



DIGEST

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NEW INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTRY – IDP RECEPTION DAYS

David Darakhvelidze, the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia has continued focusing on personal communication with IDPs and viewing IDPs reception days as an important feedback instrument. This has allowed increase in efficiency of the ministry's work and the speed with which it reacts and settles specific problems. Once a week the reception hours are hosted by the Minister himself, the rest of the days are led by the deputy ministers. The reception days last from 14:00 to 19:00 throughout the week. The IDP population can get registered to reception days through the Hot Line. The Minister and his deputies have met over 4,000 IDPs up to this day.

As a result of the reception meetings, the problems of IDPs have been effectively addressed; Nona



Former accommodation of an IDP from Abkhazia

Bendeliani, has been IDP for 20 years and without stable accommodation. After leaving Abkhazia, she together with her son lived with their acquaintances. Their last shelter was 8 m²- carcasses like room, with a concrete floor. This room served them as a kitchen, bathroom, and performed other functions too. Besides, according to Mrs. Nona, the ceiling was unable to prevent leaking of rain and they used to spend the whole winter in moisture. Through personal conversation with the minister, Ms Bendeliani's problem was resolved quickly as the minister offered her a flat in Tetrtskaro. In a few days, the ministry representatives themselves took the lady and her family to Tetrtskaro and handed a key of the flat. In addition, the ministry handed over to her furniture and belongings for her new house.

Iza Kondjarni, an IDP from Abkhazia has been living in

Current accommodation of an IDP from Abkhazia



hardship for many years, unable to cover tuition fees for her child who faced suspension from studies in the high educational institutions in Tbilisi. This was a reason why Mrs. Iza applied to the minister with the kind request to help. The Ministry petitioned the relevant higher educational institution asking to allow admittance to the exams by Ms Kondjaria's daughter who later passed the exams successfully.



Current accommodation



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THE COMMISSION WITHIN MRA TO WORK OUT THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LAW OF GEORGIA ON IDPS

The amendments to the Law of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons has been Initiated in the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.

In accordance with the Order of the Minister #164, in December 2012 the commission was created within the MRA, which will be working on the legislative issues on IDPs as well as other issues that fall under the MRA competence. Currently, the commission is working on the draft amendments and changes to the Law of Georgia on IDPs. This initiative was preconditioned

by the fact that there have been a numbers of recommendations from the side of the international and local NGOs and the civil society, primarily the representatives of IDP community.

The above-mentioned commission consists of the representatives of the MRA Legal Department and the IDP Department, the representatives of

international organizations such as: UNHCR, NRC, DRC etc, also national NGOs and the Ombudsman's Office.

The changes will be reflected on the structure of the law and a number of provisions. The initial draft law will be made available for the public and in order to ensure the transparency of the process, it will work out the method how to involve the civil sector and the IDP community into the law-making process and get some recommendations and suggestions from their side. After receiving the recommendations, the commission



will analyze and will correspondingly incorporate them into the draft law on IDPs.

INTERIM COMMISSION WITHIN MRA TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF IDPS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

For the purpose of assessing the needs of the IDPs in private sector

the interim Commission was created within the MRA in accordance with the Order #170 of 28 Dec, 2012.

Based on the above-mentioned order, the Commission is composed of the representatives of local and international non-governmental organizations working on the IDP issues.

The purpose of the commission is to study the conditions and the needs of IDPs in private sector, to identify relevant conclusions and recommendations for the durable, fair and transparent solution of the housing

problems that the IDPs in private accommodations face. Also, the commission will be working on identifying the methodology of offering the IDPs in private sector housing solutions. In addition to that, based on the findings of the needs assessment, the commission work will contribute to the design and implementation of effective measures in providing durable solution to IDPs.

In case of necessity, the commission will elaborate and propose to the Minister the draft changes to the "Action Plan of 2012-2014 on Implementing the State Strategy on IDPs" approved by the Decree #1162 of June 13, 2012.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS

In January and February of 2013 the Minister held intensive meetings with international partner organizations and diplomatic corps. The meetings took place with EU, UNHCR, WB, USAID, EC delegation, KFW, SIDA, DRC and others. In addition, the meetings were held with Diplomatic corps, ambassadors of Czech, German and Lithuanian Republics who visited the Ministry.



The aim of the meetings was the review of ongoing and scheduled activities of organizations in the field of IDPs' assistance. Besides, the Minister and other ministry representatives informed the invited organizations of IDPs'

existing problems and needs. The Minister talked about the 4 Year Program, envisaging provision of IDPs with major needs and durable solutions to their problems.

The organizations, in turn, expressed a full readiness to continue the work in the direction of IDPs' assistance and cooperation. According to the recommendation of the Minister, bulk of donor funds will be directed at the provision of IDPs with accommodation and for identifying their livelihood opportunities. At the meeting it became clear that, thanks to the doubling of ministry's budget and donor support, the government will be able to effectively implement



actions tailored for IDPs. As the existing needs are quite copious, it is necessary to continue exploring additional resources. Thus, the Ministry will carry on the negotiations and cooperation with donor and partner organizations for the purpose of effective implementation of programs and resources for solving IDPs problems.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECIDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Since 2011, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) and the Municipal Development Fund (MDF), has been implementing a municipal infrastructure development programme supported by the European Union under the programme “Special Measure for Support to Georgia’s IDPs Action Plan: 2009 (Part III)”. The programme aims at the development of infrastructure in communities where IDPs are living. Technical assistance for the programme is



Rehabilitated road in Tserovani IDP settlement. Mtskheta Municipality

provided by ACF International.

Twenty-seven infrastructure projects were selected in Samegrelo, Imereti, Shida Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions to support the improvement of water supplies, road access, drainage, sanitation and kindergarten services. Many of these projects have now been completed or are in the last stage of construction.

Although centrally managed the projects were identified by local authorities, with the direct involvement of community members who participated in a community consultation process. This process allowed people to discuss and inform the authorities on their local needs, either at community meetings or through answering questionnaires provided by the local authorities

“It is not every day that we are asked to participate in decision-making on vital infrastructure issues” says Mamuka, 27, resident of Kareli. “I am proud that as a result of this process we now have high quality road not only for the IDP population, but also for the rest of the community.”

To assist this consultative and participatory approach, ACF supported the local authority representatives with training and, on occasion, the facilitation of meetings.

As of February 2013 the following projects have been finalized:

- Water projects in: Poti, Terjola, Sachkhere, Senaki, Tskhaltubo, Khoni, Jvari, Khobi, Chiatura.
- Road and drainage projects in: Mtskheta, Tianeti, Kareli, Vani, Martvili, Bagdati.

Upon the conclusion of certain projects, the MRDI, MRA, ACF International, European Union and local authorities are planning to host community events to celebrate the completion of the works.



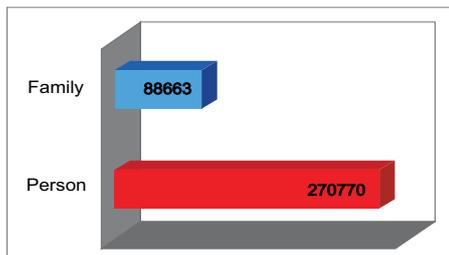
TARGETED INITIATIVE FOR GEORGIA

The implementation of the Targeted Initiative for Georgia “Support reintegration of Georgian returning migrants and the implementation of EU – Georgia readmission agreement,” a project supported by the European Union, has officially started on 16 December 2010. The project joins 16 institutions from 9 EU countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden) and IOM, which committed themselves to support the development processes in the area of migration ongoing in Georgia. Using the structure of the project relevant Georgian authorities will be provided with expertise and knowledge available in project implementing partner countries. The project will be implemented over a period of 3 years.

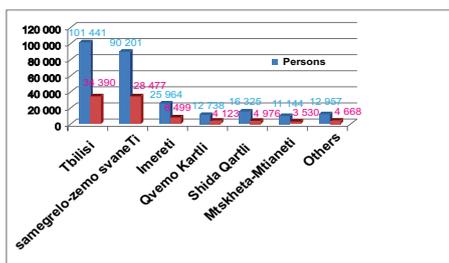




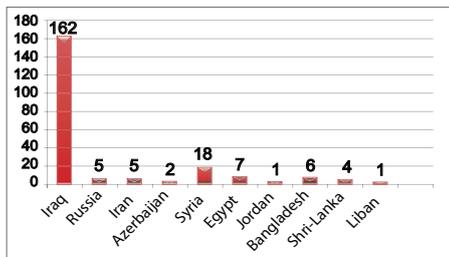
Total number of registered IDP families - 88,663 (270,770 IDP individual persons)



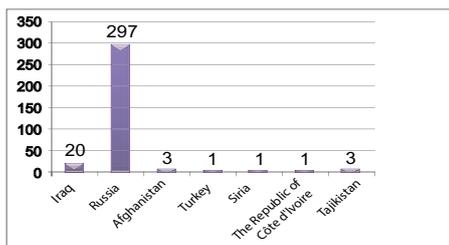
Number of registered IDPs according to regions



Statistics of asylum seekers according to the place of origin, 2013. Overall - 211 persons



Statistics of refugees and humanitarian status holders according to the place of origin. Overall - 326 persons



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question: Will it be possible to provide IDPs in private sector with accommodation spaces?

Answer: IDPs will be provided with durable housing in different regions of Georgia. The process of rehabilitation of state-owned and unused buildings and the construction of new block houses will be started. IDP can apply and provide us with the information about which region is more suitable for living. If the rehabilitation or construction process of is completed in the settlements indicated by the IDPs, they will be provided with accommodation based on their need and the degree of their social and living conditions.

Question: How is it possible for IDPs to meet the MRA's officials during the reception hours?

Answer: The Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, David Darakhvelidze, Deputy Ministers and IDP department introduced reception hours for IDPs.

The Minister – David Darakhvelidze meets IDPs on Tuesday from 14:00 to 19:00; Deputy Minister Gogi Patsatsia meets IDPs on Wednesday from 14:00 to 19:00, Deputy Ministers Mamuka Tsofniasvili and Merab Menabde meet IDPs on Thursday from 14:00 to 19:00. Head of IDPs issues department Murad Ablotia meets IDPs on Friday from 14:00 to 19:00; Reception meetings can be appointed through the hot line on the following phone numbers:

- 243 11 00 or 14-07 – From Tbilisi;
- (032) 243 11 00 – From Mobile phone;
- (032) 243 11 00 – From the regions;
- Hot line is available on every working day per week from 10:00 to 19:00

Question: What is the procedure for IDP status determination?

Answer: According to the Law

of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons, “internally displaced person (IDP) is the citizen of Georgia or stateless person permanently residing in Georgia, who was forced to leave the place of his/her habitual residence and was displaced (within the territory of Georgia) as a result of threat to his/her or his/her family member’s life, health or freedom due to the aggression of the foreign country, internal conflicts or massive violation of human rights, or in the cases of circumstances prescribed by the paragraph 11 of Article 2 of this law.”

In case an IDP had to leave his/her habitual residence according to the reasons enlisted in the article 1 of this Law, he/she should submit the application for acquiring the status of the IDP to the Ministry or its territorial offices. The following documents should be attached to the above mentioned application:

1. The copy of the Georgian ID card;
2. Reference from the representation of the relevant local authority (the period of permanent residence before forcible displacement shall be indicated);
3. Birth-certificate (desirable);
4. Completed real estate declaration (desirable);
5. National passport of Georgia (desirable);
6. Document verifying the dual citizenship (if any, this is the letter of The Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the decree of the President of Georgia);
7. Notarized agreement with the owner of the apartment;
8. ID card of the owner of the apartment;
9. Ownership document from the public registry;
10. Certificate of marriage (if any);
11. Additional documents and/or other relevant documentation.

After the submission of these documents, the application will be reviewed and the IDP status will be issued.

