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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Durable Housing Solutions for Urban IDPs in Settlement “Cottage 1”, Kutaisi (Imereti)



Project title

Durable Housing Solutions for Urban IDPs in Settlement “Cottage 1”,
Kutaisi (Imereti)

General information

Region: Imereti (Georgia)
Duration: 01.10.2011-30.09.2012
Budget: CHF 566'000 (SDC); CHF 138'750 (Tskaltubo Municipality)

Project partners

- Implementing partner: direct implementation by SDC/HA
- Institutional partner: Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA), Tskaltubo Municipality

Project objectives

The overall objective of the project is to provide durable housing solution to urban IDPs in Kutaisi (land plot owned by the Tskaltubo Municipality) with the aim to improve their living conditions and foster local integration.

Background

Imereti region is among the most densely populated areas by IDPs in Georgia along with Samegrelo and capital Tbilisi. Almost 20 years after the conflict in Abkhazia, IDPs still do not have an opportunity to return to their homes and have to stay in inadequate living conditions either in collective centers or in private accommodations. The main source of IDPs' income comes from pensions, IDP and disability allowances, and cultivation of the land plots (if existent) attached to the houses. Wooden houses of the 35 IDP families of the “Cottage 1” settlement, built back in 1995, have become uninhabitable over the years and can easily collapse, thus posing a serious risk to the lives of their inhabitants.

Taking into account a high level of unemployment and a high representation of vulnerable groups (e.g. pensioners, single mothers, disabled persons) among the residents, they do not have resources to renovate their dwellings and/or find alternative accommodations independently.

Project activities

The project is financed by SDC, with the Tskaltubo Municipality ensuring funds to connect the rehabilitated houses to the external infrastructure (e.g. electricity, sewage, water). Since the housing needs prevail over all the other needs of the settlement's beneficiaries, the project focuses solely on this component and does not include a livelihood component.

Expected results

- 133 IDPs (76 women, 57 men and children) benefit from moving to the rehabilitated houses offering dignified and durable housing solutions to them.
- IDPs' improved living conditions comply with IDP Durable Housing Standards.
- IDPs (both males and females) benefit from the rehabilitation works conducted to the road, drainage system and sewerage leading to the settlement.
- IDPs benefit from further integration opportunities in Kutaisi.



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