



Rural development of Mountainous Regions

In its rural development interventions, CCR focuses on the mountainous regions of Georgia, which are among the least developed in the country. CCR team has been working over the years with local farmers, entrepreneurs, and small and medium scale businesses in Tusheti, Racha, and in Upper Adjara.

In the Tusheti region and the Akhmeta municipality, CCR has supported the traditional livelihoods of the local population through modernization and the introduction of alternative economic activities. These activities have included the development of Tushi wool production using modern technologies and enhancing linkages between producers and processors; improving production of potatoes and vegetables through the introduction of modern agricultural practices; and development of additional economic activities through small grants distribution.

With the aim of developing the local economy and improving quality of life, CCR has been working in the Khulo Municipality located in Upper Adjara. Based on the EU's LEADERS approach, a local bottom-up action group developed a strategy for sustainable rural development, while a system of grants for small businesses and entrepreneurs also supported the local economy. In total, a sum of 1,030,000 Euros is being granted to local small and medium enterprises to implement 73 business projects. An additional sum of 440 000 Euros is being mobilized by the beneficiaries as their co-finance. So far, the interventions have positively influenced the lives of nearly 24,000 people.

CCR's activities in Racha are aimed at strengthening the local population to cope with the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic through material and technical support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and socially vulnerable families. Thanks to the provision of material assistance to SMEs and agricultural inputs to socially vulnerable families, the beneficiaries are able to maintain, revive or diversify their economic and/or livelihood activities and thus to overcome the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

CCR's waste management activities are also concentrated in the mountainous regions in which the project teams work on the development of relevant guiding documents, increasing the capacities of involved stakeholders, and on the procurement of necessary infrastructure.

To support waste management in Dusheti Municipality, CCR developed waste management plan for Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area, and lately delivered waste collection truck and containers.

Similar approach has been used also in Racha's Oni Municipality, where CCR's experts have developed separation and recycling model together with its action plan, and then put those documents in practice through capacity building of municipal waste collection company and provision of waste truck and containers. Moreover, local population has been educated on the recycling and reuse of biodegradable waste in the form of compost with active involvement of schools and youth.

Thanks to our donors and partners



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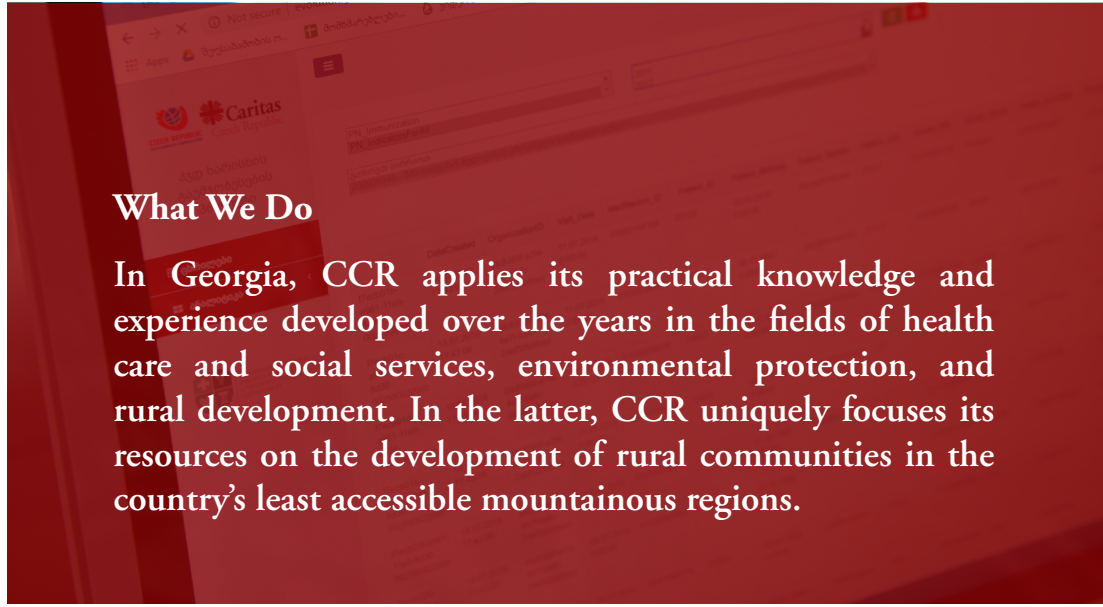
CARITAS CZECH REPUBLIC IN GEORGIA

Who We Are

Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) is a non-governmental organization providing development assistance to the Georgian population. It aims to provide for better health, greater social inclusion, strengthened communities and rural development, and for improved environmental protection.

CCR has been providing assistance to Georgia since 2008 in response to the needs caused by the conflict with Russia and the influx of internally displaced persons. In 2015, CCR opened its permanent country office based in Tbilisi and in 2017 its field office in Khulo, Upper Adjara. During the years, it has implemented several dozen projects concentrating on health and social care, rural development and environmental protection.

The relatively small size of its team in Georgia enables CCR to provide demonstrable value for money within each of its actions, often by bringing in experts from the Czech Republic to work alongside Georgian specialists to identify local solutions to development problems. CCR ensures a high level of accountability towards its multiple donors and numerous partners. It runs its operations based on principles of transparency and efficiency.



What We Do

In Georgia, CCR applies its practical knowledge and experience developed over the years in the fields of health care and social services, environmental protection, and rural development. In the latter, CCR uniquely focuses its resources on the development of rural communities in the country's least accessible mountainous regions.

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

This is the flagship field of CCR's expertise in Georgia. Together with local as well as international experts, the CCR team has provided systemic solutions in several areas of health care and social services in close collaboration with the government and its agencies, as well as with numerous partners.

CCR assists the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoIDPLHSA) in the development of relevant health and social policies aimed at primary health care improvement, the establishment of long-term care for children with severe disabilities, and providing quality services for children with autism spectrum disorder. For 10 years already CCR's team has also been educating the general population and healthcare professionals in cancer prevention and early cancer detection, human rights in healthcare.



Strengthening of Primary Health Care System

CCR has been supporting Georgia's efforts to reform its primary health care (PHC) system since 2017, when it started to work on the development of health services' quality assessment tools and related IT solutions for PHC providers. In 2020, CCR launched the second phase of its intervention, which will lead to even larger-scale changes in the PHC sector. In particular, a comprehensive standardized information system and a countrywide electronic medical record for PHC will be created to help primary health care professionals work through uniform, national high-quality standards. The quality management tools will be introduced in 46 medical facilities in Tbilisi and the Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions. Furthermore, the qualification standards and requirements for PHC staff will be updated and a lifelong medical education system of primary healthcare will be established.



Rights of People with Disabilities

CCR looks to protect the rights of people with disabilities. It works to facilitate systemic changes and promotes the establishment of a social model of disability through building the capacity of health care professionals and integrating disability and healthcare issue in the educational programs for health and social care professionals. In partnership with MoIDPLHSA, CCR is also developing an operations framework and relevant services at the state level.

With the goal of enhancing long-term and palliative care (LTC) for children with severe disabilities, CCR works with the country's leading experts to introduce national standards of such services. The project team is developing a legal framework for LTC (concept papers, operational standards, review of relevant legislation, and licensing conditions) and building the capacity of professional staff to run the newly-constructed children's LTC unit at the Zhvania Children's Hospital at Tbilisi State Medical University.

CCR also facilitates systemic changes in the field of autism through supporting the government of Georgia and people with autism spectrum disorder in the introduction of national protocol and standards and in the development / improvement of services for children with autism spectrum disorder. The project is focusing on increasing of capacities of service providers and primary health care professionals in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of autism. CCR advocates for the introduction of municipal autism programs to improve the accessibility to rehabilitation services in the regions and promotes inclusive education at pre-school settings.

In addition, CCR's interventions focus on the creation of a national system of adult alternative care based on the individual needs of beneficiaries. It aims in particular at deinstitutionalizing two large boarding homes for people with disabilities in Martkofi and Dusheti and creation of relevant family-style housing and related individualized services for their beneficiaries with the purpose to promote their independent living and inclusion into the society.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

For the past 10 years, CCR has been working on capacity building among primary health care professionals and raising public awareness about cancer prevention and early detection. Within its ongoing interventions, the CCR team is working on promoting geographic accessibility to national cancer screening programs (breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer) for the population of the Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti region, including the population of Abkhazia. To achieve this aim, a screening center was built in Zugdidi and equipped with the support of the Czech Development Agency. With the opening the Screening Center in October 2019, the targeted population got access to the National Screening Program of Georgia, and as a result, each year 1,000 women will undergo cervical and breast screening examinations, and 800 men and women will be screened for colorectal cancer. The same number of men will receive prostate cancer examinations.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As around 40% of Georgia's population live in rural areas dependent on subsistence agriculture, sustainable rural development and environmental protection plays an important role in the country's long-term socio-economic progress. CCR's goal is therefore to support the development of climate-smart agricultural practices and alternative income-generating activities, and to enable efficient management of natural resources and waste. CCR is a firm proponent of applying the EU's LEADER approach in this field with the aim of enlisting the energy and resources of the public, private and civil sectors to contribute to the rural development process.