

2010. DONORS OF THE YEAR



Project:
**SUPPORT TO
TASO FOUNDATION
IN HER LONG-TERM ACTIVISM**



GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT
(through Open Society Georgia Foundation)



Project:
**WOMEN FOR EQUALITY,
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
IN GEORGIA (WEPD)**



Project:
**EMPOWERMENT OF
INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND
CONFLICT AFFECTED WOMEN
FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**



SUPPORT TO TASO FOUNDATION IN HER LONG-TERM ACTIVISM

Support of Open Society Georgia Foundation is extremely important for maintaining and further developing of long-term work directions that are parts of the strategic plan of TF for years 2009-2011

GRANTING RURALLY BASED WOMEN’S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CENTERS

TF negotiated and consulted those of rural organizations/groups who participated in the competition conducted in 2009 – *Empowerment of Rural Women for the Social and Politically Important Activism*. Four Project proposals were improved, submitted again, and financed in 2010. In frames of two of supported projects, organizations *Rural Women for Human Rights* (Kakheti) and *Karaleti Women’s Solidarity Center* (Shida Kartli), act as community based crisis centers for responding to cases of domestic violence. In order to ensure coordinated response, both projects started with training of local police officers in national legislation on domestic violence and seminars for community representatives for getting solidarity support from local societies. Analysis of recorded cases of domestic violence and experience gained will be instrumental for the improvement of Georgian legislation on domestic violence. In 2010, KWSC became a member of Anti-Violence Network of Georgia.



Lia Shatakishvili, organization leader. Nikozi
ლია შატაკიშვილი, ორგანიზაციის ლიდერი, ნიკოზი

Within the frames of two more grants made, the capacities of women’s groups based in Chorvila village (Imereti) and Nikozi, a bordering village in the conflict zone, Shida Kartli, were developed and services for community representatives delivered.



Project booklet cover
პროექტის ბუკლეტის გვერდი



WOMEN AND PEACE

In December 2009, Leader of TF participated in the meeting of 10 Russian and 10 Georgian women peacemakers. *The Alliance of Russian and Georgian Women Peacemakers* was established and the action plan of the Alliance was developed at the meeting. Russian journalists, participants of the meeting organized the radio program on issues related to peace building which was broadcasted in the air of the *Radio Echo of Moscow*; an article on the impressions from the

meeting and necessity of peacemaking efforts of both Russian and Georgian societies was published in *Novaya Gazeta* (the only actually independent newspaper in Russia).

TF made a negotiation-based grant to a member of Alliance, *Georgian – Abkhazian Union Face to Face* for organizing a peace exhibition. From the Russian side, the project was co-organized by *Union of Women of Don* and co-financed by *Rosa Luxemburg Foundation*. On July 23, 2010, the photo exhibition **Apotheosis of the War by Victoria Ivleva-York**, famous Russian journalist, was opened in **Qarvasla**, one of the most prestigious exhibition spaces of Tbilisi allocated for this purpose free of charge. The exhibition is dedicated to victims of armed conflicts throughout the world and contains 42 photos taken in the years 1992-2005 in Tajikistan, Ruanda, Uganda, Afghanistan, Angola and Sudan.

The exhibition was the first event of cultural relationships between Russia and Georgia after the August 2008 war. The event was widely covered by Georgian media and warmly accepted by Georgian society. The opening of the exhibition was followed by a number of meetings between Georgian and Russian women peacemakers, media and NGO representatives. The project was followed by a visit of Georgian women peacemak-

ers, members of the Alliance, to Moscow where they were hosted by Russian women peacemakers; a number of meetings with Russian officials, State Duma members, media representatives were held (October 2010).

TF issued a travel grant for sharing international experience and raising qualification of a young Georgian researcher in the field of peacemaking. Tamta Tatarashvili, TF volunteer, participated in a seminar organized by European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) in Armenia.



WOMEN'S ORAL HISTORIES

Century in Interior, the 9th book of the *Women's Memory* series, containing narratives and photos from TF archive collected in the years 2003-2010, was prepared and published. The book content covers the period of time since the beginning of the XX century till now (the last interview was documented in November 2010). The idea of the book is clearly to depict the price women and children pay for the absurdity of political decisions made by others. The history of Georgia in the past 100 years is shown as narrated by rural women, minority women, women participants of WWII, women whose families have fallen victim to political repression, labor migrants, conflict affected and internally displaced women.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

We understand the necessity of breaking dependence on international funding and believe that the true step towards the success in local fundraising lies in restarting efforts for having a national legislation on philanthropy. This is the plan for the future we have already shared with women's NGOs, other civil society organizations, Gender Equality Council of Parliament of Georgia. Besides, we try to continue the experience of successful cooperation with local business organizations we had in 2008 and 2009.

Taso Foundation Report on Four Years of Activism in two, Georgian and English, languages, illustrated with photos from TF archive, addresses both Georgian society and community of international women's movement.

On 29 October, Taso Foundation received Anastasia Tumanishvili memorial award "ANASTASIA", established by Adult Education Association of Georgia. The ceremony was held at the exhibition hall of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.



WOMEN FOR EQUALITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA (WEPD)



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Starting from December 2009, UNIFEM, together with its partner organizations Taso Foundation and Women's Information Center, implements a 36-month project, "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia", with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The project works towards ensuring that, a) national policy and legislation are revised in line with CEDAW and UN SC Resolutions 1325 and 1820; b) national Institutions demonstrate commitment, capacity, and accountability in ensuring the rights of IDPs and conflict-affected women are in line with CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 and 1820 principles, especially in the context of privatization of the IDP shelters and c) IDP and conflict-affected women have increased resources, capacities, and voice to ensure their priorities are included in relevant policies, legislation, programs and budgets. The aim of the project is to support the efforts and strengthen the capacities of IDP and conflict-affected women's groups in 5 different location of their settlement: Gori, Rustavi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi and Tbilisi.

Taso Foundation joined the project in February 2010 and has the following main responsibilities: mobilization of IDPs/ conflict affected women for improvement of their economic conditions and involvement in social life; providing education in women's rights & local and international legislation for raising level of public request on social justice; creation the space for interaction with local government and support joint IDP/conflict affected community and local government initiatives (grant-giving).

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Communities of Internally Displaced and conflict affected were identified in 5 different regions of the country and, after conducting of number of project presentation meetings and interactions with members of communities, self help groups within the communities selected were formed. Nine community workers (CWs) were recruited for coaching the SHGs in their work for institutional development and improvement of economic status of group members/families and activism for the benefit of whole communities. In 2010, SHGs were formed in different months after the end of April. Therefore, the number of groups differs in different periods of implementation of this first stage of the project. We were first in Georgia to pilot the introduction of the social mobilization methodology of Indian origin which was implemented in Tajikistan and Kirgizstan earlier within the UNDP programs. Kirgiz experts, after conducting a training in social mobilization for representatives of all implementing organizations, visited the country again in July and trained/shared their experience with TF staff, CWs and all SHGs (on the spot) based in different geographic areas of Georgia.



Project participants, Tirdzisi Community
პროექტის მონაწილეები, ტირძისის თემი



Meeting with Kyrgyz experts in IDP settlement. Skra
შეხვედრა ყირგიზ ექსპერტებთან. დასახლება სკრა

The Georgian version of the methodology manual, developed at the initial stage of the project, was enriched with lessons learned through work and additional methodology material. SHGs are acting within respective communities as organized non-formal groups, following goals, objectives and regulations of the statutes they have developed themselves, making decisions independently and work for the implementation of decisions made for strengthening of group members and benefit of the whole community. TF supported SHGs in intensifying their income-generating activism and social participation, interaction with local state officials, civil society organizations acting in the region.

TF keep everyday communications with CWs and visit all groups at least once a month. Besides coaching and trainings on organizational issues delivered by CWs and consulting provided by TF staff, 3 schools (Karaleti, Chakvi, Tbilisi) on CEDAW, principles of democracy, UN SCR 1325, 1820, national legislation and guiding international principles on IDPs were organized for members of SHGs, CWs and local government representatives. TF staff members involved in Project implementation learned a lot themselves through frequent meetings with the SHGs. Together with CWs, members of SHGs work on documenting cases of unsolved problems of internally displaced individuals/communities for maximizing the efficiency of responding to WRs/HRs violations. The cases are considered at One Window Principle Meetings organized by Women's Information Center once every month in different locations of targeted regions. Besides, for advocate and ensuring implementation of rights of IDP, SHGs interact with lawyers of 5 legal clinics organized within WEPD project in administrative centers of every region targeted. Representatives of SHGs participated in two 5-day creativity workshops conducted by the leaders of the organization ActiveArt. As a result of the workshops a large quilt with the thematic of UN SCR 1325 was created: over 30 workshop participants expressed the impressions, feelings and will for peace of IDP and conflict affected women.



Presentation of the Quilt, Gori
სამშვიდობო პანოს პრეზენტაცია გორში



Recommendations for NAP on 1325 implementation. Tergvisi village
რეკომენდაციები 1325-ის განსახორციელებლად საქართველოში. თერგვისი

On May 10, SHGs based in the villages of Karaleti community hosted Ms Ines Alberdi, UNIFEM Executive Director, together with Ms Zina Mounla, Chief UNIFEM CEE/CIS Session, Ms Damira Sartbaeva, UNIFEM CIS Regional Office Director and Mr. Jon Ramberg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway.

Each of SHGs is aware of development perspectives, long-term objectives and importance of the community mobilization process for IDP/conflict affected communities as well as for bottom up democracy building in the country.



CEDAW School. Chakvi ქალთა უფლებების სკოლა, ჩაკვი

GRANT-GIVING



In the office of ENGURI SHG. Koki village. Samegrelo ვაგუფის „ენგური“ ოფისში. კოკი, სამეგრელო

For supporting exemplary joint local-government - community initiatives reflecting strategic gender needs of IDP and conflict-affected women, a competition titled *Social and Economic Development of the Communities of Internally Displaced and Conflict Affected* was announced at the beginning October, when most of the groups reached the level of institutional development called “Sustainable SHG”. CWs received consultations for better understanding objectives and procedures of the competition process, requirements of competition conditions and, in a month period of proposal development, all SHGs received consultations on the spot. Competition documents/requirements were

developed so to allow the *Grant Review Committee* to evaluate both: quality of the proposal and the scope of the work fulfilled by the applicant SHG before its participation in the competition.

A total of 26 proposals of 27 SHGs (among 29 SHGs functioning) were submitted from all locations of SHG settlements. Two SHGs located in Tergvisi village of Shida Kartly Region submitted a joint proposal. Eleven projects were selected by the *Grant Review Committee* for supporting in WEPD frames. Executive Board of TF considered the proposals as well and made a decision on funding 10 more projects from the budget of General Support grant to TF (Donor: Open Society Foundations).



Project participants. Kutaisi პროექტის მონაწილეები. კუთაისი

Travels to all targeted communities were undertaken for signing grant contracts and consulting SHGs/grantees on issues of financial and narrative reporting.

The first cycle of grant monitoring was undertaken at the end of 2010, and needs of professional trainings for raising efficiency of grants made were identified. The number of SHGs has significantly increased after the grantmaking within the WEPD project.

EMPOWERMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND CONFLICT AFFECTED WOMEN FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The project is designed for raising awareness of IDPs and conflict affected women and contribution to their activism in public domain.

As Project Director and Trainer, Tamta Tatarashvili started working on the project implementation with the elaboration of the module for one-day training. The module included the following:



Training participants. Anaklia village. Samegrelo ტრენინგის მონაწილეები. ანაკლია, სამეგრელო

1. Brief history of Women's Suffrage Movement in the Great Britain and USA. Women's past and current representation in the legislative institutions of independent Georgia. The soviet past and its unfavorable heritage for political and civil mobilization of women. Local and international legislations that maintain political rights for women (CEDAW; Beijing Platform for Action; The law of Georgia on gender equality).
2. General scheme of legislative recruitment process and the gender specific obstacles women are facing passing through this process.
3. Role of a political party in the women's political advancement and special measures that should be taken in order to achieve women's equal participation at the decision making level.
4. Familiarization with different "quota" practices from four regions – Scandinavian countries, Great Britain, France and Germany.
5. Positive results of women's active participation in politics.

TF staff members involved in WEPD project provided the trainer with all necessary information about the groups and individuals for maximizing the efficiency of training sessions. Community workers were supportive in organizing the trainings on the spot. Trainings conducted in the format of group meetings were held in 10 different locations of SHGs' residence.

Feedback from the participants revealed that meetings of this type are extremely productive in terms of the empowerment and encouragement of IDP/CA women so that they may be able to comprehend the necessity of their activism in the implementation of policies and reforms that are directly linked to their needs and welfare. It is crucial to make the audience aware of the links between women's advancement in politics and the task of democratization.

GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT FROM OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

GRANT-GIVING TO SHGS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND CONFLICT AFFECTED WOMEN

Grant Fund of the project *Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia* was co-financed within the frames of this work direction. The 10 self help groups of IDP/CA women prepared for participation in public domain with using the social mobilization methodology were granted for their income-generating (with component of social responsibility) and socially important activism.

WOMEN'S ORAL HISTORY

Archives of Women's Memory Center of TF are continuously replenished. In 2010, on the basis of negotiation, Dr Tamar Sharabidze was granted for conduction the OH research on female poets' opinion on ongoing social, political and economic processes.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND MEDIA

NGO *GenderMediaCausacus*, a network of female journalists, is implementing a years-long project, *Women's Dialogue*.

Issues 11 & 12 were published and widely distributed in Georgia and in the countries of Central Asia, South Caucasus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova etc.



WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING

Photo Exhibition *Women of Georgia*

Frequent field visits, meetings with hundreds of internally displaced and conflict affected women, rural, ethnic minority women, listening to their stories and knowing about their fights for survival enabled us to create a photo exhibition that, as we believe, will greatly contribute to raising public awareness which is important in the process of lobbying the national action plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the initiatives for improvement of the national legislation on internally displaced.



We, together with women mobilized as self help groups of IDPs and conflict affected in different regions of the country, are involved in the process of drafting both those documents, works on which are currently underway within the frames of the project *Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia*.

We selected and printed 44 photos for mobile photo exhibition, each photo being provided with explanatory text or citation from the narrative of a conflict affected woman.

Phuphuli Todua. Photo from the exhibition
ფუფული თოდუა. ფოტოგრაფია



The first opening of the exhibition took place 8 March 2011 at official presentation of UN **Women** in Tbilisi.

ARCHIVING VIDEO MATERIAL FOR DOCUMENTARY PRODUCING

In parallel with the implementation of the project WEPD and other, earlier projects in Shida Kartli conflict zone, we voluntarily video record the status of conflict affected, their opinions, our work, events etc. These materials are archived and will be used in the future for the creation a documentary on the status of displaced women and their potential for worthy participation in the social and political life of the country.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS/EVENTS IN 2010:

- UNDP Workshop for Gender Consultation for the 2010 Human Development Report; Istanbul, January;
- Conference of the Foundations for Peace Network “The Role of Philanthropy in Peace Building Efforts to Tackle Structural Injustice in South Asia”, co-organized by Dalit Foundation; Work meeting of Foundations for Prace Network. India, New Delhi. February;
- INWF 7th Biennial Sharing and Learning Meeting in Ulaanbaatar. May;
- IGPN Board meeting, Istanbul, September;
- The meeting Resource Mobilization for Women’s Rights Organizations and Movements in the SEE/CEE/CIS Region organized by AWID & INWF, co-organized by Women’s Fund in Georgia. Tbilisi, October;
- Regional Meeting of Experts in Social Mobilization, organized by UNIFEM CIS Regional Office, Istanbul, November;
- IGPN Strategic Planning Workshop & General Assembly; Istanbul, December.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS MADE IN 2010: 61 684 USD

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