

2009 U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission Grantees (Special Call for Post-Conflict Assistance)

American Friends of Georgia/Georgian Office

Skills for Life (\$24,000)

This project's primary goal is to use education and vocational training to support the economic and social reintegration of IDPs living in temporary housing near the village of Khurvaleti. The project aims to help approximately 100 adults and young people learn the skills necessary to become self-sufficient, develop an entrepreneurial initiative, and overcome the impact that the war has had on them. Additionally, the "Innovative Khurvaleti Job and Communication Center" will support local small business initiatives that will benefit the entire community in the future.

Shalom Club

IDPs support in terms of economic development by the way of teaching them professional skills that are adapted to new environment conditions. (\$20,745)

Aiding as many as 480 families in the Karaleti village that are experiencing poor economic and social circumstances, this project is intended to teach IDPs new agricultural methods that will allow them to profit financially in addition to providing enough food for their families. Through the project, IDPs will receive instructions on writing successful business plans, using new technologies for optimal agricultural gain, utilizing strong management tactics, and understanding their rights from an economic and social standpoint. Families will also be provided with grocery seeds and other materials to begin agricultural development.

Global Initiative on Psychiatry – Tbilisi (GIP-Tbilisi)

Fostering war-affected communities' psychosocial wellbeing, mobilization, and healing (\$22,150)

This project aims to promote the psychosocial well-being of war-affected IDPs who have been resettled into newly-built villages in the Gori district. In order to aid IDPs in regaining functionality within society, the project calls for the study and assessment of three communities' needs and the implementation of a specific Action Plan for each community to mobilize and empower its people. It will create community-based organizations and facilitate networking events that can mitigate the impact of war on IDPs.

International Association Women's Movement for Equality

Resource Center for IDPs settled in Tserovani as a tool for support of their civic activism (\$23,620)

This project's goal is to establish a resource center within the village of Tserovani that will be used in many capacities including as a forum for community gatherings, a library where IDPs can take business, civics, leadership, and internet skills courses, and as a virtual online consultation center where IDPs can receive free legal, economic, and psychological consultations. The resource center will be staffed by IDPs who will participate in a round table meetings with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss problems and future activities of IDPs within the village as needed.

Rural Development Institute "Botsveri"

Training in rabbit breeding skills for internally displaced people in the settlement located in the village Tserovani of Mtskheta Region (\$23,000)

This project aims to provide employment for 100 internally displaced persons, allowing them to earn income by training them to breed rabbits. The project will also allow for membership into a Rabbit Breeder's Cooperative and provide employment opportunities for IDPs that can be sustained in the future.

Media Development Foundation (MDF)

Youth Competition – Supporting Civil Integration of Young IDPs (\$18,561)

This project will foster the rehabilitation and civil integration of young people in the conflict region of Shida Kartli by involving the youth in creative competitions (such as essay and painting competitions) and community projects as well as introducing them to basic democratic values and institutions. By emphasizing

the role of the individual within a democratic society, the project intends to encourage active citizenship and serve as a driving force behind young people with high aspirations for the future.

TV-Company MEGA- TV

Support to the Integration and Awareness of the Forcedly Displaced Persons (\$23,950)

Providing people with an open and transparent civil education will help them to overcome the social, economic, and political crises of the post-war period. The project aims to create social informative talk shows that will discuss the problems and concerns of the forcedly displaced persons residing in Imereti region.

Human Rights Priority

'Providing Informational and Legal Assistance to August War '08 Victims in Bordering Villages:

Gugutiantkari, Koshka (Koshkebi), Ergneti, Mereti, Qsuisi, Karbi (\$23,990)

This project's goal is to diminish the information vacuum that exists among war victims by monitoring the living conditions of "Returned IDPs," providing information about the types of assistance available to them (through local and central governments, and international NGO's), presenting information about human rights, and assisting in their representation before domestic and international courts. In furthering these objectives, the project will facilitate the mobilization of the local population in support of human rights.

Shida Kartli Committee of Anti-Violence Network of Georgia

Creation of the Crisis Center for Women (for the forcedly removed women and the domestic violence victims) (\$22,151)

The objective of this project is to increase public support for women's rights and the protection of those who have been victims of domestic violence or those forcedly removed. Through a variety of activities such as educating women about their rights, teaching both culinary and stylist courses, and creating a crisis center that will provide legal, social, professional, and psychological services to women, the project's objectives are to change public perception about the problem of domestic violence, increase women's involvement in economic, social, and political activities, and empower them to defend their rights.

(General Call)

Publicity Group

Strategic Business Development of regions.ge – First Regional News Online Service in Georgia (\$14,971)

The goal of this project is to provide regions.ge, bilingual online news service, with technical support and a business plan that will enhance its ability to deliver reliable news and information about each region of Georgia to the central media, local governments, NGOs, international organizations and donors, and average citizens.

Monitor Studio

Investigative Journalism Enforcing Civil Society (\$24,000)

The objective of this project is to support Georgia's democratic transition by investigating and disseminating factual information on the most important problems in Georgia's judicial, budgetary, public finance, and private property management systems. Using video journalism investigations as a form of civil monitoring, the project will inspire greater civil activism by raising public awareness, strengthening government accountability mechanisms, and encouraging citizens to defend their rights.

Association Broadcasting Company HERETI

"Voice" (\$23,987)

Targeting the over 500,000 inhabitants of the Kakheti region, this project will broadcast an interactive talk show, *Voice*, to more than 250 villages and give citizens an opportunity to express their opinions about local issues on the air. With the help of Radio Hereti correspondents, the project will increase the accessibility of

information for all within the region and help to strengthen its citizens' participation in social, political, and economic life.

The Union of Azerbaijani Women of Georgia

The Integration Centre of youth (YIC) in Marneuli District (\$21,518)

This project aims to enhance the civil participation and integration of ethnic minority youth in the district of Marneuli. Activities such as Georgian, English, and computer classes, civic education lectures, and various training programs will increase young people's language capabilities and provide them with knowledge of their rights and obligations in a democratic society.

Foundation "Civil Development Agency" (CiDA)

Civil Participation Project (CPP) - Kvemo Kartli (\$23,880)

This project's objective is to strengthen and institutionalize cross-sector cooperation between the Kvemo Kartli local government and civil society organizations (CSOs) by providing them with educational training and information sharing mechanisms. It aims to ensure that civil society actors establish stable relationships with the local government, that both CSOs and citizens participate in good governance initiatives, that the local government provides adequate and timely information to the public, and that both CSOs and citizens work to address the needs of minority groups.

Muskie Alumni Association of Georgia (MAAG)

Fostering Sustainable Tourism Development in Abastumani (\$16,035)

The primary goals of this project are to foster the development of sustainable tourism in Abastumani for the economic benefit of the local population and to mitigate the socio-economic gap between urban and rural settlements while supporting their integration with one another. Merging the skills of Muskie Alumni Association of Georgia (MAAG) and Abastumani Tourism Association (ATA) members, project objectives include short-term improvements such as training local guides and diversifying the services provided by ATA tour agencies to long-term advancements such as alleviating unemployment in the region and creating a business plan for responsible tourism industry development.

Community Based Union "Alvani 2000"

Supporting Sustainable Tourism Development in Tusheti Region (\$18,957)

The goal of this project is to improve the living conditions of the local population in the Tusheti region by supporting the development of sustainable tourism and the promotion of traditional product processing. By improving the skills of guest house owners and integrating knowledge of the traditional farming system with working practices shared by those at the Rocky Mountain National Park in the United States, the project will result in the improvement of ecological, socio-cultural, and economic sustainability while helping to put Georgia back on the world tourism map.

Tourism Alpine Public Union "Guria Mountains"

Support entrepreneurship proficiency (\$18,019)

The primary goal of this project is to use apiculture science to improve the social and economic conditions of families in the Guria region. Initially, the project will provide the training and tools necessary for 60 families to produce enough honey for self-sustainability. In the future, it will benefit additional families and become a way for citizens to profit from its commercial sale. The project will also improve ecological conditions in the region by mitigating the problems of soil erosion and land sleeping zones.