

Way to Home: Development of Adult Alternative Social Services in Georgia



KEY FACTS

Project financed by
the Czech Development Agency,
with a total budget of
825 400 €

Project Duration:
June, 2020 –
December, 2023

Project Goal: The aim of the project is to develop adult alternative social services based on the individual needs of the beneficiaries in Georgia.



The project is initiated by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the Agency for State Care and Assistance for the Victims of Human Trafficking.





Relevance of the Topic

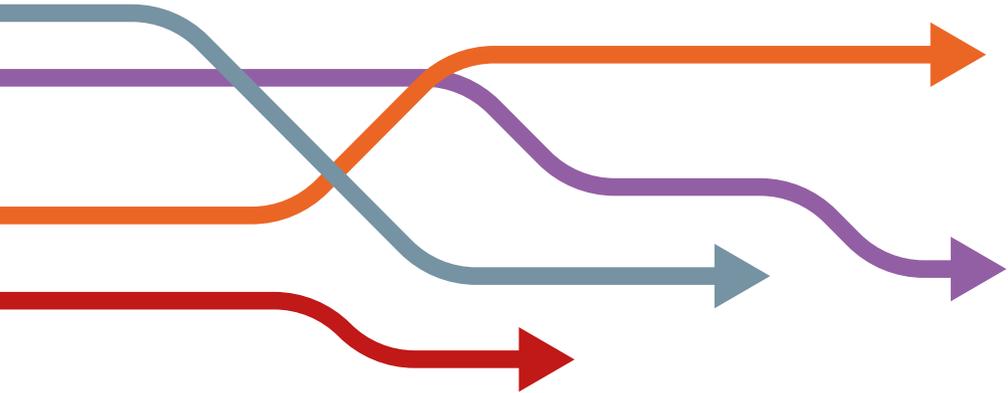
Individuals with chronic physical or mental conditions should be fully involved in public life and enjoy life like others. Although Georgia acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in 2014 and significant steps have been taken to implement the Convention, there is still a long way to move forward to fully realize the rights of persons with disabilities. This requires greater public preparedness, as well as establishment of appropriate support systems that will promote the independent life of the persons with disabilities and respect, protect and realize their rights.

The Project, called **“Way to Home: Establishment of Adult Alternative Social Services in Georgia”** implemented by Caritas Czech Republic serves this issue, with the aim to guide sustainable deinstitutionalisation process in the country and to promote the development of relevant alternative care services.

The project focuses on creating a sound policy environment for sustainability of deinstitutionalization based on the prevention of institutionalization and promoting the creation of needed services. Specifically, the project is focusing on the process of deinstitutionalization of **two large residential facilities for persons with disabilities (PwD) in Martkopi and Dusheti.**



The aim will be achieved through the development and implementation of complex strategic approaches, based on human rights.



Direction I: Development of the strategy and action plan to promote deinstitutionalization and independent living for the Ministry of IDPs LHSAG

Direction II: Creation of the Supportive Alternative Care Services for Deinstitutionalization Process

Direction III: Cooperation with Local Self-Governments

Direction IV: Awareness Raising





Direction I

Development of the strategy and action plan to promote deinstitutionalization and independent living for the Ministry of IDPsLHSAG, which aims at supporting the effective and sustainable implementation of the deinstitutionalization process throughout the country and promoting independent living of Persons with Disabilities. To achieve the aim, the strategy and the action plan had been drafted based on the complex directions: prevention of institutionalization (“gatekeeping” principle), development of supportive services oriented on the integration of the persons with disabilities in the society, raising awareness on disability rights. The documents had been reviewed by the working group established at MoDPLHSA composed of policymakers, public defenders, PwDs community and experts in the field. The mentioned documents will be approved by the Ministry.





Large institutions do not allow to practice an individual approach. There are up to 70 persons living together in such types of facilities which is detrimental to each of them. The risk of violence is also higher. Certainly, the systemic change is necessary since, unfortunately, there are persons with disabilities who do not have the opportunity to live in a family and need care similar to a family. This is the basic point.

*Mary Maglaperidze,
Director of the Agency for State Care
and Assistance for the (Statutory)
Victims of Human Trafficking.*



Direction II

Creation of the Supportive Alternative Care Services for Deinstitutionalization Process:

The purpose of these activities is to help persons with disabilities living in large institutions to start a new life and to offer them community-based care, alternative residential and other necessary services, which will envisage meeting the individual needs of each beneficiary/client.

Specifically, the project aims to deinstitutionalize two large boarding homes for persons with disabilities in Martkopi and Dusheti and to develop a family-style community-based services for beneficiaries that will be available in different municipalities.

The project benefits target **47 beneficiaries of Dusheti housing and 68 beneficiaries of Martkopi**, as well as **115 employees of care houses**.



To achieve the goal, the following will be implemented:

- **Study of needs and interests of the beneficiaries:** The changes will be based on the individual needs and interests of the beneficiaries, which have been studied and evaluated for one year.



- **Sharing the Czech experience:** An important part of the project is represented by Czech experts: Martin Heitzel, Dana Sislova and Petr Matuska, who share online with the project staff on the deinstitutionalization of the Czech Republic's experience throughout the year. It is very important to consider sharing the best international practices in the deinstitutionalization process.



- **Creation/update of normative framework:** The framework documentation will be developed for the organization of new community-based family-style services for adults: service standard, quality management and monitoring system, organizational regulations, etc.





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Years ago, due to my son's condition, I realized that I had to think about his future in order to enable him to live without my assistance duly and with dignity. It is important that people with any needs stay in the community, just like other people. This is a modern, proper and correct approach.

*Maia Shishniashvili,
founder of the organization Hand in Hand supporting social inclusion,
Chairman of the Board of the Coalition of Parents' Organizations.*



Development of infrastructure for new services: 6 family-style community-based homes will be established in the frame of the project in Dusheti and other selected municipalities. Currently, 2 houses are under renovation process.



Service organization: The project also envisages training of staff for the establishment of new services, the process of preparing beneficiaries for transfer to new houses, which aims to provide the necessary conditions for beneficiaries to start independent living in a new environment.





Direction III

Cooperation with Local Self-Governments

The project also addresses a significant challenge related to the geographical accessibility to social services in the regions and cooperation with local governments in terms of community service development. This cooperation is effectively implemented in Dusheti Municipality, where small family-style community-based services will be established and public policy planning for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities will be improved.





Direction IV

Awareness Raising In order to create a favorable environment for beneficiaries and integrate them into society, the awareness-raising campaign is directed to community members, local policymakers and all stakeholders. This activity is an integral part of the project and aims to change the deep-rooted stigma and attitudes toward the persons with disabilities in society. It is necessary for the social environment to better understand the essence and importance of deinstitutionalization, as well as the rights and opportunities of people living in large institutions, to have their own homes in the community, to be fully integrated into society and to contribute to public life.



For Caritas Czech Republic, participating in the deinstitutionalization process is a very responsible and hard task, which implies a complex approach. Our project aims not only to support the state in the direction of deinstitutionalization and transform the lives of specific persons living in institutions, but also to create systemic foundations of prevention of institutionalization and it is also related to the social transformation as a whole and proper understanding of the issue and values by the public. It requires time, public readiness, change of attitude, a good understanding that all people have equal rights to be a full member of society, to enjoy equal public goods and also to contribute to the development of public life.

*Tamar Kurtanidze,
Projects Manager of Caritas Czech Republic.*





Raising awareness about persons with disabilities and adequate support for a dignified life is crucial to make "the way to home" the one-way movement only.

**We all need to remember that every human being
deserves a dignified and good life.**

**Let's create an environment
in which every person is equal!**





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