

## EUROPE AND EURASIA



Students studying in the AGBU Papazian library reading hall. *Suren Manvelyan/AUA*

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

#### Improving Library Services in Armenia

Located in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan, the American University of Armenia (AUA) prepares students to address the needs of Armenia and the surrounding region by focusing on sustainable development, academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society.

AUA is currently in the midst of unprecedented growth with student enrollment on track to quadruple between 2013 and 2016. To accommodate its student body expansion, the American University of Armenia's Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Papazian Library underwent a major renovation funded by USAID/ASHA. The renovation doubled library space and seating capacity as well as added a number of up-to-date computer workstations. To provide an inviting, modern learning environment conducive to both collaborative and independent learning, the library now contains two spacious reading halls, multiple rooms for

group study, individual study carrels, and refurbished administrative offices. The library is also equipped with an energy-efficient lighting system.

The AGBU Papazian Library's reach extends far beyond the university campus, as it is the only university library in Armenia open to the general public. Without its resources, community members would have to travel great distances to access the same academic library resources. Since renovation, library patronage has increased overall by 20 percent, welcoming 2,000 student and alumni patrons and 11,000 community patrons.

The library provides individual access to computers and technology to those who may otherwise not have access. The library also holds events specifically for community members, such as book presentations, lectures, and library literacy and orientation sessions. The library's 13,000 users enjoy full Wi-Fi Internet coverage, advanced multimedia facilities, and access to over 125,000 electronic and printed texts.