Title of the project:
“Reading promotion activities and workshops in rural areas of Armenia”
Project’s aim:

- To contribute to the promotion of reading habits among children and young adults in rural areas where the reading rates are not as good.

- To popularize Armenian young writers in these areas by organizing reading and book discussions of their books with children and young adults of these regions.

- To organize reading activities for children and young adults of these areas by the specialized librarians of the National Children’s Library after Khnko Aper in organizing reading activities for children and young adults.

- To organize workshops for the local librarians about effective ways of organizing and implementing reading activities for children and young adults.

- To donate books in small cozy shelves to these libraries or cultural centres.
Project’s outcomes:

- Popularization of Armenian young writers and their works among children and young adults in rural areas of Armenia by organizing reading and book discussion with their participation.
- The increase of interest towards books and reading among children and young adults of the rural areas of Armenia by implementing reading activities for them and master classes for the librarians serving them.
- Decentralization of reading and book activities.
- New and interesting books in shelves for children and young adults of 5 regional libraries of Armenia.
In 2020 IBBY Armenia organized and implemented “Reading promotion activities and workshops in rural areas of Armenia” project with the support of IBBY Yamada Fund keeping loyal to its slogan “Every child’s right to become a reader”.

In cooperation with the Armenian Library Association we had found out the “non or less reading areas and regions in Armenia” and launched the project.

During the first part of the project IBBY Armenia established reading corners donating 100 new, colorful and interesting books in small cozy shelves to the 5 regional libraries of Armenia including Tavush, Syunik, Aragatsotn, Lori and Armavir regions and organized workshops for the local librarians about effective ways of organizing and implementing reading activities for children and young adults.

Over 50 librarians from 5 regional libraries attended the workshops.
Reading corners in 5 regions of Republic of Armenia

Reading corner in Aparan municipal library, Aragatsotn region, RA
Reading corners in 5 regions of Republic of Armenia

Reading corner in Goris municipal library, Syunik region, RA
Reading corners in 5 regions of Republic of Armenia

Reading corner in Ijevan municipal library, Tavush region, RA
Reading corners in 5 regions of Republic of Armenia

Reading corner in Spitak municipal library, Lori region, RA
Reading corners in 5 regions of Republic of Armenia

Reading corner in Ejmiatsin municipal library, Armavir region, RA
Workshops for the librarians of Armavir municipal library, Aragatsotn region, RA
Workshops for the librarians of Goris municipal library, Syunik region, RA
Workshops for the librarians of Ejmiatsin municipal library, Armavir region, RA
Workshops for the librarians of Ijevan municipal library, Tavush region, RA
Workshops for the librarians of Spitak municipal library, Lori region, RA
Reading promotion activities for children and young adults in 5 regions
The pandemic outbreak makes IBBY Armenia staff to organize the reading promotion activities for children and teens both in offline and online regimes. IBBY Armenia organized meetings with contemporary children and youth’s writers and book discussions for the readers of 5 regional libraries where we had established reading corners. The activities were organized for 6-10 and 10-15 age groups. The participants of each group were given 2 books to read and then to have a meeting with the author and to have a book discussion. For each age groups 10 meetings and book discussions were organized. Thus we had 4 offline and 16 Zoom meetings and over 500 children and teens participants in 2 age groups.
Tangible results

Among the expected results in the application form we highlighted:

- Popularization of Armenian young writers and their works among children and young adults in rural areas of Armenia by organizing reading and book discussion with their participation

- The increase of interest towards books and reading among children and young adults of the rural areas of Armenia by implementing reading activities for them and master classes for the librarians serving them

- Decentralization of reading and book activities

- New and interesting books in shelves for children and young adults of 5 regional libraries of Armenia
**Tangible results**

Let us mention that we were able to reach the results we had expected.

- During the workshops the participant librarians mentioned that it was a good chance for them to get acquainted with the methods and techniques of reading promotion activities among children and youths organized in abroad libraries which would be of much help while organizing new and interesting activities for the promotion of reading among children and young adults in their libraries.

- The most part of participants of online and offline meetings with the authors and book discussions mentioned that it was the first time they had met with authors and more over were given a chance to discuss with them the books.

In both cases the participants expressed hope that the project would continue which would significantly contribute to the increase of reading rate in their regions.
media reference

- https://bit.ly/3gDbk2x
media reference

media reference

- https://www.facebook.com/ibbyarmenia/photos/pcb.1860889674062428/1860889410729121/
Special thanks to IBBY Yamada Fund and IBBY International for supporting to implement this project for the promotion of reading among Armenian children and youth and for the will to defend every child’s right to become a reader 😊