

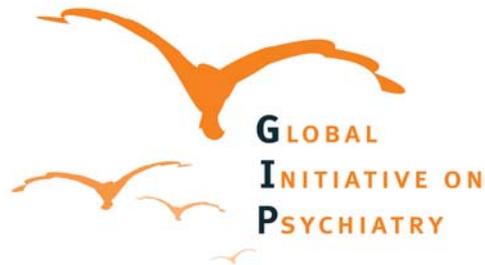


ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Global Initiative on Psychiatry - Tbilisi

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Foreword by the GIP-Tbilisi director

Nino Makhashvili

I have a pleasure to present a brief overview of GIP-Tbilisi activities in 2010. This year is characterized by continuation of programmatic work in our priority areas, like human rights protection, developing community services, investing in forensic and prison mental health, etc., but also marks a shift in the organization's position – in 2010 we were able to demonstrate that besides acting as a support organization that is active in a developmental field, we can effectively establish and run specific innovative services, like a pioneering center for juvenile delinquency or a service for traumatized children and their families in war-affected Gori region, also a social enterprise starting to provide ecological wooden toys to the Georgian market.

These achievements were possible by the dedicated and hard work of GIP-Tbilisi staff, but also members of above-mentioned new services whom I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation. In addition, we owe a lot to our partner organizations, as paraphrasing John Donne “No organization is an island” and positive and real changes could be achieved and maintained only with a unified strength. I do hope that GIP-Tbilisi's constructive cooperation with various agencies and experts would remain strong and contribute to the reforms in mental health field in coming years.





Introduction

Background

Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP) –Tbilisi assists professional communities, NGOs, international agencies, governments, and other development institutions in the Caucasus and Central Asia to improve rights-based mental health care.

The organization started its activities in May 2003, under the name of “Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry – Tbilisi”– as Regional Support Centre for Caucasus and Central Asia. In April 2005 the name of the organization has been changed to “Global Initiative on Psychiatry – Tbilisi” (GIP-Tbilisi). GIP-Tbilisi is a part of GIP network (GIP-Hilversum; GIP-Sofia and GIP-Vilnius).

Vision

Global Initiative on Psychiatry believes that every person in the world should have the opportunity to realize his or her full potential as a human being, notwithstanding personal vulnerabilities or life circumstances.

Mission

The Global Initiative on Psychiatry considers its mission as to promote humane, ethical, and effective mental health services throughout the world and to support a global network of individuals and organizations to develop, advocate for, and carry out the necessary reforms.

GIP - Tbilisi aims to **work at 3 levels** of society to achieve maximal effect:

Micro Level

In order to find innovative, locally appropriate and acceptable approaches to mental health care in Caucasus and Central Asia region, new, innovative projects and activities are sought and supported. Because of its experimental and piloting character, a proper monitoring and evaluation of results is strongly present.

Meso Level

Here the strategy is to challenge the old soviet model of psychiatry and press for more appropriate, human rights-based mental health care approach by provision of modern literature, training, workshops and conferences to the main actors in mental health care.

Macro Level

The main strategy is to influence the governments to adapt or change current laws on psychiatry conform to universal human rights and to modern standards on mental health and to push government to apply the laws and by-laws into practice; to support development of relevant MH policies and plans; to created the monitoring mechanism and supervising independent bodies for ensuring human rights protection of people with mental ill health.

To achieve the goal GIP-Tbilisi:

- Provides prevalence of information on latest achievements, trends and directions in mental health sphere throughout the region;
- Conducts studies in order to plan the corresponding interventions in different spheres of mental health;
- Functions as an organizational (facilitation) centre for training programs;
- Promotes local innovative initiatives and best practices via consultations and advices;
- Facilitates and coordinates establishment and functioning of local mental health networks and coalitions;
- Promotes cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors working in mental health sphere;
- Lobbies the governments for adopting and implanting appropriate legislation, elaboration of relevant policies and implementation of structural changes in the given field;
- Provides lectures, conducts workshops and organizes conferences on various aspects of the given field.

Program Areas:

- Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Forensic psychiatry and prison mental health
- Psychotrauma and psychosocial aid
- Support of deinstitutionalization
- Legislation and policy
- Promotion of Juvenile Justice reform
- HIV/AIDS and mental health

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Fighting Stigma and Discrimination of Mental Ill Health



Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights



Project is supported by
the European Union
1.02.2010 – 1.04.2011

Project partners:

PER – Partnership for Equal Rights
GAMH – Georgian Association of
Mental Health
APNSC – Association for People in
Need of Special Care
Association Antistigma
PHMDF – The Public Health and
Medicine Development Fund of
Georgia
NDOBA – The Georgian Association
for Psychosocial Aids
YPU – Young Pedagogues Union (Ozur-
geti, Guria)

In March, 2010 ended the 14-month duration project "Fighting Stigma and Discrimination of Mental Ill Health".

The project promoted the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups – persons with mental disorders and disabilities, and their family members – including their rights to equal treatment and non-discrimination, their integration into the society by building the tolerance and acceptance of the public, supporting of inclusiveness and pluralism of the Georgian society.

Stigma and discrimination exists on the different levels: media, society, policies. That's because the target groups of the project were journalists (student and acting), youth and students of various universities and high schools, local communities, general public, policy-makers, users/ex-users and their family members.

The specific objective of the project was the improvement of lives of people with mental health problems (PMHP) and their families by challenging and helping to reduce stigma, discrimination and social exclusion.

The project covered Tbilisi, West and East Georgia: Kutaisi, Batumi, Ozurgeti and Telavi.

Overall Objectives

- Promotion of non-discriminatory reporting in Georgian media
- Promotion of tolerant attitudes and social acceptance of mental health problems
- Promotion of human rights-based policies towards MH

Most of the project activities were held in 2009, though some were realized in 2010.

On February 4 the awarding ceremony of the *Contest "10 best media products on MH"* took place at the "Amirani" cinema. 10 winners were awarded in 4 nominations: best printed, audio, video and internet materials. Besides money prize the winners were rewarded also with paintings of G.Jincharadze (MH service user). The event was highlighted in different media means.

Before the contest 89 students, 71 acting journalists, 19 editors and producers of different media sources from whole Georgia were trained. How to highlight mental health issues in ethical way, was the main subject of the trainings held in Tbilisi, Batumi, Telavi and Kutaisi in 2009. The contest provoked profound interest among media representatives towards mental health and human rights sphere.

The goal of this objective was to fight the stigma and xenophobia in reporting and portrayal mental health problems in Georgian media via helping journalists to recognise the role the media plays in shaping public knowledge and behaviour, rising their awareness on MH problems and introducing international standards of positive coverage of MH problems related stories. Later, the publications presented for the announced contest had shown how different were the articles before and after trainings. Provided media monitoring during the whole project period showed the positive dynamics of reporting.

This year once again took place the *"bus actions"* in Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi. Several city buses

with slogans "The sun shines alike" ran during whole February, 2010. One day was free of charge transportation in all cities. Volunteer students who went through the interactive lectures on stigma and discrimination presented in the buses that day, distributing campaign anti stigma flyers and brochure calling the passengers for humanistic treatment of PMHP. Action providers give the tickets in a free and the leaflets to the passengers, explaining the mean of the action and answering their questions. In the actions were involved also ex-users from the partner organisation "Partnership for Equal Rights".

The third "Radio mental health week" was held in February, 2010. Broadcasting the "MH weeks" through 7 various leading radio channels, caused a big number of phone calls by the listeners with different requests and questions. Among them were people with MH problems and their relatives. Antistigma audio-clip was prepared and recorded in 2009.

3 exhibitions of PMHP's art works were held in Tbilisi, Telavi and Kutaisi. On February 4, 2010 the 4th exhibition took place, this time – personal. Gela Jincharadze's personal exhibition lasted for a week in a foyer of the "Amirani" cinema. The young film-maker which created a movie about Gela, won a first place prize in the Contest.

Conference was held on 23 February, 2010. Participants were invited from the Parliament, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Issues, Public Defenders Office, project partner organizations, users and professional society. The conference contributed to the advocating for recommendations (elaborated in 2009) and serve as a tool for further lobbying.

The project increased the cooperation among civil society organisations - MH and HR actors, PDO representatives; built the partnership across East and West Georgia and Tbilisi, addressed local communities and youth groups. This partnership will become an effective force for positive changes of societal attitudes and behaviours and increase of tolerance and non-discrimination towards PMHP.



Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights



Development of an integrated network of community mental health care services in Georgia



Community Mental Health

In Georgia, the mentally ill are socially excluded, non-participating, stigmatized, stripped of rights (violated of human rights) and undergoing dependency. People with psychiatric disabilities are routinely deprived of their most fundamental rights by measures taken to restrict their freedom. Persons with mental illnesses suffer from prejudices, negative attitudes and opinions, degrading treatment and discrimination; they belong to the most vulnerable social group in Georgia. Patients are held permanently in psychiatric hospitals; wards holding 50 patients are not uncommon, and often no rehabilitation activities are offered. Most of the people with treatable conditions do not receive services until very late stages of their illness.

According to the above-mentioned problems in the given field, the following major problems can also be listed:

- Lack of contemporary community-based mental health services; lack of a connection between existing out-patient services and mental hospitals;
- Lack of contemporary training programs & education, including education materials for mental health professionals, in particular psychiatrists and nurses;
- Lack of a medical insurance system as a reimbursement system;

Therefore, improvement of the country's mental health care system is of urgent importance. To improve Georgian mental health care and the quality of life for people with mental illness, it is vital to introduce high quality mental health care services that are appropriate, accessible and affordable.

The project goal is to create a functional network of accessible community mental health care services in Tbilisi, which allows for the integration of people with mental illness into society and increases the involvement of users of mental health services and their relatives in the service delivery, supported by training programs and university education. The Tbilisi network will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

One of the main project activities was to set up an integrated network of community mental health care of consecutive services connected with the existing service of acute psychiatry, consisting of an ambulatory/outpatient Crisis Intervention Unit, promoting patient advocacy and establishing home care services.

Luk van Der Post, an expert from Holland, was constantly in contact with head of the Crisis Intervention Centre, giving advice and recommendations to the group. During the reported period, he visited Georgia several times and conducted trainings on Crisis Intervention foreign practice to share experiences with his Georgian colleagues in the given sphere.

On April 14-15, a training session on promoting patient advocacy and users' involvement was provided by Clemens Huitink, a GGZ (Holland Association of Mental Health) representative, and co-trainer Georgette Groutar in the GAMH Methodological Centre. The training was attended by users, which allowed the trainers to meet them. The training was carried out in a benevolent atmosphere. The aforementioned tasks were discussed and future



The project is supported by

**MATRA program of the
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

01.11.2008 - 21.11.2011



Project partner:

Georgian Association for
Mental Health

plans were explained. In the above-mentioned period, both organizations were in permanent contact with Mr. Huitink and also with GIP-Tbilisi representatives. After the regular exchange of correspondence, a decision was finally made – the organizations were asked to divide their working areas and continue their activities within Asatiani clinic as well as Gldani psychiatric hospital to assist advocacy issues and involve patients as much as possible.

One of the project's main activities was to set up a psychiatric home-care program. In order to assist in establishing proper home-care services, on June 1-4, Ton Moors, a social psychiatric nurse from HAN University, and expert from Holland Léon van Woerden in the GAMH Methodological Centre, provided training on psychiatric home care. The home care team (HC) in Georgia is identified with the mobile team (MT), which will work in cooperation with the CIU team; the training was attended by 15 participants: 10 nurses, 3 psychiatrists and 2 psychologists. The main goal of the above-mentioned training was familiarization with several aspects of the theory and practice of psychiatric homecare. Both trainers pointed out that it was vital to be familiarized with the necessary materials, such as manuals on home care, that would be useful for the participants in their future work.

On June 7-14, Mr. Fer Haak's and Mrs. Annemarie Kooistra's visit to Tbilisi was arranged. During their stay, they visited Mental Health Services belonging to non-governmental organizations and Asatiani Hospital. Mr. Haak delivered a presentation for the Georgian specialists: Shelter Housing and Mental Health Care Development History in the Netherlands.

To support the inclusion of innovative programs in mental health care service delivery and introduce models for adequate modern standards of contemporary, high quality (community) mental health care, Mr. Wim Bouters visited Georgia from May 10-14. During the visit, Mr. Bouters was familiarized with study programs for nurses. He met the representative of the Medical Institute, the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, and also visited and talked to the director of Asatiani Psychiatric Institute and doctors working in Gldani Psychiatric Hospital. He also paid a visit to the psycho-neurological dispensaries. During his visit he talked with nurses to find out their needs, wishes and plans. Moreover, the information concerning the study programs for nurses and the general education system of nurses was obtained as well.

To promote social psychiatry issues, Mr. Ad Kaasenbrood conducted the training on social psychiatry on May 20 – 23 and October 25 – 29. The given training was attended by psychiatrists and psychologists from different institutions. In total, 24 participants underwent the training course. The training was very interesting and received particular interest and approval from the participants.

GIP-Tbilisi together with other NGO representatives continue close cooperation with the state authorities (MoLHSA, Municipality, The Parliament Medical Committee, user organizations) to prepare a proper basis for the development of a community mental health service chain in Tbilisi that is going to be the model for the rest of Georgia.

The project internal evaluation is being carried out on regular basis. In the following year, further cooperation with non-governmental and government official structures and user organizations are being conducted; further trainings are planned to achieve the project goals and outcomes.



Community Mental Health



Improving the Human Rights situation through upgrading the Mental Health Care and Inclusive Education



Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights



The project is supported by

**MATRA program of the
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

2007 – 2009

(ext. till December, 2010)



2010 was the last year of the 30 month project “Georgia: Improving the Human Rights Situation Through Upgrading the Mental Health Care and Inclusive Education” .

The project was implemented by the Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC), Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP) –Tbilisi office, and Georgian Health Law and Bioethics Society (GHLBS) with the financial support of The Social Transformation Programme (MATRA) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aim: To promote mental healthcare and inclusive education in Georgia through implementation of the new law of Georgia on Mental Health and development of regulative documents in the field of inclusive education. The specific project aims were:

- To improve the knowledge of healthcare personnel and lawyers on the law on Mental Health and patient’s rights;
- To raise awareness in society about the issues of the protection of human rights in mental health care and the importance of integrating children with special educational needs;
- To improve the human rights monitoring system in the mental health institutions;
- To develop international cooperation with western experts for professional development of Georgian medical personnel and law-makers and enforcement of patient’s rights.

To achieve these aims, the project partners carried out successive and comprehensive works:

- Thorough analysis of the Law on Mental Health and its related documents was performed to identify shortcomings and problems encountered by medical personnel and professionals in the field of law and the shortcomings that influenced the patients’ conditions;
- Meetings with mental healthcare personnel were held with the purpose to identify their problems in connection with existing legislation and protection of patient’s rights;
- Monitoring of mental health institutions were carried out;
- In close cooperation with the parliament committee of health and social affairs, the project experts carried out important works to improve mental health care related legal regulations;
- The Parliament of Georgia adopted the package of laws on December 4, 2009, in compliance of which the changes were entered into the law on mental health as well as the laws on imprisonment, Criminal and Administrative codes. According to new changes, the issues of involuntary psychiatric aid and psychiatric aid to prisoners were upgraded. Those amendments are expected to have a positive impact by guaranteeing the rights and dignity of involuntary psychiatric detainees transferred from penitentiary institutions to civil psychiatry premises.
- GIP participated in a Parliamentary working group on Harmonization of the mental health Law with the newly adopted Criminal Procedure Code.

- Training sessions for medical staff of psychiatric hospitals in various regions were conducted in order to acquaint them with the recent changes in the law on mental health
- With the support of The Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia, trainings were carried out for lawyers of legal assistance;
- Trainings were carried out for administrative judges in cooperation with the high school of Justice;
- Training on the contemporary principles of medical ethics and related Georgian legislation were delivered to mental health care personnel throughout Georgia;
- In the framework of a public awareness campaign, three meetings between psychiatric professionals and relatives of mentally ill persons were organized in Kutaisi, Batumi and Gori. The meetings focused on the necessity to protect patients' rights both in psychiatric institutions as well as in the society, and to increase awareness on this important issue.
- With the purpose of raising awareness in the society around the issues of mental healthcare, an exhibition with mentally disabled persons was organized, information leaflets were printed and TV/Radio programs were aired;

Within the frame of the project, the draft of "Recommendations on Regulating Preschool Institutions with regard to Inclusive Education of Children with Special Educational Needs" was prepared, which aims at developing legal foundations for the inclusion of children with special educational needs in preschool institutions. On the basis of the mentioned document, a model of bylaws of kindergartens was drafted. The mentioned documents were discussed at the conference specially dedicated to this issue, and the document was presented on November 26, 2010 with the participation of representatives from the Georgian government and NGOs working in this field, Head teachers of kindergartens, etc.

At the end of December 2010, a closing conference was organized in Tbilisi. The results and achievements during the project's duration were presented to the authorities, professionals and society.



Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights



The project is implemented with partners:



Center for International
Legal Cooperation

Georgian Health Law and
Bioethics Society



Improving of forensic psychiatry services in Georgia



Forensic Psychiatry and Prison Mental Health



The project is supported by

**MATRA program of the
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

30.11.2007 – 30.12.2011



Partners:

**Ministry of the Labour,
Healthcare and Social Affairs
of Georgia (MoLHSA)**

Ministry of Justice of Georgia

**National Forensic Bureau of
Georgia**

GIP-Hilversum

The Georgian Forensic Psychiatry project is the result of intensive collaboration between the Georgian Ministry of Health, Georgian Ministry of Justice (MoLHSA), National Forensics Bureau, GIP-Hilversum and GIP-Tbilisi over the past five years.

The overall objective of the project is to develop a contemporary system of forensic psychiatric service delivery in Georgia that provides adequate care to a specific group of patients and protects society against recidivism.

Activities conducted during the year 2010

The new building of the Psychiatric Expertise Department of the Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau has been put into exploitation from January 2010. The official opening of new building was held on March 11th, 2010.

The Ceremony opened with the speeches by the Head of the Bureau G.Khizanishvili and Dutch ambassador P.J. Langenberg. GIP Chief Executive Robert van Voren talked about the project and the five years of successful cooperation between GIP and the Psychiatric Expertise Department. The opening ceremony was attended by Georgian Officials: Mayor of Tbilisi, G.Ugulava and the head of the municipal department of social services M. Katsarava, representatives of MoLHSA, heads of local psychiatric hospitals, medical society, representatives of Foreign Embassies, GIP experts and GIP-T staff. 16 TV-sets were bought and gifted to the department by GIP-T for the opening day.

The series of trainings were conducted by Dutch and Lithuanian Trainers Dick Raes, Rob Hollander, Wendy Weijts, and Virginia Klimukiene for Georgian expert-psychiatrists and psychologists.

The subjects of the trainings were:

- Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale – BPRS
- Brief Symptom Inventory – BSI
- Pretrial forensic expertise
- Development of the chain of penitentiary and forensic psychiatry
- Violence risk assessment and application HCR-20 scheme in practice
- The presentation of database was conducted for the staff members of Psychiatric Expertise Department.



During May 2010, the rooms of the Resource Center and trainings were equipped with the furniture and computer technics by GIP-Tbilisi.

ToT on Mental Health Awareness

The idea of the training was to inform teachers from the training center of the MCLA, who will be responsible for training prison guards. These teachers will become trainers of the module “Mental Health Awareness” and they must be able to apply this module to the Georgian situation. The first training was held by Dutch Trainers in September, 2010. The purpose was to familiarize the teachers with the content of the modules and training/teaching skills. The trainer’s manual was translated into Georgian, printed and distributed among the participants.

Promoting of community living in Georgia: situation analysis on the implementation of article 19 of the CRPD – Barriers and challenges

The purpose of this project was to undertake a base-line assessment of the legal and policy framework relevant to the situation of persons with mental health disabilities in Georgia and identify areas requiring a reform. This assessment was intended to serve as a benchmark to measure the progress of the reform in the country.

Persons with mental health disabilities have a range of health-related and social needs that effect social functioning and citizenship, enabling (or disabling) them to participate freely in society. Many of the aspects which contribute to an individual's (or the group's) quality of life - good housing, a job, education, adequate income - cannot be covered by mental health services alone. However, services need to create the conditions that enable people to have access to - and to use - these opportunities; failure to do this will mean that people's level of disability (that is, the social effects of their mental illness) will remain unnecessarily high.

For the first time in international law, Article 19 of the CRPD expressly establishes the right for persons with disabilities to live in a community as a human right. In the same Article, the CRPD establishes obligations on States to ensure that persons with disabilities:

- May choose their place of residence (Article 19(a)).
- May choose with whom to live (Article 19(a)).
- Have access to specialised community-based support services (Article 19(b)).
- Have access to services that are available to the general population (Article 19(c)).

On July 10, 2009, Georgian part signed CRPD, which gives us new opportunities for the promotion of the rights of persons with mental health disabilities to live in the community and participate in society as equal citizens. Article 19 in particular requires governments to take action in order to facilitate a disabled person's full enjoyment of this right and his or her 'full inclusion and participation in the community'. Theoretically, at least this approach will ensure that institutions are closed and appropriate services in communities are available.

Therefore, the effective implementation of Article 19 is of central importance to the promotion of 'community living' (also referred to as 'independent living'). The term 'community living' is used to emphasize the right of persons with disabilities to live in a community and receive the support that they need to enable them to participate in society as equal citizens.

This particular project was designed as the first step toward solving the bigger program of monitoring the progress of the implementation of article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Georgia - after its ratification. The project has reviewed the current national legislation and policies for compliance with the Art.19 of CRPD and ensured the in-depth consultations with civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities for the identification of opportunities and challenges in its implementation. The baseline study was conducted and the report was published.



Protection and Advocacy of Human Rights



The project is supported by
Open Society Georgia Foundation

1.07.2010 – 1.10.2010



Education and care for children with mental disability in Georgia



Child and Adolescent Mental Health



The project is supported by
**Polish International Aid Program
2010 of the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Poland**

1.05.2010 – 30.10.2010



პოლსკაპომოცის დახმარება

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Partner:

**Polish Helsinki Foundation
for Human Rights**

“Global Initiative on Psychiatry-Tbilisi” and Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights are jointly carrying out the project "Education and Care for Children with Mental Disability in Georgia", which was co-financed within the Polish International aid programme 2010 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

The main goal of the project was to promote the care and education of mentally disabled children to enable them to be involved in a social life according to their own abilities.

The project consists of 3 parts. The first phase, which was already implemented in May 2010, included 2 six-day seminars. The pedagogues, psychologists, speech specialists, teachers and administration representatives of Tbilisi public boarding school N200 and Kachreti boarding school attended the sessions. In total, 48 participants were involved.

The seminar program covered several thematic blocks:

- Human rights protection standards for persons with mental disability and people with mental health problems
- Alternative methods of communication
- Functional diagnosis
- Individual therapeutic programs

The second part, which was planned for June 5-13, involved a study visit of the seminar participants to Poland – 12 participants in total from both institutions. During the visit, the participants attended lectures and visited specialized institutions, familiarized themselves with the Polish education system and its peculiarities in the similar organizations. The Polish and Georgian specialists shared and exchanged their knowledge and experiences in the given field.

The third phase of the project, which carried out in October, involved the second visit of the Polish experts to monitor and evaluate the given knowledge to the Georgian participants.

The experts prepared recommendations for care and education system of children with mental disability.

Study materials, literature, methodological guidebooks and manuals were obtained for psychologists and speech specialists for both institutions.

The given project supported close cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science and GIP-Tbilisi, and thus made it possible to improve the quality of education and care for children with mental disabilities in similar institutions.



Psychosocial support for war affected children and youth in Gori region

From the very first days of the August, 2008 war, GIP – Tbilisi was actively involved in the psycho – social rehabilitation process of the refugee population. With the above-mentioned purpose, we implemented several projects, which were directed towards support of the displaced population.

In 2010, GIP - Tbilisi is carrying out the project that was financed by Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main goal of the given project was the psycho – social rehabilitation of the displaced children and their family members in Gori and the villages within Gori region. The project involved the establishment of a Centre in Gori and the creation of a multidisciplinary team consisting of psychologists, social workers, a neurologist / psycho somatology specialists.

The project also included a foundation of mobile groups that would provide home care and on – site assistance for the IDP children and their family members. Therefore, the Centre rented two cars. The groups carry out fieldwork, providing consultations in Gori and borderline villages as well as in IDP settlements.

This project was started on July 1, 2010 and ended December 1, 2010. During this period of time, applications to the Centre increased gradually, and at the time psychologists are working in groups as well as individually. The number of beneficiaries makes up about 153 individuals. The centre rendered assistance to 86 families. The family members were mainly provided with psycho-educational sessions.

The Centre published an informational leaflet, which defines the working areas and points out the major activities of the Centre. It should be mentioned that GIP – Tbilisi experts supervise the Gori Centre personnel on regular basis.



Apart from Georgian specialists' supervision, mobile groups were also being consulted online by Lithuanian experts, in particular, Diana Meskauskaite. Two months after the start of the program, supervision via skype took place once a week. Difficult cases were being chosen, and topics like using new methods and modern approaches of psychological interventions were being discussed.

The above- mentioned supervision turned out to be rather interesting, and the advice received by the group members was used in their everyday activities and proved to be also very useful while conducting individual cases.

It should also be noted that the centre is the only psycho – social rehabilitation service in Gori and surrounding villages for children who are still suffering from post – war stress disorders.

The given project is vital for Georgia, as it is aimed at improvement of mental health among children and adolescents, providing appropriate services for children and their family members and development of community-based services.



Psychotrauma and psychosocial aid



*The project is supported by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Lithuania*

01.07.2010 – 30.11.2010

*Project is implemented in
partnership with
GIP-Vilnius*

Piloting Innovative Services for Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia



Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform



The project is supported by
the European Union

1.02.2010 – 1.04.2011

Partners:

GCRT–Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims; Union SAPARI Georgian Association for Psychosocial Aids NDOBA GIP-Hilversum (The Netherlands)



Associated partners of the project:

**PDO – Public Defender Office
MCLA – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance
MES – Ministry of Education and Science
MoJ – Ministry of Justice**

The work on juvenile problems in Georgia began some years ago with the network of Non-State Actors (NSA), which had several years of experience and joined activities in the field of mental health, juvenile justice, and psychosocial care. The informal Alliance of Addressing Juvenile Delinquency was created in 2007 and conducted several activities, including the Survey of Juvenile Delinquency (2008) and the Conference Addressing Children and Youth Violence (2008).

The prevention segment is recognised as being the primary building block of a juvenile justice system. The new Juvenile Justice Strategy states that *“Prevention programmes promote the successful socialisation and integration of all children through the family, community, peer groups, school, labour, and provide support, particularly for vulnerable families”*.

The project “Strengthening of the Alliance for Addressing Juvenile Delinquency and Piloting Innovative Services for Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia” (started in February, 2010) intended to create and activate a pilot service to prevent juvenile delinquency. In the frame of this project the Family and Child Care Centre (FCCC) is established.

Target groups of the project were Alliance for Addressing Juvenile Delinquency; Professionals offering preventive intervention (FCCC); GPs and family nurses, teachers, police officers, social workers; Policy-makers. Final beneficiaries: At-risk families and juveniles, who present the signs of delinquency (Gldani-Nadzaladevi district of Tbilisi).

The overall objective of the action was to contribute to the successful implementation of humane juvenile justice reform in Georgia by promoting the preventive measures for successful socialisation and integration of vulnerable and at-risk children and supporting the development of a continuum of services that meets the needs of juveniles and their families.

The specific objectives of the action:

- Strengthening the capacity of local NSA network “Alliance of Addressing Juvenile Delinquency” by promoting the competence-building, cross-fertilization and education for development; introducing the best European family-oriented models of preventing juvenile delinquency and equipping the multidisciplinary Family Care Center (FCCC) with new knowledge and skills;
- Piloting the early identification and intervention model for children and youth by setting up the equal and effective care service for at-risk families and juveniles in the Tbilisi Gldani-Nadzaladevi district, establishing the fluent referral system, and offering tailored at-center and outreach interventions and analyzing impact of the program;

Mobilising support for actions by advocating the preventive approach toward juvenile delinquency by facilitating dialogue and consultation between different stakeholders.

The capacity of the Alliance members (25 members from 4 project partner NGOs and other 8 NGOs) was strengthened by several activities. The qualitative ToT trainings to Alliance representatives were provided by foreign experts: Dr.Dainius Puras (Lithuania), Simon Surguladze

(UK), Andries Korebrits (The Netherlands).

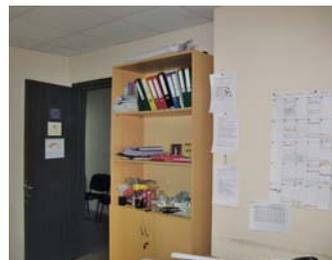
The Alliance is linked to the strategic stakeholders, which ensures coordination in the field of juvenile delinquency prevention and care and ensures an impact on the processes and the sharing of experience with other stakeholders. Model programs of the best Western practices are translated and analyzed to adapt to Georgian reality and put into practice. Later on, this was described in the publication "Prevention of the Juvenile Delinquency – Psychosocial service experience."

The training modules address the needs of primary health professionals (doctors and nurses), kindergarten and school teachers, police officers and social workers. The training module was designed for 2 days of basic intense and interactive training, containing both theoretical knowledge, but also a lot of case studies, role play, and active exercises for practicing skills and learning via action.

Providing trainings for local target group members in detection, addressing Juvenile Delinquency and referring difficult cases



Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform



General practitioners, nurses, school teachers and mandatories, social workers of Gldani-Nadzaladevi district (264 professionals in total) were involved in the trainings. Besides, FCCC members visited all of the police stations, policlinics, schools and kindergartens in the district, giving them the information leaflets and explaining the service goals.

Advocacy for promotion of preventive approach to Juvenile Delinquency

In the initial stage of the project implementation, the enlarged Inter-agency Steering Committee was formed, which was based on previous platform of cooperation and uniting the policy makers, experts, and service providers, and representatives of the following structures: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of education and Science, Ministry of Internal affairs, Parliament's Committee on Health Care and Social Affairs, Alliance of Addressing Juvenile Delinquency (23 members in total).

The Steering committee functioned during the whole process of the project's implementation, facilitating the prevention component of JJ reform in the country and providing a country-wide coordinating mechanism for it. The meetings were always very informative with useful advice for further steps, e.g. when designing the referral set and a Referral form.

Steering Committee was the main body during the project that coordinated action and was responsible for follow up and evaluation of it.

Several meetings with policy-makers and round table discussions were held to promote preventive approach in JJ reform



Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform



ქვეყანის და პაპისებო ზრუნვის ცენტრი
FAMILY AND CHILD CARE CENTRE

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in the country; Specific policy recommendations on the preventive part of JJ reform were outlined and presented to Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders, stimulating the thinking of decision-makers towards prevention.

One of the key directions of the juvenile delinquency prevention is improving mechanisms for their mental health care. The Family and Child Care Centre (FCCC), established in the frame of the project "Strengthening of the Alliance for Addressing Juvenile Delinquency and Piloting Innovative Services for Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia," represents pilot services directed on prevention of juvenile delinquency. It serves children and adolescents in the age range from 4 to 18 and their families, belonging to one of the problematic districts of Tbilisi – Gldani-Nadzaladevi since June 1, 2010.

FCCC considers juvenile delinquency as bio-psycho-social problem and addresses the risk and protective factors existed on all these three levels: attempts to minimize risk factors and at the same time, to activate protective factors. Stemming from that, FCCC is focused not only on child/adolescent, but on their closest social environment – first of all, family, then school and neighborhood community.

FCCC is based on the following principles: multidisciplinary care, informed consent, referral and development of referral network, monitoring and evaluation, activating resources, normalization and avoiding stigmatization, evidence based approaches and openness towards experience and learning.

Referral

From the beginning, FCCC started to build up the referral network, engaging all the actors in Gldani-Nadzaladevi district, being in charge of juvenile delinquency along with schools, outpatients clinics, police, relevant departments of the Ministry of Health, etc. This is important for creation of the continuity and consistency in the system of responses to juvenile delinquency. The series of the relevant training, directed on sensitization of referral network member agencies were conducted at the beginning of the project, due to which the key actors started to refer children and adolescents in need to FCCC. Overall, during the first 10 months of the work.

On the later stage of its functioning, FCCC established working relationships with the Ministry of Justice Diversion program and The Ministry of Correction and legal Assistance of Georgia Probation Department and started to serve the children and adolescents from Diversion program as well as probationers.

The FCCC staff developed promotional and informational leaflets to spread the message on the new service – outlining the service's purpose, what it is offered to community, and contact information. 3,500 copies were published and disseminated.

FAMILY AND CHILD CARE CENTER (promo leaflet)

The newly established family and Child Care Center in Gldani-Nadzaladevi district offers free qualified psycho-social service to children, adolescence and their families, with behavioral and emotional problems. Center's multidisciplinary group (psychologists, social workers, child psychiatrist, child neurologist/psychosomatic) will assist in the following:

To children:

- Impulsive behavior managing and self-control building
- Decrease and complete withdrawal of aggressive behavior
- Regulating and managing emotions
- Solving existing problems consisting of peer group and other relations
- Problem solving, communication and conflict managing skill building



To member of their families:

- Improving relationships within families
- Improving communication within parent and child

Service of the center includes:

- Psychological, medical and social consultation and guidance
- Group sessions for children and adolescence, which will assist them to build life's important skills and overcome behavioral problems
- The center will serve children, adolescence and their family members in age 4-18, within Gldani-Nadzaladevi district. Receiving clients can be processed directly in the center, as well as by calling out specialists to the needed locations.
- Confidentiality will be guaranteed.

The center is working everyday from 10am-7pm, except of Sunday.

Free of charge service



Promotion of Juvenile Justice Reform



There are positive dynamics among parents as well, in terms of acceptance and acknowledgement, children's problematic state, rising awareness on own contribution in dealing with existing problems, improving family management skills, etc.

Social Enterprise: For Healthy Generation



Social Enterprise



The project is supported by
**Center for Strategic Research and
Development of Georgia (CSR DG)**

16.07.2010 – 31.08.2011



Social entrepreneurship is a rather new concept in Georgia. Since 2009, foundations began to promote this new movement.

In July, 2010, GIP-Tbilisi won the small grant competition announced by the Foundation as “The center for strategic research and development of Georgia” (CSR DG). The project aimed to establish a social enterprise as a supportive unit to the programs implemented by GIP-T in the field of juvenile delinquency.

Profit from the social enterprise is designated for the social rehabilitation of children and adolescents who are in conflict with the law. The enterprise employs, among others, young persons on probation to help them with their successful re-integration into social life.

Preliminary marketing research proved that there was a lack of quality and safety in wooden toys in the country. The shops contained wooden toys that were either low in quality (though cheap), or very high quality, but very expensive. All of them were exported. Only one local producer on the market manufactured quality wooden toys, but in a different style.

In August and September GIP-T set-up a joinery: hired and renovated a working space, purchased equipment, hired human resources, designed some toys, chose the brand name and started manufacturing in October.

The social enterprise manufactures ecologically pure toys and furniture for children with specially chosen wooden material. ARBO is a brand name of this production.

The promo of the social enterprise is: FOR HEALTHY GENERATION! During infancy, children use various ways to perceive the world. In the process of perception, toys play a crucial role. Therefore, when manufacturing toys, it is essential to carefully choose the material the surface of the toy is made of to ensure the safety and health of the carefully selected and imported from Germany. Wooden pieces have smooth surfaces and rounded edges to avoid physical injury. ENOLIT dyes and BIOFA coating oil both are heavy metal free and meet European Standard on Toy Safety (EN71).

Moreover, the toys have excellent durability and a pleasant grip effect. The design and the color is based on the awareness that children should be able to feel and experience the wood. Little color and structural differences among the details of toys grant special attractiveness and uniqueness.

The paint does not cover the wooden structure, so children can perceive its nature in its original way. This allows kids to learn to understand and appreciate natural beauty. When playing with ARBO toys, children feel the positive natural en-



ergy from the wood, which they cannot do while playing with plastic and metal toys. Additionally, while playing with the wooden toys, children’s hands remain warm.

Children learn by playing games. Often enough, simple toys lead them to discover new things about life. Playing with wooden blocks helps to develop physical, social and cognitive skills as children learn about balance and gravity. ARBO toys help children to develop creative thinking, spatial perception, mathematical concepts and fine motor skills.



Social Enterprise



The first products were presented on the Forum of Georgian Social Enterprises that took place in Sheraton Metechi Palace. The presentation was successful, though till the end of the year, the work process was more examination than serial production. One master joiner with two assistants was employed in September; the manager of the social enterprise developed the marketing works during this period. So, by the end of the year, the workers gained experience, the quality of production improved greatly and the enterprise became ready for transitions.



wooden toys and children furniture



Forensic psychiatry and prison mental health program



The project is supported by
**European Instrument for Democracy
and Human Rights (EIDHR)**

20.12.2010 – 20.03.2012

Partners:

GCRT - Georgian Center for
Psycho-social and Medical
Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

GYLA - Georgian Young Lawyers
Association

GIP - Hilversum



Enhancing respect for rights of prisoners through promotion of right to health, including mental health

On December 20, 2010 the project “Enhancing respect for rights of prisoners through promotion of right to health, including mental health” was started.

Overall Objective: Promotion and protection of human rights of prisoners, in particular, the right to health and mental health and advancing an effective mental health care in penitentiary system.

Specific Objectives are as following:

1. Introduction and establishment of Human Rights and Right to (Mental) Health concept to penitentiary staff, particularly to health care personnel for increasing attention and proper response to the health and mental health needs of prisoners
2. Promotion of human-right based policies in penitentiary mental health care by active civil participation and experience sharing.

Target groups:

- General practitioners, psychiatrists, nurses, psychologists and social workers from all penitentiary facilities of Georgia
- Regime personnel from the same establishments
- Trainers of the Training Center of MCLA
- Policy-makers from different ministries and parliament of Georgia

Final beneficiaries will be the convicted prisoners of Georgian penitentiary facilities, including juvenile detainees and women.

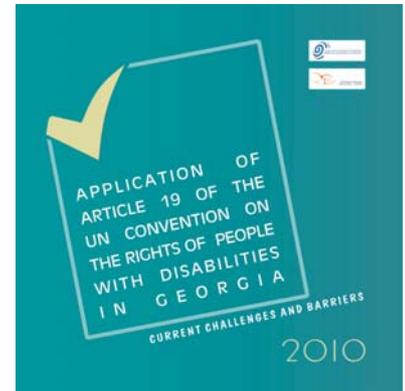
The Human Rights concept and Right to Health and Mental Health will be introduced to the Penitentiary system, resulting in:

- Increasing capacities, attention and response to the health and mental health needs of inmates from medical and other staff of prisons.
- Increasing informed participation in the development of health care system of health care professionals and realization of obligations.
- Raising involvement of civil society members in development of rights-based MH care policies.
- Better protection, non-discrimination and equality of prisoners.

Publications 2010

Application of ARTICLE 19 of the UN CONVENTION on the rights of people with disabilities in Georgia – current challenges and barriers

The analytical report is prepared and issued in the framework of the project "Promoting of community living in Georgia: situation analysis on the implementation of article 19 of the CRPD – Barriers and challenges" funded by Open Society – Georgia Foundation and implemented by the GIP-Tbilisi.



Mental Health Reforms' 10

Although the office of Global Initiative in Georgia opened only seven years ago, already a respectable length of time, our presence in the country dates back many more years, to the mid 1990s when Georgian mental health reformers became involved in the Network of Reformers in Psychiatry. At that time, Georgia was still a country in turmoil, a former Soviet republic that had just returned from the abyss of civil war and internal strife that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The country had been ravaged, the economy had almost come to a standstill and the entire health care system had collapsed. It was impossible to imagine how the system could be rebuilt again.

This special issue of Mental Health Reforms is meant to give you an overview of GIP's activities in the field of mental health in Georgia. It is not a complete summary of all that has been done, but merely intended to show the diversity and the interconnection between the various project components. The journal gives a clear understanding of the major challenges ahead, as well as the potential that is there.

Mental Health Reforms

