

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

GEORGIA

Appeal no. 01.79/2003

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	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Disaster Management	383,957	0
Total	383,957¹	0

Introduction

Georgia is located in south-eastern Europe, and is bordered by the Caucasus mountains and Russia in the north, the Black Sea to the west, and by Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan to the south. It has an area of 69,700 square kilometres and a population of about five million. According to the 1999 figures, the population consists of Georgians (70 per cent), Armenians and Azeris (14 per cent), Russians (six per cent), Ossetians (three per cent), Abkhaz (1.8 per cent) and other (5.2 per cent).

Georgia gained independence in 1991. Social, economic, military and political difficulties resulting from independence emerged almost immediately, and some still continue today although the country has changed almost beyond recognition during the last decade. The civil war and ethnic conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, mainly during 1991 to 1993, resulted in the deaths of more than 100,000 people, displacement of another 300,000 people, skilled personnel emigrating en-masse from Georgia, industry virtually ceasing and large-scale famine avoided only through substantial external humanitarian aid. By 1994-1995 some recovery began in Georgia, but this was a selective and limited recovery. The huge economic decline in the early years of transition was not reversed. The situation in the country is dominated by crushing poverty, very high unemployment rates and rising prices. Add to these the changing demography with increasing numbers of elderly people and the decreasing fertility rate leading to a decrease in the proportion of youth and the economically active age groups, and the situation becomes even bleaker.

Human Development Indicators at a glance

Human development index (HDI) rank, 2000	81
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000	73.2
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above), 2000	100
GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000	2,664
Life expectancy index, 2000	0.80

¹ USD 263,441 or EUR 260,888.

² These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.

Education index, 2000	0.89
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(Source: UNDP HDR 2002)

Country Context

Being located in a seismically active zone, like all its neighbours in the Turkey/Southern Caucasus area, Georgia was occasionally hit by earthquakes. The most recent one, in April 2002, fortunately caused relatively little damage, though its epicentre was very close to the capital, Tbilisi, an exceptional case which caused fear and concern among people.

As a result of the ethnic conflicts, over 300,000 persons (mostly Georgians) in Abkhazia were displaced from their homes. After almost ten years, most of them still reside in Georgia, many of them in Tbilisi, as internally displaced persons (IDPs). This factor represents a real challenge for the economy in the country, as it combines with one of the sharpest economic declines in the former Soviet Union after its disintegration. This led to the hardship of the transition period causing deterioration of the economy, health and social systems. The population had to adopt basic survival strategies in order to overcome the effects of the economic collapse and the consequences of the conflicts. Poverty is an important cause of vulnerability in Georgia. In 2000, 51.8 per cent of the total population lived below the official poverty line.

Due to the diminished access to and the poor quality of health care services, a number of communicable diseases are re-emerging, such as TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS which also spread through the population movement between the countries of the former Soviet Union.

A number of international organizations are operating in the country, working in cooperation with the Georgian Government, or with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Among them, the UN agencies, USAID, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the ICRC, DFID, Save the Children Fund, CARE, Mercy Corps, Oxfam were present in Georgia for years and are still active in assisting the vulnerable population in the country.

National Society Priorities

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

After a period of uncertainty in the leadership, the new president of the Red Cross Society of Georgia was confirmed in early 2002. A new presidium was elected, and new senior staff members were appointed.

As a result of the tense situation prevailing last year within the national society, as well its lack of capacity to carry out projects independently, the public perception of the Red Cross Society of Georgia was severely affected. This was identified as one of the main priorities of the society in its strategy document prepared in 2002.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

The Federation and partner national societies (PNSs) supported the RCSG mainly in the field of relief assistance to vulnerable people, with an increasing emphasis on development and capacity building, until mid-2001.

In 2002, the Federation's presence in Georgia was reduced, maintaining a small office, with the task of ensuring liaison between the Federation and the RCSG, international organizations, and Georgian authorities. Currently, no partner societies are represented in the country. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is working on a large scale relief assistance programme in western Georgia, as well as in Abkhazia, including its traditional activities in tracing, visits to detainees, tuberculosis control in prisons, dissemination and promotion of international humanitarian law among the authorities, the armed forces and the civil society.

In September-October 2002, the Federation, with the involvement and assistance of the ICRC, conducted an assessment of the situation in Georgia. It was aimed at identifying areas for potential assistance to the Red Cross Society of Georgia by the Federation to help it meet the needs of vulnerable people in Georgia. The data obtained through the mission was presented in an updated assessment of the humanitarian situation in Georgia; an updated assessment of the current activities of the RCSG; an updated stakeholders' analysis; and it identified activities to be improved based on the humanitarian situation, stakeholders' analysis, and the national society's strategy for 2002-2003. The assistance to the RCSG as proposed by the Federation is guided by the results of the assessment.

Priority Programme for Secretariat Assistance

The Federation is planning to assist the RCSG in a capacity building process, and it is focusing on strengthening the branches in working at the community level in the priority areas of disaster response and health through an integrated approach. To achieve this, the Federation will be implementing a participatory community development (PCD) programme, similar to the project in Central Europe, which has an important role in strengthening national societies, connecting the Red Cross with the most vulnerable people in the communities, and with potential actors at the community level.

In order to assist the headquarters of the RCSG in capacity building to coordinate this process, various activities will be initiated at the national level such as leadership training, focusing on the role and function of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Health and Disaster Response at the Community Level w [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Findings from the recent assessment and other existing vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs), clearly indicate the main source of vulnerability in Georgia lies in the socio-economic crisis which affects mostly elderly persons living alone and internally displaced persons through lack of and insufficient access to services of social and health institutions. The Federation will therefore focus its capacity building efforts on strengthening the national society in the health and disaster response core areas.

Overall Goal

Vulnerability of people affected by the socio-economic crisis in Georgia is reduced through community involvement facilitated by well-functioning branches of the RCSG.

Programme Objective

Selected branches of the RCSG will have the capacity to facilitate appropriate service delivery to the most vulnerable people in the areas of health and disaster response by involving the community.

Expected results

- Five to six branches of the RCSG are selected on the basis of their capacity and willingness to operate within the participatory community development process and through needs assessment, and will be trained accordingly.
- Communities are involved through participatory community development volunteer teams (which includes participation of local NGOs, local government, vulnerable people and local branches of the Red Cross).

- In each branch, projects are designed and implemented that will have an impact on one of the identified high priorities, with participation of community members.
- The headquarters of the RCSG has the capacity to facilitate the process of motivating the volunteer teams of the PCD at the branch level and implementing the projects.

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BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.79/2003

Name: Georgia

PROGRAMME:	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	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	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
SUPPLIES	0	0	40,000	0	0	0	40,000
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Computers & telecom	0	0	7,000	0	0	0	7,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	12,000	0	0	0	12,000
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	0	29,000	0	0	0	29,000
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	11,000	0	0	0	11,000
Transport & Vehicules	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	11,000	0	0	0	11,000
Programme Support	0	0	24,957	0	0	0	24,957
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	24,957	0	0	0	24,957
Personnel-delegates	0	0	144,000	0	0	0	144,000
Personnel-national staff	0	0	40,000	0	0	0	40,000
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	0	0	184,000	0	0	0	184,000
W/shops & Training	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
Travel & related expenses	0	0	8,000	0	0	0	8,000
Information	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000
Other General costs	0	0	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	0	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	383,957	0	0	0	383,957