



SUCCESS STORY

New Jobs for Workers Who are Blind

USAID supports training and employment for blind workers.



Mr. Soghoyan says that the grant helped Echmiadzin Union of Blind and its headquarters to recover from effects of the financial crisis and produce better quality products as well as meet market requirements. As a result the enterprise has signed a two year agreement with a Russian Company and will have sustainable income to employ at least 35 blind people. Currently, there are about 112 blind job seekers in Echmiadzin and surrounding villages which are registered and waiting for jobs.

“With this modernized equipment we will be able to have more orders and develop production creating new staff, all of whom are blind. The USAID SPSS Project funding supported our company start the production of the new spare parts for elevators.” says Vachagan Soghoyan the director of Echmiadzin Union of Blind.

SPSS jointly with the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues State Employment Services Agency launched the Social Enterprise Development Competition to create jobs for people with disabilities. Echmiadzin Union of Blind is one of the grant recipients, employing 35 blind people.

This successful joint project between USAID Armenia SPSS Project and The State Employment Services Agency (SESA) provided a grant for the Blind Union to renew and modernize its production and create new jobs for workers who are blind. In addition the grant provided funding for technical training for 8 blind employees who will be employed.

The grant funding to social entrepreneurs aims to improve the public private partnership and support socially vulnerable populations within SESA. The USAID Social Protection System Strengthening Project built outsourcing capacity within the State Employment Services Agency which includes a transparent procedure manual to sustain the outsourcing of services program.

