

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Georgia

Appeal No. MAAGE002

31/08/2010

This report covers the period 01/January/2010 to 30/June/2010.



Red Cross week activities in May 2010. GRCS volunteers during fundraising campaign for elderly on central streets of Tbilisi. Photo: information department of Georgian RC

In brief

Programme purpose: The International Federation (IFRC) supported programme activities of the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) contributing to the Strategy 2020 goals and in line with the National Society's 2007-2011 strategic plan. The programmes aimed to alleviate suffering and improve the lives of the most vulnerable people through disaster management, health and care and organizational development.

Programme(s) summary:

With support from Movement partners NS developed and promoted a disaster management strategy for 2010-2013, elaborated a draft of contingency plan and its cooperation with the state emergency department and other national and international stakeholders was strengthened.

In 2010, health and care programme component supported through IFRC included TB prevention; Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Social Support to Vulnerable people. In the field of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (DR TB) prevention and control the National Society reached 74 TB clients being in the continuation phase of the treatment. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness project raised preparedness and response to A (H1N1) pandemic at the community level and reached approximately 3,389 community leaders directly through 115 trainings/workshops provided by 229 GRCS trained project staff and volunteers. In total 12 000 community members were reached through peer education activities and distribution of the informational educational materials. Social support activities focused on 3,100 of the most vulnerable, lonely older people living under poverty line in Tbilisi, Kutaisi (West Georgia) and Sagarejo (East Georgia). The project aimed at improving living conditions, health status and decreasing poverty level of the target beneficiaries through the Service delivery, Local resource mobilisation, Capacity building and Advocacy.

As for the organisational development the GRCS has been focused on capacity building of local

branches to develop service delivery to vulnerable people in the communities, resource mobilisation and fundraising through diversification of sources of funding, membership recruitment, internal and external communication, youth and volunteer development. GRCS trained 165 HQs and branch leadership representatives, staff, volunteers, local community leaders, vulnerable community members, youth and children through 8 workshops, and 3 seminars.

Financial situation: The total (2010) budget is CHF 772,005 (USD 709,781 or EUR 575,453), of which 51.17 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was CHF 217,459 (which is 69.48% of the total income: CHF177,552 – opening balance & CHF217,459 – income for 2010).

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help:

January – June 2010 - Georgia		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster management	Vulnerable families, RC staff and volunteers	1,250
Health and care	Vulnerable people, youth, children	15,400
Organizational development	National Society key staff and volunteers, youth, children	1,480
Total number of people reached		18,130

Our partners: The GRCS Society cooperates with the IFRC and ICRC as well as with the Sister National Societies of Germany, Italy, Norway, and Israel. Furthermore the National Society cooperates with governmental, non-governmental, national as well as international organizations. (Please see *Working in partnership* section for detailed overview.)

Context

As the result of the global economic crisis and in consequence of the armed conflict with Russia, the economy of Georgia, in the second half of 2008, went into recession and the rate of annual GDP growth declined 2.1% and further to -3.9% in 2009. The economy has contracted since mid-2009 and is only recently showing some signs of recovery and possible growth of 4.5% in 2010¹.

Despite some positive dynamics in economical recovery many Georgians remain affected by high levels of poverty and unemployment. The unemployment rate as for 2009 stands at 16.4%² and the poverty level is 21%³.

The short war with Russia in August 2008 resulted in destruction and additional displacement of people since the war, bringing the total to 246,925 IDPs and an additional 105,715 persons living in IDP-like situation in Georgia.⁴

The Georgian health care system has in the last five years gone through a substantial transformation. Health care policy in Georgia envisages a basic benefit package of free health services, including for most vulnerable older citizens. In reality over 90 per cent of older people who received the free medical insurance find it difficult to get access to health services, and have to cope with high prices of drugs.

¹ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/GEORGIAEXTN/Resources/jna2.pdf>

² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

³ http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=188&lang=eng

⁴ UNHCR, January 2010. IDPs: 233,453 from the 1990s, 3,472 from 2008 (status pending) and 10,000 in South Ossetia. People in IDP-like situation: 50,000 returned IDPs to Abkhazia, 4,186 returned IDPs to South Ossetia, 30,073 returned IDPs to area adjacent to South Ossetia and 21,456 relocated IDPs.

Further, the government-run social support is limited and unable to respond to the needs of older people such as home-based care. At the same time, it does little to solve the problem of social isolation of older people who are practically excluded from their communities due to poverty, age discrimination and the fact that traditional family support and friendship mechanisms are all but destroyed.

Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis levels in Georgia since 2007 are among the highest in the world and are increasing. In 2008 the National TB Centre recorded 5, 852 cases of TB in total, out of which 3,646 were new cases and out of which 1,685 were MDR-TB cases. According to the National TB Programme (NTP) data 1200 MDR-TB patients are under treatment provided by the NTP as of June 2010. Every month, approximately 40 new MDR-TB patients are started on treatment.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Disaster preparedness at institutional level (org. preparedness).

Component Outcome 1: Established effective mechanisms for efficient institutional preparedness and coordination during disasters.

Component Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacities for effective disaster management at both central and local levels.

The GRCS has strengthened its cooperation with the governmental and international organizations in the field of disaster preparedness. The National Society has taken proactive approach in fulfilling the coordination role.⁵ A number of inter-agency meetings, chaired by GRCS and attended by Governmental, International, and local non Governmental organizations have taken place at the HQ of the NS. The meetings are carried out on regular basis and they help confirm the role of GRCS according to the National Disaster Response Plan. They also help establish strong cooperation between Governmental Structures and Non Governmental Sectors.

Five training sessions for 100-110 volunteers, members of local teams in Batumi, Kutaisi, Gori and Rustavi branches were carried out in the HQ in Tbilisi where experienced volunteers from the Disaster Response acted as trainers. The topics were: Basic Disaster Management, Disaster Response Team (DRT) concept, rapid Needs Assessment, Risk Mapping.

Programme component 2: Community-based disaster prevention and preparedness/disaster risk reduction.

Component Outcome1: Awareness of communities about disaster hazards has increased enabling them to take effective actions during disasters.

Component Outcome 2: Vulnerability of local communities to emergency and disaster outcomes has been reduced through timely information and improved capacities in local Red Cross branches

A Grant Agreement has been signed in April between GRCS and Danish Red Cross to support the implementation of a project under the Regional Programme for building safer local communities in South Caucasus Project proposal was prepared by Danish RC in consortium with the Federation and Icelandic RC and it will be funded through the European Commission's DIPECHO programme. The geographical area for the implementation covers Racha, Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regions of Georgia. During the reporting period community teams were mobilized in Racha region (Oni and Ambrolauri districts) and will be involved in the project working on Community Disaster Response, Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment etc. The project started on 15th of April 2010 and will be ended on 15th of July 2011. Community

⁵ The role given to GRCS by the Decree of the President of Georgia # 415 dated 26 of August, 2008.

Disaster Response Teams are so far established in three municipalities, 20 volunteers in total.

Constraints or Challenges

- The main challenge for the implementation of programme activities was no funding available through the country plan for organizational preparedness in DM
- Low capacity at branch level and high expectations from Government towards GRCS that are a result of the National Society having substantial Movement support during disasters but insufficient funding for development in non-disaster times.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Reduced vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and its impact through preventing further infection by expanding knowledge about HIV and AIDS prevention, transmission and treatment, including harm reduction activities.

Though HIV/AIDS component was not financially supported through the Country Plan, GRCS volunteers and staff of the Health and Care department run some activities on voluntary basis. During different public events organized by the national society to mark international observances volunteers delivered printed material (prepared in previous years) on HIV and AIDS prevention, transmission, treatment and healthy life style.

On 16 of May on the AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, seminars for 98 GRSC volunteers were conducted in Tbilisi and five target regions (Tbilisi 18, Gori 16, Rustavi 17, Gardabani 14, Kutaisi 19, Batumi 17 volunteers). Also, a series of workshops dedicated to fighting Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking were organized on 26 June for 65 GRSC volunteers at HQ and at branch level (15 volunteers at HQ and 10 volunteers in each of the target branches).

The GRCS volunteers used the same opportunity to move around cities (Tbilisi and regions) in open buses and distribute the education materials. 1500 leaflets on HIV and AIDS and 1500 condoms were distributed to students and pedestrians in squares, parks and major universities.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: Supported treatment referral and TB clients under directly observed treatment (DOT).

Component outcome 2: Further infection in communities in Tbilisi and in six target regions of Georgia prevented through expanding knowledge about prevention, transmission and treatment (*Due to insufficient funding, the activities planned under this component were not conducted*).

In the reporting period 52 clients were supported with treatment by an adherence consultant and a psychologist, out of which 33 beneficiaries successfully finished their treatment. Also, 22 new clients have been involved with the project. 113 DOT spot and 232 home visits as well as 1038 telephone conversations were conducted by the GRCS treatment adherence consultants. The adherence consultants assessed the demographic data and social status of the target MDR-TB clients on behalf of the national TB Programme (NTP) to assist with further planning. Moreover, awareness on prevention, transmission and treatment was raised among clients and their family members through structured dialogue. Currently, selection of new clients is in progress in close cooperation with the National TB Programme.

GRCS project's psychologist provided psychological support to MDR-TB treatment clients and their family members on regular basis: a total of 138 individual consultations and 23 group sessions were arranged by the psychologist to help with psychological and emotional problems. Most of the patients suffered from anxiety, insomnia and exhibited signs of depression.

DOT spot	DOT visit	Spot-visit	Home visit	Telephone contact	Psychological counselling	Group session
#1 DOT spot	49		143	549	80	12
#5 DOT spot	64		84	489	58	11
TOTAL	113		232	1038	138	23

Table 1: Direct observed treatment for Tuberculosis patients

The main achievement of the project is that in comparison with other governmental and non-governmental agencies working with MDR-TB clients, the GRCS project team approached every beneficiary as an individual, taking into consideration their wider environment and addressing a multitude of their needs.

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid

Component outcome 1: Local communities are strengthened and better able to cope with health challenges as a result of community-based integrated health and first-aid activities.

Within the country plan for the Pandemic influenza Preparedness and Response, the National Society is obliged: a) to participate in work of the inter-agency coordination council at central and local level; b) to coordinate actions of other participating NGOs; c) to manage needs of people seeking qualified medical consultation at hospital level; d) to assist regional interdepartmental committee with establishment of provisional field hospital together with local municipality authorities and assist health professionals in managing triage of people if needed.

In addition, the GRCS volunteers are tasked with raising awareness of the communities on the Human Influenza prevention, transmission and treatment as well as provide the communities with knowledge and skills to respond to pandemic. To reduce the impact of the pandemic the material developed by H2P partners and the Federation (Your Best Defence is you) was used.

Functional coordination between national, district and community level stakeholders has been established. Through 11 training sessions provided by the Red Cross project staff, 229 staff members and volunteers of the national society at all levels were trained to carry out Pandemic preparedness and response activities. A draft of the NS Business Continuity Plan has been developed.

3389 community members have been equipped with necessary knowledge and skills to respond to A H1N1 influenza outbreak through 115 workshop/seminars provided by the project staff and instructed to each spread their knowledge among at least four more people in their communities. The project thus reached approximately 12,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Region	Number of participants			Average age	Number of workshops
	Total	Female	Male		
Tbilisi	1447	864	583	20	34
Kutaisi, Imereti	589	349	240	48	17
Batumi, Adjara	894	518	376	21	25
Gardabani, Kvemo Kartli	497	321	176	39	13
Gori, Shida Kartli	862	531	331	18	26
TOTAL	3389	2583	806	33	115

Table 2: Pandemic preparedness activities outreach

Programme component 4: Psychosocial support

Despite the fact that the GRCS has accumulated significant knowledge and experience within psychological support, no funding for this activity was raised through the Country Plan. The

GRCS has tried to fundraise locally for the activities within PSP, with some success in 2009 but with no results in 2010. The psychosocial support activities are thus being implemented under programme components dealing with Tuberculosis and Social Support to elderly people.

Programme component 5: Social support to elderly people

Component outcome 1: Improved health and social conditions among vulnerable elderly people.

In the reporting period home based care was provided to 355 people by 40 volunteers in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Sagarejo (East Georgia) with approximately 8 700 home visits undertaken. Also 70 volunteers were mobilised (from among the beneficiaries) to provide social services (home based and in social centres) to other older vulnerable people. In February, a new module for home visits to the elderly beneficiaries was established (based on the practical experiences) and discussed with the project volunteers in Tbilisi.

“One candy for each elderly” was the name of the event GRCS volunteers organized on 8th of March - The International women’s Day. 179 older people were visited at home and had candies delivered to them by Red Cross volunteers.

Upon the invitation of the city administration, the GRCS Gardabani branch Health Cabinet examined 1352 people residing in Khelvachauri and surrounding villages. The examination included echoscope and cardiologic diagnostics as well as X-Ray kindly provided by the Express Diagnostics medical company. Seven members of two GRCS "Committees of Five" (volunteer groups in primary and secondary schools) actively participated in the action and were assisting older people during diagnostics. Also, young Red Cross volunteers provided administrative support to doctors in keeping records of the examined patients.

Along with the home visits GRCS volunteers collected drugs for 190 beneficiaries through local fundraising actions and donations. The drugs were prescribed by their personal doctors and were of vital importance to the elderly, making the Red Cross contribution that much more important in terms of preserving health and saving lives of an exceptionally vulnerable population.

Component outcome 2: Increased acknowledgement of elderly people on their rights and dignity to enhance their protection and support in order to find their active role in public life.

The model of social welfare for older people and Social Strategy 2010-2013 was developed by the GRCS and promoted within NS and among stakeholders. Moreover, 3,100 beneficiaries benefited from the work of information centres/ corners in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Sagarejo out of which 650 older people were involved in activities at social centres.

During the reporting period GRCS volunteers and leader beneficiaries organized exhibitions and sales, promotions, poetry evenings and remembrance days. The GRCS provided different health-related brochures and legal advice to older people increasing their awareness of risks and healthy life styles. During the reporting period 6 300 leaflets, brochures and information bulletins were developed and printed and made available to 2700 older people and approximately 300 stakeholders.

Component outcome 3: Changing attitudes and behaviours of service providers towards elderly people addressing the causes of elderly people people’s exclusion and vulnerability

In the reporting period 25 workshops and round tables were organised by GRCS which were attended by International and local governmental organizations and representatives of embassies; 40 persons in total. As a result of these meetings close cooperation was established with Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Sagarejo local authorities, local health services and health committee of the Parliament of Georgia and resources for the project activities were mobilised locally.

After long discussions the Mayor's office of Tbilisi agreed to provide premises for social centre in Isani-Samgori district of Tbilisi to the Red Cross free of charge and agreed to contribute with some finances as well. The GRCS approached local corporate sector, embassies and international organizations for financial support to repair and equip the centre and so far received some soft pledges.

Constraints or Challenges

- The main problem is insufficient funding, but unstable political situation is not helping and retaining volunteers is difficult due to limited means for motivation.
- In case of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness project the main problem was short duration of the project implementation that did not allow GRCS to work as an equal partner to key Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

Organisational Development

Programme component 1: Strengthen Georgia Red Cross Society organisational foundation, leadership capacity and sustainability

Component outcome 1: Amendments package to Law on Georgia Red Cross Society and Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem finalised and adoption by parliament facilitated.

GRCS finalised the project on amendments to both laws "Law on Georgia Red Cross Society" and "Law on the Emblem and Name of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". The National Society had consultations with Tbilisi Tax Inspection to introduce and discuss the amendments in the area of volunteering to be incorporated in the "Law on Georgia Red Cross Society". However, the NS does not consider current political situation in the country as favourable to submit proposed changes to the Parliament.

Component outcome 2: Competence and performance of the headquarters and branch leadership in governing and managing the organisation is improved.

35 leadership representatives from the GRCS HQ and 8 branches (Zugdidi, Akhmeta, Telavi, Gardabani, Sagarejo, Senaki, Kutaisi and Mestia) improved their knowledge in resource mobilisation, membership recruitment and financial management through competence building workshops. The topics: basic induction course on the International RC/RC Movement and GRCS; governance and management roles and responsibilities; membership recruitment and retention; volunteer management; local resource mobilisation and fundraising techniques; project and financial management; reporting; communication (means/tools) with the key stakeholders including mass media. Also, basic courses on International RC/RC Movement have been provided to 15 newly elected branch representatives in 3 target locations (Zugdidi, Oni and Ambrolauri).

Component outcome 3: The National Society's financial sources are diversified and fundraising techniques are further developed.

As one of the new fundraising techniques GRCS has in May launched a *Corporate Partnership Programme* to encourage business in Georgia to take a responsible attitude and support the most vulnerable people as well as contribute to GRCS core costs. To achieve this GRCS held 12 meetings with the representatives of business companies and so far two companies (TAV Georgia Tbilisi airport and Tegeta Motors) have joined the programme and contributed with funds.

The GRCS placed 5 new collection boxes in addition to 4 previously placed ones, in Hotels, bookstores and supermarkets in Tbilisi. The new (mobile) boxes are placed in the following cities: Gardabani (Kvemo Kartli region), Kutaisi (Imereti region) and Batumi (Adjara region) and are meant to fundraise for specific projects as well as to promote the RC/RC work. In the reporting period 1048 GEL (approximately 618 CHF) were collected.

CHF 1,000 was raised for the Federation Emergency Appeal to support the victims affected by the Haiti earthquake through fundraising actions among the students of Tbilisi Technical and State Universities. Similar fundraising events were conducted during the “Red Cross Week” in May and International Children Day in Tbilisi and 6 regions of Georgia. In total during the reporting period GRCS raised over 19 700 CHF in donations from general public and local business.

GRCS improved knowledge and skills of its staff and volunteers in fundraising techniques through 4 meetings aimed at sharing good practices on resource mobilization and fundraising among the volunteers in 4 target locations (Tbilisi, Gardabani, Sagarejo, and Zugdidi). In addition, three GRCS HQ staff members paid visit to Azerbaijani Red Crescent Society to share the knowledge and experiences in fundraising with colleagues from the neighbouring national society.

Component outcome 4: The National Society’s image is improved through effective external communication and regular dialogue with the general public and partners.

GRCS printed 150 copies of its quarterly bulletin (January-March 2010) presenting current activities in Georgian and English languages. The bulletin was distributed to GRCS branches as well as to other relevant local stakeholders. GRCS webpage is regularly updated with information on recent and upcoming activities in Georgian and English languages. As a result, the rating of the website rose, and the number of individual visitors has increased by 20% with visitors coming from different countries (source: *www.TOP.ge*). During the trade fair at Radisson Hotel television reported on the GRCS stand talking about “social project beneficiaries producing and selling their own handcrafted products”.

Programme component 2: Strengthen the capacity of the National Society’s headquarters and local branch network to implement core Red Cross activities throughout the country.

Component outcome 1: Service delivery is improved by promoting the National Society’s Model Branch concept, and volunteer and youth management is enhanced at the grassroots level.

GRCS initiated branch development concept in 11 branches. At branch level, youth and volunteer activities are planned and organised by youth leaders (in total 157). Also, 35 volunteer groups (at least 15 volunteers per group) are involved in the projects and branch activities, and 83 “Committees of Five”⁶ participate in planning. The activities implemented by youth and volunteers are related to health and care, first aid, social and psychosocial support, disaster management, fundraising.

In addition, GRCS diversified the participation of Youth in Red Cross activities through implementation of the “Road Safety” project (funded by the “Empress Shôken Fund”); various fundraising and charity events.

The service delivery in the listed programme and geographical areas is thus improved – more activities, better targeting.

Component outcome 2: The capacities of the National Society are strengthened covering internal communication, programme and financial management.

The reporting system of the GRCS was further improved in order to provide constant updates from target branches. Mandatory structured monthly reports from branches to the HQ have been introduced with a new, improved reporting format, followed by training sessions. The data collected this way is used for better coordination, reporting to donors but also for external

⁶ Committee of Five – primary youth units at schools which is a tool for promotion of Fundamental principles and humanitarian values among youth.

communication and publishing of quarterly bulletins, leaflets, posters etc. GRCS branches have been encouraged to create and maintain a photo database covering all relevant Red Cross events.

GRCS conducted two-day local level training to improve membership recruitment and resource mobilisation including fundraising. Furthermore within this activity GRCS provided a training session on planning and implementation of volunteer-based initiatives using the participatory approach. 10 new volunteers and chairpersons of GRCS Telavi and Akhmeta branches gained basic knowledge on planning of volunteer based Red Cross initiatives, the local resource mobilisation methods and fundraising techniques, as well as on membership recruitment. The induction session on the International RC/RC Movement and GRCS work was provided; GRCS communication strategy was introduced to the training participants. GRCS HQ staff shared experience with the training participants and introduced good practices on the above mentioned topics.

Component outcome 3: Community-based volunteer initiatives are developed to empower and assist vulnerable people.

Two target branches (Gardabani and Sagarejo) established regular volunteer service delivery activities to vulnerable people in 5 local communities. These activities include 9 community-based volunteer initiatives on social support and integration of IDPs, promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth, intercultural communication and integration of minorities and establishment of a Social Centre for Older People. As result, over 1,100 vulnerable people (including internally displaced persons, older vulnerable people, people living with disabilities, youth and multi-child families with income below a poverty line) benefited from volunteer activities through solving their problems with support of local stakeholders.

Municipality of Sagarejo agreed to financially support activities of the newly established social centre for older people. Also the preliminary agreement has been reached with the municipalities of Sagarejo and Gardabani about their financial contribution to the new round of small grant competition on support of community-based volunteer initiatives in autumn 2010.

GRCS held two public roundtable meetings, with the purpose of promotion of community-based volunteer initiatives, with active participation of representatives of local communities, including local authorities, beneficiaries, volunteers, mass media and NGOs (in total 36 participants).

GRCS introduced a model on community-based volunteer initiatives to Akhmeta branch, Kakheti region for testing and eventual further replication.

Constraints or Challenges

- Low level of awareness of the importance Red Cross activities among general public and business negatively affects fundraising;
- Low level of motivation of some branches to develop service delivery activities in local communities.
- Lack of human resources at branches to fulfil the management and financial tasks.

Recruiting sufficient human resources at HQ level - Branch Manager, Accountant, Volunteer/Youth Manager, Project staff – would help solve these problems. GRCS is making efforts to raise funds locally in order to develop these missing capacities.

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Despite the fact that this project component has not been supported separately, the promotion of humanitarian values has been included in each of the programme components.

Component outcome 1: Increased awareness about International RC/RC Movement, Georgia Red Cross Society, Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among the general public including youth.

During the “Red Cross Week”, 3 – 8 May 2010, over 270 people received information and new knowledge about the International RC/RC Day, Georgia Red Cross Society and humanitarian values through participation in activities organised in Tbilisi and GRCS branches (Batumi, Sagarejo, Gardabani, Kutaisi and Zugdidi). These activities included GRCS volunteers’ photo exhibition and fundraising actions.

During January – June 2010, 31 “Committees of Five” were established in addition to the already existing 52 in schools in Tbilisi and in regions of Gardabani, Sagarejo, Zugdidi, Kutaisi, Oni and Ambrolauri.

Component outcome 2: Increased awareness of Georgia Red Cross Society governance, management, staff and volunteers on Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values

GRCS organised seminars for 4 local branches (including 2 new branches in Racha-Lechkhumi region). 90 volunteers and members received knowledge on Principles and Values, International RC/RC Movement and GRCS. This is all in accordance with a two year plan developed by the GRCS to increase its membership.

Programme component 2: Reduction of discrimination and social exclusion and promotion of respect for diversity

Component outcome 1: Promoted culture of non-discrimination and respect to diversity

50 youth volunteer leaders of Gardabani branch developed a new initiative on promotion of diversity and cross-ethnic/ cross-culture communication and cooperation. This was done through establishment of joint activities of youth from Georgian, Russian and Azerbaijan schools across the country. The activities included learning about each other’s culture (dances and songs) and volunteering in their communities together with local young volunteers, supporting internally displaced people, minorities and older people. Activity carried-out in the framework of Branch Development project.

Component outcome 2: Decreased social exclusion of children from vulnerable groups

GRCS organized a charity action in children’s hospital in Tbilisi, where 25 adolescents with leukaemia are being treated. The action was implemented with assistance of public persons such as a famous artist who painted for children. GRCS also paid special attention to involvement of children and youth from vulnerable groups in volunteer activities. Thus, 190 out of 293 volunteers mobilised to develop and implement community-based initiatives in Gardabani and Sagarejo are children and youth from vulnerable groups.

Component outcome 3: Reduced stigma and discrimination associated with communicable diseases and old age through advocacy, communication, education and social mobilization activities by the Georgia Red Cross Society

With the support of “Committees of Five” at 9 public schools of Tbilisi GRCS organized 3 actions entitled “Five Potatoes action” and “Sweets for the Elderly for the New Year”. These actions contributed to strengthening the intergenerational links between youth and older people. GRCS youth also disseminated fundamental principles during their interaction with the projects’ beneficiaries.

Three advocacy meetings were held with local authorities of Zugdidi, Senaki and Akhmeta regions aiming to facilitate reduction of social isolation of older people and conducting social activities for older people.

Constraints or Challenges

- There was no funding for Humanitarian Values activities in 2009-2010

Working in partnership

Main Movement partners for GRCS are: the International Federation, ICRC, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Magen David Adom Izrael, German Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent.

Norwegian Red Cross supports the GRCS through the Federation country plan in Social Support to older people and Organisational Development Projects through the Federation Country Plan and provides support for the Federation representative in the country. In addition, NRC bilaterally supports the blood donor recruitment project.

Danish RC multilaterally supports the branch development project, through the Federation country plan as well as the deployment of the Organisational Development Delegate to Georgia. Also, taking the lead in DIPECHO project consortium, together with the International Federation and Icelandic RC, Danish RC deployed a Disaster Risk Reduction Delegate who works under the integration agreement with the Federation.

Georgian RC established bilateral cooperation with German RC, Magen David Adom Izrael, and Italian Red Cross.

Partnership is established with UN agencies, Save the Children NGO, American International Health Alliance, USAID, Medical Service Cooperation International (MSCI) and World Learning. At national level GRCS cooperates with almost all ministries, governmental agencies and local non-governmental organisations and corporate sector.

GRCS is a member of the Georgian Harm Reduction Network and Task Force Group represented in Country Coordinating Mechanism (Global Fund), as well as is a member of UN (managed by WHO) Health Cluster as well as Psychosocial sub-cluster.

A list of movement partners:

Multilaterally through IFRC:

Donor	Program
Norwegian Red Cross	Organisational Development/Branch Development
Norwegian Red Cross	Social Support to Older People
Danish Red Cross	Branch Development
IFRC (back donor USAID/DFID)	Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
IFRC (back donor Eli Lilly)	DR-TB

Movement partners:

ICRC	<i>Under GRCS Institutional Capacity:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legalization of the GRCS assets • GRCS Headquarters and Branch Forums
	<i>Under Emergency Preparedness and Response:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Planning and Implementation • Maintaining GRCS Response Capacity • Social Welfare on Behalf of Lone, Older People

Bilaterally:

Donor	Program
European Commission (DIPECHO). Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross	Community-based disaster risk reduction programme
German Red Cross	First Aid
Magen David Adom Izrael	First Aid
Italian Red Cross	Harm Reduction
Norwegian Red Cross	Promotion of the non-remunerated blood donation
Medical Service Corporation International (MSCI) (back donor USAID)	DR-TB
ICRC, Estonian Embassy, British Red Cross, Local Municipalities in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Sagarejo.	Social Support to Older People

Contributing to longer-term impact

With support from Movement and other partners the National Society developed its capacities in disaster management and delivered assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by conflict and natural disasters. Through its cooperation with the government's emergency department and international organizations, the profile of the organization has been enhanced and the number of active volunteers increased. The improved capacities allowed the National Society to receive DIPECHO funding for 2010 and 2011. The funds contribute to developing and widening the society's disaster risk reduction activities at community level.

The strategies and policies in disaster management, social support and psychosocial support allow the National Society to develop an improved and comprehensive strategic plan for 2011-2014, consolidating all the discussions which have taken place over the last two years. Local fund-raising initiatives and correspondence with the authorities has clearly shown that there is a potential for raising more funds and forging closer cooperation. The National Society focuses on developing its corporate partnership programme in the years to come.

Health and social activities will remain a key priority for the National Society. Cooperation with local authorities and communities, of which there are already many success stories, will continue and is likely to increase. The present model of cooperation with the authorities, in which the Georgia Red Cross takes an advocacy role, has become increasingly effective as exemplified with the social programme for the older people described above.

Looking ahead

Despite the high number of partners and achievements recorded, there are still numerous challenges for the National Society. Limited financial resources and sources of income affect its operational capacities. Owing to different levels of capacity and abilities to take initiatives in local branches, the coverage and frequency of activities subsequently varies. On this background the National Society intends to increase its focus on local resource mobilization and branch development, as well as mobilization of grassroots support through participatory community processes and new partnerships at local and national level. These are longer-term processes to which the society is committed and supported by Movement partners, public authorities and other national and international organizations.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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