

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

GEORGIA

30 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.78/2004;

Programme Update no. 1

Period covered: January to May, 2004;

Appeal target: the original appeal budget was **CHF 386,395** (USD 295,000 or EUR 249,000). With the current programme update, the appeal budget has been revised to **CHF 472,474**. This appeal revision reflects a new plan of action that both builds capacity in the Georgian Red Cross as well as confronts urgent needs in the country. Current income is **CHF 185,066** and appeal coverage is **39.6%**. Outstanding needs are **CHF 287,408**.

(click here to go directly to the attached revised appeal budget).

(click here to go directly to the attached contributions list, also available on the website).

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Georgian Red Cross continues to work hard to re-establish its institutional capacities. The restructuring of the national society headquarters is progressing well. People are focused and dedicated to their tasks. Since January 2004, the focus was on:

- improving the Red Cross legal base by revising the national society statutes,
- advancing the strategic planning, initiated in 2003,
- strengthening the national society governance and management functions by establishing a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and
- reviving a network of branches by mobilising local resources.

Progress has been made under all of these priority areas



Georgian Red Cross rebuilds links with the communities it springs from: 10,000 food parcels, donated by the Turkish Red Crescent, were distributed to the most vulnerable people in the country.

The working group, established by the Red Cross in 2003, reviewed comments from the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) joint legal commission in Geneva on the Red Cross statutes and have started working on the second draft in conformity with the Federation's global Guidance for National Society Statutes. According to the plan of action, approved by the Presidium of the national society, the second draft of the statutes will be submitted to the Federation and ICRC joint commission in Geneva in December 2004. The statutes are planned to be finalised and submitted for the adoption to the General Assembly in 2005.

The Red Cross has also completed work on its two-year strategic plan, which was approved by the presidium of the national society and will be submitted to the General Assembly in July for adoption. The plan will enable the Red Cross to achieve its strategic priorities, it identified in 2003, namely to:

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

Another important achievement has been the appointment of a new secretary general with previous experience as a Federation national staff and delegate. The new secretary general was selected from 90 other candidates that applied for the position advertised by the national society.

The new secretary general conducted training for seven senior management staff members at the headquarters to improve their project planning skills using the Federation's main planning tool, Project Planning Process (PPP). Similar training sessions are planned for regional and local branch staff in the future.

The Red Cross has started restructuring its headquarters. The new management team is developing recommendations that include few changes to the existing structure. The recommendations will be presented to the presidium of the national society for approval in July 2004.

In parallel, work has started to revive the branch network by re-establishing links with local branches and communities, encouraging community participation in the work of the national society and ensuring the accessibility and openness of the organisation to everybody without discrimination.

Supported by the Federation and the ICRC, the Georgian Red Cross carried out a comprehensive assessment of its branches. 59 of 75 existing branches have been visited to collect information on their capacities including a legal status, foundation, structure, human, material and financial resources, the scope of work and involvement with the communities. The remaining 16 branches, mainly in the western Georgia, were covered by the ICRC.

The assessment was conducted through a questionnaire developed by the Red Cross on the basis of the standard Federation assessment tools. The analysis of the survey results has revealed that:

- 34.5 per cent of the branches assessed have a basic capacity that includes premises, human resources and limited activities (these branches received less than two points according to the CAPI scoring scale¹)
- 30.6 per cent have 20 and more volunteers.
- three Red Cross branches (6.1 per cent) do not have volunteers and have been classified as one of the weakest branches.
- Five branches in Tbilisi, one in Kvemo Kartli region, three in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region and another three in Adjara region have been identified the strongest branches that show better performance than other branches in other regions in terms of their effectiveness.

The Red Cross has also been successful in building new partnerships. Its cooperation with the local authorities and colleagues from other national societies in implementation of several relief operations, serve as examples of the Georgian Red Cross' commitment to be a better functioning organisation working for and with the people.

With the support of the Turkish Red Crescent it distributed 10,000 food parcels to the most vulnerable people in the regions. It also initiated a disaster preparedness and response programme with the support of the Iranian Red Crescent. The programme includes distribution of basic relief items to Chechen refugees. Additionally, the government of Georgia supported financially the Georgian Red Cross rehabilitation work with 1,085 disabled people. The project ended in March 2004.



George Babasian is a 72 year-old disabled pensioner.

He lives in an old, earthquake-damaged building and his only income is 17 Georgian Lari (approximately, 8 US dollars) he receives each month from the government. Mr. Babasian suffers from heart and lung diseases and arthritis.

The only humanitarian assistance he has received in years was a food parcel delivered by Red Cross volunteers in winter 2004.

Change is a long and painful process. It takes time and commitment. The Georgian Red Cross has a long way to go to become a better functioning organisation. It has a number of challenges to tackle. Although considerable progress has been made, distinction between governance and management functions is still not clear. Nepotism and favouritism are issues that need to be addressed too. Another important problem is the lack of interest among Red Cross members in the work of the organisation undermining the legitimacy of the national society governance. Work needs to continue.

Reflecting on the achievements and remaining challenges, the Georgian Red Cross in consultation with the Federation, has expanded the current programme to enable the national society to make further progress in strengthening its capacities and helping more people.

The overall goal of the revised programme remains the same to ***strengthen capacities of the Georgian Red Cross to help people in need.***

A process of capacity building will focus on the following areas:

- strengthened organizational capacity of the national society to help people prevent and alleviate suffering (**organisational development**), and

¹ CAPI: Customized Assessment and Performance Indicators, self-assessment methodology.

- improved health of vulnerable people of Georgia (**health and care**)

Within these two programmes, the Red Cross prioritises:

- Strengthening Red Cross foundation, improving governance and management, and increasing accountability of the organisation to its beneficiaries and partners through enhanced capacities of the national society headquarters (**headquarters capacity building project**);
- Strengthening capacities of the targeted branches to deliver tailored services through participatory community development approach (**branch capacity building project**)
- Improving living conditions of 1,500 lone elderly people in Tbilisi (**lone elderly people support project**).

The appeal budget has been revised too to reflect the revised plan of action (see the last page of the update).

Response to the Federation's original appeal has been low. The main donors are the Canadian Government, Canadian Red Cross and the Federation's Capacity Building Fund. To ensure successful implementation of the planned activities, another **CHF 287,408** is required. The Federation is urging partner national societies to help their colleagues at the Georgian Red Cross in assisting people in need during the difficult transitional period, both for the country and the national society.

Organisational development

Goal: The Georgian Red Cross is a key humanitarian actor working in partnership with local authorities to improve living conditions of people in need.

Objective: The Georgian Red Cross has become a better functioning national society helping people prevent and alleviate suffering.

Expected result 1: The Georgian Red Cross has strengthened its foundation, improved governance and management, and increased accountability to its beneficiaries and partners through enhanced capacities of the national society headquarters.

Project summary: It has been almost a year since the Federation re-engaged in Georgia and launched an operation to support the Georgian Red Cross in re-establishing its basic institutional capacities. During this period a considerable progress has been made. The Federation's re-engagement paved the way for a new phase in the life of the national society, offering it an opportunity to play an important role in alleviating suffering and improving lives of people in this poor country.

The current project will assist the Red Cross to continue the change process initiated in 2003. It is based on the important achievements of the last year. The focus will be on strengthening management and governance roles of the national society, which is essential for the effective functioning of an organisation. Work on the statutes will continue too. Also, long and medium-term strategic plans will be developed to enable the national society to realise its strategic objectives in a consistent way.

Special attention will be directed to improving the Red Cross accountability by establishing clear financial management systems and mechanisms. The move will help the Red Cross reinstate the image of the organisation, wounded by allegations of nepotism, favouritism and misuse of funds over the last few years. The new system will increase transparency of financial management by the Red Cross and make it accessible to the public.

The project complements the activities planned under the two other projects, which are integral parts of the Red Cross change process feeding into the overall goal of the appeal

[\(click here to see the detailed description of the project\).](#)

Expected result 2: The target Georgian Red Cross branches have strengthened capacity to deliver tailored services to vulnerable people through participatory community development.

Project summary: The Georgian Red Cross, as an auxiliary to the Government, has a moral obligation to help thousands of people, who continue to live in desperate need of help.

Challenges are immense: the collapsed social network, high unemployment, widespread poverty, permanent deficit of the state budget, internal and external political instability aggravated by the unresolved status of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and the plight of more than 300,000 internally displaced persons are all major problems. The new government, elected earlier this year, committed to revive the economy, combat corruption, and cement democratic reforms. It will take time, however, until the benefits of the ongoing changes trickle down to local communities, particularly the most vulnerable people.

The Georgian Red Cross is the oldest humanitarian organization in the country with a network of branches in most of the regions of Georgia. Though varied in their level of capabilities and resources, it still remains the only indigenous and community-based organisation regarded by many people in the country as a partner that can help solve their problems.

The current project will help the Georgian Red Cross branches strengthen their capacities and reconnect with the communities they spring from to ensure their programmes are responsive to local needs and focused on the areas where the organisation can have the greatest impact.

To achieve this, the Red Cross will launch a pilot initiative, which would encourage its targeted branches to work in a participatory community development (PCD) approach. PCD is supporting people to reduce the causes of their own predicaments, mobilising community action. The grassroots networks of the Red Cross will bring vulnerable groups together with local government, non-governmental organisations and other relevant parties, asking them to assess priority problems, design projects to address them, and make the most of local resources.

By involving beneficiaries in decisions directly affecting their lives, the Red Cross believes beneficiaries will not be just passive recipients of aid but active partners of the national society. Increased participation of communities in designing and implementation of projects, will, at the same time contribute to strengthening the sustainability of Red Cross operations and reduce the organisation's dependency on international funding by mobilising locally available resources.

The Red Cross identified two branches to pilot the approach based on the analysis of the branch assessment results and pre-determined criteria, including :

- Capacity of the branches, including foundation, basic infrastructure, committed management, and the number of members and volunteers.
- Branch location to enable effective management and monitoring of the project activities, and.
- The level of vulnerability: access to basic health and social welfare services.

To help the Georgian Red Cross branches pilot the new approach, their staff and volunteers will be trained on participatory community development, as well as, participatory rapid appraisal methodologies. Both approaches aim to increase community involvement in Red Cross work.

The project will be piloted in two communities. Branch activities will be based on needs assessment and within the strategic priorities of the national society.

[\(click here to see the detailed description of the project\).](#)

Health and care

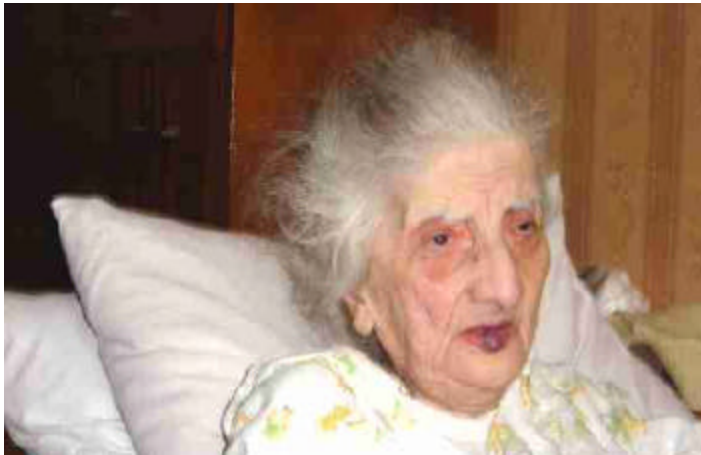
Goal: Health of vulnerable people of Georgia has improved.

Objective: Georgian Red Cross has strengthened capacity to improve health of vulnerable people.

Expected result: Living conditions of 1,500 lone elderly pensioners in Tbilisi have improved through home care, distribution of basic food and non-food items, social support and advocacy.

Project summary: Elderly people are the worst affected by the ongoing socio-economic instability and changes in the country.

The Red Cross in Georgia is slowly recovering from the organizational crisis. As an auxiliary to the local authorities, it has a moral obligation to help these people, who continue living in inhumane and undignified conditions.



Ketevan Meparishvili, 84 years old, was a doctor specialising in infectious diseases.

She is almost blind and bed ridden relying on support of relatives, neighbours and former colleagues. Unfortunately, due to socio-economic difficulties in the country that traditional support system is weakening and she could fall into destitution without alternative support.

Mrs. Meparishvili was on the list of Georgian Red Cross beneficiaries receiving 20 kg supplementary food parcels through the programme which was supported by the Federation in the past. “The most important issue for us, elderly pensioners,” she says, “besides humanitarian aid is attention and psychological support to feel that somebody does care for us.”

Reflecting on the limited capacities of the national society, as well as the analysis of the needs in the country, the Red Cross has prioritized reviving its traditional homecare service². There are genuine needs and this is something the national society knows how to do - it can mobilize people who worked as nurses for the Red Cross in the past.

The project will reconnect the Red Cross with the community it springs from. It will also create a simple, clear and visible opportunity to boost the image of the organisation, wounded by the events of the last two years. Last but not the least: the project does not require huge financial support. With minimum funds the Red Cross can make a significant difference.

The focus will be on 1,500 of the most vulnerable, home-bound lone pensioners living in Tbilisi, because Red Cross believes they are most vulnerable to food insecurity. People living in rural areas have land and small vegetable gardens to sustain themselves. There are operational reasons too: considering the capacity of the national society, it will be easier for the Red Cross logistically to manage the project and monitor the implementation in the capital. Beneficiaries will be selected by the Tbilisi district branch of the Red Cross in co-operation with the local authorities.

The project will pilot a participatory humanitarian relief approach to make the assistance more focused and relevant. Beneficiaries will be offered a list of relief items to choose according to their needs. The approach has been

² Since 1960, the Red Cross Society of Georgia, supported by the Federation and partners, has been helping lone elderly people through its visiting nurses programme. Over this period of time, the Red Cross developed an extensive network of medical doctors and nurses working at polyclinics throughout Georgia, excluding Abkhazia, providing basic medical and social services to the most vulnerable groups of the population, including 12,000 home-bound pensioners. 300 nurses, social assistants and Red Cross volunteers were engaged in the service (see attached PPP for more details)

included after reflecting on the lessons learned from past operations. Previously, the Red Cross was delivering a standard package of relief items, such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, soap and washing powder, although these might not have been the needs of all beneficiaries. As a result, some were selling the items provided by the Red Cross to buy things, which they thought was more important for them, such as electric bulbs, medicines, matches and candles.

Often elderly people feel isolated and abandoned, yet they have immense knowledge, experience, skills and wisdom to contribute to the development of the communities they live in. The current project will attempt to influence the thinking, attitude and behaviour of people, particularly youth, towards the elderly. It will support the creation of social centres in the capital and encourage various activities to bring young and old generations together so that they learn to appreciate each others' role as valued members of the society.

To assure self-sufficiency and sustainability of the services offered within the operation, the project will encourage volunteerism to the best possible extent by advocating humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the Movement that guide its work.

At the same time, the Red Cross will be encouraging the Government to prioritise help to lone pensioners. Past practice shows this group is among the first affected when the authorities cut the national budget. There is also a need to create a legal environment in the country for alternative systems to help the elderly.

“I believe in a better future and hope that improved situation in the country will bring more attention and support to elderly people”, says Tinatin Kvirkvelia, an 80 years old pensioner who receives 22 Georgian Lari (approximately 11 US dollars) per month, from the Government.

After the Red Cross had stopped delivering 20 kg food parcels, she could expect help only from her relatives, whose capacities have already been stretched by widespread poverty and unemployment.



Mrs. Kvirkvelia, as thousands of other lone pensioners in Georgia today, needs food, medicines and hygiene items but the state pension is too low to cover even her basic needs.

The project is in line with recommendations of the Regional Health Strategy for 2001-2006 adopted by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Southern Caucasus. The main recommendations of the strategy are to improve coordination and cooperation with the local health and social welfare services and strengthen community action through empowering them to formulate and undertake appropriate actions.

The project also echoes the United Nation's Humanitarian Strategy 2004 for Georgia, which recommends instigating special programmes to reach isolated destitute older people; promoting healthy lifestyle; mainstreaming older people's needs and participation into all development interventions, and reorganizing and encouraging older people's contributions.

[*\(click here to see the detailed description of the project\).*](#)

[***Click here to return to the title page and contact information.***](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

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	1,890	0	0	0	0	0	1,890
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	10,710	0	0	0	0	0	10,710
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	37,687	0	0	8,820	0	0	46,507
SUPPLIES	50,287	0	0	8,820	0	0	59,107
Land & Buildings	8,820	0	0	0	0	0	8,820
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	6,032	0	0	10,913	0	0	16,945
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	14,852	0	0	10,913	0	0	25,765
Warehouse & Distribution	1,764	0	0	0	0	0	1,764
Transport & Vehicules	12,436	0	0	21,376	0	0	33,812
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	14,200	0	0	21,376	0	0	35,576
Programme Support	13,819	0	0	16,892	0	0	30,710
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	13,819	0	0	16,892	0	0	30,710
Personnel-delegates	39,268	0	0	78,537	0	0	117,805
Personnel-national staff	27,295	0	0	48,679	0	0	75,973
Consultants	0	0	0	2,646	0	0	2,646
PERSONNEL	66,563	0	0	129,862	0	0	196,425
W/shops & Training	3,276	0	0	14,608	0	0	17,884
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	3,276	0	0	14,608	0	0	17,884
Travel & related	11,238	0	0	8,868	0	0	20,106
Information	10,568	0	0	5,800	0	0	16,368
Other General costs	27,790	0	0	42,742	0	0	70,531
GENERAL EXPENSES	49,596	0	0	57,410	0	0	107,006
TOTAL BUDGET:	212,593	0	0	259,881	0	0	472,474