




Georgia Annual Report 2013

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAGE002
30 April 2014

**This report covers
the period
from 1 January 2013
to 31 December 2013.**

*Georgia Red Cross celebrating
its 95th anniversary
Photo: GRCS*



Overview

The programme activities of the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) that are supported by the International Federation (IFRC) are aligned to the fundamental principles of the IFRC and contribute to the goals of Strategy 2020 (Strategic Goals: 2 and 3) to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. With its Headquarter in Tbilisi staffed with qualified personnel and 34 local branches, the GRCS renders services to vulnerable people throughout the country. Over 2,000 volunteers and a membership of about 10,000 help the GRCS reach out to the most vulnerable communities. The Georgia Red Cross Society is a crucial participant in the National Response Plan of Georgia. The GRCS's strategic development plan (2012-2016) (hereinafter "strategic plan") has been finalized (adopted by the GRCS's General Assembly) in line with the IFRC's Strategy 2020.

Unfortunately, the scarce funding through the International Federation in 2013 created significant gaps in the implementation of the initially developed Operational Plans. IFRC provided financial support for implementation of two projects: "MDR-TB control in Georgia" and "Promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation" Other activities of the GRCS for the reporting period were implemented with the financial support received from ICRC and Participatory National Societies (PNSs) working with the GRCS on bilateral base.

Despite the fact that the GRCS Organizational Development component has not been financially supported by the International Federation, the GRCS stepped up its efforts during the reporting period towards branch development with a main focus on institutional and capacity development of branches targeted by the various projects. Moreover, the GRCS integrated branch development, youth and volunteering components in all projects (e.g. health and care including social welfare, first aid, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, youth projects, etc.) implemented by the National Society with support of the various partners and donors to sustain the GRCS's services and operations in peace-time and

emergencies. The elaboration of the Branch Development Strategy is an almost finalized process; besides, the NS revised and adopted the Volunteering Policy, Communication and First Aid Strategies (financial support provided by the ICRC).

The GRCS adopted a number of strategies and policy documents integrated into the GRCS Strategic Plan (2012-2016) in order to have a systematic approach to the implemented activities and services. The National Society has strengthened its legal base by developing amendments to the respective laws on Georgia Red Cross and on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblems and Titles to be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia for final approval. But before that, during the reporting period final draft was submitted to the Joint Statutory Committee (JSC) for their final comments.

As a result of international financial audits conducted in 2012, the GRCS improved its financial management, enhancing accountability both towards the general public and the donors.

As a final point, GRCS emphasized the willingness and readiness to move to the second phase of OCAC process in 2014. As a continuation of the process, GRCS participated in the OCAC follow-up meeting conducted at the IFRC Europe Zone Office.

In terms of Youth and Volunteering development during 2013, the GRCS implemented the Youth project "Acting Together" (funded by the Austrian Development Agency through the Austrian Red Cross) aiming at contributing to conflict prevention to reduce ethnic tensions and enhance safety and stability in four ethnically heterogeneous regions of Georgia.

Having an auxiliary role to public authorities in their humanitarian work, the GRCS maintained close cooperation and coordination with various ministries and institutions in the country. The interest in services by GRCS increased and, consequently, the support from local authorities has been retained for GRCS branch activity centres designed for volunteer initiatives and services, Information Corners for provision of legal information related to social welfare and entitlements of diverse vulnerable groups; also, expenses from local state budgets for general maintenance and staff salaries of the above-mentioned centres and service activities covered (in 4 locations out of 8). Currently, the local authorities are co-financing the GRCS's services in eight (8) regions (in the target locations) and out of them, based on the signed MoUs on joint activities (in total 16), the local authorities have taken over the service activities in the five (5) target locations.

Furthermore, the GRCS continued its efforts to raise funds through writing project proposals and appeals. During the reporting period GRCS started implementation of youth project funded by the British Embassy in Georgia to enhance social integration and awareness-raising on rights of Ossetians living in conflict affected villages of Shida Kartli region, and thus contribute to the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and to political stability in the target locations.

With support received from other donors during the reporting period, the GRCS has made its main accent on increased support of vulnerable groups as well as on the enhancement of their access to mainstream services, resources and policy making processes in Georgia. GRCS considers the above mentioned direction as one of the main parts of its main business line within the 2014-2016 operational strategy. GRCS also worked actively to improve the health and social conditions of vulnerable elderly people, through their empowerment as well as by enhancement of their protection and support using community mobilization and by strengthening their capacities in advocacy.

During the reporting period, GRCS was financially supported by the IFRC by providing secured funding received from the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company to continue those activities which had been successfully started several years ago aimed at the MDR-TB control in Georgia and to scale-up activities of promoting of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation in addition to the activities financially and technically supported by the ICRC and bilaterally by the Italian and Norwegian RC in the past years (detailed description of the activities done during the reporting period is provided below). The GRCS has actively cooperated with all key stakeholders in the country, governmental or non-governmental organizations. As a result of regular contact with representatives of the biggest institutions of higher education, universities and colleges and with the students' self-government of the universities, the GRCS project team is allowed to conduct workshops for students at central and local levels (at the above mentioned institutions of higher education).

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
IFRC	Cooperation Agreement Grant Agreements and MoU's on Projects
ICRC	Operational Grant Agreement
Danish Red cross (bilateral donor)	Operational Grant Agreement with EU, MoU
Austrian Red Cross (bilateral donor)	MoU
Italian Red Cross (bilateral donor)	Grant Agreement
Norwegian Red Cross (bilateral donor)	Grant Agreement
TAG and MATAV (bilateral donor)	Grant Agreement
Local authorities (19 in total)	MoU on joint cooperation
National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	MoU
National Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung diseases (NCTBLD)	MoU
Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN)	MoU
Jo Ann Blood Bank	MoU
Tbilisi Blood Transfusion Station	MoU
NGO "New Vector"	MoU

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 2 – “To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people”

Output 2.1.1: Increased effectiveness and capacities of Georgia Red Cross Society HQ, branches and vulnerable communities in Disaster Risk Preparedness (DRP), Response and Early Recovery.

The GRCS has been actively cooperating with local authorities, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, local NGOs and communities, as well as the International RC / RC Movement partners (IFRC, ICRC and PNSs). The cooperation has been based on consultation, information and experience sharing. All stakeholders have expressed their readiness to participate in the development of replicable Red Cross services for vulnerable groups which in its turn will increase the sustainability of services and volunteer initiatives.

During the reporting period, the GRCS received feedback, including comments and recommendations from local branch leadership, staff, volunteers, local authorities, youth groups, beneficiaries, and Movement partners in regard to the implementation of the GRCS strategic plan.

The GRCS is taking a proactive approach in fulfilling its coordination role according to the State National Disaster Response Plan (which is currently in the revision process) on Natural and Technological Emergencies adopted by the Decree of the President of Georgia No-415 in 2008. The GRCS's Disaster Management Department has an active cooperation with governmental agencies, such as the Emergency Management Department under the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Ministry of Environment, and non-governmental structures: UNDP, Salvation Army, RDFG, CENN, etc. acting in the Disaster Management field.

Within the framework of Disaster Risk Reduction programme GRCS actively cooperates with sister National Societies - Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and Austria Red Cross Societies, as well as DIPECHO partner organizations (OXFAM, ACF, Safe the Children, UNICEF). Active cooperation is also established between GRCS and Regional and Local government representatives in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti and Imereti regions.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, under a framework of financial support received from PNSs, the GRCS implemented four projects:

1. The Regional Programme for Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus (DRR II) is co-funded by the European Commission (DIPECHO), implemented by Danish RC in partnership with Icelandic and Austrian RC. The project started in June 2012 and was finished in October 2013. Target areas in Georgia were: Racha-Lechkumi and Kvemo Svaneti and Imereti regions (Ambrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, Lentekhi, Tkibuli, Sachkhere municipalities). The overall objective of the project was to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters. During the reporting period, activities done by GRCS covered six target areas. Trainings for Community Volunteer Disaster Preparedness and Response Teams (CVDPR) as Community Based First Responders on topography theme and fire and rescue activities were conducted with participation of the representatives of the Emergency Management Department (EMD) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia; GRCS staff members conducted trainings in psychosocial support, First Aid and Disaster Management. Special personal protective and rescue equipment was handed over to the CVDPR Teams; evacuation exercises were conducted in six schools of the target communities; municipality simulation exercises based on the Municipality Response plans were conducted in the six municipalities as well; RC staff and volunteers, local authorities, fire and rescue brigades, EMD representatives and other key stakeholders participated in the simulation.

The GRCS carried out round table meetings with community members and key stakeholders for the development of participatory disaster preparedness and response plans (PDPRP). In all 6 target communities PDPR plans have been developed, printed and distributed in the communities.

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment trainings were provided in four target areas; in addition, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) were also done. VCA reports have been elaborated and disseminated among key stakeholders. Based on the VCA reports small scale mitigation projects have been identified in all the target communities. These projects will be implemented soon in cooperation with local authorities.

The GRCS DM team trained teachers on Family Emergency Planning. Teachers passed on their knowledge to their students. Students, together with their family members and relatives, prepared their family emergency plans. Students with the best and most innovative plans were taken to the summer youth camp organized by GRCS.

A regional communication ToT training for Georgia and Armenia RC staff members and volunteers took place in Armenia. The facilitators of the training were Icelandic RC trainers. Regional ToT trainings in Climate Change Adaptation (conducted by Austria RC representatives) and PSS support (conducted by GRCS and Icelandic RC representatives) were conducted in both South Caucasus countries. Advocacy training was also conducted by Danish Red Cross representative for the GRCS staff members.

Non-State Actors meetings were organized on a quarterly basis by the GRCS, where all the stakeholders working in Disaster Management participated for information sharing and coordination in order not to duplicate activities in the same location with the same beneficiaries.

Four DREF Operations have been launched after the disasters that had occurred in the eastern and western parts of Georgia. 1,130 families (5,650 beneficiaries) have been supported by food and non-food items. The main needs of the effected population have been identified, based on the assessments conducted by RC volunteers, as well as the information received from the local authorities.

2. The Building Safe and Resilient Communities Project is co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Austrian RC. The project started in December 2012 and will end in November 2015. The target area is Kakheti region (Telavi and Sagarejo municipalities). The overall objective of this project is to contribute towards reduced vulnerability and safety of rural and urban population in the Southern Caucasus. The specific objective is to enhance and sustainably strengthen the resilience of the targeted vulnerable rural and urban communities to natural and man-made disasters in Georgia. Activities implemented during the reporting period:

- Community based (CB) disaster risk reduction (DRR) volunteer teams in both target regions established;
- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) in both target regions conducted;
- CB DRR volunteer teams trained in First Aid, Psycho-Social Support and Disaster Management.

- The second stage of 5-day trainings in Disaster Management, Psycho-Social Support, First Aid, Fire and Rescue Activities, basic knowledge of the Red Cross (theoretical and practical) were conducted for community-based volunteer teams in both target communities.
- Workshops with local fire brigades, local authorities, local community members and Community Volunteers teams for discussion and elaboration of Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (CDPRP) were conducted in both target communities and the plans were shared with the above- mentioned representatives and community members.
- Training for the teachers on DRR, CCA and FEP was conducted in both target communities, and questionnaires were distributed among all the schoolchildren.
- Round-table meetings were held in both target communities where it was decided to do riverbank protection (gabions) as a small scale mitigation project and help and support was promised from the side of the local authority representatives.

3. The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Project is funded by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The project started in January 2013 and finished in December 2013. Target areas: Tbilisi, Gori, Kutaisi, and Senaki. The overall objective of this project was to raise the capacity of GRCS branches to enable them to respond to emergencies more effectively through the establishment of mobile Reception Centres with the participation of local authorities and with respect for GRCS auxiliary role. The following activities were carried out in all four target areas: EPR volunteer team established, trainings for volunteers on GRCS Statutes, Fundamental Principles, DM Strategy, Volunteers Policy, Volunteers Code of Conduct, Disaster Management and Organizational Development, volunteers were instructed on their roles and responsibilities in case of emergency; In Tbilisi, Gori and Senaki the local authorities have assigned specific places for GRCS Operation Centres (OC) in case of emergencies.

A Reception Centre is the location **designated by a local authority** as a **safe gathering** place for people displaced from their homes as a result of an emergency or disaster. A reception centre is **established according to the size and scope of the emergency**. It remains open at the discretion of the local authority for as long as the services are required by the affected population. The Reception Centre is typically available for a minimum of **72 hours**. During these first 72 hours, starting with the initial contact at the Reception Centre, evacuees will be encouraged and counselled on how to begin taking the process of re-establishing control over their lives by taking some necessary steps such as contacting their families and friends, or accessing other possible resources. This is an important step in the recovery process following an emergency. Gaining access to other possible resources can be made available through the Reception Centre.

While the Reception Centre is set up by the Red Cross, other organizations, and the government, will access the centre for delivery of important services they wish to provide to the affected people. This means that evacuees are able to go to **one central location to receive all necessary assistance and/or information** required to cope with the situation.

4. The Climate Forum East Project is co-funded by the European Union, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Austrian RC, and WWF International. Project duration: January 2013 - December 2014. The overall objective of the project is to build a national network of civil society organizations, government ministries, research institutions and other stakeholders to share information and knowledge on climate change in each country. Centrally important will be the development by these networks of national and regional climate vulnerability assessments, the identification of sectors and groups in each country which are most exposed to climate change and extreme weather, and concrete recommendations for decision-makers and civil society to address adaptation gaps. During the reporting period one regional and three national kick-off meetings were held. Different civil society organizations (CSO) and state agencies participated.

Business Line 3 – “To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development”

Output 3.1.1: The GRCS functions effectively as a self-reliant service provider with enhanced organisational foundation, capacity and sustainability. The GRCS has strengthened its organisational and operational capacity (human resource development, finance, logistic, communication and IT technology). An NS strategic development plan (2012-2016) is in place, aligned to S2020.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The GRCS prioritised this area for organisation and included this project in 2013 country plan. The project did not receive funding through International Federation in 2013. During the reporting period, GRCS **organisational development** still continued to be focused on strengthening GRCS capacity and internal

development.

- Revised, approved and introduced the Volunteer Policy with the GRCS leadership, staff and volunteers at HQs and branches for implementation;
- Revised and shared the volunteer database with the GRCS branch staff for regular update in order to capture various working experiences of our volunteers;
- Finalised and computerized the Branch Manual checklist with support of the ICRC Cooperation Unit staff, which was shared with the GRCS branch leaders and staff;
- Developed and introduced the Branch Development Module for effective performance of GRCS branches to deliver services to vulnerable groups;
- Developed and approved the Communication Strategy (2013-2016), as well as introduced new fundraising mechanisms and good practice for sustainability of the GRCS work;
- Successfully carried out the Safer Access Assessment and Planning exercise conducted by the ICRC. According to the results of this exercise, which supplements the OCAC process, the GRCS elaborated an action plan to improve access, perception, acceptance, safety and security of the GRCS for the benefit of vulnerable people;
- Participated in Youth on the Move Award under the topic “Adapting to Climate Change and Addressing Catastrophes”. The project “Go green with GRCS” selected as the runner-up prize for the youth award 2013 was submitted to the Swiss Embassy in Georgia for financial support;
- Produced a promo video about the 95th anniversary of the Georgia Red Cross Society in cooperation with the First Public Broadcaster; the video was broadcasted by the Public Broadcaster during three months (June, July, August);
- Developed and published promotional materials (booklets, posters, brochures) and the annual report for 2012 to foster the GRCS’s work and enhance partnerships;
- Upgraded the web-page: main features on the web were slightly changed and a new section, COOPERATION, was added to post information about cooperation with Movement or non-Movement partners.
- Finalised the development of the amendment package to the respective laws on Georgia Red Cross Society and Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblems and Titles - the changes cover the Tax Code and Code of Administrative Offences of Georgia. The Joint ICRC-IFRC Statutory Commission accepted the amended Law on the Georgia Red Cross Society as one being in full compliance with the Movement standards. In case the Parliament of Georgia approves the amendments, it will give more opportunity to the GRCS to receive funds (subsidies) from the government in order to implement its statutory obligations; the status of the organisation will be strengthened; the awareness of the National Society and Red Cross Emblem will be raised within the society. A number of instruments will be provided to eliminate the unauthorized use of the Red Cross Emblem and preserve its protective and distinctive functions.

Through two branch-level regional forums (for 36 local branches) conducted with the financial support of the ICRC (in the framework of the Emergency Preparedness and Response project), the GRCS stepped up efforts towards maintaining the GRCS’s institutional memory; enhancing internal communication, including reporting and accountability; strengthening cooperation with local authorities and non-state actors (media among them) by reinforcing the GRCS’s auxiliary role; ensuring timely and effective response during emergencies in line with the respective GRCS policies, regulations and procedures; Increasing visibility at branches and raising awareness of local population about GRCS work to mobilise human and financial resources locally; replicating good practices in other target locations with support of local partners; getting ready for evaluation of the learned skills (including the material incorporated into the Branch Manual) and putting them into practice to reduce the vulnerability of the affected people during emergencies as well as in peace time.

The GRCS increased its participation in international dialogue and cooperation, as well as new partnerships established at national and international levels. The GRCS adopted a number of strategies and policy documents integrated into the GRCS Strategic Plan (2012-2016) in order to have a systematic approach to the implemented activities and services. For a further development and growth of the National Society, the GRCS elaborated its communication strategy. The National Society has strengthened its legal base by developing amendments to the respective laws on the Georgia Red Cross and Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblems and Titles to be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia for final approval. But before that, during the reporting period final draft was submitted to the Joint Statutory Commission (JSC) for their final comments. As a result of international financial audits conducted in 2012, the GRCS improved its financial management, increasing accountability both towards the general public and the donors. As a final point, GRCS emphasized the willingness and readiness to move to the second phase of OCAC process in 2013.

As a continuation of the process, GRCS is planning to participate in the OCAC follow-up meeting to be conducted at the Europe Zone Office in the second half of the year. The expectation is to get information from other NSs involved, what has changed at the NSs as a result of the OCAC process.

In terms of Youth and Volunteering development, the GRCS has been implementing the Youth project “Acting Together” (funded by the Austrian Development Agency through the Austrian Red Cross) aimed at contributing to conflict prevention to reduce ethnic tensions and enhance safety and stability in four ethnically heterogeneous regions of Georgia.

Having an auxiliary role to public authorities in their humanitarian work, the GRCS maintained close cooperation and coordination with various ministries and institutions in the country. The interest in services by the GRCS increased and, consequently, the support from local authorities has been retained for GRCS branch activity centres designed for volunteer initiatives and services, Information Corners for provision of legal information related to social welfare and entitlements of diverse vulnerable groups; also, expenses from local state budgets for general maintenance and staff salaries of the above-mentioned centres and service activities covered (in 4 locations out of 8). Currently, local authorities are co-financing the GRCS services in eight (8) regions (in the target locations) and out of them, based on the signed MoUs on joint activities (in total 16), the local authorities have taken over the service activities in the five (5) target locations.

Furthermore, the GRCS continued its efforts to raise funds through writing project proposals and appeals. During the reporting period GRCS started implementation of youth project funded by the British Embassy in Georgia to enhance social integration and awareness-raising on rights of Ossetians living in conflict affected villages of Shida Kartli region, and thus contribute to the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and to political stability in the target locations. By the end of the project implementation, 800 Ossetians will have sufficient cultural knowledge, a sense of security and stability, to confidently engage in host community life with shared notions of citizenship and commitment to multiply the effect in other communities living along the Administrative Boundary Line; also the targeted communities will be socially connected with the wider host communities with the right of equal access to GRCS services and state benefits.

Output 3.1.2: 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.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The need for continuing of the “Social Support” project (started already in 2005) funding in 2013 was based on the results of the participatory needs assessment carried out by the GRCS as well as on the main challenges of the country. Operational Plan for this project was developed on the basis of lessons learned in community development and social welfare programmes implemented by GRCS with support and cooperation by the European Union (EU), DRC and local authorities. The action targeted in 22 districts and communities in Georgia. The Shida Kartli. Continuation of the project would enable the GRCS to carry out: active integration of GRCS programme components (DM, OD, F/A, PSS and Branch development) in the existing program for the purpose of GRCS local branches capabilities enhancement, mainstreaming sustainable services and increasing functions of the Social Centres (like reception centres for Emergency Preparedness Project); The strong increase of civil society activities on the basis of voluntary initiatives and the involvement of the volunteers in response process to the needs of the elderly (generation solidarity enhancement);

As mentioned above, the project was not financed through the International Federation in 2013, but with support received from other donors. During the reporting period, the GRCS made its main accent on increased support of vulnerable groups as well as on the enhancement of their access to mainstream services, resources and policy making processes in Georgia. The GRCS considers the above mentioned direction as one of the main parts of its main business line under the 2014-2016 operational strategy. The GRCS also worked actively to improve the health and social conditions of vulnerable elderly people, through their empowerment as well as by enhancement of their protection and support using community mobilization and by strengthening their capacities in advocacy.

Output 3.2.1: Local communities are strengthened and better enabled to cope with health challenges as a result of community-based integrated health and first-aid activities.

Measurement			
Indicators	2012-2014 BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Approx. 2,160 youth and community members raised awareness on blood borne and other communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, harm reduction, first aid, healthy and hygienic behaviour and importance of non-remunerated voluntary blood donation= NRBD (through the IFRC`s financial support in the frames of TB and Blood projects)	9,613 (direct beneficiaries)	2,160 (direct beneficiaries)	2,582 – direct beneficiaries – 119,53 % of annual target; 26,86% of plans by the BL
Approx. 200 young people ready to donate blood;		200 young people ready to donate blood	254 young people ready to donate blood; 127% of annual target (211 blood donations)
At least 3 NRBD actions were organised in partner Blood Banks in Tbilisi and Batumi.		3 NRBD campaigns	5 NRBD actions were organised together with partner Blood Banks in Tbilisi and Batumi – 166% from annual target
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>It is important to mention that activities for reaching the Business Line 3 outcome 3.3 in July, 2013 were financially supported by the IFRC to scale up activities of promoting of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation in addition to the activities financially and technically supported by the ICRC and bilaterally by the Italian and Norwegian RC in past years. Since 2009 up to the present, with the support of Norwegian Red Cross, the Georgia Red Cross Society has implemented the bilateral project “Promotion of Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation in Georgia”. The project aimed at increasing of blood supply and a share of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations countrywide through the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation among the youth at the age 18-30. Targets: youth at the age of 18 to 30; RC staff and volunteers. Target location: Tbilisi and six regions.</p> <p>Projects under community based health and first aid, such as HIV/AIDS prevention and Harm Reduction among IDUs, Promotion of Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation, TB/MDR-TB prevention and control, First Aid and Psychosocial Support are aimed at improving the health status of the Georgian population and health promotion. The H&C program activities are implemented in Tbilisi and 8 regions and among H&C program beneficiaries are youth, local communities, PLHIV, IDUs, DUs, MDR-TB patients.</p> <p>Community-based health and First Aid – The project was financially supported by the ICRC. The GRCS FA Teams Network, established in the year 2008, protects and assists vulnerable people in a timely, safe and effective manner to decrease the number of deaths by mobilizing the GRCS`s well trained First Aid volunteers throughout its branch network and in coordination with the respective Georgian authorities. FA staff and volunteers are raising the awareness of the communities on basic first aid and psychological assistance, as well as on how to prevent dissemination/spread of infections associated with disasters/crises, how to protect themselves and help others, including hygienic behaviour, food, water security and sanitation. FA staff and volunteers prepare people for a looming crisis/emergency, and in case it does happen, as members of the GRCS emergency preparedness and response (EPR) teams provide direct FA and PSS assistance. In parallel, GRCS First Aid trainers conduct commercial FA trainings for local and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Targets: FA volunteers; RC staff and volunteers. Target location: Tbilisi and six regions. The establishment of additional First Aid (FA) teams planned for 2013 has not taken place so</p>			

far because of insufficient funding. The financial support expected from the IFRC, German RC and the Magen David Adom in Israel for the GRCS FA activities has not been provided. Due to unavailability of funding, the project could not be implemented as it was planned.

Since 2009, with financial and technical support of the Italian Red Cross, the GRCS has been implementing the Harm Reduction (HR) project in three directions: 1) educational activities for youth and drug users; 2) outreach activities among injecting drug users (IDUs) and 3) psychosocial support of the targeted IDUs. Targets: IDUs, youth, GRCS staff and volunteers; decision makers. Target location: Tbilisi and six regions.

The GRCS has actively cooperated with all key stakeholders in the country, governmental or non-governmental organizations. GRCS has been a member of the Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN) since 2008 and member of the TB National ACSM (advocacy, communication and social mobilization) working group since 2010. Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) are signed between GRCS and the National Centre for disease control and public health (NCDC), the National Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NCTBLD), the Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN), the NGO "New Vector" - one of the main Georgian HR Network Member Organizations, Jo-Ann Blood Bank and Tbilisi Blood Transfusion Station. As a result of regular contacts with representatives of the biggest institutions of higher education, universities and colleges and with the students' self-government of the universities, the GRCS project team is allowed to conduct workshops for students at central and local levels (at the above mentioned institutions of higher education).

Output 3.2.2: Improved health status of targeted TB clients through strengthening treatment adherence, providing psychological support and conducting advocacy activities. Reduced vulnerability to TB and its impact by preventing further infection through expanding knowledge on TB prevention, transmission and treatment and combating stigma and discrimination associated with TB.

Measurement			
Indicators	2012-2014 BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Approx. 3,620 GRCS staff, volunteers, MDR-TB clients and members of their families, community leaders and members raised awareness on TB/MDR-TB signs, prevention, transmission and treatment (through IFRC financial support)	7,245 beneficiaries	3,623 beneficiaries	5,834 beneficiaries 161 % of annual target; 80.5 % of plans by the BL <i>Among them: 140 project volunteers; 225 GRCS staff members and other volunteers; 121 stakeholders, 1,337 direct beneficiaries, and 4,011 indirect community members</i>
Treatment success among 100 MDR TB clients served by GRCS adherence consultants and psychologists is at least 85%;		• 100 MDR TB clients	• 102 beneficiaries (96% of treatment success) – 102% of annual target;
Treatment default rate among target beneficiaries no more than 15%		• no more than 15 cases of default	• 4 cases (3,9% of default rate) – 26% of annual target 15%.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Since February, 2008 till present the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) with the financial support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from the back donor “Ely Lilly” has been implementing an MDR-TB Control Project in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. The main objectives of the GRCS in fighting against MDR-TB were the followings: 1) supporting the National MDR-TB Control Program by strengthening adherence to the outpatient treatment of and providing psychosocial help to the target MDR -TB clients; 2) conducting Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization (ACSM) Activities to Support TB Control in Georgia; 2) combating stigma and discrimination against TB people by raising awareness of the community. GRCS implemented project in close cooperation and collaboration with key stakeholders in the field. At country level main partner is the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) through National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) (the NTP implementing body is National Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NCTBLD)). The basis for the cooperation is an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in January, 2008 and defined the roles of the National Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung diseases (NCTBLD)-coordinator of the Georgian NTP and Georgia Red Cross Society.

At the end of 2013 there were 1,008 MDR-TB patients involved in the National TB program in Georgia: 827 patients at outpatient and 181 at inpatient phases of treatment. Out of 827 ambulatory patients 216 MDR-TB patients are registered at the Tbilisi DOTS. Among them currently 31,9% (69 clients) are under the GRCS project team`s supervision.

The GRCS`s work made it obvious that strengthening treatment adherence, better management of comorbid psychological problems and raising awareness on TB could improve a rate of successful treatment outcomes among MDR-TB patients. To improve TB control in Georgia and to influence decision-makers to increase support to the TB control the GRCS project team provided advocacy work with key stakeholders, decision makers, representatives of media, business representatives, NTP personnel with involvement of the project active beneficiaries and volunteers - treatment supporters. In order to combat stigma and discrimination project staff and the GRCS' trained volunteers has conducted educational-informational sessions for 1337 (directly) and approximately 4,011 community members (indirectly) by 140 trained GRCS volunteers.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the local results of the evaluation conducted in all countries getting support for MDR-TB programs from the IFRC revealed that the treatment adherence approach plays an important role in reaching successful treatment outcomes. The support from the side of the GRCS adherence team was named as the main reason of continuing the treatment by 86,1% of ex-prisoners and 54,6% of patients with substance abuse problems.

Business Line 4 – “To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work”

Output 4.1.1: Improve domestic legal policy and institutional framework to enable Georgia Red Cross actions be more flexible during disaster relief operations. No funds were received in 2013 for implementing this component.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Despite the fact that GRCS didn't receive any financial support from IFRC for the implementation of the operational plan (first half of 2013), the organization is still conducting various projects regarding the social support of vulnerable groups all over Georgia (19 districts in total), the concerned regions are: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Sagarejo, Batumi/Khelvachauri, Khulo, Chokhatauri, Kvareli, Akhmeta, Bolnisi, Senaki, Tetrtskaro, Gardabani, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Sachkhere, Ambrolauri, Tkibuli, Gardabani and Marneuli. The GRCS is oriented in providing of psycho-social support along with the enhancement of abilities required for better self-support as well as for breaking the social isolation of the vulnerable groups. The mentioned social projects were implemented with the support of Danish Red Cross, European Union, local authorities as well as with the restless work of Red Cross volunteers.

Based on the perennial experience and long-term partnership with international partners, GRCS has developed a sustainable and effective model for homecare service delivery, which promotes the breaking process of social isolation of elderly people, improves their well-being, pushes them to participate actively in community life and help their more mobile peers. The working groups for profitable and convenient activities (laundry, handmade goods, gardening, etc.) have been established in Social Centres which is positively reflected on self-improvement and breaking the isolation.

Business Line 5 – To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability”

Output 5.1.1: The GRCS will have increased its participation in international dialogue and cooperation, as well as new partnerships established at national and international levels. Resource mobilisation capacity of GRCS is scaled up by mobilising public and corporate resources.

The project was not funded through the International Federation.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Volunteers (youth among them) do not show interest and are not actively involved in the GRCS services and volunteer activities	“L”	Ensure greater involvement of volunteers in GRCS programs. Participation of volunteers in Red Cross services and volunteer activities to improve the lives of vulnerable groups develops such characteristics as humanity, self-esteem and sense of responsibility among youth/volunteers. As well as encourages them to take active part in the leadership and decision-making process.
Insufficient resources to implement the planned activities	“H”	Active fundraising campaign at local and international level during the all project activities to mobilize funds locally and internationally.
NS management commitment to strengthen social welfare capacity	“H”	GRCS has an MoU with local authorities long-term period (More than 20 years) Board and President of GRCS regularly participating workshop and meeting at central and local levels, meet representative of authorities and NGOs to promote and support social welfare project of GRCS.
Lack of media support to promote the civic participation in volunteering.	“H”	Increase media coverage through press release distribution services, newsletters; local media groups and through them active promotion of the projects’ outcomes and impact on beneficiaries among the key stakeholders and partners.
Inhabitants of communities and local authorities might not agree to take concrete actions on elaboration and implementation of disaster preparedness and response plans.	“M”	Active promotion of benefits from elaboration and implementation of disaster preparedness and response plans at community and household levels for better preparedness and response during emergencies.

Key Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Political situation in the country ensures that the GRCS remains a stable organisation able to fulfil its mandate in Georgia.	“M”	Enhancement of civic engagement in volunteering, with active participation of all target stakeholders (beneficiaries among them) will enable the GRCS to fulfil its mandate throughout the country.
Sustained political will and action to enhance the development of civil society in Georgia.	“M”	GRCS advocacy campaigns, round table meetings with key stakeholders, active participation in service delivery and volunteer activities will further enhance the civil society development.
Local Authorities and the key community stakeholders are committed to cooperation with the GRCS branches on community-based interventions and service delivery	“M”	Increase local fund raising for community based volunteer activities and Red Cross services will sustain community-based interventions and services.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

- **Ownership** - The need to work with a broad range of citizens in identifying needs, capacities, and specific areas for support to civic engagement in volunteering has been stressed. Aligning civil society with the interest of local authorities or other key stakeholders (not taking into account the needs, capacities and areas of interest) can undermine its willingness to participate in service provision and volunteer activities. Amongst others, advocacy groups should be expected to facilitate enhancement of Red Cross services focused on needs and entitlements of vulnerable groups.
- **Resourcing** - Investments in capacity building, as well as the additional time needed to tune in to local contexts and agendas, set up and manage a complex portfolios of various stakeholders need to be resourced. Besides, resources may need to be front-loaded, with commitment to providing long-term support.
- **Diverse but coherent portfolios** - The presented cases highlighted the need to work with diverse partners at local and national levels, including corporate sector to support civic engagement in volunteering. Facilitating linkages between them is important for coherence around strategic objectives.
- **Civil society development** – GRCS together with other Civil Society Organisations can play an important role in building trust between the state and civil society, and in linking civic engagement to volunteering with support of the GRCS leadership, staff and volunteers. This must be effective and sustainable for the long term and require active facilitation of media in promotion of the Red Cross services and community-based volunteer initiatives. It is also an argument for local fund raising and corporate sector engagement. By investing in civic engagement the GRCS can fulfil its own mission and expand its work to help build caring communities.

GRCS will be proactive in establishing new partnerships both with national and international organisations. Therefore, active participation of citizens both in voluntary services and advocacy campaigns at local and national levels, as well as strengthening capacities in enhancing youth volunteering will increase membership recruitment and retention of volunteers. Besides, as the GRCS emphasized the willingness and readiness to move to the second phase of OCAC process in 2014, the National Society will continue efforts towards further organisational development and growth of the organisation.

The GRCS will continue and expand its work with Health and Care authorities to include GRCS in the respective policies and plans of the Government, also with the Emergency Management unit to fulfil the responsibilities assigned by the National Disaster Response Plan of Georgia, which is under revision right

now. GRCS will be an active participant of all initiated meetings and ensure that its coordination role is secured and the NS can assume it during disasters. This process will improve the visibility of the GRCS's work throughout the country which in its turn will increase the interest in the services provided by the National Society (community based first aid, primary health activities, diseases prevention activities, social support for lone and older people, home care service, disaster risk reduction, community based disaster preparedness, psychosocial support, youth development activities) and increase number of volunteers involved and the beneficiaries served.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAAGE00213arf.pdf>

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to 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.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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