

The Adopt-a-Village Project



Transforming all Armenian Villages by Mentoring and Reconnecting the Diaspora

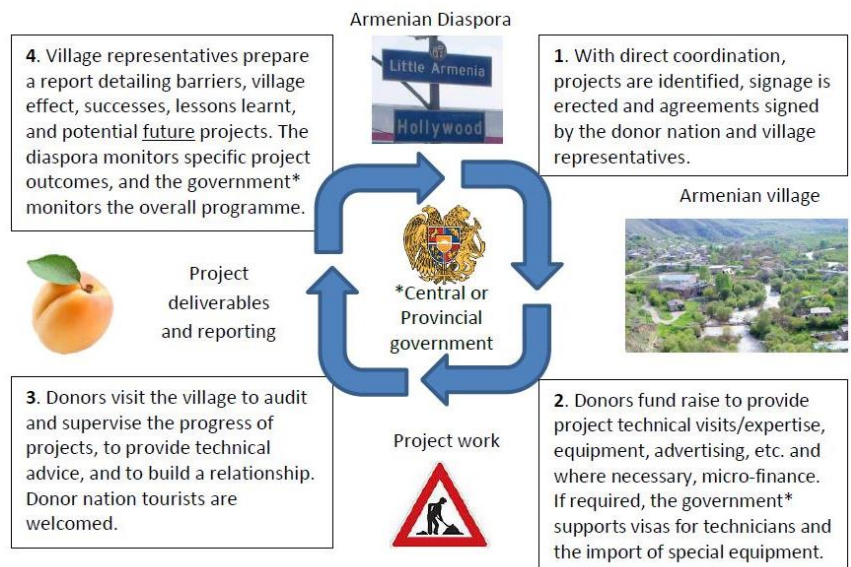
Armenia has huge potential. In the 21st century those who have green lands and water will be wealthy on this increasingly populated planet – and Armenia sits between arid lands. That's why we chose the apricot, an icon of Armenian agriculture, as the symbol for Adopt-a-Village (AAV).

The key aims of AAV are to transform rural Armenia in a systematic manner, so no village is left behind, to build bridges with the diaspora, and to encourage a sustainable economic future – one that can attract people back to rural Armenia (including the diaspora). Despite being within a few hours' flight of more than 500 million people and having incredible landscapes, historical sites and culture, tourism in Armenia is undeveloped. While an important AAV goal is to prepare villages for tourism, the main objective of the complimentary *Origins Project* is to attract tourists to Armenia.

Adopt-a-Village micro-projects focus on five important areas: **Agriculture**, **Education**, **High Quality Handicraft**, **Tourism** and **Utilities (power and water)**. These are normally small initiatives that help economic self-sufficiency, and some don't even involve money.

Armenia is rapidly changing, with a young generation connected to the world using the Internet. Political change is enabling greater business transparency and more confidence that charity will reach those who need it. AAV is designed to minimise corruption with direct relationships and transparent, diaspora-controlled micro-projects.

Non-Armenians can fund projects, not just the diaspora, with the main diaspora task being coordination. The diaspora should advertise Armenia and the village being adopted to enhance tourism, as well as to visit, so a personal connection is enhanced.



1. It's a simple, systematic approach that can incorporate existing NGO and other charity work, matching each diaspora nation with a village so every Armenian village has a mentor, building relationships and increasing trust.
2. It's endorsed by the Armenian Church and New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian.
3. There's no 'middle-man', so the diaspora can decide what, how and when to do things.
4. Villagers play their part – cleaning the village, welcoming the diaspora and reporting progress.

Website: <http://originsdiscovery.com/Adopt-a-Village.html>