

Mid-Year report



Georgia

Appeal No. MAAGE002

31/August/2011

This report covers the period from 01.01.2011-30.06.2011



The youngest beneficiaries of GRCS Oni branch community-based volunteer initiative enjoy their participation in Red Cross activity; GRCS photo (2011)

In brief

Programme outcome:

The International Federation (IFRC) supported programme activities of the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) contributing to the goals of Strategy 2020 and in line with the National Society's strategic plan 2007-2011. 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 summary:

In the first half of 2011 **Disaster Management** program bilaterally supported by Danish Red Cross and European Commission (DIPECHO) and in consortium with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Icelandic Red Cross aimed to build safer local communities and strengthen the coordination role of the National Society within the National Disaster Response Plan. During the reporting period Georgian Red Cross implemented community preparedness activities in selected branches and conducted a number of vulnerability and capacity assessment exercises so to identify the risk and capacities. The coordination role of Georgia Red Cross Society among NGOs has been strengthened through regular coordination meetings with main stakeholders and government structures.

In 2011, **Health & Care** program included 4 components: HIV and AIDS prevention and Harm Reduction, Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) control, Community Based Health and First Aid and Social Support for Vulnerable Older People. Drug-resistant Tuberculosis control and Social Support for Vulnerable Older People were supported by the Federation (with funding provided by Eli Lilly company and Norwegian Red Cross respectively) while the rest of the components were supported bilaterally by German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Georgian Red Cross provided support to 76 MDR-TB patients

through home visits and follow-up on treatments. Within Social Project, new social centre for elderly has been open in Tbilisi allowing National Society to extend its support to vulnerable elderly in capital as well.

The **Organisational Development** programme activities (supported by Norwegian Red Cross and Danish Red Cross) are integrated in all projects/programmes of the Georgia Red Cross Society in compliance with its Statutes, mission and vision. The Georgia Red Cross initiated a strategy development process for elaboration of a new five-year strategic plan (2012 – 2016), which is expected to be finalised by late of 2011. Due to active work of National Society branches the national society membership reached 8500 people, which is 50% more compared to 2010. GRCS initiated branch development concept in 14 branches (Model Branch concept) and made efforts towards improving communication between the headquarters and branches, as well as among branches through regular experience and information sharing.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 541,542, of which CHF 290,811 (54 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 249,743 (46 per cent) of the budget.

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

No. of people we have reached:

Georgia Red Cross Society Programme Beneficiaries	Number of people helped	% Gender		% Children under 18	% Elderly
		Male	Female		
Disaster Management	12 000	35%	65%	25%	10%
Health and Care	13187	59%	41%		20%
Organizational Development	6292	45%	55%	20%	30%
Total	31479				

Our partners:

The Georgia Red Cross Society receives support through IFRC from Norwegian RC, Danish RC, Eli Lily. Bilateral cooperation is developed with Danish RC, German RC, Italian RC, Israeli MDA and Turkish RC. There is active cooperation between Georgian RC and ICRC. The Georgia Red Cross Society receives support from DIPECHO (through Danish RC), USAID, Medical Service Cooperation International, World Learning, Turkish Development Agency and local authorities. Extensive cooperation is build with Embassies of Japan, Turkey and United States of America. Georgia Red Cross is focused on active cooperation and partnership with public authorities at national and local levels, civil society organisations and private sector.

Context

Georgia has maintained political and economic stability despite the shock of the 2008 war with Russia. But, the generous \$4.5 billion support Georgia received from international partners over three years to help post-war recovery is running out. With large repayments due in 2012-2013, Georgia is likely to face substantial challenges to cover the foreign debt and the trade deficit, just as the next election cycle begins, especially if there is no increase in foreign direct investment and exports. Despite the overall economic stability Georgian government did not manage to solve most of the economical/ social challenges of the people which lead to increasing vulnerabilities in the Georgian population. Especially vulnerable are children and youth, older people, people with disabilities, unemployed people and internally displaced persons. Yet, the availability of social protection for vulnerable people remains the challenge. Thus, over a third of officially poor households receive no social assistance of any kind from the government while provision of services from civil society organisations to vulnerable groups is very limited both in scope and coverage especially outside of the capital and regional cities. The political situation in country is still

unstable and situation in conflict areas close to administrative borders of South Osetia and Abkhazia remains difficult.

Georgian Red Cross (GRCS), thanks to effective and prompt response to the emergency in August 2008 following the conflict between Georgia and Russia, has increased its public profile in the country and managed to establish effective local partnerships and get its the auxiliary role to the government recognized. Movement Support coupled with the interest of GRCS leadership to promote capacity building initiatives has soon brought positive changes within the National Society resulting in increased country coverage through primary youth units and municipal branches, more community based and integrated approach to the project activities and more proactive local fundraising initiatives. Georgia Red Cross role within the National Disaster Response Plan has been clearly identified and its role within social support and health and care is being increasingly recognized both by public authorities and other stakeholders. The National Society is conducting regular financial audits of its accounts and scaling-up its capacities within financial management and reporting. Increased transparency has allowed the National Society to mobilise the resources locally and run effective fundraising campaigns getting funds from general public and corporate sector. A recent example is fundraising campaign for Japan, where Georgian Red Cross managed to collect more than CHF 55,000 as assistance to Japanese Red Cross. Georgian Red Cross is also piloting the new certification and accreditation process for the Federation, showing proactive approach to the initiative and seeing it as a possibility to grow further as National Society.

Despite certain achievements there are still challenges for the Georgian Red Cross. Limited financial resources especially to cover the core costs of the organisation and no financial contributions from the central government make the National Society dependant on external support. Also due to different capacities and differences in working environment, the coverage and frequency of activities at branch level differs vastly between regions.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

No funding available through the Federation. The activities were funded through a DIPECHO/Danish RC bilateral project in consortium with the Federation and Icelandic RC.

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

Component outcome 1: Strengthening institutional capacities for effective disaster management at both central and local levels.
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Achievements

Cooperation and coordination is enhanced between national and local governments, as well as with other Non-State actors and the Georgia Red Cross Society in the field of Disaster Management in order to establish effective institutional preparedness and coordination during disasters. The National Society has taken proactive approach in fulfilling its coordination role according to the National Disaster Response Plan adopted by the Decree of the President of Georgia #415 on 26th of August, 2008. From January 2011 two inter-agency meetings, chaired by the Georgia Red Cross Society and attended by up to five governmental, and up to 20 International, and local non-governmental organisations have taken place. Four Non State Actors meetings had been carried out on regular basis and they helped to establish strong cooperation between Governmental Structures and Non Governmental Sector.

Within the framework of “Regional Programme for Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” supported by DIPECHO, three meetings had been held between partner organisations- ECHO, OXFAM, UNICEF, GRCS and representative of the Danish Red Cross. Information, experience, and main achievements had been shared between them, which helped strengthening

of organisations capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction field by receiving information and learning of good practice.

Coordination and cooperation with local governments of Racha, Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions, as well as with local authorities of Dusheti and Khashuri Municipalities is enhanced, which supports capacity building of National Society branches in these regions and makes it easier to conduct different Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Response activities there, because of their support in conducting different DRR activities.

Four Regional Coordination Meetings and workshops were held in Oni and Ambrolauri Municipalities. Representatives of local government from Ambrolauri, Oni, and Tsageri participated in the meetings, as well as other key stakeholders, such as representatives of rescue teams, fire brigades, Emergency Management Department, NGOs etc. Also, meetings were held with working groups (consisting of above mentioned key stakeholders) regarding the results of the collected and analyzed information about main hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities of these Municipalities. The working groups made comments regarding the results and main priorities had been identified for Oni, Tsageri and Ambrolauri during the meeting.

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

Component outcome 1: The preparedness and response strategies and capacities of the target communities are enhanced.

Component outcome 2: Public awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction is increased and community members are encouraged to take action to reduce vulnerability of their household to natural disaster

Achievements

The Georgian Red Cross works actively with Racha, Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti local community, as well as other Municipalities (Sagarejo, Khelvachauri) community members and volunteers (with teachers and pupils among them), in order to be better prepared for coping with possible disaster risks in the region. Different trainings, workshops and meetings had been held for knowledge and experience sharing and for their involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

Previously established Volunteer Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Teams (VCDPRT) in three municipalities, 20 community volunteers in each municipality (Oni, Ambrolauri, and Tsageri) received additional trainings in Disaster Management and related fields by Georgia Red Cross Society staff and representatives of other Non-Governmental organizations to be better prepared and to be first responder during disaster.

Volunteers are sharing gained knowledge with their community members for better preparedness. Additionally, Georgian Red Cross Disaster Management department conducted three trainings in Disaster Management to older people in Tbilisi, Sagarejo and Khelvachauri. Knowledge and experience on what to do and how to reduce the impact of disaster when it occurs were shared.

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) were done in Oni, Ambrolauri, and Tsageri and 30% of local population in each Municipality was interviewed using a special questionnaire. Mappings of hazards, risks, and capacities was done by the local Red Cross Staff and volunteers, as well as local community members, in order to identify main risks and coping capacities of the above mentioned Municipalities. Analysed results of the assessment were subsequently shared with local population, local authorities and other local stakeholders.

Achievements to Component Outcome 2:

Family Emergency Plans were elaborated and distributed through teachers and pupils to the local population by Georgian Red Cross staff and volunteers. Pupils together with their family members,

relatives and friends filled special questionnaire regarding family plans and conducted different disaster preparedness activities in order to reduce impact of disaster in their homes.

Awareness of communities about possible disaster hazards and response mechanisms on community level was enhanced through distribution of information/educational booklets and posters within the community by Georgian Red Cross staff.

Vulnerability of the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti population region had been reduced by walnut tree planting within the framework of the “Regional Programme for Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” in Oni, Ambrolauri, and Tsageri Municipalities. The reason for planting was to reduce landslide processes in the landslide zones. Besides, population will be able to use the fruits of the trees in several years, which will be additional income for them. Decision to implement this small scale project was made after Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in the above mentioned Municipalities.

Health and Care

No funding was available through the Federation, but some bilaterally supported activities have been done using Italian Red Cross support.

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of death, illness and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1: HIV/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.

Achievements

The National Society implemented parts of the plan with the bilateral financial support of the Italian Red Cross reaching approximately 8000 youth and injecting drug users who have learnt from the project’s staff and volunteers about HIV and AIDS prevention, transmission and treatment, blood borne diseases, harm and threats hidden behind drug use and have been reached with messages against stigma and discrimination attached to HIV and AIDS and drug addiction.

Additionally, between January and June, 69 seminars on prevention and harm reduction; safe injecting methods; simultaneous using of drugs and alcohol - harm and prevention methods of diseases caused by injecting drug usage, such as HIV and AIDS, Hepatitis, Sexual Transmitted Diseases; overdose symptoms and First Aid in case of overdose were conducted.

Programme component 2: DR-TB control in Tbilisi

Component outcome 1: Supported treatment referral and DR-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.

Achievements

In the period of January – June 2011 the Georgia Red Cross Society treatment adherence consultants and psychologist assisted to 76 clients (female-22/male-54) in Tbilisi: 17 of them (female -4/male -13) successfully finalising the treatment course; 1 died; no cases of defaults were fixed. During the project implementation, various problems were posed among 43 clients. By the joint efforts of adherence consultants, psychologist in cooperation with DOTS spot’s doctors and nurses’ patients were return to the treatment. In January-June 2011, the treatment adherence consultants conducted 281 DOT SPOT-visits, 334 visits at home and the psychologist arranged 1586 telephone conversations; 215 individual consultations and 38 group sessions.

DOT spot	DOT visit	Spot-visit	Home visit	Telephone contact	Psychological counselling	Group session
#1 DOT spot		114	211	864	133	25
#5 DOT spot		167	123	722	82	13
TOTAL in Tbilisi		281	334	1586	215	38

Achievements to Component outcome 2

In the reporting period workshops on TB prevention, transmission and treatment were conducted for the community leaders by the National Society focal points and volunteers in six target regions of Georgia - Adjara, Samegrelo, Imereti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli and Tbilisi. Total of 3437 community leaders have been trained (female-2371, male-1066, average age of participants – 19.8) as peer-educators. The project team strongly believes that raising awareness of the community through providing of the educational activities contributes to combat stigma and discrimination against TB infected people.

Region	Number of participants (students)			Average age	Number of Seminars
	Total	Female	Male		
Tbilisi	2231	1517	714	20	33
Rustavi, Kvemo Kartli	189	138	51	19	4
Gori, Shida Kartli	199	143	56	21	3
Kutaisi, Imereti	323	222	101	20	6
Senaki, Samegrelo	95	75	20	17	3
Batumi, Adjara	400	276	124	21	9
TOTAL	3437	2371	1066	19,8	58
Indirectly	10311	7113	3198		
TB client	76	22	54		
Grand total TB	10387	7135	3252		

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.

Achievements

Initial draft of First Aid strategy was done and submitted to the Movement Partners and Georgian Red Cross programme coordinators for comments and recommendations. Currently the document is being corrected in accordance with comments received. 140 beneficiaries of the Social Welfare project have been trained in basic FA in 4 target branches: Tbilisi, Sagarejo, Kutaisi and Khelvachauri.

Programme component 4: Social support to older people

Component outcome 1: Improved health and social conditions of vulnerable older people by their empowering, enhancing their protection and support through increasing acknowledgement of their rights and dignity and finding an active role in public life.

Component outcome 2: Changing attitudes and behaviours of service providers towards older people addressing the causes of older people's exclusion and vulnerability.

Achievements

During the reporting period, in the frames of “Social Support to Older People” project, the GRCS made efforts towards addressing the urgent needs of older people with active involvement of the project beneficiaries who contributed to NS Service delivery (including long term homecare approach), capacity building (including to activate role of elderly in community and active aging) and advocacy (including solving problems and adjusting the local social strategies with different advocacy meetings).

On May 4, opening ceremony of new Social Centre for older people was held in Isani-Samgori district of Tbilisi. This Centre is the place where older people will get opportunity to be involved in the activities according their interests, get information about their rights, integrate with the society and just spend leisure time there. This opening ceremony comes as the result of negotiations with government which allocated the premises free of charge with no rent fee and with Turkish Development Agency which has made all the necessary repair works.

Social Support activities implemented in target locations were based on the work within Social and informational centres (5 Social Centres and 9 Informational Centres in 4 following Regions: Tbilisi (Capital City) – 1 Social Centre, 2 Informational Centres, Imereti (Kutaisi) 2 Social Centres, 5 Informational Centres, Kakheti (Sagarejo) 1 Social Centre, 1 Informational Centre and Adjara (Khelvachauri) 1 Social and 1 Informational Centre, which is used as a specific indicator of the success of this particular project.

During the reporting period the Georgian Red Cross continued working in five Social Centres in four targeted regions: Tbilisi (Capital City), Imereti (Kutaisi), Kakheti (Sagarejo) and Adjara (Khelvachauri). Active work in five Social Centres is going on of the 18 following groups: self-helping, homecare and advocacy groups; increased number of Red Cross volunteers from 40 to 100 (Youth and old), out of them increased number of leader beneficiaries from 28 to 50. From the 100 volunteers Red Cross 50 Volunteers (old and youth) kept visiting of 355 homebound older people 3-5 times per week to talk and provide assistance with meal preparation, housekeeping, laundry, food and medicine shopping and arrangement of medical appointments. The Georgian Red Cross volunteers' visits still remain the only assistance available to the homebound older people and therefore are very appreciated by them. The social day centres in target locations continued its activities: knitting and sewing group, social theatre group, health promotion, active ageing, socialising events and provision of consultations to older people on their rights and entitlements. Over 1000 older people were benefiting from the social activities. In addition, the premises of the center were used for the meetings of Red Cross volunteers and older people, including displaced people from South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

1374 beneficiaries actively participated in various Red Cross events within the social support project, such as exhibitions of older people's handicrafts organised by the National Society at local and national levels; poetry evenings; assessment of beneficiaries work on the moss, excursion to visit the temples with participation of Georgian Red Cross staff and volunteers, collective presence on the performances in social centers; New Year's festive evenings, celebration of religious events; International Woman's Day and birthday celebrations of elderly people in social centers.

Achievements to Component outcome 2

On June 8 – 12, 2011 The Georgia Red Cross representatives participated in the International Home Care conference in Montenegro. Experience of the successful Home Care projects were discussed and shared among the participants during the conference. It should be mentioned that Home Care is one of the most important directions of the medical care in Europe and Strategy 2020 as well. According to the decisions made by participants of the conference International Network of Home Care will be set up and Georgia Red Cross Society will be member of it.

During the reporting period 22 meetings and round table meetings were organized by the Georgia Red Cross Society with participation of over 159 representatives of local and regional authorities, social departments of municipalities, business sector, embassies, international organisations and

NGOs working in this area. The meetings aimed to promote good practices of Social welfare model and to advocate problems of Older People to include them in the agenda of the decision-makers for development regular informing process with participation of all interested persons and supporters through passing different stages of activities, as well as to advocate needs of vulnerable people for mobilising local resources, including business sector.

Over 70 older people were directly involved in design and implementation of self-support groups' activities, promotion and fundraising activities, as well as volunteering in home visits to their less mobile peers.

Over 7000 leaflets, brochures and information bulletins about implementation and achievements of Social project, also medical and legal advices for older people were developed, printed and distributed among the older people and approximately 389 stakeholders.

Problems coping skills, knowledge and mutual assistance increased in 80% of stakeholders, as well as, solidarity between the generations of older and youth involved in Social Project and respect towards older people.

Constraints or Challenges

- The main constrain was insufficient funding influenced by unstable political situation in the country;
- Due to limited means for motivation, retention of the Georgia Red Cross Society volunteers was challenging;
- The short duration of the project implementation did not give the Georgian Red Cross opportunity to work as an equal partner to key Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme purpose: Strengthen local community, civil society and Georgia Red Cross Society capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1: Enhance Georgia Red Cross Society organisational capacities and sustainability
Component outcome 1: Competence and performance of the headquarters and branch leadership, staff and volunteers in governing and managing the organisation is improved
Component outcome 2: The National Society's financial sources are diversified and fund-raising techniques and financial management are further developed.
Component outcome 3: The National Society's image is improved through effective external communication and regular dialogue with the general public and partners

Achievements

The Georgia Red Cross Society initiated strategy development process for elaboration of new five-year strategic plan (2012 - 2016); as a follow-up the Strategy Development Task Force consisted of 11 persons – 8 HQs staff members, one branch staff member and two members of the General Assembly governing board/presidium – established. The overall monitoring of the process is liaised with the GRCS Secretary General. As well, the Georgia Red Cross Society started elaboration of Organisational Development strategy based on findings of Georgia Red Cross Society branch baseline assessment, comments and recommendations received from branches, the GA governing board/presidium members and core staff.

National Society Finance Unit at the headquarters elaborated the Georgia Red Cross Society consolidated budget for 2011 based on review results and analysis of the implementation of the previous consolidated budget (2010), as well as on recommendations made by the external audit.

The Georgia Red Cross Society in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, and with technical support of IFRC office in Georgia, launched fundraising campaign through March 14-May 14 to support people affected by earthquake and tsunami in Japan (March, 2011). Monetary contributions were collected through: telephone (SMS) donation, online donation, bank transfer and various outdoor fund-raising operations. As a result of the Campaign, Georgia Red Cross Society managed to collect GEL 79 089.64 (USD 48 058.36). The sum was transferred to Japanese Red Cross in order to provide relief and emergency services to the people affected by the disaster. Georgia Red Cross Society expressed its appreciation to all who have made their generous contribution to the charity fund.

Efforts stepped up towards enhancement of membership recruitment and resource mobilisation: number of the Georgia Red Cross Society members for 2010 was 5,700, at present number of newly recruited members within the reporting period is over 2,800. The National Society maintains active membership recruitment process at local level.

Moreover, the Georgia Red Cross Society continued its work towards promotion of Corporate Partnership Programme; the information material was updated and submitted to 23 Insurance Companies. The results will be followed within coming two months. Refer to global partnership agreement between the Coca-Cola Company and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Georgia Red Cross Society made efforts to establish partnership with Coca-Cola Company.

During the reporting period the Georgian Red Cross significantly improved communication, both external and internal between the Georgia Red Cross Society Headquarters and Branches, among branches, as well as with its key stakeholders and partners. In this regard various activities conducted, in particular publishing and distribution of Georgian Red Cross quarterly newsletters (900 copies both in Georgian and English); producing two posters - "Georgia for Japan" describing various charity and fund-raising events; announcements of planned and press releases about conducted activities/events and news developed and placed on the website; sections of photo gallery and telephone donation – 200 100 along with the information about bank account to support Japanese people revised and updated. Also Georgia Red Cross Society activated Twitter for better social networking. Also the Georgia Red Cross Society had been registered on the Facebook and YouTube to share updated information with public and the key stakeholders.

The Georgia Red Cross Society enhanced cooperation with media through regular information sharing on GRCS activities: video clip dedicated to "Georgia for Japan" was broadcasted by two popular TV channels: "Sazogadoebrivi Mauckebeli" and "Imedi"; besides the information (both in English and Georgian languages) was advertised in the newspaper "Georgia Today". The TV channel "Ertsulovneba", "Sazogadoebrivi Mauckebeli" and "Real TV" highlighted charity events conducted by the National Society (Kojori and Rustavi orphanages and Tbilisi maternity home) and opening ceremony of the Georgia Red Cross Society First Aid Center.

Programme component 2: Strengthen the capacity of the National Society's headquarters and local branch network to implement core Red Cross activities
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Component outcome 1: Service delivery to vulnerable people is improved by promoting the National Society's Model Branch concept, participatory community development approaches, and volunteer and youth management is enhanced at the grassroots level
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Achievements

More than 90 volunteers and staff of Georgia Red Cross Society Ozurgeti, Sachkhere, Kareli, Batumi, Khelvachauri and Ambrolauri branches (Guria, Imereti, Shida Kartli, Adjara, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions) improved their knowledge and skills on project planning and writing, including developing the community-based volunteer initiatives through six two-day project planning and writing trainings, conducted by the National Society Organizational Development staff. 30 Red Cross volunteers received basic induction course on International

RCRC Movement Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, and the Georgia Red Cross Society work. The volunteers also discussed ideas and initiatives regarding “2011 - Year of Volunteering” and developed an action plan. The Georgia Red Cross Society volunteer development policy and strategy along with the Code of Conduct for volunteers were introduced to the targeted audience.

Georgia Red Cross Society initiated branch development concept in 14 branches (Model Branch concept) and made efforts towards improving communication between the headquarters and branches, as well as among branches through regular experience and information sharing (forums/meetings/round table meetings), as well as towards applying good practices in other branches for the benefit of vulnerable people (e.g. Gardabani Primary Health Clinic; Social Centre for Youth in Ambrolauri; Social Centre for Older People in Sagarejo, Gardabani and Khelvachauri which set opportunities for older people to get socialized to each other through activities of self-support groups (good practices of Kutaisi and Tbilisi Social Support Projects for Older People).

The Red Cross activities are mainly related to health and care, first aid, social and psychosocial support and disaster management. Georgia Red Cross Society six target branches (Gardabani, Sagarejo, Oni, Sachkhere, Khelvachauri and Ambrolauri) established regular volunteer service delivery activities to vulnerable people in 18 local communities through participatory community development and small grant competition. These activities included 18 community-based volunteer initiatives. As a result over 6,000 vulnerable people (IDPs, older people, disabled, youth and multi-child families with income below a poverty line) benefited from volunteer activities. Besides, the increased level of Red Cross activities in its turn led to increasing the number of members (over 5,700 for 2010), volunteers (over 1,900 for 2010), beneficiaries (over 6,000 for 2010) and resources mobilized locally (145 462 GEL for 2010 in Gardabani, Sagarejo, Oni and Khelvachauri; the project implementation started in Ambrolauri and Sachkhere in 2011). In addition, the dynamic volunteer activities in target branches promoted GRCS visibility at local level and improved branches image and cooperation with the local authorities and other stakeholders.

Constraints or Challenges

- A large number of financial and policy priorities combined with limited resources, Lack of interest by the external partners to support the Georgia Red Cross Society youth volunteer activities.
- Natural and man-made disasters.
- Political unrest and worsening economical situation.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose: Promote the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and reduce discrimination and social exclusion.

There was no funding through the Federation for these activities and they were integrated with other activities.

Programme component 1: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values
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.
Component outcome 2: Increased awareness of Georgia Red Cross Society governance, management, staff and volunteers on Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values

Achievements

2011 year - as International Year of Volunteer and Volunteering, represented the main indicator for National Society to increase and promote volunteers role by involving wide community, especially youth - in volunteer based activities. Celebration of “Red Cross Week” (2-8 May, 2011) is a

traditional event for National Society; it was not exception this year. The Red Cross activities were implemented in the Georgia Red Cross Society 11 branches (Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Sagarejo, Khelvachauri, Ambrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, Gardabani, Rustavi, Gori and Zugdidi). The Georgia Red Cross Society representatives - staff, volunteers among them youth, governing board members both from HQs and local branches and beneficiaries, were actively involved in the "Red Cross Week" activities with a slogan "Find the Volunteer Inside You". The official opening ceremony was held on May 3, 2011 with active participation of International Movement partners. Authorities from Diplomatic Corps, Embassies and Central Government, also volunteers and beneficiaries took part in this event.

During the reporting period the National Society membership increased by 15% in comparison with 2010: from 1,700 volunteers to 2,150. The increase in numbers of volunteers with specific skills is the indicator of active work and institutional development of the National Society.

The Georgia Red Cross Society fundraising campaign, carried out for the Japanese people affected by the disaster, was well supported by the Red Cross volunteers who were directly involved in all fundraising activities.

The Georgia Red Cross Society established five new "Committees of Five" to promote Georgia Red Cross Society Youth activities at schools. Total number of youth volunteers in these new committees is 60 and so far they worked on improving the knowledge about Red Cross/ Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Values among 155 schoolchildren and teachers.

The Georgia Red Cross Society conducted "Road Safety" lessons for 70 schoolchildren (the 4th grade in two Tbilisi public schools) and 40 youth volunteers (among them members of the GRCS "Committees of Five") on road safety rules for pedestrians and had practical simulations as well. The basic induction course on the International RC/RC Movement Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values as well as on the Georgia Red Cross Society work was conducted in nine public schools in Tbilisi. 270 people received the above mentioned knowledge.

450 Georgia Red Cross Society governance representatives and management staff and volunteers both at HQ and branch (Oni, Tsageri, Ambrolauri, Batumi, Khelvachauri, Sachkhere, Tsalka, Kareli, Zugdidi and Ozurgeti) levels received knowledge on Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through eighteen workshops conducted by the Georgia Red Cross Society Headquarters and Branch staff through all the projects within the main National Society programme areas: disaster management, health and care, including the social support, first aid and psychosocial support, and organisational development. "Georgia for Japan" video clip was broadcasted by 2 popular TV channels. For "Solidarity to Japan" On March 23, 2011 Youth Solidarity Action was organised in front of the Japanese Embassy in Tbilisi where students participated. This solidarity action was joined by Georgia Red Cross Society volunteers who disseminated information regarding for Principles and Values and Fund Raising campaign which was launched by Georgia Red Cross Society. Participants of the solidarity action were 170 students and Georgia Red Cross Society volunteers.

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

Component outcome 1: Decreased social exclusion, reduced stigma and discrimination associated with communicable diseases, other discrimination factors and age through advocacy, communication, education and social mobilisation activities.
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Achievements

The Georgian Red Cross was actively involved in social isolation reduction process for vulnerable groups – children and older people. During the reporting period, the following actions based on reduction of isolation were implemented: 4 charity events supporting children orphanages with international partners; increased number of partners for implementation charity events (Tkbili Kvekana (sweet country), BEKO, Barambo, European School); young and older people, also Red

Cross media support groups and volunteers (2,150 volunteers (2011), out of 70 old volunteers, 15 IDP, 935 young people and 1200 adults) were involved in various charity activities.

The main priority of the National Society – “to reduce of stigma and discrimination” was based on advocacy of vulnerable groups in order to strengthen the communication between community and local authorities, strengthen communities and their social mobilisation. During the reporting period the National Society organized 10 advocacy meetings at local and central level with participation of entailment groups, volunteers, NGOs, beneficiaries and members of RC/RC movement. The overall goal of these meetings was to advocate rights of elderly with authorities and service providers, promotion problems and lobbying interests and rights of diabetic people, people with AIDS and TB.

The Georgia Red Cross Society carried out the participatory research of vulnerable groups (Adjara region) and provision of respective recommendations for social welfare for effective Social reforms.

The NGOs (harm reduction network, homecare coalition, National Advocacy working group for TB, Disaster Risk Reduction network actively participated in the national and international meetings (2 international and 12 national meetings) during the reporting period.

Constraints or Challenges

- No funding received for GRCS Principles and Values activities (2009-2010)

Working in partnership

For the first six months of 2011, the Main Movement partners for Georgia Red Cross Society remained as: the International Federation, ICRC, Danish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross whose support enabled Georgian Red Cross to implement successful activities within Disaster Risk Reduction, Health and Care, First Aid and Branch Development directions. The National Society has developed its bilateral cooperation with Italian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Israeli MDA, Turkish Red Crescent and Icelandic Red Cross, the latter is the part of consortium with Danish Red Cross and IFRC.U

Through “Regional Programme for Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” supported by DIPECHO and Danish Red Cross as lead partner, Georgian has further built its capacities and extended activities on community level. The OD delegate supported by Danish RC ended mission in June 2011 but it was decided that bilateral DRR delegate would continue its mission at least until end of February 2011.

Georgian Red Cross has stepped up its efforts in local partnership building resulting in good cooperation with USAID, Medical Service Cooperation International (MSCI), World Learning and Turkish Development Agency. At national level Georgian Red Cross 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. It should be noted that Georgia Red Cross Society chairing the meetings with non-governmental organizations active in the field of disaster management.

Contributing to longer-term impact

It has been more than a year that narrative reporting responsibilities have been handed over by the IFRC to the Georgian Red Cross. The National Society staff trained with support of Europe Zone PMER unit allowing Georgian Red Cross to make steady progress in the direction of proper reporting and evaluation. The offices of the International Federation have been physically moved to the Headquarters of the National Society, which is one more step in integration process. The next step is transition to cash transfer which is to take place until the end of 2011.

Effective fundraising campaign by Georgian Red Cross to support victims of disaster in Japan and timely assessment of the situation following the recent floods has clearly indicated growing capacities of the Georgia Red Cross Society. There are more active branches with volunteer based project addressing the needs in communities which would become back-bone of all Georgia Red Cross Society initiated interventions. It also should be noted that as biggest national humanitarian organization Georgia Red Cross Society contributes to the development of civil society in a country that has not yet succeeded in establishing a self-supportive mechanisms based on a living democracy and a strong economy.

Looking ahead

The Georgia Red Cross Society initiated strategy development process for elaboration of new five-year strategic plan (2012 - 2016); as a follow-up the Strategy Development Task Force consisted of 11 persons – 8 HQs staff members, one branch staff member and two members of the General Assembly governing board/presidium – established. The overall monitoring of the process is lied with the Georgia Red Cross Society Secretary General. It is expected that first draft of the document, after consultation with local branches, will be ready by the end of September 2011.

The Georgia Red Cross Society has been chosen as the pilot National Society for the International Federation Organizational Capacity Assessment Process which will start with first meeting in Tbilisi in August 2011. The National Society is also in process of finalising financial audit for 2010 and in launched preparatory process for next General Assembly.

How we work	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Georgia National Society: Ms. Medea Margania, Secretary General, phone: +995322940650; email: mmargania@regcross.ge • In IFRC Georgia Representation: Mr. Elkhan Rahimov, Country Representative; phone: +995595222727; email: elkhan.rahimov@ifrc.org • In the Europe Zone Office: Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516 	