

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Georgia

Appeal no. 01.78/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Below: click on programme title to go to relevant text and figure to go to country programme budget

Programme title	2004 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	386,395
Total	386,395¹

National Context

Since its independence in 1991, Georgia has experienced a decade-long crisis. It has suffered economic collapse, crushing poverty, disintegration of its social welfare and health systems, mass population movements as well as recurring political and military conflicts.

The people of Georgia have endured periods of civil war and unrest as well as violence related to the independence aspirations of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It has resulted in the deaths of more than 100,000 people, displacement of another 300,000 people, a mass emigration of skilled personnel and a collapse in industrial production. Large-scale famine has only been avoided through substantial external humanitarian aid.

Although diplomatic efforts have brought relative stability in recent years, tensions over both breakaway regions persist. The loss of cheap Soviet energy and the rupturing of trading ties caused the economy of Georgia, once a relatively affluent part of the Soviet Union, to nose-dive.

Despite a recent improvement, the country remains in desperate circumstances and continued decline. The Georgian economy is sluggish. Living standards continue to plummet. Everyday life is an unremitting struggle for the most vulnerable groups of the population. Findings from recent assessments indicate the main source of

¹ USD 295,000 or EUR 249,000.

vulnerability in Georgia still lies in the socio-economic crisis. This affects mostly elderly people living alone and internally displaced persons because of insufficient access to services of social and health institutions. Elections in late 2003 prompted a series of sustained protests against the government and political uncertainty persisted.

The republic remains among the poorest countries of the former Soviet Union. The changing demography, with increasing numbers of elderly people and a decreasing fertility rate, compounds an already bleak situation. According to the Georgian State Department for Statistics, Georgia's population shrank by 1.1 million people: from 5.5 million in 1989 to 4.4 million at the beginning of 2002². Generally, the decline, almost 20 per cent, has been caused by an outflow of workers to other countries. Most emigrants now live in the Russian Federation, and increasingly in Ukraine, Western Europe and the USA.

Georgia shares a border with Russia's troubled Chechen Republic and there have been angry exchanges between the two countries related to the conflict.

The country continues to be ravaged by crime and corruption. Recent years have seen institutional, legal and economic reforms, but many of the achievements have been undermined by corrupt practices. The recent abduction of UN observers underscores security concerns in the country.

Georgia, located in a seismically active zone, is extremely disaster prone. An earthquake in April 2002 caused relatively little damage, though its epicentre was close to the capital, Tbilisi. It triggered fear and concern. Floods and landslides often affect the country.

Georgia development indicators at a glance

(Source: www.undp.org/hdr2003)

Total population 2002	5.2 million³
Annual population growth rate (2001-15)	-0.7%
Life expectancy at birth (2001)	73.4 years
Maternal mortality rate	50 per 100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate	24 per 1,000 live births
People living with HIV/AIDS aged 15-49 (2001)	<0.10 %
People living below USD1 a day (1990-2001)	<2 %
GDP per capita annual growth rate 1990-201	-5.5 %
Adult literacy rate age 15 and above	100%
Public expenditure on health as % of GDP (1990-2000)	1990: 3.0% 2000: 0.7%
Internally Displaced People	264,000
Refugees	8,000

² The census did not cover two conflict areas outside central government control. Georgian and international experts estimate the population of Abkhazia may be around 160,000 people, while South Ossetia is home to about 70,000 people.

³ 4.4 million according to population census results in 2002.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

National Society Strategy:

The Georgian Red Cross Society is the oldest established humanitarian organisation in Georgia. It was recognised by a presidential decree in 1993, but a clearer legal status was achieved through the Red Cross law accepted by parliament in 1997. It became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in December 1997. Cooperation between the Federation and the Georgian Red Cross began earlier, in 1992, when delegates from Armenia worked with the Georgian Red Cross to assist earthquake victims in South Ossetia. More extensive cooperation took place from 1993 when the Federation delegation was first established in Georgia.

The Georgian Red Cross has consistently responded to social and health vulnerabilities, as well as, natural disasters that have affected thousands of people during the last decade. In 2001, a period of uncertainty affected the Red Cross and led to reduced cooperation with the Federation. In early 2002, the new president of the Georgian Red Cross was confirmed. A new presidium was elected and new senior staff members were appointed.

In 2003, the Georgian Red Cross, supported by the Federation, initiated a process to strengthen its management. As an initial step, it developed a new mission statement and vision.

Its mission is 'to assist vulnerable people in coping with the effects of emergencies and socio-economic crisis by mobilising the power of humanity and ensuring appropriate means and services to protect human life and dignity'.

The vision outlines what its foundation, capacity and performance should be to fulfil the mission. The Georgian Red Cross strives to be 'a strong and well-functioning national society, responsive to and focused on the vulnerable, with efficient services in line with international standards and promoting an environment free from poverty, violence and prejudice'.

To achieve its vision and mission, the Red Cross developed strategic priorities and objectives, which are to:

- Develop effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms;
- Ensure health care and social welfare for the most vulnerable groups of the population;
- Promote the Red Cross' Movement's Fundamental Principles, International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian values; and
- Build a strong organisation with ability to assist people in need.

The strategic priorities were reviewed by the presidium and adopted in the first reading. Based on the agreed and shared priorities, the Georgian Red Cross will develop a two-year strategic development plan.

The Red Cross has initiated the revision of its statutes to decentralise the organisation by distinguishing levels of responsibility and authority between governance and management. The statutes are reviewed in conformity with the Federation's global guidance for national society statutes and follow a participatory process engaging Federation and ICRC technical and legal expertise and assistance.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context:

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing large-scale relief assistance in western Georgia, including Abkhazia. Additionally it carries out its traditional activities:

- Tracing;
- Visits to detainees;
- Tuberculosis (TB) control in prisons; and
- Promotion of International Humanitarian Law among authorities, armed forces and the civil society.

Since 1992, the Federation has been assisting the Georgian Red Cross to reduce vulnerability in the country, mainly in relief with an increasing emphasis on development and capacity building.

In 2001, however, due to uncertainty over the leadership of the national society, the Federation's presence in Georgia was reduced. It maintained a small office to liaise with the Red Cross, international organisations and Georgian authorities.

In September-October 2002, considering massive humanitarian challenges confronting the country and relative stability in the national society, the Federation in cooperation with the ICRC, conducted an assessment to identify areas for potential assistance to the Red Cross in its work.

Guided by the results of the assessment, the Federation has launched a six-month project to support the national society in re-establishing its basic institutional capacities. The project was a first phase of the Federation's re-engagement in Georgia. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Federation and the Georgian Red Cross to provide a comprehensive framework of cooperation on Federation support to national society rehabilitation and capacity building efforts.

The immediate priorities for the Federation assistance included strengthening the national society capacities at the headquarters level so that it could provide effective support to the branches. The focus, therefore, was on:

- Enhancing the knowledge and understanding among the new leadership and senior management staff of the Movement, its mandate and the Fundamental Principles;
- Establishing a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities of management and governance functions in line with the provisions of the Georgian Red Cross Statutes;
- Developing a national society mission statement;
- Identifying national society priorities and initiating a strategic planning process; and
- Consolidating the Georgian Red Cross legal base.

The focus in 2003 was on the national society headquarters. It was believed that the strong headquarters would ensure the unity of the Red Cross in the country and the ability of branches to implement effective and relevant programmes. Considerable progress has been made:

- The national society has embarked on a serious self-reflection to improve the organisation;
- The leadership of the national society is committed to change. It has a basic understanding of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, its mandate and the Fundamental Principles.
- The national society staff believe in their capacities to change. They are enthusiastic and keen to become a well functioning national society; and
- There is a clear understanding in the Red Cross that the effective way to improve lives is through strengthening local communities.

All this constitutes a solid basis for effective capacity building. Analysis of the six-month capacity building efforts by an independent team of Federation member national societies in October 2003 confirmed there are opportunities for progress. It recommended continuing engagement with the Georgian Red Cross and stipulated a number of conditions, which the national society has committed to fulfil.

The situation in the country is critical and multiple stakeholders – government of Georgia, international agencies and non-governmental organisations – are voicing their concerns of the deepening crisis. The Red Cross has an important role to play in alleviating suffering and improving lives of people in Georgia.

The assistance sought in this appeal is guided by analysis of humanitarian needs in the country and achievements of the national society over the last year. While continuing to support capacity building and reform within the Red Cross, work will concentrate at the community level in disaster response and health through participatory community development. This, it is hoped, will connect the Red Cross with the most vulnerable people in communities as well as with potential actors at the community level.

As humanitarian needs still remain critical for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a large portion of the population, the Federation will assist the Red Cross branches to deliver tailored services to people in need. This will also create a simple, clear and visible opportunity to boost the image of the Georgian Red Cross, wounded by the events of the last two years.

Initially the focus will be on a few branches but the engagement will gradually expand as the capacities of the Red Cross will strengthen. Partners' support and understanding is crucial.

The Federation will coordinate with other components of the Movement, the authorities and humanitarian actors. It will support the Red Cross through its delegation in Georgia. Technical expertise will also be offered from the regional delegation in Ankara. Since January 2003, this delegation has assumed responsibilities for the southern

Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – as well as Turkey. The Federation’s regional team has expertise in a variety of fields, including planning, reporting, organisational development, disaster preparedness and response. Training, consultations and coaching will be provided. The regional delegation will also promote networking, partnerships and knowledge sharing between the national societies.

[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Strengthening the National Society

Goal: Vulnerability of target communities to health and disasters has reduced.

Objective: Georgian Red Cross has strengthened capacity to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable people.

Expected Results:

- The Georgian Red Cross headquarters has enhanced capacity to support its branches in assisting people in need.
- Target Georgian Red Cross branches have strengthened capacity to deliver tailored services through participatory community development.

Appeal 2004: Georgia

This appeal highlights the main aspects of the Federation’s assistance programme in Georgia. It draws on a more detailed plan of action, guiding international support to the Georgian Red Cross. This appeal programme is constructed along the lines of a logical framework whereby activities feed into expected results, which feed into project objectives (where relevant), programme objectives and designated goals. The plan of action includes all activities, indicators, means of verification, assumptions/risks, detailed budget plans, timetable of implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

For further information please contact:

- *Georgian Red Cross,*
Phone: 995 32 961 534; fax: 995 32 953 304; email: geors@hotmail.com
- *Federation Representative in Georgia,*
Phone: 995 32 922 248; fax: 995 32 922 249; email: ifrcge01@ifrc.org
- *Federation Regional Officer Sylvie Chevalley,*
Phone: 41 22 730 4276 ; fax : 41 22 733 0395 ; email: sylvie.chevalley@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.78/2004

Name: Georgia

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	25,000
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000
SUPPLIES	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	40,000
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	7,000	0	0	0	0	7,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	12,000	0	0	0	0	12,000
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	19,000	0	0	0	0	19,000
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	23,280	0	0	0	0	23,280
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	23,280	0	0	0	0	23,280
Programme Support	0	25,115	0	0	0	0	25,115
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	25,115	0	0	0	0	25,115
Personnel-delegates	0	144,000	0	0	0	0	144,000
Personnel-national staff	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	40,000
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	0	184,000	0	0	0	0	184,000
W/shops & Training	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Travel & related expenses	0	8,000	0	0	0	0	8,000
Information	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000
Other General costs	0	35,000	0	0	0	0	35,000
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	45,000	0	0	0	0	45,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	386,395	0	0	0	0	386,395