



Community & Humanitarian Assistance Program

JANUARY 2002 (Edition #1)



**The Community & Humanitarian Assistance Program
is funded by the US Department of State**
(<http://www.state.gov>)

"Counterpart always has been and we hope always will be preoccupied with its mission of building a just world through service and partnership - helping people to help themselves".

Elizabeth B. Silverstein
President
Counterpart International

ACHIEVEMENTS

Counterpart International is a non-profit international human development organization founded in 1965 as the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific. We are headquartered in Washington D.C. and work in more than 60 countries. The directions of Counterpart International are Humanitarian Assistance (Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program - CHAP), Civil Society, Environment and Conservation, Enterprise Development, Health and Child Survival and Food Security. In Georgia Counterpart International is represented by the Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program - CHAP, which is committed to building strong civil societies in emerging nations through partnerships with local civic organizations, represent Counterpart. These partnerships, through which CHAP distributes donated commodities, are designed to help local organizations strengthen their capabilities to meet critical humanitarian and related development needs.

Counterpart Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program - CHAP expanded into the Caucasus region in 1995, establishing a fully staffed regional office in Tbilisi, Georgia. CHAP helps support hospitals, internally displaced persons, pensioners, orphanages and other groups of the socially vulnerable individuals whose needs would otherwise go unmet.

For last 6 years CHAP Georgia has been conducting the complete range of commodity distribution services, from conducting needs assessments to monitoring end-use, CHAP staff acquires, stages, transports, receives and distributes materials. CHAP and local partners in Georgia work with CHAP acquisition offices in Europe and the U.S. to develop potential projects and match available property with identified needs. Field personnel coordinate all aspects of needs assessments, in-country project approvals, distribution, and monitoring.

Currently CHAP Georgia operates three main theme projects - Georgian Pensioners Project, Georgian IDP's Project and Georgian Orphans Project. Since 1995 CHAP has brought into Georgia and distributed to over 1,233,078 beneficiaries the humanitarian clothing, food, furniture, household items and etc. worth up to \$ 98,630,201.37 US. Through these projects up to 152,283 pensioners, 19,885 orphans and 258,067 IDPs have received assistance worth \$4,658,467 US, \$467,202 US and \$6,070,235 US respectively, in all the regions of Georgia.

In the year 2001 in addition to its successful distribution program, CHAP Georgia completed an USAID funded energy subsidies program. During two years of being supervised by the CHAP Georgia, the Georgia Winter Heating Assistance Program (GWHAP) administered targeted electricity subsidies to vulnerable households and institutions during the winter months.

From October 5, 1998 through March 2001 Counterpart successfully operated as the implementing partner for a primary health care initiative sponsored by the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE). The project focused on providing basic healthcare

to at-risk Hellenic populations and local communities in Georgia through establishing three full-service primary healthcare clinics in three regions of Georgia - Tbilisi, Tsalka and Tsikhisjvari.

On December 6, 2000 U.S. Ambassador Kenneth S. Yalowitz and CHAP Georgia staff announced the beginning of distribution of \$ 10 million US worth of medical supplies and equipment to Georgian hospitals, polyclinics, and village ambulatories. The distributions were carried out in cooperation with 115 Georgian partner NGOs, churches, schools, and local government social welfare offices. The process successfully completed in May 2001.

This activity totaled \$ 33,000,000 US of donated American medical equipment and supplies to health care facilities across Georgia in year 2000, plus \$ 12,000,000 US in clothes, food and other assistance for a total of \$ 45,000,000 US.

CHAP Georgia is meeting the New Year 2002 with the thought that during just the year 2001 the assistance brought into the country under the Counterpart International Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program helped make the lives easier for up to 130,214 pensioners, 19,885 orphans and 18,790 IDPs.

PLANS

In the beginning of the year 2002 CHAP Georgia plans to continue bringing in the humanitarian commodities including medical equipment and supplies, new and used clothing, household and field equipment, furniture, food and other items for meeting the needs of the local vulnerable groups of population. Along with continuing the ongoing projects CHAP Georgia will next year launch several new projects among which are Sachkhere School #2 Assistance Project, Assistance to Strategic Polyclinics for IDPs Project and a major distribution to the Gurjaani Orphanage for Children with Cerebral Diseases, which will be held at the end of January.

Sachkhere School #2 Assistance Project

In 1989 serious earthquake ruined a lot of buildings in Georgia, among them was Sachkhere School #2. School building and all inventory and equipment were completely destroyed and it has been impossible to hold studies in the school during last 13 years. But the school didn't stop functioning and till present studies are conducted in carriages in the schoolyard.

Due to the well known political and economical cataclysms (plus wars in Abkhazia and Shida Kartli Region, the civil war in Tbilisi) that took place during previous years economy of Georgia was wrecked. Though the conditions have slightly improved, Georgia still suffers grave economic and financial crisis. School is affiliated with the Ministry of Education and supported by this institution. The Ministry has been heavily under-budgeted for a long period of time. The financial resources aren't enough even for salaries for teachers.

It happens very often that schools don't get any money for several months. During quite long period of time it was impossible to find any sources for re-building the school.

By the support of different international donors the school has been reconstructed by the end of 2001. But problem of inventory and equipment still remained. It's clear that without school furniture and equipment it will be impossible to resume studies. The school Administration and the USAID office in Tbilisi, Georgia appealed to Counterpart International/CHAP on February 27, 2001 for providing assistance and support the school with school equipment and furniture for 17 classrooms and 450 students.

The new Project Proposal has been worked out and approved by the CHAP Washington D.C. Headquarters and starting February 2002 the school will be receiving school furniture (desks, boards, tables, chairs, sofas, armchairs, etc), various equipment (computers, copiers, TV, radio and phone sets), laboratory equipment, sports inventory, medical equipment and outfitting.

Assistance to Strategic Polyclinics for IDPs Project

The well known internal conflicts, which took place in Georgia from 1989 through 1993, resulted in the appearance of over 280,000 Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees from Samachablo and Abkhazia. Major part of the IDPs has found shelter in the regions neighboring Abkhazia and Samachablo. Most of the IDPs from Abkhazia and Samachablo have settled in the Samegrelo, Imereti and Tbilisi area.

Efforts taken by the Government for assisting the IDPs have been limited to providing buildings of former sanatoriums, hotels, abandoned state buildings as living spaces. Still, their living conditions are disastrous. The IDPs permanently face the problems like diseases, poverty, unemployment, and their income is far below the poverty level. People belonging to this category get state welfare, but the amount is very low 14 Georgia Lari per month (approximately \$ 7 US) to each member of the refugee family. Naturally it is not enough even to cover minimum expenses.

The IDPs have been facing all of the above-mentioned problems for last 10 years and the situation does not seem to be changing positively. The permanent lack of normal food, living conditions, especially during wintertime and complete absence of efficient medical preventive care has undermined the health of the IDPs. The Ministry of Health of the Autonomy Republic of Abkhazia in exile has taken possible efforts and created 13 polyclinics dedicated to service the IDPs. These polyclinics serve the IDPs both from Abkhazia and Samachablo. Due to the permanent underpayment of the Ministry of Health of Abkhazia from the State Budget it has been failed to equip the polyclinics properly. The State funding of the polyclinics is enough only for the salaries of the medical staff, which are also unpaid for months. The polyclinics are meant to receive the medical equipment and supplies directly from the Government of Georgia. The Government fulfills this obligation only to 10% of the real need. The only hope of these medical institutions to be able to service their patients is the assistance from International Humanitarian Organizations. CHAP Georgia has been and still remains one of the most active International Humanitarian Programs answering the needs of the polyclinics. The medical furniture, equipment and special apparatus, medical clothing and bedding, consumables provided by CHAP Georgia to the strategic polyclinics for IDPs during the period of 1996-2001 still remain the only commodities of the kind, received by those medical institutions. For example, it may be said that the Kutaisi Regional Polyclinic for IDPs and the Tskaltubo Polyclinic for IDPs function thanks to the medical commodities donated by CHAP Georgia.

Within the Assistance to Strategic Polyclinics for IDPs Project CHAP Georgia will distribute humanitarian assistance in form of medical equipment and outfitting, special medical apparatus, pharmaceuticals, medical consumables, medical furniture, laboratory equipment, office furniture and supplies, medical literature, electric generators, space heaters, vehicles and other medical commodities to the following polyclinics:

- Tskhneti Regional Polyclinic of the Ministry of Health of the Autonomy Republic of Abkhazia (Eastern Georgia);
- Tbilisi Polyclinic for IDPs from Abkhazia (Eastern Georgia);
- Tbilisi Dispensary of Skin and Venereal Diseases of the Ministry of Health of the Autonomy Republic of Abkhazia (Eastern Georgia);
- Tbilisi Children Polyclinic for IDPs (Eastern Georgia);
- Tbilisi Antenatal Clinic of Abkhazia (Eastern Georgia);
- Tbilisi Psycho-neurological Clinic for IDPs (Eastern Georgia);
- Poti Refugees Polyclinic Ministry of Health of Abkhazian Autonomy Republic (Samegrelo Region, Western Georgia);
- Senaki Polyclinic for IDPs from Abkhazia (Samegrelo Region, Western Georgia);
- Khobi Polyclinic for IDPs from Abkhazia (Samegrelo Region, Western Georgia);
- Zugdidi Regional Hospital for IDPs (Samegrelo Region, Western Georgia);
- Batumi Regional Polyclinic for IDPs (Ajara Region, Western Georgia);
- Kutaisi Regional Polyclinic for IDPs (Imereti Region, Western Georgia);
- Tskaltubo Polyclinic for IDPs (Imereti Region, Western Georgia);

Major Distribution to the Gurjaani Orphanage for Children with Cerebral Diseases

There are approximately 46 boarding schools, orphanages, and special schools in Georgia. These institutions care for children who have lost either one or both parents, children from families living in extremely poor conditions, IDPs (Internally Displaced People), homeless street children, and children who are mentally handicapped and disabled. Although the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Protection and Health of Georgia finance boarding schools, their heavily under-funded budgets cannot meet the needs of Georgia's handicapped children. Counterpart International's Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program is uniquely positioned to fill-in the voids and provide critical human needs.

On January 18, 2002 Counterpart International's Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) will deliver 1 forty-foot container of humanitarian assistance valued at over \$35,000.00 to the Gurjaani Boarding-School for Children with Cerebral Diseases, which caters to 160 handicapped children. The shipment consists of blankets, sinks, mess kits, chairs, hospital infant beds, exercise tables, a stretcher, physical therapy tables, sleeping bags, tables, space heaters, transit cases, coffee tables, activity tables, 1 piano, and staking chairs. The project will be carried out in close cooperation with the Gurjaani Region Administration. whom CHAP thanks for their support.

WORD FROM PARTNERS

Georgian International Charity Foundation "Emanuel"

Charity Foundation "Emanuel" caters to up to 9,500 beneficiaries from all the categories of the vulnerable population throughout Georgia.

President of the Foundation "Emanuel" Ms. Meri Eristavi -

"Our Foundation unites thousands of Georgian citizens suffering from cold, lack of food and minimal humane conditions.

In such grave situation the Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program has appeared as a Blessing from God. The humanitarian commodities provided by CHAP have brought many of our beneficiaries back to life and gave them hope for the future.

Administration of the Charity Foundation "Emanuel" on behalf of its beneficiaries would like to express deepest gratitude to CHAP for the attention and assistance systematically provided to all the needy in Georgia.

It was hard to believe that such people and Organizations still exist in this World. This gives us hope that Georgia will be saved".

Non-Governmental Charitable Association "Help the Children"

Non-governmental charitable association 'Help the Children' unites the families of the soldiers killed in wars for territorial integrity of Georgia, children of officers killed on duty and disabled children throughout Georgia.

President of the Association "Help the Children" Ms. M. Bakhtadze -

"Counterpart International's Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program pays great attention and shows the most active support to the beneficiaries of the "Help the Children". I would like to specially note the kindness and dedication of the CHAP Georgia staff members.

CHAP assistance to the Association "Help the Children" beneficiaries has become systematic. The vulnerable members of the Association periodically receive clothing, footwear, food products and different domestic commodities, which are all greatly needed for making the lives of these people easier".