

# Caritas Czech Republic

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Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) started its development activities in Georgia in 2008 as a reaction to the needs caused by the conflict and the influx of internally displaced persons. Since the launch of its country program, CCR projects were implemented mainly through local partner organizations. In 2014, after years of experience, it was concluded that establishment of a country office was a natural step in assuring the delivery of quality, timely and need-based development interventions to the Georgian population.

Since then, the professional capacity of CCR has been gradually developed to focus not only on health and social care, which are the “flagships” of CCR interventions in the country, but also on agriculture, rural development and natural resource management.



## Health and Social care

Improving the living conditions of marginalized people and vulnerable groups has always been in the hearth of Caritas work. Because of that, CCR strives to ameliorate the level of health and social care in Georgia working with state institutions, municipalities, universities, local NGOs, and with service providers.



Since the beginning of its interventions in Georgia, CCR has implemented around 15 projects in the fields of oncology, autism spectrum disorder, long-term and palliative care, and primary health care. As a result of CCR work, the Zugdidi Cancer Screening Center was opened, emergency service provisions began in the Tusheti mountains, and the accessibility to health and social care for the disabled improved.

In its development efforts, CCR works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoIDPLHSA), to which CCR provides support in reforming health and social sectors through the development of relevant policies and standards.

Current CCR projects aim at improving the quality of the primary healthcare system, increasing accessibility to national cancer screening programs in western Georgia, establishing long-term care services for children with severe disabilities, and providing quality services for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Going forward, CCR will continue to support the enhancement of Georgia's health and social care system through the improvement of the legal framework, creation of standards, introduction of new training schemes and tools, and through institutional development.

## Rural Development and Environmental Protection

As around 40% of Georgia's population live in rural areas with dependency on subsistence form of agriculture, sustainable rural development and natural resource management plays an important role in the country's long-term socio-economic progress. The goal of CCR in this direction is to support the development of climate-smart agricultural practices and alternative income-generating activities and to enable efficient management of natural resources and waste.



Since the beginning of its programming in the country, CCR has implemented seven projects in the above-mentioned direction, targeting predominantly the population of the mountainous rural areas. Specifically, CCR supported livelihood development, including the cultivation of crops, processing wool, and supporting tourism in the Tusheti mountains; development of small farmers' cooperatives in the Adjara mountains; and the development of a waste management plan for the Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area.

Moreover, within the EU-funded ENPARD programme, CCR has been promoting rural development of the Upper Adjara's Khulo



Municipality through grant provision, training and technical support to local farmers, guest-house operators and food producers.

In its development efforts, which have been funded by the Czech Development Agency, UNDP Challenge Fund and EU's ENPARD programme, CCR works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, as well as with municipalities, local NGOs and individual beneficiaries.



In the years ahead, CCR will continue to support sustainable rural development and management of natural resources and waste through knowledge and technology transfer, sharing of good practices, creating and implementing strategic documents and providing training.