



## Activity Review

DRC provides Georgian key ministries, legislators, and civil society groups involved in internal displacement with direct and concrete assistance in ensuring institutional protection that mitigates the effects of displacement. *The present newsletter outlines DRC's activities from January to July 2015.*

*DRC works closely with the Georgian MRA and beneficiaries to shape policies addressing protection and assistance needs of IDPs and ensure the protection of their rights.*

DRC is a member of 3 Temporary Expert Groups (TEGs) at the MRA and a number of coordination structures, working on a range of issues of the 2015-2016 IDP Action Plan.

DRC and its partner Georgian Young Lawyers' Association provided legal assistance to 1300 IDPs in Samegrelo, Imereti, Shida Kartli, and Tbilisi. Issues of housing, social and healthcare benefits and IDP status were inquired.

15 households in Gali were able to register their property, and 50 persons got identity documents.

DRC also helped approximately 800 IDP families in Georgia proper to get natural gas supply and installed heaters.

In June a series of meetings with NGOs in Zugdidi, Kutaisi, and Gori towns was organised together with the Georgian Ombudsman's office. The meetings aimed at raising awareness on various IDP related issues and getting information about IDP needs as identified by local NGOs.

### Shelter

In January-June 2015 DRC

rehabilitated a former Boarding School in Akhalsopeli village of Zugdidi district with 42 apartments completed for IDP families following Durable Housing standards. 6 houses were rehabilitated and 4 houses were built in Gali district. The activities were implemented with the support of SIDA, SDC and UNHCR.

### Distribution of Non-food Items

Non-food items such as bed sets and basic furniture was distributed to 57 families (160 people) in Abkhazia.

### Livelihood

DRC awarded 42 small business and 49 self-reliance grants in Gali town and surrounding villages, Zugdidi district, and Ergneti village in Gori district. In Abkhazia DRC assisted 30 Syrians in a refugee-like situation through Work Placement Program. The interventions were funded by SDC, EU, UNHCR and SIDA. In addition, DRC constructed a commercial premise for 2 SMEs in Dranda (Gulripshi) settlement.

### Community Infrastructure Development

Multifunctional two-storey building

## Upcoming Events

- ☑ 14 houses will be allocated to IDPs, and 9 cottages and 18 houses will be rehabilitated for extremely vulnerable families in Zugdidi district in July-August 2015 with the SDC support.
- ☑ 12 SME grants will be awarded in Zugdidi district under the SDC project. At least 12 new job places will be created.
- ☑ 24 SME grants recipients of the EU livelihoods project will be selected in Zugdidi and Poti. DRC will launch a selection cycle of beneficiaries for small business and poverty reduction grants. In total 51 SME and 143 poverty reduction grants will be allocated.
- ☑ Internship Scheme for Syrian students will start in Abkhazia. Internship programs in 10 local enterprises will be implemented.
- ☑ Information Brochure on Labor Code of Georgia will be published for DRC beneficiary entrepreneurs.
- ☑ The guideline on the transfer of common spaces in the privatized CCs into the ownership of condominiums will be published.



*SME Support workshop in Zugdidi, SDC project*

was rehabilitated in Chkaduashi village with the SDC funding. The premise houses an ambulatory, a kindergarten and a computer centre. Community development plan was also prepared. 302 persons benefit from the community project.

SDC/DRC in partnership with Georgian Amelioration Ltd., installed a new 1.3 km irrigation system in Ergneti village (Gori district) to provide irrigation to 150 hectares of land. Once Georgian Amelioration completes the additional 1.2 km of pipeline, the irrigation water will be supplied to 230 hectares of land. The project helps Ergneti residents to improve quality of agriculture products and increase productivity.

### Working with partners

DRC carried out a number of training cycles for various groups of beneficiaries, including entrepreneurs, school pupils, youth leaders and community activists in Abkhazia. The training for entrepreneurs aimed at raising their skills in accounting, marketing, and business plan development. As a part of the training scheme, a brochure on Entrepreneurship was prepared. The school pupils and community activists (170 people in total) were trained in children rights, trust building, conflict resolution, environmental protection, gender education and project cycle management.

In April DRC organized a three-day workshop in Sukhumi in cooperation with the Sukhumi Youth House for 20 trained youth leaders of mixed ethnic background.

DRC helped the MRA to allocate the apartments of the rehabilitated

Kutaisi regional hospital and Akhalsopeli Boarding School (Zugdidi district) and also monitored the work of the allocation commission.

DRC supports the Municipal Development Fund to identify IDP construction complaints in a timely manner by operating the Defect Notification and Rectification Mechanism (DeNoRM). 30 sealed boxes were installed at all buildings and cottage settlements to ensure the confidentiality of complainants. As of today up to 140 complaints have been submitted from the different sites. Main issues are broken water pipes and taps, water leakage and malfunctioning water heaters. The list of complaints was sent

to MDF and the USAID.

### Research

DRC surveyed 10 IDP cottage settlements to get data on IDP age, gender, disabilities, education, employment, and access to land and local services, and to identify challenges and needs, as well as priorities for future interventions. The survey report is under development.

DRC commissioned a research on the IDP Livelihoods and income generation opportunities in urban areas of West Georgia. The research will be implemented by ACT and cover Poti, Batumi, Tskaltubo, Kutaisi and Zugdidi residents. It is funded by the EU. The findings will be presented in October 2015.

### International events

On 4-5 June, DRC took part in the IDP conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, where representatives of the EU Member States, Eastern Partnership countries, academia and international organizations gathered to compare their practices and approaches to solving IDPs issues. DRC representative together with the Head and Deputy Head of the Division of IDP Registration of MRA delivered a presentation on Georgian experience. Best practices with regard to legal framework for IDPs in Georgia, durable housing, social protection and registration systems, and lessons learned were shared.



*Community development in Chkaduashi village, SDC project*

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