars on leadership.





# AGBU Emergency Relief in Lebanon

The Beirut Blast of August 4, 2020 rocked the world of thousands of Armenian residents living near the Port of Beirut, many of whom were injured by the explosion. AGBU was on the job within hours, dispatching crews of young AGBU members—from scouts, sports teammates, and AGBU Young Professionals. They mobilized to clean streets carpeted with shards of glass and other hazardous debris and rubble from impacted buildings. They were eager to help evacuate victims trapped in their destroyed homes or arrange for emergency medical personnel to reach them.

Classes were shifted online and the task of AGBU schools and offices were coordinated from homes, while AGBU medical dispensaries remained operational to serve the community at large.

AGBU Lebanon’s Emergency Response Assistance Programs focused on five areas:



**Reconstruction**



**Food Distribution**



**Tuition Waivers**



**Psychosocial Support**



**Clothing**

## Overview of Relief Services through 2021

- **862** Home assessments conducted
- **367** Homes reconstructed
- **18,000** Hot meals distributed
- **1,200** Monthly food boxes delivered
- **100%** AGBU school tuition waived
- **358** Youth received psychosocial counseling free of charge
- **539** Individuals benefited from AGBU clothing drives

Many of these programs have continued to serve the community beyond 2021 due to the severe economic problems that continue to plague the country, causing inflation, unemployment, shortages of basics and collapse of leadership.

## Reconstruction

After the explosion, the AGBU Disaster Response Committee of AGBU Lebanon began the painstaking process of visiting Armenian households to interview victims and assess what resources were needed to make it safe for them to return to their homes.

Services ranged from replacing windows, doors, pipes and new appliances to acquiring new home furnishings to replace those damaged beyond repair. The reconstruction program renovated homes in five of the blast-affected areas in Beirut, including Mar Mikhael, Khalil Badawi, Gemmayze, Achrafieh, and Karantina.



### 1 Food Distribution

To respond to the economic crisis that was further exacerbated by the blast and continued to plague the country with inflation and widespread scarcity at the petrol pump as well as medical supplies, drugs and basic food essentials, AGBU Lebanon organized the distribution of food parcels, the contents of which could feed a family of four over 40 days.

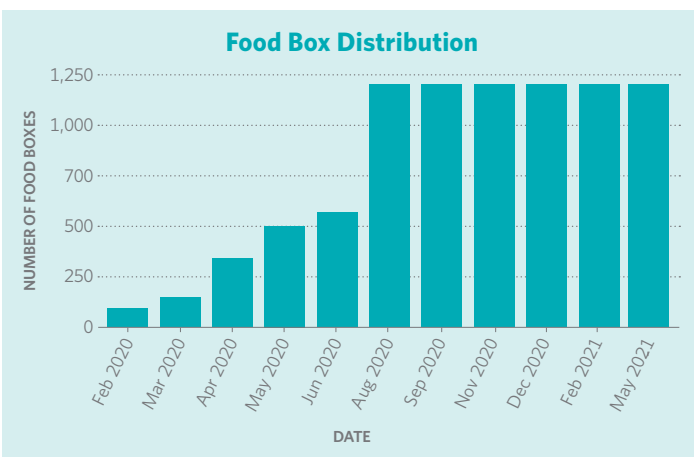
In addition, only one week after the explosion, a hot-meal program was initiated by Armenian cuisine restaurateur Aline Kamakian, who was invited to partner with renowned Chef José Andrés and his World Food Kitchen. The program completed two rounds through 2021:

#### Round 1 (2020)

- 15 Volunteers
- 18,000 Hot meals prepared
- 1,500 Hot meals per week

#### Round 2 (2021)

- 5 Volunteers
- 4,400 Hot meals prepared
- 700 Hot meals per week



### Tuition Waivers

AGBU waived **100%** of the tuition fees for all of its **294** students for the 2020 and 2021 academic years—the first initiative of its kind among the Lebanon school system.



### 2 Psychosocial Support

Aimed at providing emotional and trauma counseling to the families exposed to the Beirut blast, the youth were offered services and guidance by psychologists and certified consultants who could make referrals for further professional treatment if warranted.

### 3 Clothing

AGBU Lebanon organized the first clothing drive in December 2020, collecting clothing from members of AGBU Lebanon and the global community. Those who were deeply impacted by the economic crisis could choose from a wide range of the 4497 articles of donated clothing, gently used or new.





## AGBU Relief in Armenia and Artsakh

During and after the 2020 Artsakh War, AGBU Armenia continued to reach out to those families and individuals who chose to stay in Armenia, leaving their ancestral lands behind. Others returned to resettle in Stepanakert, now occupied by Russian peacekeepers as part of the Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia. Many families found their new housing empty of essential appliances, and AGBU made sure these new items were promptly delivered free of charge to help these displaced families restart life in a new community.

- Humanitarian assistance was provided to **100,000** people and **22,400** families
- Food boxes and warm meals were delivered to **54,000+** people
- Hygiene kits were distributed to **52,000+** people
- Warm winter clothing was supplied to **6,400+** people
- Blankets and bedding were provided to **5,600+** people
- Portable heaters, generators and batteries were supplied to **600+** people
- Generators and batteries were supplied to **40+** shelters

### 4 Medical Supplies

- **42** tons of vital medical equipment were procured and packed by AGBU Europe in Belgium and funded by the World Food Programme

- **2** oxygen generators were provided by UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
- **40** oxygen ventilators were sent to treat **13,000** patients at major hospitals in Armenia
- **1** new Rafael DR X-Ray machine was designated to the Arevik Pediatric Hospital in Artsakh





AGBU Camp Nairi

### Support for Children of War

- Thousands of vulnerable children received new clothing, toys and books
- Dozens of recreational activities, such as puppet shows and concerts were organized for kids and parents
- In 2021, **200** children of fallen or injured family members attended the inaugural session of AGBU Camp Nairi for two weeks, an exclusive sleepaway summer camp offered free of charge

### Resettlement and Ongoing Assistance

- New kitchen appliances were furnished to **120** households
- A severely damaged kindergarten classroom was renovated in Stepanakert
- Families of fallen or permanently disabled service members received financial aid
- Special business mini-grants were awarded to AGBU LEAP (Learn to Earn Artsakh Program) and AGBU WE (Women Entrepreneurs) participants who resettled in Armenia



## Outreach to International Media

To combat the false narratives by Azerbaijan to turn world opinion against Armenia, AGBU took major steps to tell the Armenian side of the story to the world.

### 1 AGBU YERIA Foreign Observer Project

In 2020, while the war in Artsakh continued, AGBU Europe organized a cohort of volunteer journalists, activists and media professionals from 15 countries to visit Armenia and Artsakh for a firsthand assessment of the situation. Their goal was to report back their observations and interactions to various media stakeholders and decisionmakers, thereby countering the false narratives with accurate facts and eyewitness testimonies. This first cohort was quickly followed with another group that also included members of parliament and celebrities from European countries.



### 2 AGBU Media Training for Local Armenian Journalists

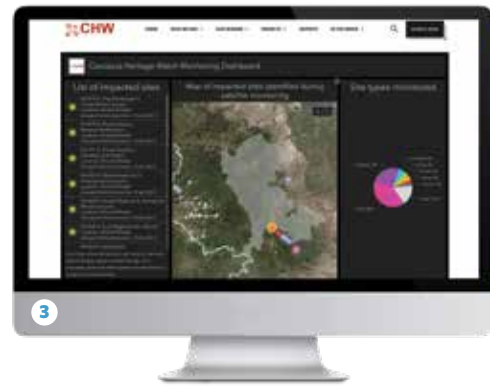
In 2021, AGBU Young Professionals of Madrid took the lead in organizing a one-week media training and workshop for local Armenian journalists. Foreign correspondents and videographers with outstanding credentials in the international media volunteered to share their expertise on how to cover war stories free of nationalistic undertones and how to forge trusted relationships with foreign mainstream media.

### AGBU Artsakh Research Grants

AGBU recognized the need for a new generation of contemporary research to support and substantiate strategic messaging for policymakers, the media, human rights organizations, and general audiences. In 2021, a total of \$100,000 in grants were awarded to 18 worthy applicants.

### AGBU Heritage Preservation Campaign

In collaboration with scholars and archeological experts such as Holy Etchmiadzin, AGBU launched a branded social media and PR campaign that sounded the alarm for the protection of the Armenian treasures of Artsakh, including gems of the Early Christian era and other architectural and iconographic marvels of the indigenous Armenians in Artsakh. [www.agbu.org/artsakh-heritage](http://www.agbu.org/artsakh-heritage)



### AGBU Digital Resources and AGBU Activate Web Pages

Just a few weeks into the war, it became clear that Armenia was losing the battle in the court of public opinion. AGBU created a web-based resource for sharing vetted content in support of the Armenian side. Scholars, activists, supporters and friends to the Artsakh cause could access this free information and also sign up for daily email briefings which included specific calls to action coordinated through a network of leaders from Armenia and the Diaspora. [www.agbu.org/artsakh-facts](http://www.agbu.org/artsakh-facts)

### 3 Satellite Monitoring Service

Thanks in part to funding from AGBU, Caucasus Heritage Watch (CHW), a research initiative led by archaeologists at Cornell and Purdue Universities, uses nanosatellite imagery to document endangered and damaged Armenian cultural heritage sites in Artsakh. During the 2021 hearings at the International Court of Justice, reports by CHW on the condition of hundreds of Armenian sites now under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and inaccessible to cultural heritage practitioners were presented in Armenia's case against Azerbaijani violations.

### AGBU Voices of Truth Testimonies

AGBU produced a series of on-camera interviews with Armenians from Artsakh who found refuge in Armenia during the war. Their firsthand accounts of the shock, horrors and escape strategies are part of any war crimes documentation process. The interviews with subjects from different parts of Artsakh helped put a human face on the people intentionally objectified and demonized by the enemy. [www.agbu.org/voicesoftruth](http://www.agbu.org/voicesoftruth)





## AGBU Global Network to the Rescue

As the Artsakh War escalated, many AGBU chapters, districts and offices found inventive ways to generate funding from their own constituents and contribute to the humanitarian relief effort spearheaded by AGBU Central. Some funds were allocated to the AGBU Global Relief Fund and others were transferred directly to the Hayastan All Armenian Fund under AGBU auspices.

**AGBU Arts**, based in New York City, organized online benefit concerts with global reach, using proceeds from tickets sales to support humanitarian relief in Armenia and Artsakh through the Hayastan All Armenian Fund. This included the *Concert for Artsakh* and the *Artists for Artsakh: A Concert for Peace*.

**AGBU Sofia** and **AGBU Milan** raised awareness and funds with the AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra launching a series of *We Are Armenia* concerts and AGBU Milan partnering with the Unione degli Armeni d'Italia and the Unione Talenti Armeni d'Italia to host an eclectic performance celebrating Armenian heritage.

**1** **AGBU Toronto** raised funds for AGBU France Jeunes and AGBU Armenia to deliver New Year gifts to 1,000 displaced children, including winter necessities, toys and books.

**2** **AGBU Paris** fundraised for warm winter clothing to distribute in Armavir, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik. Arménie, Terre de Vie participants traveled to Goris to deliver food, hygiene and first aid supplies to refugee families.

**3** **AGBU Plovdiv** coordinated an open-air bazaar to raise funds for Artsakh and educate the public on the human toll of the war. AGBU communities in Varna, Haskovo, Burgas, Rousse, and Dobrich united to collect donations.

**AGBU Sao Paulo** spread the word about the global relief campaign in their local communities. Both **AGBU Uruguay** and their Erevàn 50 Scouts and **AGBU Buenos Aires** and their General Antranik Scouts sold traditional Armenian food and organized car washes to raise money and awareness for Artsakh.

**AGBU Yerevan Scouts** distributed food and clothing to the AGBU Children's Center in Arabkir and organized activities for children of displaced families.

**4** **AGBU YP Madrid, Yerevan, and Northern California** established the YP Matching Gift Fund. First, they raised funds from their own ranks and then reached out to donors across the YP global network.

**5** **AGBU-AYA San Fernando Valley Scouts** addressed the escalating hospital caseloads during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic by raising funds in their schools and communities to not only purchase but also deliver meals to local hospitals.

**AGBU Pasadena Scouts** organized creative fundraising campaigns. With the support of the Scouting and Poursadan Committees, clothing and electric heaters were secured for families from Shushi. In addition, the **AGBU Asbeds** and the **AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School** mobilized their communities to donate.

**6** **AGBU Valence** youth volunteers traveled to Stepanakert to distribute food boxes, heaters and blankets to over 1,600 displaced persons.

**AGBU YP Los Angeles** hosted its second Summer Soiree to raise funds for the AGBU Global Relief Fund for Armenia and Artsakh.

**YP Toronto** also launched its own *Twelve Days of Virtual Christmas* fundraiser, generating \$10,000 by auctioning merchandise and experiences donated from local Armenian businesses. The proceeds went toward the YP Cares initiative.



## Fostering Resilience and Healing from Crisis

**AGBU Education Department** hosted three monthly online panel discussions starting in October 2020. Mental health experts and other professionals explored reactions, reflections, and ways to remain resilient in the face of crisis. The series attracted an audience of 835 strong with nearly 30,000 post-event views.

In 2021, AGBU joined forces with the Armenian Virtual College (AVC), the American University of Armenia (AUA), the Armenian Mental Health Initiative (AMHI), and the Armenian Psychiatric Association of Armenia (ArPA) to organize two sessions of *The Resilience Summit: Coping with Challenging Times*. Panelists shared skills and expertise that support communities in stress. These landmark summits attracted a global audience of over 400 from 26 countries.





# A Surge in Volunteerism

With the spread of Covid-19 across the world, AGBU members and youth groups, along with program alumni and individuals associated with our organization began to show up for their communities in ways large and small.


Wherever there was a need to fill, there were more than enough local volunteers ready to put their physical strength, special skills, or creativity behind the task.

The display of involvement demonstrated the best of intentions and an increased capacity to come to the aid and comfort of fellow Armenians and those in the wider communities in which they live.

In the aftermath of the Beirut Blast of 2020, it was the AGBU volunteers who were the first on the scene to help victims safely exit from their shattered homes to safer ground. Our Lebanese-Armenian youth set the example of selfless service for the entire community that continues to this day.

In Armenia, scores of AGBU volunteers from the worldwide diaspora made the journey to the Armenian homeland during and after the 2020 Artsakh War to provide uprooted innocent civilians caught up in war a semblance of safety and security.

Those whose paths the selfless volunteers crossed were buoyed by this show of unity and solidarity among Armenians from afar.



*AGBU Armenians Come Together (ACT) participants assist with humanitarian relief efforts in Armenia, 2021.*



## 1 New Volunteer Initiatives in 2020–2021

On the international front, a number of ad hoc volunteer efforts in support of the Artsakh War or the Lebanese Blast evolved into longer term assistance programs under the AGBU Global Relief banner.

### 2 AGBU Lebanon Disaster Unit

What started out as a makeshift assembly of hearts, minds and skill sets in the immediate aftermath of the Beirut Blast of 2020, continued well into 2021 as many Lebanese Armenians continued to suffer from a pile-on of hardships, including the lack of essential goods and services due to the escalating financial crisis countrywide. These mounting adversities made it necessary for the AGBU Lebanon Disaster Unit to expand its operations. It continues to provide sustenance and support as well as job placement services, to those still struggling to make ends meet or with children suffering emotional traumas that require professional attention, free of charge.

### 1 Armenians Come Together (ACT)

Building on the Arménie, Terre de Vie model and spirit, AGBU France took action just a few weeks into the 44-day Second Artsakh War by organizing a series of service trips with diasporan volunteers looking to assist with AGBU humanitarian relief efforts on the ground. This involved the distribution of food, hygiene supplies, warm clothing and other necessities for civilians whose lives had been upended by brutal enemy attacks.

After the war, the situation remained critical for some of these refugees. In 2021, AGBU France decided to set up a logistical framework by which volunteers could channel their heroic energies with the formation of the Armenians Come Together (ACT) program. Following the first mission of French volunteers in April 2021, two other missions from France and Europe traveled to Armenia for one-week stays in June and August of 2021, fanning out to several regions of Armenia. In addition to delivering humanitarian relief, they also organized activities around sports, recreation and cultural experiences



for children of families still living temporarily at the AGBU Vahe Karapetyan Center in Yerevan. AGBU ACT is now open for all volunteers around the world who wish to create the bonds of trust and understanding that make all the difference in times of crisis.

### 3 Arménie, Terre de Vie

Though not a new initiative, despite the inherent dangers in border areas of Armenia after the Second Artsakh War, AGBU France had no problem enlisting a new cohort of 33 volunteers to travel to Sarigyugh, a village in the Tavush region. They arrived in 2021 to rebuild a school and educate families on dental hygiene and the environmental conservation.

## Virtual Volunteerism with Local Impact

### AGBU Business Mentors

In 2020, AGBU Business Mentors was launched to connect women entrepreneurs in Armenia and Artsakh with industry experts from the Diaspora. These relationships are part of the AGBU EmpowerHer initiative designed to help Armenia's women gain financial independence by starting up or scaling up their own small business or micro-enterprise. By the end of 2021, nearly 200 participants took advantage of this valuable guidance and assistance—provided free of charge by volunteers, either virtually, in person or both.



### 4 ANI Language Coaching Program

In 2021, this program, originally designed to help young students practice conversation with a native English speaker, was revamped to serve working adults in Armenia looking to improve their foreign language skills for business purposes or high school students seeking to qualify for admission into English-speaking universities. The program involves virtual weekly meetups and provides volunteers with a helpful coaching guide to optimize the sessions. By the end of 2021, students and adults who were enrolled in AGBU LEAP (Learn to Earn Artsakh Program) and AGBU Women Entrepreneurs (WE) availed themselves of these free services, courtesy of AGBU volunteers.





## A Salute to AGBU Scouts Worldwide

The years 2020 and 2021 were a collective rite of passage for AGBU scouts across our global network. The results of their trainings were on full display and reinforced the importance and relevance of scouting in today's uncertain world. Our young boys and girls earned their badges and lived up to their oaths to serve their community and country beyond expectations. They have been cited as AGBU Honorees on page 64.









# Closing the Gender Gap in Armenia

Launched in 2017 as a pilot project, based on original research on why Armenia is lagging behind other countries in closing the gender gap, the AGBU EmpowerHer initiative has gained strength in every subsequent year. It is now a mainstay program for thousands of women in Armenia and Artsakh looking to change the trajectory of their lives with financial independence as the key driver of success.

The years 2020 and 2021 were especially significant because of the enhancements and expansions that took place in the program, even with the limitations imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2020 Second Artsakh War.

With the economy and mood of the country on a downward spiral, it turned out that, once Armenia's women experienced their own power to improve their prospects in life, there was no turning back. Their attitude was upbeat; they were confident that they could keep their businesses on track, proving themselves to be responsible, resilient, and resourceful in the face of adversity.

This section includes executive reports about the two primary offerings under the EmpowerHer umbrella that attracted women from across Armenia and Artsakh to the program.

*A woman celebrates at the AGBU Women Entrepreneurs mini-grant award ceremony.*



## AGBU Women Entrepreneurs (WE)

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had invisible and visible effects on Armenia's economy, especially the micro and small business sector. This trend was severely exacerbated by the Second Artsakh War that same year, the results of which suggested long-term challenges for Armenia's socio-economic outlook. To overcome the barriers to progress caused by the coronavirus and the war, the AGBU WE team continuously monitored and diagnosed the state of the small business sector and prepared customized strategic interventions to satisfy the expressed desire of the WE participants to forge ahead with their enterprises despite the uncertain economic environment. Such determination galvanized the AGBU WE team to modify its programs and services to help prevent undue disruptions to the dreams of their participants.

Extensive discussions and analysis with WE participants from both Armenia and Artsakh revealed the main factors now in play: financial indicators; shifting customer needs; cash flow and budget allocations. Based on the analyses, AGBU developed a business support plan, which included modified marketing, management production and financial interventions that enabled their cohorts to find new avenues for doing business and raise awareness of their products or services, including online sales, creating social media business pages, and increasing visibility and sales through product exhibitions, fairs, festivals, and appearances on radio and TV. AGBU also helped with cost planning, cost reassessment and analyzing financial indicators.

## Training Courses

The training format and methodology for new AGBU WE cohorts was changed in the education phase. In addition to online classes and office hours, participants had the opportunity to do practical work based on their ideas. The latter was aimed at conducting systematic multifactorial analyses in a short period of time, so that it would be possible to resume business immediately after the course completion, taking into account post-war and pandemic realities.



## AGBU WE Key Stats 2020–2021

**Origination:** All regions of Armenia and Artsakh

**Number of cohorts:** 7

**Applications received:** 1839

**Participants accepted:** 129

**New Start-ups:** 85

**New Scale ups:** 44

**Number of mini-grantees:** 9







### AGBU Women Coders Stats 2020–2021

Between 2020 and 2021, Women Coders worked with **120** women. Its first cohort had **47** graduates, **70%** of whom found employment in 2021 at local and international IT companies, such as TeamViewer, Aramaze, Volo, Digitain, Instigate, to name a few. Most of the second cohort completed courses in 2021 and successfully found positions in their new field.

## Giving Armenian Women the IT Edge

Based on the success of the AGBU WE program, the AGBU Women Coders component was the next logical step of the AGBU EmpowerHer initiative. Launched in November 2020, this track was designed to reprofile women interested in entering the booming IT sector in Armenia, with its potential to close the women’s pay gap and gender gap in Armenia’s labor market.

Women Coders develops IT-related courses based on the current needs of employers, which may evolve quickly and thus require different course content for each cohort. In 2020–2021, the program offered classes for women based on their aptitudes and interests. Women with technical educational backgrounds could opt for coding languages, such as React JS, Node JS, Python, PHP. Those proficient in English with strong organizational skills were trained in IT Product Management or IT Project Management. Participants with an eye for detail could pursue Quality Assurance, whereas those with strong visualization and color-sensitive aptitudes were recommended for UI/UX Design. All fields were in high demand both in regions and in Yerevan, although the primary goal of the program is to focus on women living in regions.

Additional course content included introduction to IT, explaining main roles to new-comers to the field; Management Tools for using platforms such as Jira, Miro, Trello, etc.; a course on smart freelancing to help working mothers learn how to earn money while taking care of children; an IT HR specialist explaining how to prepare CVs, make LinkedIn profiles attractive, engage with IT companies and handle interviews, etc.

## Expansions and Enhancements

### Introduction of Workplace Fundamentals Training

One of the main barriers to employment, especially for women living in the regions of Armenia, is the lack of basic office and workplace skills. In 2020, a special training in Workplace Fundamentals was added to the main coursework for both Coders and WE cohorts. It includes 10 self-learning courses on soft skills developed by the AGBU Armenia office. Topics

covered are vital for preparing program beneficiaries for the real world, such as Critical Thinking, Business Ethics, Email Writing, Financial Literacy, Presentation Skills, MS Office, etc.

### Diaspora Mentorships

In 2021, Women Coders had the opportunity to interact with experts working in IT, all of whom are from the worldwide Armenian Diaspora. One expert was head of cyber security at a British bank who taught the women how to protect their personal accounts, avoid phishing, ransomware and other cyber-crimes

In addition, the AGBU Business Mentors program matches AGBU WE participants with Diasporans with expertise in the same industry or an associated discipline relating to business management, such as marketing, accounting and customer service. These mentors can volunteer their services either in person, remotely or both.

### English Language Coaching

The AGBU ANI Language Coaching Program matches working adults and students in Armenia interested in improving their conversational English with a native speaker from the Diaspora. The one-on-one sessions are conducted online with a helpful teaching guide.



# Connecting Points 2020-2021

*Guests mingle at the AGBU Women Shaping the World Conference in New York, March 2020.*



*AGBU President Berge Setrakian*

## 91st AGBU General Assembly

In light of the global pandemic which continued into 2021, the AGBU Central Board harnessed the power of virtual technology to unite its worldwide membership remotely.

Thanks to the expertise of the organization's AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC), on February 27, 2021, hundreds of participants from 32 countries were able to connect through Zoom with the benefit of simultaneous translation from English to Armenian, French and Spanish.

Following the welcome remarks, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, conveyed his blessing wishing the Assembly a successful meeting and emphasized the important role of the AGBU in the life of the Armenian Nation.

The official agenda included a report of the consolidated financials for the period 2018 and 2019 by AGBU Central Board

Treasurer Nazareth Festekjian and an activities report for the same cycle by AGBU Central Board Assistant Secretary Arda Haratunian. A report highlighting AGBU's work in education, in particular the immense contributions of AVC to Armenian education over the past ten years since its inception, was presented by Central Board member Lena Sarkissian.

Original video content was woven into the program, showcasing the best of the AGBU spirit in rising to unprecedented challenges by volunteers, donors and staffers alike. Prior to adjourning, Central Board members Haig Ariyan, Nadia Gortzounian and Ani Manoukian responded to participant questions submitted in advance. They ranged from AGBU's future work in Artsakh to engagement of new diasporas.

There were also salutes to three AGBU groups, for which

AGBU President Berge Setrakian took pride in recognizing for their extraordinary sacrifices of time and expertise during critical moments in 2020. This included the District Committee of Lebanon and its Chairman Gerard Tufenkjian, as well as the entire AGBU Lebanon community. They redefined the meaning of civic engagement after the explosion at the Port in Beirut in August 2020. In addition, Setrakian thanked AGBU scouts across the globe for their hard work and community service throughout an incredibly challenging time locally and globally.

The AGBU Young Professionals network was singled out for the outstanding display of leadership when the pandemic hit, proactively finding ways to keep connected, as well as provide forums for important exchanges on timely topics.

In his official biennial address, Setrakian acknowledged

straightaway that the impressive gains and achievements by AGBU in the 2018-2019 cycle were soon overshadowed by the crises that ensued in 2020. He acknowledged how these calamities necessitated a major shift in priorities to intensive humanitarian relief, an area for which AGBU has long burnished an impressive and trusted reputation.

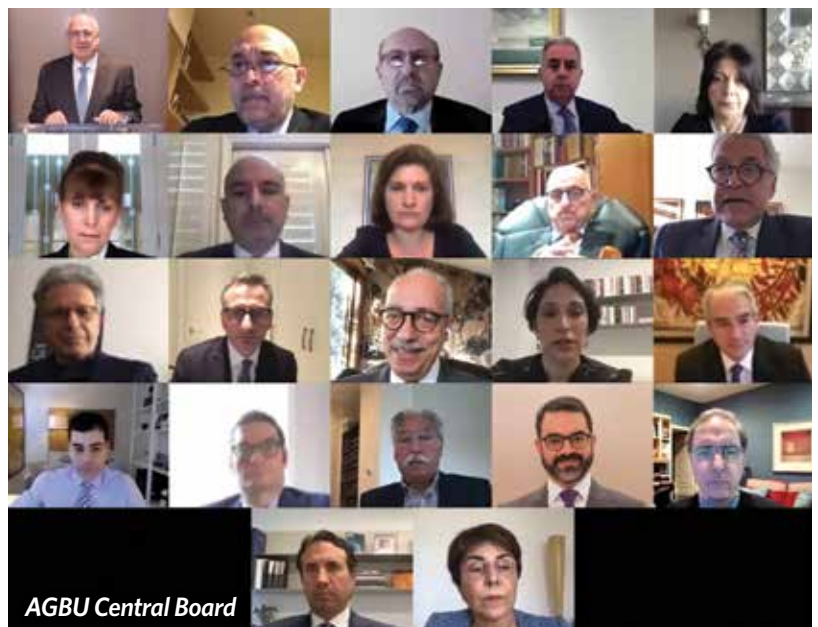
Cognizant of the immediate concerns of those in attendance, he outlined what he envisions for AGBU and for Armenia going forward. He called on all Armenian people to unite and bring their expertise, their engagement, and their formidable will to build the future in the aftermath of the events of the past year. He concluded the session by stating that these changes required the participation of everyone, as only together can we achieve the national prosperity and stability we profoundly wish to see.



*Berge Setrakian flanked by Central Board Treasurer Nazareth Festekjian (l) and Central Board Secretary Sarkis Jebejian (r)*



*His Holiness Karekin II,  
Catholicos of All Armenians*



*AGBU Central Board*

## AGBU Events 2020-2021

During periods of separation, communities found ways to stay connected, celebrating milestones, hosting conferences and forums, and sharing cultural events either remotely or in person.

### Milestones

**Global:** 25th Anniversary of AGBU Young Professionals.

**2 Armenia:** A Toast to 30 Years of Statehood private reception atop the AGBU Armenia building.

**1 New York:** 20th Anniversary of YP Greater New York Silent Auction.

**Northern California:** 20 Years of YP Northern California's San Francisco Winter Gala.

### Conferences and Forums

**Global:** AVC Pan-Armenian Forum exploring the world of online education; AVC Learning Zone engaging online audiences with relevant Armenian topics for discussion and live virtual meet ups; webinar on *Truth and Accountability: Ethnic Cleansing in the Modern Age* in partnership with the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights.

**3 Global:** *Women Shaping the World Conference and Workshops* held in New York City.



**Armenia:** Roundtable Discussion on the legacy of the Armenian journalist and activist Hrant Dink in partnership with the French Embassy in Armenia and Courier d'Erevan; AGBU and Creative Armenia's Culture 2.0, a digital summit on the future of art in the wake of the global pandemic.



Vasken Yacoubian, President of AGBU Armenia (l) celebrates with Lynne M. Tracy, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia (r)



**Beirut:** *Genocide in the Middle East Viewed from a Gender Lens* in conjunction with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut; **4** *Youth in a Changing World Workshop* in collaboration with Columbia University's Committee of Global Thought; A tribute event celebrating the legacy of Lebanese diplomat Dr. Charles Malik; *Women Coping with the Pandemic in a War Zone*, a conference in partnership with the Arab Institute for Women Lebanese American University (LAU) and Women in War Think Tank; *Embattled Dreamlands: A History of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*, in partnership with Lepsius Haus—Potsdam.

**Berlin:** International conference *Genocide, Mass Violence and International Justice after 1919*, a centerpiece of the European Remembrance Project supported by Europe for Citizens program of the European Union in partnership with the Lepsius Haus in Potsdam, the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), and the Roma organization Phiren Amenca.

**Brussels:** Two online lectures by German historians Rolf Hosfeld and Stefan Ihri as part of the Remembrance Project's *Ideas and their Consequences: Genocide and International Justice after 1919*.

**Buenos Aires:** Ventana Cultural Series on Armenian identity, history and culture.

**Europe:** AGBU Goriz Live Webinar attended by 41 participants from 41 countries.

**Melbourne:** Health Talks series to empower community with expert health advice.

**Valence:** Lecture by Vicken Cheterian on *War, Genocide and Remembrance in the Modern Middle East*, co-organized by AGBU Europe, AGBU Valence, and the Centre du Patrimoine Arménien (CPA).

## Cultural Events

**Barcelona:** AGBU-affiliate ACAB concert dedicated to Komitas.

**Brussels:** Third annual Bridges: East of West Film Days.

**Europe:** Screening of *Should the Wind Drop* by Noera Martirosyan at the Bozar Center for Fine Arts.

**Global:** *Meet the Artists: Armenians In Film* online series.

**Latakia:** AGBU-AYA Latakia Choir outdoor concert in the courtyard of St. Michael's Church.

**Los Angeles:** **5** AGBU LA Choir performs for the gala fundraiser in support of the new Armenian-American Museum; **6** AGBU Hye Geen Friendsgiving Luncheon featuring artist Ava Manukyan and singer Arthur Khachents.

**Milan:** Concert with Young Performers.

**Montreal:** Garni Dance Ensemble at Montreal's Théâtre Marcellin-Champagnat.





**Montreal/Toronto:** *Solidarity in Song* series, connecting the two cities through music.

**1 New York:** Weekly Cooking with the Counselors series as part of Virtual Camp Nubar.

**Nicosia:** Performance of Taline & Friends, the Armenian children's music group.

**Plovdiv:** Yerazank Armenian Youth Dance Group at Plovdiv Summer of Culture series; The fourth annual *Hello Armenia International Festival* with performers from various regions in Bulgaria; and **2** International Children's Day celebration at the fifth annual; *Ethno Kitchen on Wheels Culinary Art Festival for Children and Families*.

**Russe:** Dedication of a unique bench in the form of an open book turned to a page with a famous poem called *Armenians* by Bulgarian poet Peyo Yavorov. The permanent installation stands in front of the historical museum in the city center.

**3 Sofia:** *All Is Music* concert with AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra; AGBU Sofia Chapter Orchestra performed in multiple venues throughout the 2020-2021 season in observation of the 106th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

**Toronto:** Weekly virtual cooking tutorials at part of the AGBU Hye Kitchen series.

**Varna:** Srbuk performance with AGBU Varna Chamber Orchestra; Solo art exhibition of Armenag Mardirosyan at the Boris Georgiev City Art Gallery.

**Yerevan:** *Fete de la Musique*, an online concert of the Komitas State Conservatory; AGBU-supported Armenian National Philharmonic Tour in China; **4** Concert with *AGBU Discovers Talents* competition with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra; Closing ceremony of the first SUMMEET International Modern Dance Festival.



# AGBU Presence by Region

*Performers dance at AGBU Varna's  
Armenian Christmas Ball, January 2020.*



Gyumri, Armenia



# Armenia and Artsakh

## AGBU Sponsored Programs and Projects in Armenia and Artsakh

### Ongoing Programs

#### Armenia

- American University of Armenia (AUA)
- Armenian Virtual College (AVC)
- ANI Language Coaching
- Applied Policy Research Institute (APRI Armenia)
- Armenian Chess Federation
- Armenians Come Together (ACT)
- Arménie, Terre de Vie
- Business Mentors
- Camp Nairi
- Children's Centers: Arapkir, Malatya, Nork
- Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic
- Creative Armenia
- Discover Talents
- Discover Armenia
- Global Leadership Program (GLP) Yerevan
- Greenhouse Project
- Humanitarian Relief—General
- Humanitarian Relief—Health/Medical
- Humanitarian Relief—Syrian Armenians

- HyeConnect Virtual Digital Platform
- Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers:
  - Charentsavan, Talin, Vanadzor,
  - Yeghvard, Yerevan
- Musical Armenia Program (MAP)
- RONAK: Storytelling in Journalism
- Scouts
- Scouts Camp Antranik
- Senior Dining Centers:
  - Arapkir, Malatya, Nork
- Women Coders
- Women Entrepreneurs (AGBU WE)
- Women's Workplace Fundamentals
- Levon & Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center at YSMU
- Yerevan State University (YSU)

#### Artsakh

- AGBU Learn to Earn Artsakh Program (LEAP)
- Artsakh Chamber Orchestra
- Artsakh State University Reconstruction
- AUA Extension
- Humanitarian Relief—Artsakh
- Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers:
  - Stepanakert
- St. Hovanness Mgerdich Church
- TUMOXAGBU—Stepanakert
- Women Entrepreneurs (AGBU WE)



Vayots Dzor, Armenia



Yerevan, Armenia



Hankavan, Armenia

## Major Projects

### Holy Etchmiadzin

- Candle Chapel Construction
- Cathedral—Renovations
- Clergy Support
- Elderly Homes
- Gamo Village Church Construction
- Educational Grants
- Izmirlian Hospital  
(formerly: St. Nersess Hospital)
- Needy Children/Elderly Relief
- Old Veharan Maintenance
- Pontifical Fund for Pastoral Development
- Vagharshabad Children's Center &  
Senior Dining Center
- Vanadzor Children's Center &  
Senior Dining Center
- Vaskenian Theological Seminary

## Special Grants

- Armenian National Philharmonic  
Orchestra (ANPO)
- Artsakh Research Grants
- City of Smile Charitable Foundation
- Film Production
- French University in Armenia (UFAR)
- Gallery of Mariam and  
Yeranuhi Aslamasyan Sisters
- GenEd Teacher Fellowship Program
- Humanitarian Relief—Tavush Region
- Irind Village School Gym, Community  
Center and Irrigation System Renovations
- Mashtots Armenian Culture Preservation  
and Development Foundation
- Matenadaran (Mesrop Mashtots Institute  
of Ancient Manuscripts) Research
- Nor Malatia School
- Publications
- Sisian History Museum

- TUMOXAGBU Centers—Yerevan, Koghb
- Voskehat Village Irrigation System  
Renovation
- Women's Support Center
- Yerazi Tun Rehabilitation Center
- Yerevan My Love Project

*These listings reflect AGBU programs and initiatives by region, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*



New York, United States

# North and South America

## AGBU Presence in North and South America

*\*Denotes the presence of a district, chapter or Young Professionals committee.*

### Canada

#### Montreal\*

- Athletics
- Ecolé Alex Manoogian
- Garni Dance Ensemble
- Golden Age
- Hayortyats Or Saturday School
- Hayortyats Summer Camp
- Marching Band
- NOVA Summer School
- Scouts

#### Toronto\*

- Athletics
- Golden Age

### United States

#### Arizona

#### Scottsdale\*

#### California

#### Fresno\*

#### Glendale-Pasadena\*

- AYA Athletics
  - AYA Scouts
- #### Los Angeles Area
- Artemis Nazarian Preschool
  - Asbeds
  - Camp Amaras
  - Generation Next Mentorship Program
  - Hye Geen
  - Krikor Satamian Theater
  - Los Angeles Choir
  - Manoogian-Demirdjian School
  - Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (2020)
  - Veterans

#### Orange County\*

#### Saturday School

#### San Fernando Valley\*

- Athletics
- Scouts

#### San Francisco\*

#### Silicon Valley\*

#### Illinois

#### Chicago\*

- Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School

#### Ohio

#### Cleveland\*

#### Michigan

#### Detroit\*

- Alex & Marie Manoogian School

#### Nevada

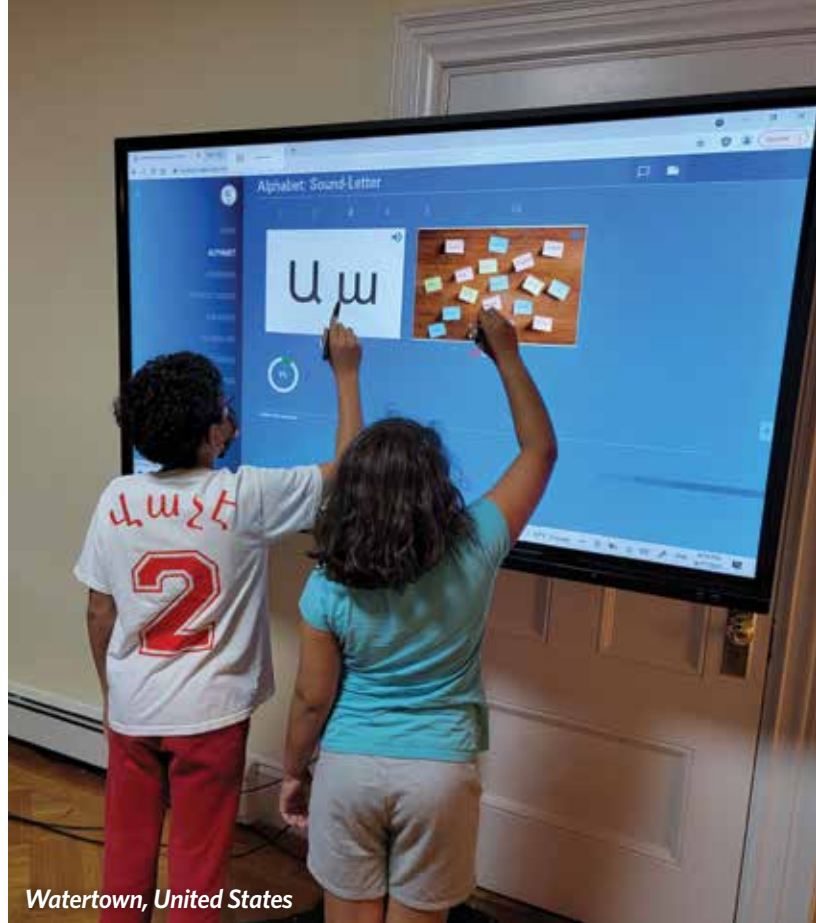
#### Las Vegas\*



Montreal, Canada



Montevideo, Uruguay



Watertown, United States

**Massachusetts\***

**Boston\***

Global Leadership Program  
New England Hybrid Armenian School

**New York**

AGBU Insider  
AGBU News  
Antranig Dance Ensemble  
Camp Nubar  
Global Leadership Program  
New York Special Events Committee

**Pennsylvania**

**Philadelphia\***

**Texas**

**Houston\***

**Washington, D.C.\***

**Argentina**

**Buenos Aires\***

Athletics  
Scouts  
Colonia de Vacaciones  
Generación 3  
Global Leadership Program  
Instituto Marie Manoogian  
Krikor Satamian Theater Group  
Liga de Jóvenes (Youth)

**Córdoba\***

Ararat Dance Ensemble  
Colonia de Vacaciones  
Youth

**Brazil**

**São Paulo\***

**Uruguay**

**Montevideo\***

Athletics  
Colegio Nubarian  
Erevan 50 Scouts  
Grung Choir  
Liga de Jóvenes (Youth)  
UGAB Tech

*These listings reflect AGBU programs and initiatives by region, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*



Plovdiv, Bulgaria

# Europe

## AGBU Presence in Europe

*\*Denotes the presence of a district, chapter or Young Professionals committee.*

### Austria

Vienna\*

### Belgium

Brussels\*

Goriz Leadership Development Program

### Cyprus

Larnaca\*

Nicosia\*

Ararat Futsal Team

AYA Sports and Youth

### Bulgaria

Burgas\*

Dobrich\*

Haskovo\*

Krikor Azaryan Theater Group

Saturday School

**Plovdiv\***

AGBU Voice

Astghigner Dance Group

Camp Hayler

Erebuni Musical Ensemble

Nreni Dance Group

Saturday School

Yerazank Dance Group

Youth

**Rousse\***

**Sliven\***

**Sofia\***

Camp Hayler

Chamber Orchestra

HayLer Sunday School

Youth

### Varna\*

Chamber Orchestra

### France\*

Armenians Come Together (ACT)

Arménie, Terre de Vie

Colonie de Vacances

Nubar Library

Séjour de Ski

UFAR Internship Program

**Lyon\***

Youth

**Marseille\***

Youth

**Nice\***



Haute-Savoie, France



Brussels, Belgium



Nicosia, Cyprus

**Paris\***

Ahazank Theater Group  
Alex Manoogian Saturday School  
Koghtan Choir  
US Nubar Paris  
Youth

**Valence\***

Youth

**Vienne\***

Armenian Dance Classes  
Weekly Armenian School  
Youth

**Germany**

**Berlin\***

**Frankfurt\***

HAIK (*affiliate*)

**Greece**

**Athens\***

Ani Dance Ensemble  
Artaki Kalpakian School  
Youth

**Thessaloniki\***

**Italy**

**Milan\***

**Luxembourg**

**Luxembourg\***

**Netherlands**

**Almelo\***

**Amsterdam\***

**Russia**

**Moscow\***

**Spain**

**Barcelona**

Asociació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona  
(ACAB) (*affiliate*)

**Madrid\***

**Switzerland**

**Geneva\***

**Zurich\***

**United Kingdom**

**London\***

Global Leadership Program

*These listings reflect AGBU programs and initiatives by region, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*



Beirut, Lebanon

# Africa and the Middle East

## AGBU Presence in Africa and the Middle East

\*Denotes the presence of a district, chapter or Young Professionals committee.

### Egypt\*

#### Alexandria\*

Youth

#### Cairo\*

*Arek (Arabic) Quarterly*

*Deghegadou Quarterly*

Dziadzan Children's Choir

Humanitarian Assistance Program

Medical Support Program

Youth

#### Heliopolis\*

### Ethiopia

#### Addis Ababa\*

### Iraq

#### Baghdad\*

Armenian Studies Program

Scouts

Sayat Nova Children's Choir

"Tchekavoratz" Humanitarian Relief Program

Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Day Camp

### Lebanon\*

#### Amanos/Antelias/Sin el-Fil/Zahle\*

AGBU Schools

Arine Dance Ensemble

Asbeds

*AYA Lebanon e-Newsletter*

Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies

Saturday School

Demirdjian Center Summer Day Camp

Humanitarian Relief Programs

*Khosnag Monthly*

Medical Dispensaries

Sports

Scouts

Vahram Papazian Theater

Youth





Aleppo, Syria



Beirut, Lebanon



Antelias, Lebanon

## Syria\*

### Aleppo\*

Aram Khachaturian Conservatory  
 Arekag Children's Choir  
 Bedros Atamian Theater Group  
 Big Band  
 Dance Ensemble  
 Gomidas Chamber Orchestra  
 Hayatsk Quarterly  
 Scouts  
 Sports  
 Lazar Najarian-Calouste  
   Gulbenkian School  
 Marching Band  
 Mardiros Sarian Academy  
 Pouch Children's Dance Ensemble  
 Spondarian Choir

## Damascus\*

Gullabi Gulbenkian School  
 Sports  
 Youth  
**Kamishli\***  
 Saturday School  
 Scouts  
 Summer School  
**Kessab\***  
 Kessab Summer Camp  
 Scouts  
**Latakia\***  
 Karoun Children's Choir  
 Marching Band  
 Scouts

## Turkey

### Istanbul

UTI (*affiliate*)

## United Arab Emirates

### Dubai\*

*These listings reflect AGBU programs and initiatives by region, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*



Sydney, Australia



# Asia and Australia

## AGBU Presence in Asia and Australia

*\*Denotes the presence of a district, chapter or Young Professionals committee.*

### Australia

#### Melbourne\*

- AGBU Melbourne Webinars
- AGBU Voice Radio Program
- Hagop Baronian Theatre Group
- Nor Tsayn Newsletter
- Youth

#### Sydney\*

- Alexander Primary School
- Alex Manoogian Saturday School
- Mioutune Newsletter
- Tamzara Armenian Dance Group
- Youth

### New Zealand\*

#### South Korea

#### Seoul\*

*These listings reflect AGBU programs and initiatives by region, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

# AGBU Signature Programs and Products



*A third grader at École Alex Manoogian in Montreal, Canada performs his studies online, 2020.*



# Education

## AGBU Schools 2020-2021

Adhering to the health and safety guidelines in place at a given time, AGBU schools successfully continued to provide quality education through remote and/or in person learning.

	<p><b>Total Schools</b> Primary, Secondary, Preparatory, Summer, One-Day Schools: <b>26</b></p>
	<p><b>Total Enrollment</b> Over <b>3,500</b> Students</p>

### Australia

#### Sydney:

- Alexander Primary School (PreK-12)
- Alex Manoogian Saturday School (K-7)

### Europe

#### Bulgaria

**Haskovo:** Saturday School

**Plovdiv:** Saturday School

**Sofia:** HayLer Sunday School

#### France

**Paris:** Alex Manoogian Saturday School

**Vienne:** Weekly School

#### Greece

**Athens:** Artaki Kalpakian School (PreK-6)

### Middle East

#### Iraq

**Baghdad:** AGBU Iraq Armenian Studies Program

#### Lebanon

##### Antelias:

- AGBU Schools (PreK-12)
- Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School

#### Syria

**Aleppo:** Lazar-Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (PreK-12)

**Damascus:** Gullabi Gulbenkian School (PreK-12)

**Kamishli:** Saturday School; Summer School

## North America

### Canada

#### Montreal

- 2 • École Alex Manoogian (PreK-8)
- Hayortyats Or
- NOVA Summer School

### United States

#### Canoga Park, CA:

- Artemis Nazarian Preschool
- Manoogian-Demirdjian School (K-12)

**Costa Mesa, CA:** Orange County Saturday School

**Chicago, IL:** Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School

**Pasadena, CA:** Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (2020)

**Southfield, MI:** Alex & Marie Manoogian School (PreK-12)

**Watertown, MA:** New England Hybrid Armenian School



## South America

### Argentina

**Buenos Aires:** Instituto Marie Manoogian (PreK-12)

### Uruguay

1 **Montevideo:** Colegio Nubarian (PreK-6)

## After-School Programs

### Armenia

3 **Yerevan:** AGBU Children's Centers in Nork, Arapkir, and Malatya districts

### Artsakh

4 **Stepanakert:** TUMOxAGBU Stepanakert



## Digital Offerings

### AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC)

- AVC Online Courses
- AVC Hybrid Education Program
- AVC Learning Zone
- AVC eBooks

### AGBU Apps

- Armenian Holidays and Traditions
- Gus on the Go: Eastern Armenian for Kids
- Gus on the Go: Western Armenian for Kids
- 5 • Im Armenia: Travel Guide for Kids

### AGBU ATLAS

### AGBU WebTalks





## AGBU Scholarships 2020-2021

### AGBU Scholarships

	<p><b>Total Awards Awarded</b>          2020: <b>\$851,000</b> 2021: <b>\$973,000</b></p>
	<p><b>Number of Countries Where Studies Were Pursued</b>          2020: <b>29</b> 2021: <b>28</b></p>

### Scholarship Categories

Type of Scholarship	Number of Scholarships Awarded	
	2020	2021
US Graduate	68	69
Performing Arts	39	47
Religious Studies	8	11
International	402	397
Heritage Scholar Grants	4	4
Helen C. Evans	n/a	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>581</b>

## Additional Distributions for Institutional Scholarships in Armenia

Type of Scholarship	Amount Awarded	
	2020	2021
Scholarships to Syrian Armenian University Students	\$30,830.75	\$137,000
AUA-NKR Extension Project	n/a	\$100,000
AUA Scholarships	\$60,000	\$50,000
French University of Armenia	\$30,000	\$30,000
AUA-MOD Cadet Scholarships	\$22,748.59	n/a
Yerevan State University Endowments	\$5,987.68	\$5,981.19
Matenadaran Scholarships	\$7,594.94	\$6,936.42
Creative Armenia Fellowships	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157,161.96</b>	<b>\$202,304.74</b>

## Fields of Study and Sampling of Schools Attended

### Heritage Scholar Grants

**Top Four Fields of Study:** Biological Sciences, Public Health, Engineering, English

**Undergraduate Schools:** University of California (Several Locations), University of Michigan

### AGBU US Graduate Scholarships

**Top Five Fields of Study:** Public Administration & Policy, Medicine and Health Sciences, Law, Business, Armenian/Russian/Middle Eastern Studies

**Sampling of Schools:** Cornell University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Stanford, New York University, University of Chicago, University of California (several locations)

### AGBU International Scholarships

**Top Five Fields of Study:** Computer Science & IT, Political Science & International Law, Economics & Finance, Applied Mathematics & Physics, Architecture

**Sampling of International Schools:** ETH Zurich, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, University of Cambridge, University College London, Sorbonne University, American University of Beirut, McGill University, University of Toronto

### AGBU Performing Arts Scholarships

**Sampling of Schools:** The Juilliard School, Royal Conservatoire Antwerp, Munich Hochschule fuer Musik und Theater, Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography, Royal College of Music, University of London, Berklee College of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music

### AGBU Religious Studies Scholarships

**Sampling of Schools:** St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, University of Oxford, Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, Harvard Divinity School

The following pages reflect AGBU's signature programs and products, some of which were disrupted or altered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Socio-Economic Development

## Armenia Programs

Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic for Syrian Armenian Refugees

1 Levon and Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center at YSMU  
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers

2 Senior Dining Centers

Women Changemakers

Women Coders

Women Entrepreneurs (WE)

## Artsakh Programs

Women Changemakers

Women Coders

3 Women Entrepreneurs (WE)

4 Learn to Earn Artsakh Program (LEAP)

*For a full list of programs and projects in Armenia and Artsakh, see page 42.*







# Culture

## Summer Programs

### Overnight Camps

**Vanazdor, Armenia:** AGBU Antranik Scout Camp

**Kotayk, Armenia:** AGBU Camp Nairi

**Plovdiv, Bulgaria:** Camp HayLer

**Sofia, Bulgaria:** Camp HayLer

**5 Haute-Savoie, France:** Colonie de Vacances

**Kessab, Syria:** Kessab Camp

**New York, USA:** Camp Nubar

### Day Camps

**Buenos Aires, Argentina:** Colonia de Vacaciones

**Cordoba, Argentina:** Colonia de Vacaciones

**Montreal, Canada:** Hayortyats Camp

**Baghdad, Iraq:** Yerchanik Tajirian Camp

**Antelias, Lebanon:** Demirdjian Center Camp

**Pasadena, USA:** Camp Amaras

### Homeland Voluntourism Experiences

Youth Trips to Armenia

**6** Arménie, Terre de Vie

Discover Armenia





2

## Leadership Programs

- AYA Scouts
- Generation Next (GenNext)
- Global Leadership Program
- Goriz Leadership Development Program

## Global Publications

### AGBU News

- The Latin American-Armenian (5/20)
- Artsakh Strong (11/20)
- National Wellness (3/21)
- The Lebanese Armenians (12/21)

### AGBU Insider

- Women in STEM (5/20)
- Destiny Moments (11/20)
- Seeking Social Justice (12/21)



# Arts and Culture Groups/Programs

## Art and Music Academies

### Aleppo, Syria:

- Aram Khachaturian Conservatory
- Mardiros Sarian Academy

## Choral Groups

### Aleppo, Syria:

- Arekag Children's Choir
- Spondiarian Choir

**Baghdad, Iraq:** Sayat Nova Children's Choir

**Cairo, Egypt:** Dziadzan Children's Choir

**Montevideo, Uruguay:** Grung Choir

**Paris, France:** Koghtan Choir

**Pasadena, USA:** LA Choir

**Latakia, Syria:** Karoun Children's Choir

## Music Groups

### Aleppo, Syria:

- AYA Antranik Marching Band
- AYA Big Band
- Gomidas Chamber Orchestra

**Plovdiv, Bulgaria:** Erebouni Musical Ensemble

**Sofia, Bulgaria:** Chamber Orchestra

**Stepanakert, Artsakh:** Artsakh Chamber Orchestra

**Varna, Bulgaria:** Chamber Orchestra

## Dance Ensembles

### Aleppo, Syria:

- AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble
- AYA Pountch Children's Dance Group

**Athens, Greece:** Ani Dance Ensemble

**Beirut, Lebanon:** AYA Arine Dance Ensemble

**Cordoba, Argentina:** Ararat Dance Ensemble

**1 Montreal, Canada:** Garni Dance Ensemble

**New York, USA:** Antranig Dance Ensemble

### Plovdiv, Bulgaria:

- Astghigner Children's Dance Group
- Nreni Dance Group

**2** • Yerazank Dance Group

**Sydney, Australia:** Tamzara Armenian Dance Group

## Talent Development

Creative Armenia

**3** Musical Armenia Program (MAP)

Sayat Nova Competition

## Theatre Groups

**Aleppo, Syria:** AYA Bedros Atamian Theater

**Beirut, Lebanon:** AYA Vahram Papazian Theater

**Buenos Aires, Argentina:** Krikor Satamian Theater

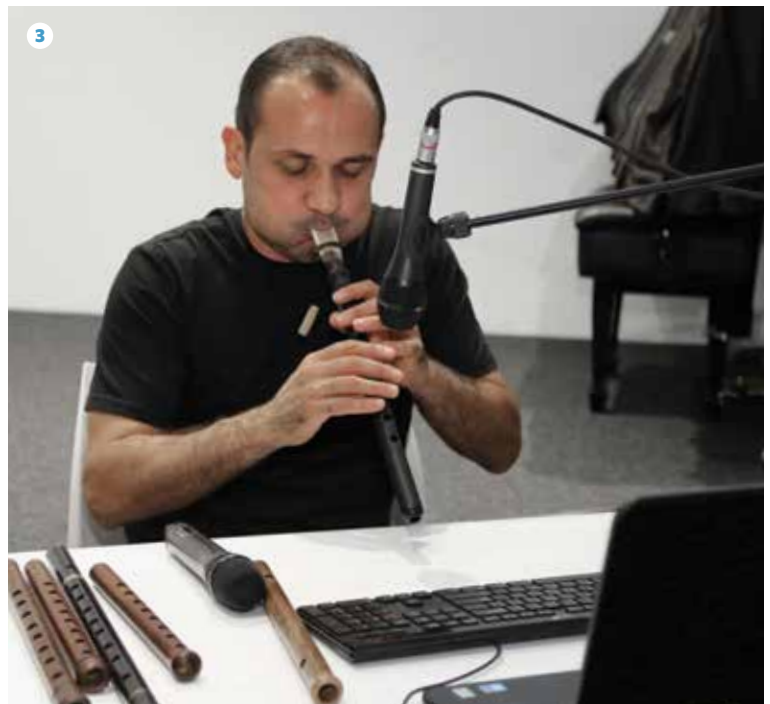
**Haskovo, Bulgaria:** Krikor Azaryan Youth Theater

**Melbourne, Australia:** Hagop Baronian Theater

**Paris, France:** Ahazank Theatre

**Pasadena, USA:** Krikor Satamian Theatre

**Sydney, Australia:** Vahram Papazian Theater



# AGBU Young Professionals

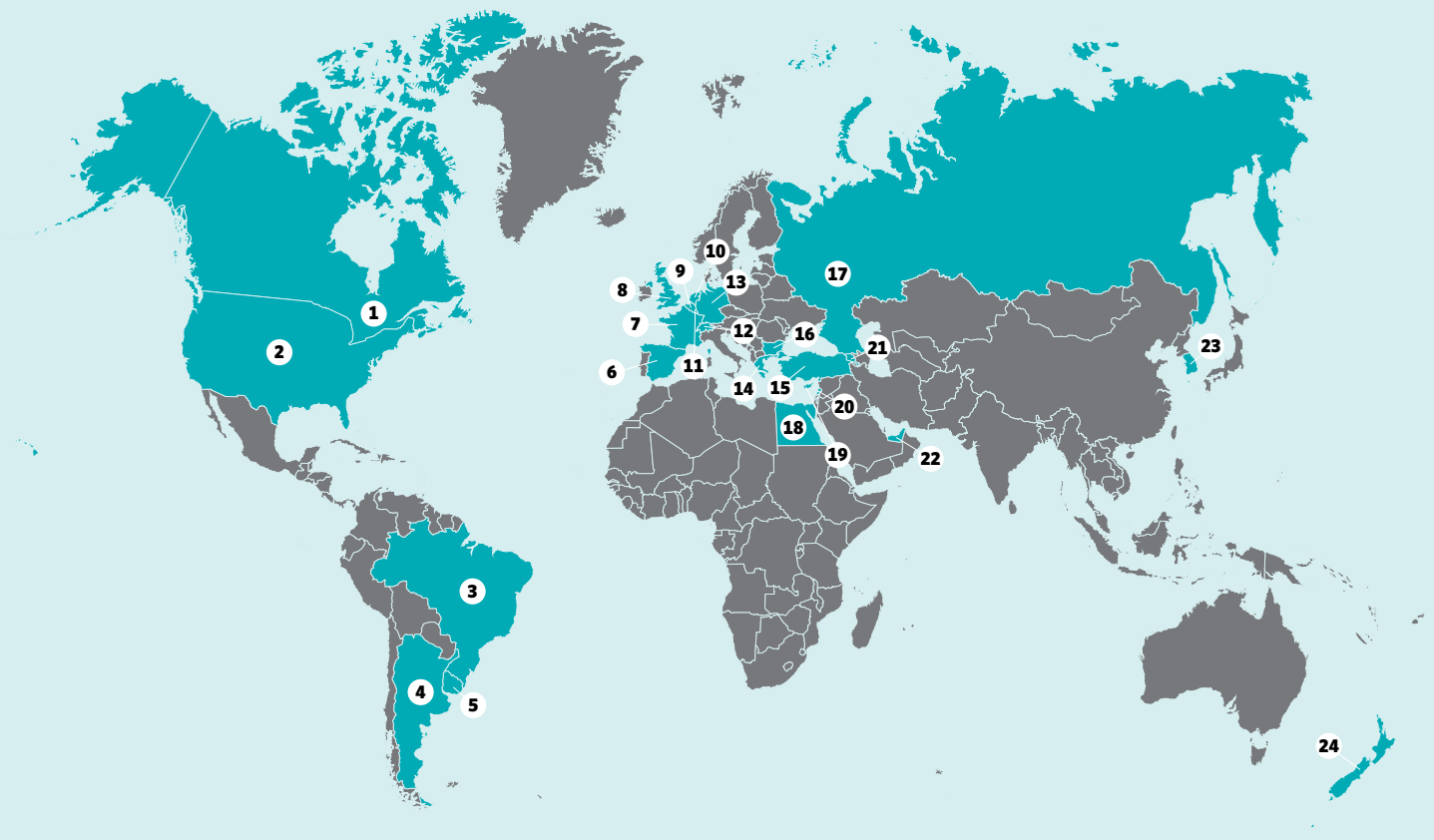
## New YP Groups

2020

- 1 YP Madrid
- YP Zurich
- YP New Zealand

2021

- YP Montevideo



## 2020–2021 YP Groups

1. Montreal, Toronto 2. Arizona, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Greater New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Northern California, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. 3. Brazil 4. Buenos Aires 5. Montevideo 6. Madrid 7. Paris, Lyon Rhone-Alpes, Marseille 8. London 9. Belgium 10. Amsterdam 11. Luxembourg 12. Geneva, Zurich 13. Frankfurt, Germany (HAIK) 14. Athens 15. Istanbul (UTI) 16. Sofia 17. Moscow 18. Egypt 19. Cyprus 20. Lebanon 21. Yerevan 22. United Arab Emirates 23. South Korea 24. New Zealand

## Highlights of YP Conferences and Forums

**YP Egypt:** *The ABC's of Hieroglyphs.*

**YP United Arab Emirates:** Talk with software engineer Apik Zorian on facial recognition technology and role in fighting Covid-19.

**YP Luxembourg:** Lecture on Armenian politics with journalist Tatul Hakobyan from Armenia.

**YP Belgium:** Fireside Chat with Jewish community leader Baron Julien Kelener.

**YP Global:** *Building Armenia Together: Wiser & Stronger*, a one-day online conference on the critical needs of Armenia.

**YP Yerevan:** Nooor Blockchain Armenia community members explore Armenia's tech industry.

**2 YP Greater New York** met with Artsakh Minister of State Artak Beglaryan to talk about life in post-war Artsakh and the prospects for its viability in the future.

**YP Moscow:** Meeting with Armenia's High Commission for Diaspora Affairs and other diplomats.

**YP Northern California** and **YP New York:** Co-organized a panel of experts explaining the current situation in post war Artsakh and a town hall on systemic racism, oppression, anti-blackness and how to take action.

### YP Leadership Forums

In 2020, eight **Global YP Leadership Calls** were held with 38 groups and two partners—Europe/Asia/Middle East and North/South Americas—discussing and confirming the global YP network's 2020 and 2021 strategy and roadmap.

**AGBU Europe Virtual Summit** took place in 2020 to bring leaders of 18 European groups (40+ YPs, representing over 60% of summit participants) and a few chapters together to exchange updates on how AGBU is adapting to the current situation, presenting ongoing projects/programs from AGBU headquarters, Europe and Armenia. In addition to a presentation on the YP Global Network, YP London, Madrid and Zurich were invited to make presentations as part of the formal agenda.



## Young Professionals Chairs and Coordinators

\*Denotes Affiliate

### Amsterdam

Vahag Avakian

### Arizona

Shoushan Kaprielian

### Athens

Setrak Abassian

### Belgium

Gevorg Demurchyan (2020)  
Maria Bagdasarova (2021)

### Boston

Rebecca Shahverdian (2020)  
Garo Youssoufian (2021)

### Brazil

Natália Ortiz Hazarian

### Buenos Aires

Raffi Gechidjian

### Chicago

Tara Mikaelian

### Cyprus

Natasha Der Avedissian

### Detroit

Naera Haghazarian

### Egypt

Aspe Djizmedjian

### Frankfurt

Sahak Artazyan

### Geneva

Rubina Yacoubian-Balyozyan

### HAIK (Germany)\*

Shushanik Aprikyan

### Greater New York

Caroline Kahyaoglu (2020)  
William Nazarian

### Houston

Armen Merjanian

### Istanbul (UTI)\*

Katya Kaya and Aren Semerciyan

### Lebanon

Natacha Keuchgeurian

### London

Nathalie Piranian

### Los Angeles

Carin Kelizi and Tenny Khachatourian

### Luxembourg

Rafayel Gevorgyan

### Lyon Rhone-Alpes

Emma Varosyan

### Madrid

Diran Guiliguan

### Marseille

Mikael Guéviguan

### Montevideo

Ari Chamlian

### Montreal

Karl Guiragossian (2020)  
Maral Elliott

### Moscow

Anna Sharoyan

### New Zealand

Armen Mkoian

### Northern California

David Ojakian

### Paris

Hermine Samuelian(2020)  
Anouche Torossian

### Philadelphia

Sara Selverian

### Sofia

Eliza Bakardjueva

### South Korea

Narine Haroyan (2020)  
Ogsen Galstyan

### Toronto

Nazig Gabriel and Aren Sroujian (2020)  
Talar Thomasian and Cassandra Bertucci

### UAE

Arina Maljian

### Washington, D.C.

Vilen Khlgatyan

### Yerevan

Haykaz Nahapetyan

### Zurich

Caroline Babayéguidian and Elisabeth Istanbulli

Note: Names without dates served in both 2020 and 2021.



YP Moscow



YP Northern California



YP Greater New York

# AGBU Honorees 2020-2021



An AGBU Scout carries an AGBU food box for a pensioner in Armenia, 2020.

# AGBU Honorees

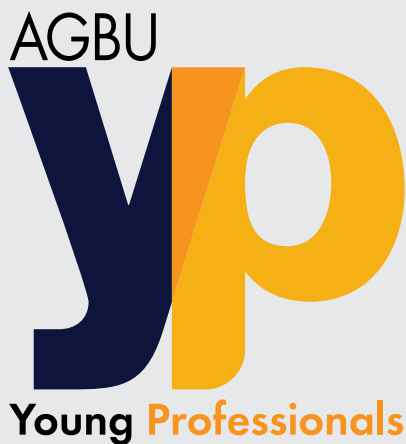
## 2020-2021



**AGBU Lebanon** was honored for its tireless efforts to help Lebanese-Armenian communities recover from the disastrous Blast in the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. Under the guidance of AGBU Lebanon President Gerard Tufenkjian and the AGBU Lebanon Disaster Response Committee with its many teams of volunteers, AGBU earned high praise and recognition from not only Lebanese officials but also high profile international relief agencies for its swift mobilization of comprehensive humanitarian services in the immediate aftermath of the explosion and beyond.

**AGBU Scouts** across the globe were honored for dedicated community service at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as coming to the aid of victims during the Second Artsakh War and the explosion in Beirut.

Their local fundraising drives, food distribution and delivery services made a positive difference during the worst of times.



**AGBU Young Professionals** worldwide were honored for taking the lead in keeping Armenian communities connected virtually during the lockdowns and shutdowns of the Covid-19 pandemic. They created a vast amount of original content that engaged, informed and entertained audiences around the world and brought new participants from far flung locations into the AGBU family. They also raised funds for Artsakh with a matching gift campaign that helped support the distribution of food and supplies to displaced Armenian civilians on the move.



# District and Chapter Chairpersons 2020-2021

## Argentina

**Buenos Aires:** Ruben Kedikian  
**Córdoba:** Ariel Vartanian

## Australia

**Melbourne:** Maral Tchorbadjian  
**Sydney:** Mihran Lepejian

## Austria

**Vienna:** Lousin Balmanian

## Brazil

**São Paulo:** Haig Apovian

## Bulgaria

**Burgas:** Hagop Movsesian  
**Plovdiv:** Hripsime Nourikian

### Chapters Associated with Plovdiv:

**Dobrich:** Eduard Kokonyan  
**Haskovo:** Srpuhi Derandonyan  
**Rousse:** Boghos Garjarian  
**Sliven:** Arshavir Hulian

**Sofia:** Arno Kuumdjian (until May 2020), Gronika Kavafian (until August 2021),  
Velizar Agopyan

**Varna:** Kevork Krikoryan

## Canada

**Montreal:** Chahé Tanachian  
**Toronto:** Mihran Egavian and Aida Knadjian

## Cyprus

**Larnaca:** Tigran Kalaydjian  
**Nicosia:** Missak Kouyoumdjian

## Egypt

**District Committee of Egypt, Cairo:** Onnig Belekdanian†

**Alexandria:** Berj Jebejian  
**Cairo:** Viken Djizmedjian†

## Ethiopia

**Addis Ababa:** Vahakn Karibian

## Europe District

Nadia Gortzounian

## France

**France District:** Nadia Gortzounian

**Lyon:** Viken Kojakian  
**Marseille:** Patrick Malakian (until December 2020), Aurore Bruna  
**Nice:** Chakée Hagopian-Clausen (until December 2020), Alina Alman  
**Valence:** Kevin Markarian  
**Vienne:** Nazar Tatevossian  
**St-Chamond-St-Etienne:** Leonardo Basmadyian

## Germany

**Berlin:** Georgi Ambarzumjan (as of December 2020)

## Greece

**Central Committee of Greece, Athens:**

Ovsanna Karayan (until January 2020), Aris Hatchaturian

**Thessaloniki:** Haigouhi Portukalian

## Iraq

**Baghdad:** Pakram Movses Derhagopian (until March 2020), Kevork Kadoian

## Italy

**Milan:** Gueguel Khatchadourian (until September 2020), Gayane Khodaveerdi

## Lebanon

**Lebanon District:** Gerard Tufenkjian

**Antelias:** Krikor Keshishian  
**Sevan (Sil e-Fil):** Varoujan Margossian  
**Zahle:** Shant Tchirchirian

## Netherlands

**Almelo:** Harout Palanjian

## Syria

**Syria District:** Nerses Nersoyan

**Aleppo:** Carlo Semerjian  
**Damascus:** Ara Yacoubian (2020), Nazareth Yacoubian  
**Kamishli:** Ardavazt Yacoubian  
**Kessab:** Vasken Tchaparjian  
**Latakia:** Nicola Madani

## United Arab Emirates

**Dubai:** Hratch Borghosizian

## United Kingdom

**London:** Armine Afrikian (until February 2020), Nathalie Piranian

## Uruguay

**Montevideo:** Jose Geozucaraian (until August 2020), Manoug Mamigonian  
(until November 2021), Jose Geozucaraian

## United States

**Chicago, IL:** Vahan Janjigian

**New England District:** Ara Balikian

**Cleveland, OH:** Sebouh Setrakian

**Western District:** Talin Yacoubian (2020)

**Scottsdale, AZ:** Karekin Kaprelian  
**Fresno, CA:** Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian  
**Glendale/Pasadena, CA:** Krikor Demirjian  
**San Fernando Valley, CA:** Hrag Ohannessian  
**Silicon Valley, CA:** Yervant Zorian  
**Las Vegas, NV:** Vazrik Makarian

While AGBU has made every effort to achieve complete accuracy in all the content provided herein,  
we apologize in advance for any inadvertent errors that may appear in this report.



*Camp Nairi campers,  
Hankavan, Armenia, 2021.*





Scan here to find this report online in Western Armenian or English. Or go to [agbu.org/financials](http://agbu.org/financials).

# AGBU

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