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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Rehabilitating Accommodations for Conflict Affected Vulnerable Persons and Spontaneous Returnees in Abkhazia



Project title

Rehabilitating Accommodations for Conflict Affected Vulnerable Persons and Spontaneous Returnees in Abkhazia

General information

Region: Abkhazia (Georgia)
Duration: 01.10.2010-31.12.2012
Budget: CHF 800'000

Project partners

- Implementing partner: Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
 - Institutional partner: Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration
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Project objectives

The project aims at ensuring durable living conditions, access to social infrastructure facilities and livelihood opportunities for the conflict affected vulnerable residents and spontaneous returnees in Gali, Ochamchire, Tkvarcheli and Sukhumi Districts.

Background

The Soviet Union's disintegration and clashes in Abkhazia in 1992-93, resulted in the mass exodus of approx. 250'000 Georgians, leaving back less than half of the pre-war 525,000 population. Current estimates place the number of spontaneous ethnic Georgian returnees to Gali District in Abkhazia to approx. 45,000-50,000 persons out of a 79,000 pre-war population, including persons living there on a seasonal basis. No returns of ethnic Georgians took place beyond the Gali District, where the population is mostly ethnic Abkhazian, equally exposed to lack of protection, caused by the conflict and devastated economic situation.

Overall, the situation of the conflict affected population in Abkhazia continues to be appalling. The living conditions of the majority of the population (including spontaneous returnees) remain extremely poor due to dilapidated housing. Livelihood opportunities, both urban and rural, are very limited and largely based on subsistence farming. Most industries and farms, with few exceptions, remain severely damaged or destroyed. The quality of basic social services (education and health care), as well as relevant physical infrastructure does not meet the needs of the people.

Project activities

- Living conditions of the conflict affected vulnerable families and spontaneous returnees will be durably improved.
- Wider community will have access to improved social infrastructure facilities rehabilitated through community mobilization efforts.
- Conflict affected vulnerable families and spontaneous returnees will enjoy improved livelihood opportunities through income-generation grants and micro loans.

Expected results

- 51 conflict affected families from Gali, Ochamchire, Tkvarcheli and Sukhumi districts had their living conditions durably improved.
- 5 social infrastructure projects were implemented in the villages of Okumi (kindergarten), Saberio (kindergarten), Merkula (school canteen, school sports ground) and Pirveli Gali (culture house).
- 60 income generation grants were distributed to highly vulnerable households with children facing school attendance problems and to community activists and/or employees involved in schools as service-providers for the school aged children.



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**Swiss Cooperation Office
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Swiss Cooperation Office South Caucasus
Embassy of Switzerland

Radiani street 12, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Phone: (+995 32) 225 36 82 / 83, 222 37 21
Fax: (+995 32) 225 36 84
E-mail: tbilisi@sdc.net
Web - page: www.swisscoop.ge