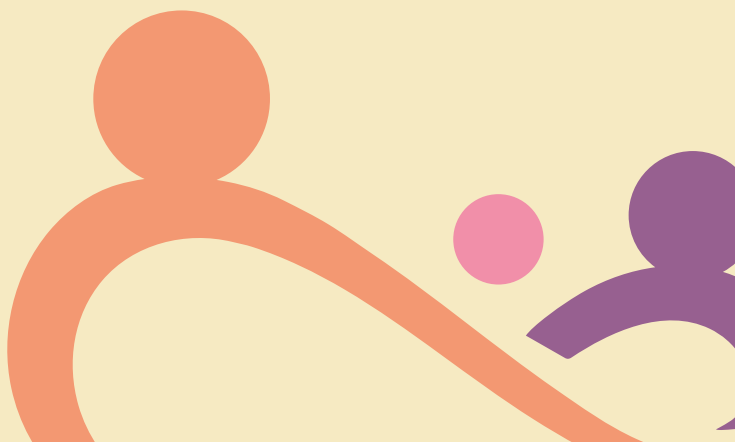


# Establishment of Children's Long-Term and Palliative Care Services in Georgia



# KEY FACTS

## Project Goal

The project is aimed to create a new service for children with severe and profound disabilities under state care, focusing on their social and medical needs, providing a family-style lifelong caring environment and improving their quality of life as far as possible.

## Project Innovativeness

The project promotes the development of a conceptually new type of service for children with severe disabilities which differs substantially from common medical approaches and is based on holistic view – understanding a person from biopsychosocial perspective.



## Project Implementers and Partners

The project was implemented within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the Czech Development Agency, based on the cooperation between Caritas Czech Republic and Tbilisi State Medical University Zhvania Academic Pediatric Clinic.

**The project was funded by the Czech Development Agency with a total budget of 327 759 Euros.**

## Significant Contribution of the Project



The project has made a significant contribution to the process of deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities and the implementation of the state policy on the welfare of children. The project responded to the main principles of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) on the independent living and the principles of UNICEF, according to which a child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment has the right to special protection and assistance from the state, and the state has an obligation to ensure care of such children in compliance with the national legislation (UNICEF, Article 20),

Tamar Kurtanidze,  
Projects Manager, Caritas Czech Republic

## Architectural Design and Project

Within the framework of the project, the Tbilisi State Medical University completed construction of a new building in 2021 on the territory of Zhvania Clinic, to locate a long-term child care (LTC) unit "Medical-Social Home" on the fifth floor. The service is intended for the beneficiaries of the infant's orphanage under the state care. With the support of the Czech Development Agency, an architectural design and project of the building were prepared. Caritas Czech Republic provided recommendations on the technical specifications of the mentioned LTC unit.

# PROJECT RESULTS BY YEARS (2017-2019)

## Legislative Changes and Standardization (2019)

A package of regulatory documents required to ensure the institutional arrangement and quality of service of the long-term care system has been prepared, namely:

1. Concept document of long-term child care and relevant technical regulations/standard for the operation of a long-term child care service (approved in accordance with the amendments to the law).
2. Recommendations on legislative changes, on the basis of which an amendment was made to the Law of Georgia on Health Care (25/02/2019).

## Study Tour (2018)

In 2018, a study tour was organized for the representatives of the Ministry and the project consultants to introduce to them the long-term child care and palliative care system under operation in the Czech Republic. During the visits, meetings were held at the Czech Ministry of Health and the long-term care and palliative care centers in various cities.

”

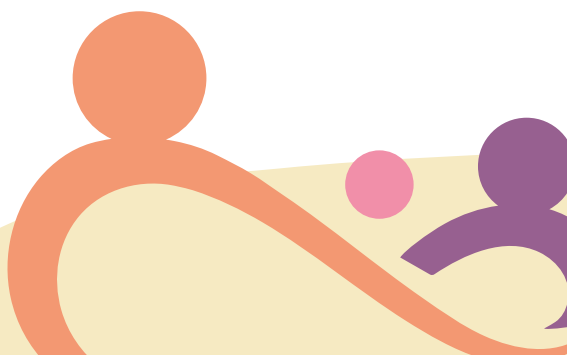
I hope that the children with disabilities under state care will feel more at home through this new service than within the existing large institution, and that there will be more opportunities and a proper environment for them to develop. It is a great honor for Caritas Czech Republic to participate in this initiative and we are pleased to have contributed to improving the quality of life for children with disabilities.

Jan Blinka,  
Head of the Caritas Czech Republic Mission in Georgia

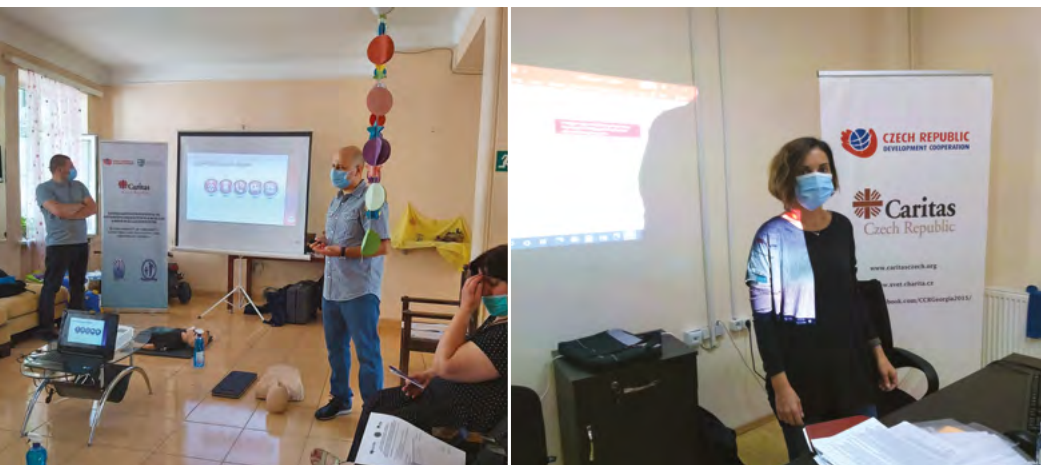
## A Guidebook and Training Course on Pediatric Long-Term Care (2019 - 2021)

In order to ensure the development of human resources in the field, following activities were carried out:

- A guidebook on “Pediatric Long-Term Care Issues” was prepared for a multidisciplinary team, working in a long-term childcare system.
- 40 Pediatric Nursing Protocols were prepared, updated and integrated into the above guidebook.
- A relevant training course on pediatric long-term care issues, based on biopsychosocial model and Multi-disciplinary team involvement during the service delivery process, was created.
- A new service staff has been trained based on the training course, who will start working in the long-term child care department starting from 2022.

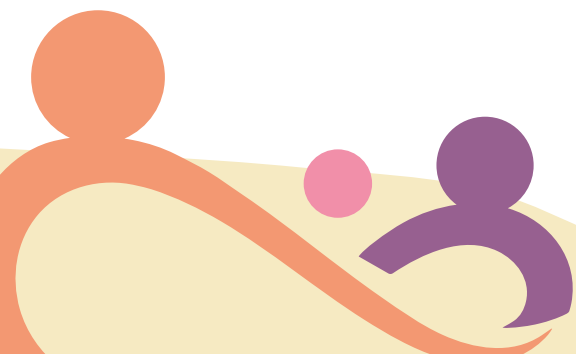


## Training for Infant's Orphanage Staff



A long-term training course "Child-centered care" was prepared and conducted for the staff of the infant's orphanage, which aims to facilitate the alternative service to the beneficiaries of the orphanage – transfer of beneficiaries to a family-type service through the development of human resources.

In total **64 staff members** were trained.



# CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION – ACCREDITED TRAINING COURSE FOR DOCTORS 2019-2020

## A Guide and Training Course – Communication Standards for healthcare Facilities



- Communication standards for healthcare facilities (doctor-patient communication specifics, professional ethics and law) and a relevant guidebook were prepared. The textbook was presented to TSMU and is used as supplementary material within a relevant study course for undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- A two-day training course on the respective topic was created and accredited by the relevant council of the Ministry of Health. The training course was delivered to medical practitioners in Tbilisi and the regions, to introduce the above communication standards. A total of **200 doctors** in various specialties were trained.



## Preparation of National Standards/Protocols

The project partner The Georgian Respiratory Association prepared state standards on the management of clinical conditions, which were approved by the relevant order of the Minister of Health in December 2019. The protocols are available at the Ministry's website:

- Diagnosis, prevention and management of ventilator associated pneumonia in children
- Diagnosis, prevention and management of hospital associated pneumonia in children



In order to implement the above protocols, a two-day training course was conducted for medical staff working in hospitals of Tbilisi and the regions (Zugdidi, Batumi, Kutaisi, Telavi, Borjomi, Gori, Rustavi, Ozurgeti, Ambrolauri). The course is accredited by the relevant council of the Ministry of Health. A total of **300 doctors** were trained in Tbilisi and the regions.

In order to implement the new protocol approved by the Ministry of Health in June 2020 – "Diagnosis and Management of New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Infection (COVID-19) in Pediatric Patients", an additional two-day accredited training course was conducted for up to **200 pediatricians** in Tbilisi and the regions.

## Medical Equipment for Zhvania Pediatric Clinic



In April 2019 Caritas Czech Republic, with funding from the Czech Development Agency, purchased and donated medical equipment with the cost of **400 000 GEL** (pediatric artificial ventilators, patient's monitors, defibrillators, pulse oximeters, etc.) to the Zhvania Pediatric Clinic in order to help improve the quality of existing pediatric services in the hospital.



## Support to the Children's Hospice – Firefly World (2017-2019)

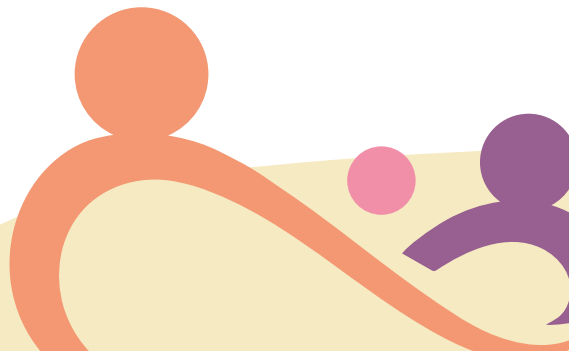


### First in Georgia: This cooperation with the hospice covered introduction of completely new service of Snoezelen MSE in the Children's hospice

- A Multi-sensory room (Snoezelen MSE) was arranged and equipped in the Children's hospice "Firefly World". The multi-sensory environment aims to alleviate the condition and help the hospice beneficiaries to improve quality of their daily life. Up to twenty beneficiaries receive the service each month.
- To ensure quality of the new service, training on operation of the sensory room has been delivered to the Hospice specialists (occupational therapist, psychologist) by a certified trainer from the Czech Republic – Renata Filatova.



- To improve professional qualification in the multi-sensory therapy, a study visit to the Czech Republic was held for the Hospice specialists in 2018.
- To develop a psycho-social service, the concept on social work in the hospice was developed in 2018 and a social worker joined the hospice team, providing psycho-social assistance to the hospice beneficiaries.





## **CARITAS CZECH REPUBLIC IN GEORGIA**

📍 8 Kartozia st. IV Building, I Entrance, IX Floor, Apt 24, 0177 Tbilisi, Georgia

☎ (+995) 032 222 02 14

✉ [ccrg@caritas.cz](mailto:ccrg@caritas.cz)

🌐 [georgia.charita.cz](http://georgia.charita.cz)

📘 [www.facebook.com/CCRGeorgia2015](https://www.facebook.com/CCRGeorgia2015)