Armenia steps up mental health community services for populations affected by the armed conflict with WHO and EU support

21:21, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with the European Commission and Ministry of Health of Armenia (MoH) launched the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) in Armenia for populations affected by armed conflict, ARMENPRESS was informed from WHO Armenia Office.

With the slogan – Mental Health for All! – the mhGAP programme in Armenia aims at strengthening communitybased mental health care to reduce mental health and psychosocial suffering and promote the wellbeing of population affected by armed conflict, thus improving their access to mental health and psychosocial support. The mhGAP programme will be implemented in Yerevan and four Marzes- Kotayk, Ararat, Gegharkunik, and Syunik, ensuring that 20% of the primary health care facilities in these regions are enabled to provide quality and evidencebased community mental health and psychosocial support.

On 16 June, the main aims and objectives of the mhGAP programme were presented during the meeting with head of the EU delegation to Armenia Andrea Wiktorin, representatives of European Commission's Directorate-General for EU Neighborhood and Enlargement, local government, and civil society.

Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin emphasized the importance of the mental health and the role of the joint mhGAP programme in addressing this issue. "Putting mental health as one of the priorities in healthcare agenda will improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities" said the Ambassador.

"Ministry of Health highly appreciates this important partnership with WHO and EU. The mhGAP program has a great potential to improve access to quality mental health services in the communities and to address the mental health conditions and psychosocial suffering of the population affected by the armed conflict" said Kristine Galstyan, mhGAP programme focal point at the MoH.

The launch was followed by a stakeholder meeting in Kapan city, Syunik, with the presence of MoH and WHO representatives, and Syunik Regional Administration and Managers of the health care facilities. The participants discussed mental health service gaps in the Marze and opportunities of providing quality and timely Mental Health interventions for people in need at the primary health care and community levels.

WHO representative to Armenia, Dr. Jihane Tawilah, said, "To bring about real change, we need to work towards building more resilient systems in Armenia. We hope that the mhGAP programme will facilitate continuous capacity building of primary healthcare workers and create both momentum and experience for a national policy that scale up the integration of mental health care within primary health services in Armenia".

The Mental Health Gap Action Program, launched globally by WHO in 2008, is to enable scale-up of services for mental, neurological and substance use conditions in non-specialized health care settings.

Implementation of the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) in Armenia is a joint effort of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department, World Health Organization and Ministry of Health of Armenia. The program will provide evidence-based guidance and tools to integrate mental health into general health care provision in Yerevan and 4 Marzes of Armenia, supporting health workers in their daily practice and ensuring access to quality care for the population affected by the armed conflict.

Putin announces Russia does not threaten anyone with nuclear weapons

20:00, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Russia does not threaten anyone with nuclear weapons, ARMENPRESS reports, citing TASS, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin stated during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Putin noted that Moscow can make statements on this issue only in response to the statements of the West.

"As soon as we respond, they cling to those statements and say, 'Look, Russia is threatening.' We do not threaten anyone. But everyone should know what we have, and that we will use if necessary to protect the sovereignty of our state," Putin said in a video posted on one of the Russian Telegram channels.

Science, education and economy are interconnected. Patapoutian formulated his formula for Armenia's bright future

19:21, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Science, education and economy are interconnected, they guarantee a brighter future for Armenia, as a result of his visit to Armenia, the famous Armenian scientist, Nobel Prize winner Ardem Patapoutian came to this conclusion.

"At first I was surprised why the Ministry of Economy invited scientists to Armenia. But now, thinking more about it, I realized that science, education and the economy are interconnected to make sure that the future path of Armenia is bright," ARMENPRESS reports, he said.

[gallery id= 65970]

Patapoutian thanked the ministry for making him part of this interesting initiative "Science-Business Days-2022" event.

Referring to the prospects for the development of science in Armenia, the Nobel Prize winner emphasizes his visit to Synopsys, he is also aware of many high-tech companies operating in the country.

"This is a great example of how they help educate the people who need to be hired, it helps science and technology, as well as young scientists, to find work after graduation. So what I saw here was very impressive. I think this is the basis for creating other forms of this kind of cooperation. Science, technology, Synopsys and other companies will help the economy," the scientist added.

Patapoutian is convinced that as long as this effective and smart strategy continues, the future will be very bright.

He singled out some of his visits and meetings in Armenia. "Visiting Tsitsernakaberd was such an emotional moment for me. Another important event was the meeting with Prime Minister Pashinyan."

The famous scientist was also impressed by the visit to Martiros Saryan's house-museum.

The Nobel laureate is excited about the future of the country, he has already decided how to cooperate with his Armenian colleagues.

Anna Grigoryan

No matter what statements are made, Nagorno Karabakh issue continues to exist - Mirzoyan's response to Aliyev

17:33, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan responded to the statements of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev that Armenia is not sincere in the process of achieving peace, it is delaying the process of unblocking the region. The questions of ARMENPRESS and FM Mirzoyan's answers on the issue are presented below.

Question - The President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stated in his speech yesterday that Armenia is not sincere in the process of achieving peace. How would you comment on that?

Answer - The Government of the Republic of Armenia has repeatedly proved its readiness to make efforts for the establishment of long-term stability and peace in the South Caucasus. At the same time, it is obvious that these efforts cannot be unilateral, Azerbaijan must also take practical and sincere steps in this direction. The establishment of peace cannot be the result of the efforts of one side alone, and peace talks cannot be based on the proposals of one side alone.

It is also obvious that for the success of these efforts, it is necessary to address the whole set of existing problems that have caused the conflict in order to find a solution acceptable to all parties. In this context, the statements made by official Baku that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is solved are at least not understood or, moreover, cast doubt on the sincerity of the Azerbaijani authorities' intention to achieve peace. No matter what statements are made, the Nagorno-Karabakh issue will continue to exist as long as the issues of security, sufficient guarantees for the protection of all rights of the Armenians of Artsakh, and the status of Nagorno-Karabakh arising from them are not addressed. In the modern world, the situation created by the use of force cannot be the solution to a problem.

The assertion that as a result of the use of force even Nagorno Karabakh does not exist, does not speak about the constructiveness of Azerbaijan. Needless to say that this, of course, corresponds neither to the de-facto reality, the most important part of which is the existence of Artsakh Armenians in Artsakh and the presence of Russian peacekeeping forces to ensure their security, nor the November 9 trilateral declaration, which stopped the war and clearly defines the existence of Nagorno Karabakh.

The same can be said about the statements of the Azerbaijani authorities on the non-existence of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. First of all, no one has suspended it or can suspend the international mandate of the Co-chairs to contribute to the political settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict without the relevant decision of the international institute defining it. In that case, it is incomprehensible that if the parties really want to negotiate sincerely, to find mutually acceptable solutions, to achieve a stable, comprehensive peace, then why should not those talks take place in the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs' format? A format which has the clear support of the international community and not to using its experience and potential is simply not logical and reasonable.

Question - Ilham Aliyev claims that the Armenian side is delaying the process of unblocking the region. What can you say about this?

Answer - We have always stated that we are interested in opening all the transport and economic infrastructures in the region. This is evidenced by the trilateral statements adopted by the Russian mediation on January 11 and November 26, as well as the agreements reached in Brussels.

I would like to emphasize that Armenia has been involved in the discussions in good faith, the process would have been much smoother if there were no statements by Azerbaijan about extraterritorial corridor, which have nothing to do with the trilateral declaration of November 9, as well as with the commitments assumed by the statements I mentioned.

As for Azerbaijan's efforts to draw parallels between the Lachin corridor and the regional transport routes to be unblocked, they obviously cannot have the same status, at least arising from the provisions of the trilateral declaration signed on November 9, 2020, which clearly define the status of the Lachin corridor. Moreover, Nagorno Karabakh and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic have different statuses, different neighborhoods, different security environments. Accordingly, their relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan cannot be identical.

I would like to emphasize again that the November 9 declaration envisages unblocking of all infrastructures in the region, while Azerbaijan is delaying in taking steps in this direction. We are ready for unblocking the region within the framework of the agreements on the preservation of the sovereignty of the countries and jurisdiction over roads, and the recent talks between the Deputy Prime Ministers of the two countries in Moscow followed this logic.

The statements of Azerbaijani officials should be warning sign, we should discuss this issue in the CSTO - PM Pashinyan

17:20, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received members of the sitting of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO): Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Alexander Volfovich, Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan Gizat Nurdauletov, Secretary of the Security Council of Tajikistan Nasrullo Makhmudzoda, Secretary General of the CSTO Stanislav Zas, ARMENPRESS was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister.

In his opening remarks, PM Pashinyan said,

"Dear friends,

I welcome you on the occasion of the regular sitting of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils of the CSTO member states in the Republic of Armenia, which is taking place in our country within the framework of Armenia's chairmanship in the CSTO.

This is really a double jubilee year for our organization. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the

Collective Security Treaty, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and it is a great honor for us to chair our organization in this jubilee year. You know, we have discussed it many times, increasing the efficiency of the CSTO is one of the most important priorities of our presidency, we thought and still think that the rapid and crisis response mechanisms in specific situations should be improved.

I would like to note that, in principle, we also have a legal framework in this regard, On December 10, 2010, by the decision of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a provision was adopted regulating CSTO's response to crisis situations, and I think this document quite clearly defines the mechanisms that exist in our Organization. In particular, it outlines what we should consider a crisis situation and how we should respond to it.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is such a concept in that provision - "mission", which is defined as follows: A group of experts from the member states appointed by the CSTO member states in accordance with this provision, to be temporarily sent to the crisis zone to monitor the situation, understand the situation on the spot, develop proposals on the further measures of the Organization aimed at preventing the crisis situation and solving it, as well as for fulling other functions defined by the CSTO Collective Security Council.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that in the second chapter of this document there is a chapter called "Monitoring", and the CSTO Secretariat regularly collects information and conducts analysis of the situation in the area of responsibility of the organization and on its development trends in order to identify the preconditions for crisis situations.

Why am I talking about this? You know that the Azerbaijani armed forces invaded our territory in May last year, and we applied to the CSTO. I have spoken about it many times, and as the Chairman, I want to emphasize that this issue should be discussed properly. Why? Because we see that aggressive statements by Azerbaijan continue, we should discuss this issue, especially considering that Armenia has applied to the CSTO, as it is a very fundamental issue for both us and the Organization.

I would also like to mention the following: After the invasion into our territory by the Azerbaijani troops, there were some comments that there is no demarcated border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Frankly, this is a very dangerous wording, because here we are, saying the area of responsibility of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. If we say that the borders along which the demarcation and delimitation processes have been carried out should be taken into account, it may confuse the notion of the CSTO area of responsibility, because the question arises: where does the CSTO area of responsibility begin, where does the CSTO area of responsibility end?

Our position is that there is a concrete border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, because in 1991, when the Commonwealth of Independent States was established, an interstate agreement was signed, which clearly states that the countries mutually recognize each other's existing borders. This refers to the administrative boundaries of the Soviet period, and I think we should have this as a starting point. The opposite interpretation of this situation, I think, will reduce the effectiveness of the CSTO.

I hope that the nuances mentioned during this meeting and during your sitting will also be discussed. I recently raised this issue during the informal CSTO summit in Moscow. We have started a discussion, once again, as the Chairman, I would like to instruct the CSTO Secretary General to organize this issue in accordance with our charter documents, as the situation in our region is stable but tense. And the statements made by Azerbaijani officials should be a warning sign, I think we should discuss this issue in the CSTO format.

Let me welcome you once, I'm so glad to see you. And I am very happy for the dynamics that occurred in the CSTO

in the post-Covid period, because in the last two years we have actually had very little contact with the existing's formats. Of course, we have continued to work online, but I think we all agree that such meetings and contacts are very important for our work. I am glad that we returned to this regime, it happened in the year of our presidency, in this important jubilee year.

Thank you".

The Prime Minister discussed issues related to the agenda and activities of the Organization with the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the CSTO member states. The participants of the sitting exchanged views on regional and international security challenges.

Central Bank of Armenia: exchange rates and prices of precious metals - 17-06-22

17:19, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, 17 JUNE, ARMENPRESS. The Central Bank of Armenia informs "Armenpress" that today, 17 June, USD exchange rate down by 2.23 drams to 425.30 drams. EUR exchange rate up by 2.62 drams to 447.29 drams. Russian Ruble exchange rate down by 0.03 drams to 7.53 drams. GBP exchange rate up by 6.45 drams to 522.74 drams.

The Central Bank has set the following prices for precious metals.

Gold price down by 93.16 drams to 24975.03 drams. Silver price down by 1.88 drams to 293.10 drams. Platinum price stood at 16414.1 drams.

Asian Stocks - 17-06-22

17:18, 17 June, 2022

TOKYO, 17 JUNE, ARMENPRESS. Asian main indexes values for 17 June:

The value of Japanese NIKKEI down by 1.77% to 25963.00 points, Japanese TOPIX down by 1.71% to 1835.90 points. Chinese Shanghai Composite up by 0.96% to 3316.79 points, and HANG SENG up by 1.10% to 21075.00 points.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average is a price-weighted average of 225 top-rated Japanese companies listed in the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The Nikkei Stock Average was first published on May 16, 1949, where the average price was ¥176.21 with a divisor of 225.

The TOPIX, also known as the Tokyo Stock Price Index, is a capitalization-weighted index of all companies listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The index is supplemented by the subindices of the 33 industry sectors. The index calculation excludes temporary issues and preferred stocks, and has a base value of 100 as of January 4, 1968. The Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index is a capitalization-weighted index. The index tracks the daily price performance of all A-shares and B-shares listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The index was developed on December 19, 1990 with a base value of 100. Index trade volume on Q is scaled down by a factor of 1000.

The Hang Seng Index is a free-float capitalization-weighted index of a selection of companies from the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. The components of the index are divided into four subindices: Commerce and Industry, Finance, Utilities, and Properties. The index was developed with a base level of 100 as of July 31, 1964, "Armenpress" reports.

Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić highly appreciates Armenia's cooperation with CoE

16:52, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. During the 21 years of its membership to the Council of Europe, Armenia has demonstrated a high dedication to the cooperation with the organization, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić said during a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan in Yerevan.

"Armenia has signed and ratified 66 conventions and joined 12 agreements. During those years Armenia has actively contributed to the creation of the legal and political agenda of Europe. I am sure that the Council of Europe in its turn has contributed to the progress of the reforms in Armenia. I hope this visit will further strengthen the level of the dialogue and cooperation between Armenia and Council of Europe under the light of current and future programs", the CoE Secretary General said.

She welcomed the readiness of the Armenian authorities to implement the 2019-2022 action plan for Armenia. She said that currently they are developing the 2023-2026 action plan for Armenia.

"In this respect I encourage Armenia to continue fully using the support and experience of the Council of Europe, for instance, to finalize the electoral reforms making them in accordance with the recommendations of the Venice Commission, as well as the law on mass media and the recommendations for constitutional reforms", she said.

As for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement, the CoE Secretary General said the meetings between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, as well as the statements over it, for example about the work of the delimitation commission, are welcome.

"We need to achieve trust and reconciliation. All initiatives on this direction are welcome and should be supported", she said.

Azerbaijan grossly violated its commitments assumed with accession to Council of Europe, says Armenian FM

16:47, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. During their meeting in Yerevan today, the Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić discussed also the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the consequences of the aggression against Artsakh in 2020, and the issues of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"I particularly emphasized the fact that by attempting to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by the use of force in 2020, as well as by invading the sovereign territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan has grossly violated its commitments undertaken with the accession to the Council of Europe, and this must be properly addressed by the Council of Europe and its member-states", the Armenian FM said during a joint press conference with the CoE Secretary General following their meeting.

The FM said he reaffirmed the readiness of the Armenian government to put efforts towards the establishment of stability and peace in the region. "In this context, the addressing of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is fundamental, which should include the provisions of ensuring the security and all the rights of the people of Artsakh, and final determination of the status of Nagorno Karabakh", he noted.

"The people of Artsakh have the same rights as everyone and the fact of being in the conflict zone cannot deprive the Armenians of Artsakh of their universal fundamental rights", Mirzoyan highlighted. "The humanitarian issues resulting from the aggression unleashed against Artsakh - the issues of the return of Armenian prisoners of war held in Azerbaijan and the humanitarian access to Artsakh remain unresolved, the politicization of which is unacceptable. The Anti-Armenian and warmongering rhetoric, physical and psychological terror against the civilian population are unacceptable in the same way.

We believe that the Council of Europe, its relevant bodies and leaders should be more determined at least in the issues of Armenian prisoners of war and the humanitarian access to Artsakh, and put utmost effort so that the the interim decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, PACE Resolutions and the provisions of the memorandum of the Commissioner for Human Rights issues on November 8, 2021, be respected", he added.

'Armenia's journey towards responsible mining' - World Bank publishes article

15:52, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Mining raises many issues for communities. What minerals are being developed? Where are the mines? Who owns these mines? What kinds of ore are produced? In what form and to which countries are they exported? Armenia's accession to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) helped bring the answer to these kinds of questions and more public and transparent, the World Bank said in an article entitled "Armenia's Journey Towards Responsible Mining".

As in many countries, mining can be a sensitive topic in Armenia, the article says. It notes that civil society follows mining developments closely to demand better protection of the environment.

The World Bank says that the Armenian government hoped to improve the management of natural resources by making it more transparent, accountable, and participatory. It grew interested in the EITI and, in 2015, announced its intention to join. "Within a year, Armenia met all the preconditions for joining the EITI, and its membership application was approved in 2017", it says.

The WB says that the country's legislation did not ensure full transparency and accountability from the sector. The National Assembly made legislative changes to require the publication of large amounts of financial information, such as tax payment data by companies as well as data on extraction and exports, charitable activities, and socioeconomic support projects in communities — reporting this information annually became legally required. This information is reflected in the EITI annual national reports.

According to the article, in 2019, Armenia took on responsibilities beyond the scope of mandatory requirements, which ensured even greater transparency.

"Armenia made remarkable achievements in its implementation of the Standard. At the 2019 EITI Global Conference in Paris, Armenia received the EITI Chair's Award for implementing the Standard in an innovative and resolute manner, as well as for effective multi-stakeholder governance", the article says.

"I have personally followed the process with great interest. Armenia has achieved remarkable progress. Out of the 54 countries, Armenia is among the nine that have received the highest possible assessment, and it has only been three and a half years since Armenia began implementing the EITI; in that regard, its accomplishments are really commendable", Mark Robinson - Director of the EITI International Secretariat, said.

For civil society representatives and journalists, the new requirement to disclose the beneficial owners of metal extracting companies was a unique opportunity, the WB said. In Armenia, it had often been quite difficult to obtain information regarding beneficial ownership, it added.

"Armenia's success story is ongoing and there is still more that can be done. Future reforms are going to be geared at mitigating environmental impact. The Government is continuing to develop a strategy for the sector by engaging all interested parties", the article says.

FM Mirzoyan highly values CoE's support to Armenia's democratic development

15:27, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Council of Europe is among Armenia's main partners in the implementation of reforms in the fields of human rights, democracy and rule of law, Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with CoE Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić.

"We highly appreciate the support provided by the Council of Europe to Armenia's democratic development and are confident that we will continue the productive cooperation with the organization. In this respect I also want to express my gratitude for the contribution made by the observer missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to the holding of free and competitive elections in Armenia and state that the 2018 and 2021 snap parliamentary elections in Armenia have been recognized by the Council of Europe as meeting the highest democratic standards", the Armenian FM said.

He said that the CoE's action plan with Armenia is an important cooperation tool with the organization, adding that this format of cooperation is vital not only for the effective implementation of a number of strategic programs of the Armenian government, but also for the fulfillment of Armenia's commitments assumed within the CoE. "Today I and Mrs. Secretary General praised the achievements registered within the ongoing program and I am glad to inform that we both expressed readiness to continue the cooperation in this format, by forming the new 2023-2026 action plan", Ararat Mirzoyan said.

He said that in 2018 the people of Armenia chose and reaffirmed in 2021 the path of democratic development, strengthening of democratic institutions, protection of human rights, rule of law and the fight against corruption, adding that they will not deviate from it.

"Armenia is determined to move forward with the agenda of reforms and pass through this path by closely cooperating with its international partners, including with the Council of Europe", the FM said.

Discussion of NK issue could be platform where Russia, US and France will sit around table at some point - Khachaturyan

15:23, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. During all negotiations the Armenian side emphasizes that the Nagorno Karabah issue exists, contrary to the claims of the Azerbaijani side according to which the Nagoro Karabakh issue doesn't exist anymore, President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan said at a meeting with the Armenian community in Russia.

"We always emphasize during all negotiations and joint statements that there is the Nagorno Karabakh issue, and it should be addressed during every meeting", he said.

President Khachaturyan said that the discussions around the NK conflict settlement should continue within the Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship platform. He highlights the fact that the Co-Chairmanship also states that the NK conflict is not solved.

"There is an important issue here: it seems in today's conditions it's impossible to organize that meeting because Russia, the United States and France could not sit around a table, but the agreement is such that we should continue", he said, adding that there is such a mood also by the Russian side.

According to the Armenian President, this could be also a special platform for Russia, US and France to sit around a table at some point. "The name will be the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, but completely other issues could be discussed under that name. I consider this very important", he said, adding that in any issue, where there is no dialogue, the end is conflict or war.

Tech Week Gyumri 2022 to launch in Armenia's second largest city on July 2

14:43, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Tech Week Gyumri 2022 in Armenia's second largest city to combine the efforts of ICT companies in promoting the community development.

The event will launch in Gyumri on July 2-4.

The main purpose of the event is the continuous proportionate community development, the creation of new teams in Gyumri, and the discovery of new opportunities and capacities.

"The official opening of the event is expected to take place on July 2. A number of major events will take place during the Tech Week: professional conferences, ggRace, the entire proceeds of which will be directed to community development projects, Koriz competition of ideas, the winners of which will receive grants, Armenia Software Testing Cup and other events", PR manager of the event Anna Danielyan said.

Last year the first event in such a format was held in Stepanakert, Artsakh.

Reporting by Armenuhi Mkhoyan

ANIF opens representation in Abu Dhabi

14:25, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) has opened a representation in Abu Dhabi, receiving a commercial certificate from Abu Dhabi Global Market.

"ANIF is pleased to announce that it has opened a representation in Abu Dhabi, and has received a commercial certificate from Abu Dhabi Global Market. As a result of our cooperation with UAE based leading companies, two major investment programs are already being implemented.

We are looking forward to embracing new opportunities for new large-scale programs and enhancing UAE-Armenia business ties even deeper", ANIF said in a statement.

NK conflict not resolved yet, its comprehensive settlement must be made within OSCE MG Co- Chairmanship - Grigoryan

14:04, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan chaired today the session of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the CSTO member states in Yerevan, his Office said.

During the narrow and extended-format sessions the participants discussed the measures to neutralize the security challenges and threats of the CSTO states, as well as issues relating to the joint anti-terrorism actions in the CSTO region.

In this context Armen Grigoryan touched upon the security environment in South Caucasus. He said that the region is still full of challenges, which is connected with the unsettled Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Grigoryan presented Armenia's views and approaches on stabilizing the security situation in the region and neutralizing the existing challenges. He considered the ceasefire violations by Azerbaijan unacceptable, recalling the May 28 ceasefire violation case by the Azerbaijani troops as a result of which an Armenian serviceman has been killed.

Coming to the topic of unblocking of regional communications, the Secretary of the Security Council said Azerbaijan is raising from time to time the issue of opening the so-called "transportation corridor" via the territory of Armenia, but he noted that there couldn't be any transportation route with a corridor logic in the territory of Armenia. He recalled the November 9, January 11 and November 26 trilateral statements of the leaders of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan where there is no mention of corridors.

Talking about the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Armen Grigoryan said the conflict is not resolved yet and the comprehensive settlement of the conflict should be made within the frames of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship.

CoE Secretary General arrives at Armenian Foreign Ministry

13:54, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić, who is in Armenia on an official visit, arrived at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on June 17, the Armenian Foreign Ministry reported.

The CoE Secretary General was greeted by Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan.

Following their meeting, Marija Pejčinović Burić and Ararat Mirzoyan will hold a joint press conference.

Moscow supports Armenia in processes of ensuring regional security: Secretaries of Security Councils meet in Yerevan

13:47, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan met with Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolai Patrushev, who is in Yerevan for participation in the session of the CSTO Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils, the Office of the Security Council Secretary of Armenia said in a news release.

During the meeting Armen Grigoryan expressed confidence that all necessary opportunities and prerequisites exist for expanding the framework of cooperation between the Offices of the Security Councils of Armenia and Russia.

The sides discussed a broad range of issues relating to security. Nikolai Patrushev stated that Armenia is Russia's key strategic partner and Moscow is supporting Armenia in the processes of ensuring regional security.

Armen Grigoryan introduced his Russian counterpart on the current regional security situation, the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the activities of the commissions on delimitation and border security, as well as the Armenia-Turkey normalization process.

Next meeting of CSTO Security Council Secretaries to take place in fourth quarter of 2022

13:45, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The next session of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the CSTO member states will take place in the fourth quarter of this year, a day before the session of the Collective Security Council, Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan said during today's session in Yerevan.

Secretary General says CSTO takes all necessary measures to ensure security of member states

13:07, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Secretaries of the Security Councils of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) analyzed in detail the military-political situation at a globe during their today's session in Yerevan, CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas said following the session, regretting over the current crisis in the global security system.

"Agreements existing for decades actually stop operating, and the level of mistrust between a number of leading players is approaching a critical juncture. Moreover, the security challenges and threats not only have not lost their sharpness, but also are showing trends of escalation due to the growing global uncertainty", he said.

He said that the CSTO principled position on these issues remains the same that all disagreements and conflicts must be solved through political means. The organization addresses all powers with this call.

In line with this, Mr. Zas said, the CSTO is taking all necessary measures to strengthen peace and stability in its member states and is ready for the protection of its interests.

"The development of capacities of collective security forces and means, as well as the mutual partnership of special services and law enforcement agencies is one of the main tools to ensure the security of the member states and resist the challenges and threats", the CSTO chief said.

He thanked the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan and his staff for creating wonderful conditions for holding the session.

Ardem Patapoutian expresses readiness to support Armenian Healthcare Ministry's programs in fighting cancer

12:36, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Minister of Healthcare of Armenia Anahit Avanesyan met with Armenian-American

scientist, Nobel Prize laureate and molecular biologist Ardem Patapoutian, who arrived in Yerevan within the framework of the Science and Business Days 2020 forum.

"We talked about the current situation, achievements of the healthcare system and the systematic reforms that have entered a new phase. Patapoutian was interested in the activities being carried out to overcome the pandemic and the consequences of the war and made valuable observations on the field.

Highlighting the ongoing reforms in the sector, particularly the programs in fighting cancer, he expressed readiness to support our programs in fighting the disease, stating that the system is open now more than ever, and today he feels himself closer to the Armenian land, culture and homeland", Anahit Avanesyan said in a statement on social media.

Secretaries of Security Councils of CSTO states discuss growing security challenges, threats during Yerevan session

12:23, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The session of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of CSTO states has been completed in Yerevan on June 17.

After the session, Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan, who was chairing the session, told reporters that the Secretaries of Security Council specifically focused on global security challenges and threats and the situation in the CSTO responsibility zone.

Armen Grigoryan said that the session was held in a constructive and interesting environment.

"Today's session is specific in a sense that this year is a jubilee year for the organization as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Treaty on the Collective Security and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of CSTO, and on the other hand the session is taking place in the conditions of growing challenges and threats both in the world in general and the CSTO responsibility zone. Of course, this factor requires making effective decisions on time aimed at neutralizing these challenges and threats and ensuring the security of the CSTO member states", he said.

The session also covered issues relating to counter-terrorism, joint creation of governing bodies, strengthening the organization's military component, etc.

Armen Grigoryan informed that a number of documents were signed with the session results, which all have passed the respective procedures. Particularly, the Committee approved the draft decision of the CSTO Collective Security Council on giving a regional anti-terrorism operation status to the operational-preventive measures complex named 'Mercenary'.

Today's session was held within the frames of Armenia's chairmanship at the CSTO.

More than 90 European organizations address letter to Charles Michel on his mediation concerning NK conflict

12:16, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. On the initiative of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD), 91 organizations active in the EU Member states sent a letter to the President of the European Council Charles Michel, expressing profound discontent with his statement following the trilateral meeting with the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev dating to 23 May 2022, Armenpress reports citing the EAFJD website.

"The organizations welcome Charles Michel's efforts for peace negotiations. Nevertheless, they emphasize the importance of ensuring that peace is negotiated based on justice and not by sacrificing the fundamental rights and needs of the Armenian side which has been a victim of vicious aggression of the Turkish-Azerbaijani tandem in 2020.

The organizations regret that the press statement of 23 May disregards key principles of EU's documented approach towards the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and overall endorses the Azerbaijani stance on the conflict resolution in some crucial aspects. This includes using the wording "Karabakh" while referring to the conflict, instead of "Nagorno Karabakh" which is a political entity with a defined territory. The letter further elaborates that using the term Karabakh by the Azerbaijani authorities is a part of the ongoing state policy of ethnic cleansing against the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh.

Referring to the statement by the spokesperson of Charles Michel on 31 May 2022, the organizations express appreciation that it introduced important clarifications and emphasized key principles. The organizations express hope that EU's future mediation on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict does justice to negotiating an equitable and lasting peace. For this purpose the call on the President of the European Council to base the mediation on six concrete aspects", the statement says.

Armenia's customs attaché at Upper Lars border checkpoint dismissed

12:12, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Aram Tananyan has been relieved from the position of Armenia's customs attaché at the Armenian Embassy in Russia.

The issue of dismissing Tananyan was on the agenda of today's Cabinet meeting, but among non-reported items.

Aram Tananyan has been appointed Armenia's customs attaché at Upper Lars checkpoint on Russia-Georgia border on January 30, 2020. His duties were to discuss and solve the problems emerging at the checkpoint.

Armenian military denies Azerbaijani accusations on opening fire

11:48, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Armenian Ministry of Defense denied Azerbaijani accusations on opening fire at the border.

"The statement of the Azerbaijani defense ministry according to which overnight June 16-17 the units of the Armenian Armed Forces opened fire from various caliber firearms at the Azerbaijani positions located in the eastern section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border has nothing to do with the reality.

The situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border is relatively stable and is under the full control of the Armenian Armed Forces", the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Government to allocate 268.5 mln drams from state budget for subvention programs of governorates

11:36, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Armenian government will provide 268.5 million drams from the state budget with a co-finance for the subvention programs of the governorates.

During the Cabinet meeting today, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan said that the funds will be provided for 20 subvention programs of 18 settlements. "Since January 2022 we have already provided 5.6 billion drams for 229 programs, and provide funds for 20 more programs today. This year we complete a total of 249 programs as of June 17 and allocate 5.9 billion drams for these works", he said, adding that these applications are mainly directed to capital investments in communities, such as renovation of streets, parks, playgrounds, construction and renovation of community buildings, cultural houses, kindergartens, etc.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in his turn that last week he visited Ararat province and noticed that large-scale works are underway in the province.

"We were very happy to see that, the works are being carried out in a proper quality. We returned from Ararat province with positive impressions and energy and are planning to make similar visits to all provinces", the PM said, highlighting the construction of pools necessary for drip irrigation with subvention programs, which, he said, is a very important technology system.

Chief of Staff at PM's Office and Vice Speaker of Parliament to chair STARMUS VI Festival organization commission

11:30, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a decision on setting up an interagency commission to coordinate the organization works of the STARMUS VI Festival which will take place in Yerevan this year on September 5-11.

The commission will be co-chaired by Chief of Staff at the Prime Minister's Office Arayik Harutyunyan and Vice Speaker of Parliament Hakob Arshakyan.

Officials from other agencies are also involved in the commission.

Armenia hasn't rejected proposal of trilateral meeting in Tbilisi: Foreign Ministry comments on Aliyev's statement

11:13, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia commented on the statement of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev according to which Armenia rejected the proposal to hold a trilateral meeting in Tbilisi at the level of foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

"We not only have not rejected, but also have always positively reacted to such a possible meeting, at the same time noting that work needs to be done to ensure the efficiency of the meeting", MFA spokesperson Vahan Hunanyan said in response to query of ARMENPRESS.

Armenia's Civil Aviation Committee has new chairman

11:07, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Mihran Khachatryan has been appointed Chairman of the Civil Aviation Committee of Armenia.

The respective decision has been signed by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and is posted on e-gov.am.

Global Peace Index 2022: Armenia is the most peaceful country in region

10:55, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Armenia is ranked 83rd in the Global Peace Index 2022, passing its neighbors Georgia, Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Georgia is ranked 96th, Azerbaijan – 128th, Iran – 141th and Turkey – 145th.

Last year Armenia was ranked 86th, Georgia as well, whereas Azerbaijan was the 120th and Turkey - the 150th.

Iceland remains the world's most peaceful nation.

The top 10 list includes New Zealand, Ireland, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Singapore and Japan.

Afghanistan is the world's least peaceful country for the fifth consecutive year, according to the GPI.

The Global Peace Index (GPI) ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the GPI is the world's leading measure of global

peacefulness. The GPI covers 163 countries comprising 99.7 per cent of the world's population, using 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources, and measures the state of peace across three domains: the level of societal Safety and Security; the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict; and the degree of Militarization.

Armenian Ombudswoman meets with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

10:48, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Human Rights Defender of Armenia Kristinne Grigoryan met with Erika Olson, the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, in Washington D.C., the Ombudsperson's Office said.

Presenting the main activity directions, Kristinne Grigoryan shared her information on the situation of rights of people living in Nagorno Karabakh, as well as presented the Azerbaijani policy of ethnic hatred against the Armenians of Artsakh.

"The people's right to life, safe environment, education, healthcare, ownership and other rights are being violated in Artsakh on a daily basis", the Ombudsperson said.

Erika Olson was interested in the process of police reforms in Armenia.

The sides outlined concrete directions for the cooperation.

Armenian Ombudsperson presents Azerbaijan's policy of spreading ethnic and religious hatred to US Congressmen

10:11, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Human Rights Defender of Armenia Kristinne Grigoryan met with a number of members of the US Congressional Armenian Caucus in the United States Capitol, the Ombudsperson's Office said.

The meeting was attended by US Congressmen Frank Pallone, Jackie Speier, Judy Chu, David Valadao, Linda Sanchez, Grace Meng and John Sarbanes.

During the meeting Ombudsperson Grigoryan presented the situation of human rights in Armenia, focusing on the priorities of the Defender's institution. She introduced the Congressmen on the actions taken by her Office with the families of prisoners of war and civilian persons held in Azerbaijan, presented the issue of the immediate repatriation of POWs and other civilian captives, which, she said, is an international obligation assumed by Azerbaijan. In the context of humanitarian problems, she presented the issues of the families of missing persons and the displaced people.

The sides also discussed the cases of discrimination based on a disability, focusing on the problems of children with disability. The US Congressmen thanked the Armenian Ombudswoman for the consistent work on key matters and

expressed readiness to continue their efforts for solving the problems.

On the same day the Armenian Ombudswoman also had a discussion at the Atlantic Council think tank, presenting the Azerbaijani leadership's policy of promoting and spreading ethnic and religious-based hatred.

The meeting sides asked the Ombudwosman about the current rallies in Armenia, and in response Kristinne Grigoryan presented the activities being carried out by her Office and the assessments to the incidents. She highlighted the importance of consistent implementation of police reforms.

Armenian Ambassador meets with Vice President of Senate of Argentina

09:59, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Ambassador of Armenia to Argentina Hovhannes Virabyan met with Vice President of the Senate, Senator Carolina Losada, the Embassy of Armenia said on social media.

A number of issues of the bilateral agenda were discussed.

The meeting also touched upon the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Argentina.

Both sides highlighted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy.

President Khachaturyan meets Armenian community representatives in Russia

09:47, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan met with representatives of Armenian community on June 16 on the sidelines of his working visit in Russia, his Office said.

The meeting took place in the Consulate General of Armenia in St. Petersburg.

In his remarks President Khachaturyan said his visit is taking place within the frames of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum which this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary. According to him, every visit provides an opportunity to meet and have a discussion with the representatives of the Armenian community.

"Your problems are our problems, and the main purpose of these meetings is to be able to understand your issues of concern. On the other hand, this is an opportunity for us to introduce you on the current situation in Armenia. You receive different information from various sources, however, they need to be clarified because sometimes they have nothing to do with the reality", the President said.

The President also touched upon the Armenian-Russian relations, the domestic political situation in Armenia and the regional security. He also presented in detail the current process of programs aimed at the final settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as the approaches of the Armenian side.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan also visited St. Catherine's Armenian Apostolic Church in St. Petersburg.

Session of CSTO Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils launched in Yerevan

09:45, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. The session of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) launched in Yerevan on June 17, Armenpress correspondent reports.

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan announced the opening of the session.

The session is attended by Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Alexander Volfovich, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan Gizat Nurdauletov, Secretary of the Security Council of Kyrgyzstan Marat Imankulov, Secretary of the Security Council of Tajikistan Nasrullo Mahmudzoda and CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas.

After the announcement of Chairman Armen Grigoryan, the session continued in a closed format.

Armen Grigoryan and CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas will make a joint statement after the session.

Reporting by Aram Sargsyan

European Stocks - 16-06-22

09:34, 17 June, 2022

MOSCOW, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. European main indexes values for 16 June:

The value of German DAX down by 3.31% to 13038.49 points, French CAC 40 down by 2.39% to 5886.24 points, British FTSE down by 3.14% to 7044.98 points, and Russian RTSI up by 2.84% to 1316.75 points.

The German Stock Index is a total return index of 30 selected German blue chip stocks traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The equities use free float shares in the index calculation. The DAX has a base value of 1,000 as of December 31, 1987. As of June 18, 1999 only XETRA equity prices are used to calculate all DAX indices.

The CAC 40 (Cotation Assistée en Continu) is a benchmark French stock market index. The index represents a capitalization-weighted measure of the 40 most significant values among the 100 highest market caps on the Euronext Paris (formerly the Paris Bourse).

The FTSE UK Index Series is designed to represent the performance of UK companies, providing market participants with a comprehensive and complementary set of indices that measure the performance of all capital and industry segments of the UK equity market.

RTS Index is cap-weighted composite index calculated based on prices of the 50 most liquid Russian stocks of the largest and dynamically developing Russian issuers presented on the Moscow Exchange. RTS Index was launched on September 1, 1995 at base value 100. The Index is calculated in real time by Moscow Exchange in US dollars and disseminated by the S&P Dow Jones Indices, "Armenpress" reports.

US stocks down - 16-06-22

09:33, 17 June, 2022

NEW YORK, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. USA main indexes values for 16 June:

The value of Dow Jones down by 2.42% to 29927.07 points, S&P 500 down by 3.25% to 3666.77 points, Nasdaq down by 4.08% to 10646.10 points.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is one of several indices created by Wall Street Journal editor and Dow Jones & Company co-founder Charles Dow. It measures the daily stock price movements of 30 large, publicly-owned U.S. companies.

S&P 500 measures the performance of 500 widely held common stocks of large-cap U.S. companies.

NASDAQ measures a number of indices reflecting the reaction of USA's high tech markets and business environments on the country's political and economic developments which have an impact on high tech markets, "Armenpress" reports.

LME. Prices for non-ferrous and minor metals - 16-06-22

09:32, 17 June, 2022

LONDON, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Non-ferrous and minor metals prices for 16 June:

The price of aluminum down by 3.39% to \$2504.50, copper price down by 1.68% to \$9074.50, lead price up by 1.16% to \$2101.00, nickel price down by 2.31% to \$25259.00, tin price down by 1.37% to \$32000.00, zinc price down by 1.80% to \$3577.50, molybdenum price up by 0.35% to \$38029.70, cobalt price stood at \$72415.00, "Armenpress" reports.

Measurement unit is 1 tonne.

NYMEX: Precious Metals Prices Up - 16-06-22

09:31, 17 June, 2022

NEW YORK, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Precious metals prices for 16 June:

The price of gold futures is up by 0.91% to \$1848.90, silver futures is up by 1.11% to \$21.89, while platinum futures is up by 1.28% to \$947.10.

The measurement unit is 1 troy ounce (31.1 grams).

New York's NYMEX (New York Merchantile Exchange) is a US futures market founded in 1882. Currently trade is carried out by the exchange's two divisions, the NYMEX Division and the COMEX Division, the first one designed for trades of oil, gas, platinum, palladium, ethanol, coal, electricity and carbon dioxide emissions, the second one for gold, silver, copper and aluminum, "Armenpress" reports.

Oil Prices Up - 16-06-22

09:29, 17 June, 2022

NEW YORK - LONDON, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. Oil prices for 16 June:

WTI Crude Oil (Light Sweet) price at NYMEX Stock Exchange up by 0.78% to \$116.96 per barrel. Brent Crude Oil price at London's ICE Stock Exchange up by 0.10% to \$119.19 per barrel, "Armenpress" reports.

Barrel is the unit of measurement of oil volume. One barrel equals to 159.98 liter.

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London Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) is a London-based options exchange and a leading operator of global exchanges founded in 1982.

Earthquake registered on Armenia-Georgia border

08:07, 17 June, 2022

YEREVAN, JUNE 17, ARMENPRESS. A 3.6 magnitude earthquake was registered on the Armenia-Georgia border 14 km north-east from the village of Bavra at 05:09 on June 17, the Seismic Protection Survey Seismological Network of the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations said.

The earthquake was recorded at a depth of 10km.

The tremor measured magnitude 4-5 point at the epicenter area.

The earthquake was felt in villages of Bavra, Saragyugh, Tavshut, Ghazanchi, Ashotsk, Musayelyan of Shirak province, Paraghbyur, Metsavan, Dzoramut villages of Lori province, as well as in Tashir town.