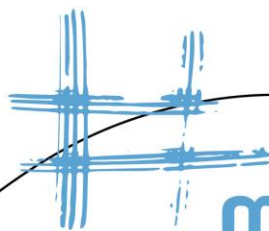




თავის განვითარების პროგრამის საქმიანობის ანგარიში

2018 წელი



თავის
განვითარება

Community and Civil Society Development

Project Objective 1: *Civil society at national and local levels is empowered in advocacy of interests of target groups and provision of better service to their constituencies (through capacity building and access to resources)*

Strategy

In frames of PO1 CSRDG will concentrate its efforts on:

- Improving services provided by the Community Development Resource Center – CDRC (transfer of information, capacity strengthening, access of the micro-financing, networking and etc.) for institutional development of community based organizations and supporting community initiatives.
- Developing organizational capacities of regional and/national wide CSOs through provision of needs tailored technical support and improving general public perception on CSO work

Outcome 1.1 (Village and community levels): Local communities, including youth and women are empowered in application of effective institutional, advocacy, grants-making and resource mobilization tools

Activities planned to achieve this outcome are grouped under two main blocks: *the first* one aims at providing information and technical support to the rural CBOs nationwide, while activities grouped under the *second block* mainly envisage more intensive and focused capacity building of program target CBOs through organizational development and micro-grants programs, also linking up with school-based Eco clubs.

Program has expanded its geographical coverage since 2014 (through the funding from UNDP program). In particular, apart from Kakheti and Guria regions program has been expanded to Samegrelo region too.

During pervious program CSRDG worked intensively with totally 47 community groups and organizations, and now continues work with those CBOs who are relatively new established and/or have good potential for further development. For the first half of 2017 within the frames of BFW and UNDP programs, CSRDG continues intensive cooperation with 29 Communities (Kakheti – 16, Samegrelo – 8, Guria – 4 and Shida Qartli - 1) and additionally approached three new community organizations through CDRC announced open grant competition. In Total CSRDG with its deifferent services worked with 32 community groups.

1.1.1 Supporting community development national-wide through Community Development Resource Centre (CDRC)

Community Development Resource Center (CDRC) has launched its' operations at the organization from 2011. It regularly offers to community groups and organizations the opportunity to participate in joint trainings, seminars, exchange tours, grant competitions and annual forums. CDRC is running also the regularly updated webpage and Facebook page.

1.1.1.1. Regular update of the CDRC's website and Facebook page

Regular updates on the bilingual webpage and Facebook page include the following:

- Acquiring and posting the information about the projects implemented by the community organizations;
- Acquiring and posting the information about successful cases and practices;
- Sharing the information about competitions, trainings and other events that are relevant for the community groups;
- Periodic updates in the community organizations' database that is integrated into the website (at the present, there are total **200** organizations registered in the database);
- Placing various information resources and reading materials.

1.1.1.2 CBO networking, knowledge building and sharing (Annual CBO forums - 3 in total)

Starting from 2011, CDRC is annually organizing the joint meetings – Forums of the community groups; in recent years these meetings include also the nominations and awards for the most successful community initiatives. Apart from reporting on successful stories and existing challenges, forum speakers make also interesting presentations on previously agreed pressing topics and / or on current state programs and reforms. According to the program plan, there will be three such leader forums in total (i.e. one per program year).

The Community Leaders Forum 2018 was organized on November 1-2, 2018 at hotel "Lopota Spa Resort". It was organized with joint financial support from BFW, EU-funded "Civil Society Development Initiative" project and "Empowering Women for Change" project funded by Swedish Government. This year, the annual Forum gathered more than 140 participants. The main purpose of the annual event is to improve knowledge and raise awareness of community groups and organizations, share good practices, provide latest news, promote activities of CBOs and encourage their cooperation. Also, the Forum has identified and awarded the best community initiative / project of 2017-2018; during the Forum, the visual display of CBO activities was organized.

This Forum was distinct by its diverse sessions and leading speakers representing both local and international CBOs and CSOs including Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Director of Women Information Center; Director of National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.

Forum facilitated exchange of the information and discussions on number of important issues such as mechanisms of non-state funding, new opportunities for financial sustainability, decentralization process and importance of participation, women's role in governance, situation with waste management in country, mechanisms for cooperation within the communities and related challenges.

Also, Forum has identified winners in two nominations:

1. The Best Community Hearth – Tetrtskaro Youth Center;
2. Best Community Initiative 2017-2018:
 - a. chosen by audience – Skra Community Organization “Betlemi”, Gori Municipality, Shida Kartli;
 - b. chosen by Jury – Best 2017-2018 Community Initiative –Khabume women Initiative Group “Samancho”, Chkhorotsku Municipality, Samegrelo. Winners were rewarded with gift certificates and special prizes.

1.1.1.3 National-wide small grants making through open grant competition (3 grants annually)

Technical assistance provided to community groups and organizations is enforced in practice by the grant competition component, which provides an opportunity for community groups to exercise the advocacy and project management skills as well as variety of other skills related to the community mobilization. Once a year, CDRC announces the grant competition for the community organizations in Georgia; competition aims to promote implementation of community projects that solve various problems in the community. Three small grants are awarded per each announcement. Program offers the technical assistance (consultations, working meetings, redirecting, etc.) to the grantees in process of project implementation.

During the reporting period three open competitions (within the BFW-1 and KAS-2 projects) were announced for CBOs and Community groups countrywide (2 calls in first half and 1 call in second half of 2018). In April, the CDRC has announced the open competition for community groups and organizations which aimed to promote the local / community problem solving. Total 16 applications were submitted in frames of this competition; these applications were reviewed and evaluated by the independent grant committee consisting of 5 members. Final grant committee session was conducted on May 22; as a result of the session, 4 prospective candidates for granting were selected and ranked by the priority. In order to make final decision, organization has visited the candidates and studied the respective situations. Based on these visits the positive decision on all three project proposals was made. These proposals are:

#	Community	Project Name and Value	Short Description
1	Tsalka - Gumbati Learning Center "Gumbati"	"Travel to Unknown Tsalka" <i>Fund: GEL 7579</i>	Increasing touristic potential of Tsalka by promoting its landmarks to local and wider society. Involving youth in civil activism.
2	Shuakhevi – Chvana Initiative group of Village Chvana	Illuminated Way <i>Fund: GEL 7127.50</i>	Arranging the street illumination system along the sidewalk leading to Kornali and Tskalnakari districts of the village Chvani
3	Akhmeta - Jokolo „Jokolo XXI”	„This is My Unknown Homeland" <i>Fund: GEL 3000</i>	Supporting the economic strengthening of Akhmeta, Borjomi and Dedoplistskaro municipalities through the development and promotion of tourism
4	Tetrtskato "Tetrtskaro Youth Center"	Empowering youth for Positive Changes <i>Fund: GEL 8000</i>	Creating the Youth Center in Tetrtskaro and supporting the youth development through various educational projects.

The 3 projects out of 4 are already finalized.

The second and third grant competitions were announced in May and December, 2018 (with submission deadline of 25 January, 2019) on civic organization's accountability and transparency (in frames of the EU funded project "Civil Society Sustainable Initiative"). The grant competitions aimed to support initiatives that improve relationships of CBOs and organizations working on community development with their target audiences, as well as increase their visibility and legitimacy. The maximum grant amount was GEL 4000.

In total 34 applications were submitted in frames of the second competition; these applications were reviewed and evaluated by the independent grant committee consisting of 5 members (from implementing partner organizations). Final grant committee session was conducted on July 11; as a result of the session, 9 candidates for granting were selected.

The final decisions were made on following project proposals:

#	Organization / Group	Project Title
1	„Kvemo Kartli Media"	„Transparency for trust and community inclusion – demonstrating the grant results and searching for new sources of funding.
2	„Youth for Mountains"	„Youth in Mountains"
3	„Imedi" – IDP Women Movement for Peace	„Organizational Sustainability for Effective Governance"
4	Center for Education and Development „Toliskuri"	"From Scratch"
5	Community Union „Vardisubani"	„First Step" (Solving problems of accountability and transparency in the organization)
6	Institute for Training and Development of Georgia	„Let's Get Strong and Strengthen Our Community"
7	Be Active! Be Healthy!	Discover Kobuleti
8	Community Education Center of Jvari	Organizational Transparency – Civil Society Trust Guarantee
9	Farmer Women Association	Increasing the Visibility and Popularity of Farmer Women Association

The projects have been launched in September, 2018 and are still under implementation.

1.1.1.4 Students engagement in community development through internships, professional training and students award competitions (announcement of 6 students competitions, 3 trainings for students on resource mobilization)

In frames of the Program total three student competitions are planned; during each competition two or three proposals - i.e. two or three student groups will be supported technically and financially so that they could help selected communities to solve specific local issues. Furthermore, for those students who will be selected as a result of the competition, the trainings on the topics of the project planning and management, as well as local resource mobilization and advocacy will be organized.

During the reporting period we have developed the concept of the Student Component, selected several pilot target Universities and identified relevant departments within each selected University. In particular, selected Universities / departments are: 1. *Tbilisi State University – Social work and Sociology Department*; 2. *Ilia University (IliaUni) – Public Relations Department* and 3. *Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) – Public Administration program and Social Sciences program*. During the meetings with heads of mentioned programs and departments areas of mutual interest and cooperation were defined; also, the most suitable period of time for the implementation of the Student Component was identified – from September till September. This is the period when students can actively engage in social activities and at the same time accumulate credits due to the practical work.

In cooperation with nine community organizations, the case-studies depicting community and CBO problems were developed. As a result of communication with universities' administration, interested students were invited to information meetings related to the competition "Mine, Your, Our Community". Eventually, all three universities took part in competition and altogether 11 applications were submitted (total 30 participants). Two winner groups were selected from each university; these groups started to work on their causes and relevant problem-solving project proposals. Two two-day training workshops were arranged for students' groups:

- **Project Planning and Proposal Writing** – altogether 14 participants (11 women and 3 men);
- **Planning the Information Campaign; Local Self-Government Competencies** – altogether 7 participants (7 women and 0 men)

Final proposals were submitted by the end of February 2018. The Board evaluated proposals according to the following criteria: relevance / urgency of the selected problem; realistic action plan; effective budget and sustainable results.

Independent committee has chosen one winner group from Tbilisi State University. Winner team members worked during two months in village Skra of Gori Municipality. As a result of the qualitative research conducted by students the following problem was identified: lack of access to various public services for the population of Skra community. As a result of meetings and consultations with locals,

students have set the project goals: ensure the access to public library for population of Skra village; in particular – establish the public library on basis of local CBO “Bethlemi”. Through the cooperation with various organizations, individuals and educational institutions students collected up to 300 various fiction books, organized and conducted various cognitive activities both for community youth and elderly people; organized movie show followed with discussion. Ultimately, as a result of project activities, village Skra has now its own small-size public library, which operates on a base of CBO “Bethlemi”. For the project sustainability, through the cooperation of students, CBOs and National Library of Georgia, the library of Skra will host regular literature weeks, during which discussion on various books / literature, film screenings and other cultural and cognitive activities will be organized.

With financial support from the same program, students of Social and Political Sciences Faculty of Tbilisi State University realized the mini-project “**Social Environment Through My Lens**”. The project aimed to stimulate and develop interest of children from family type small-group homes, provide them with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in the field of photography and in this way support their integration in the society. In frames of the project several information meetings with professional photographers and project beneficiaries were organized; during the meetings children identified the topic for the photo-exhibition. In addition, there were technical meetings too, where children acquired various photographing techniques. Upon completion of the training course beneficiaries shot their photos and exhibited them at the assembly hall of Tbilisi State University.

The second competition for students is planned for the beginning of 2019.

1.1.1.5 Strengthening strategic partnerships through the meetings on joint advocacy actions of the CODECO (Community Development Coalition) member CSOs (3 CODECO meetings)

Coalition of the organizations working on community development was established back in 2012 as a non-registered association with 9 member organizations in the beginning. The main reason and prerequisite of the coalition was the necessity to prepare and publish the joint handbook on community work. Additional efforts are needed to make coalition more active and efficient; that is why the organization intends to organize the working meetings of all interested coalition members where the prospects of implementing joint projects / initiatives supporting the community development in the country, as well as strategies and ways to overcome the existing problems and challenges in the field will be discussed.

On March 22-23, 2018 the retreat of CoDeCo coalition of organizations working on community development was organized; the retreat was attended by 6 representatives of the coalition. The retreat was organized with the purpose to review the coalition strategy, develop the joint project ideas and plan future activities. Participants also reviewed their own community development projects and programs and talked about coalition membership. During the meeting, our organization was elected to coordinate the coalition activities for the period of one year. Coalition members have agreed on several project ideas and defined specific steps and terms for their implementation. The also agreed on the tentative date and agenda of the next meeting.

The next meeting was organized in the end of June, with total 9 members of the coalition attending. During the meeting coalition members:

- Finalized the coalition membership conditions;
- Exchanged the updates and made decisions on two project ideas (1 – Pilot Testing of Multi-Sectoral Development Approach and 2 – Research on Micro-Projects Social Impact on Community Development);
- Discussed and approved the Coalition logo;
- Defined the next steps and schedule of activities.

The next coalition meeting is planned for the beginning of 2019.

Participation in major events of European Community Foundation Initiative

The European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) is a collaborative initiative committed to facilitating and promoting the growth of community foundations across Europe. CSRDG joined the initiative in the autumn, 2016 by participating in the thematic meeting held in Paretz Germany and soon became the first Georgian Community Foundation Support Organization (CFSO) in ECFI ([the link to the ECFI world atlas](#)). As CSRDG is actively contributing in community development in rural areas through developing local resources and community foundation, which is one of the ways to empower local people and promote sense of belonging to the community, the decision was made to become more active in ECFI. As a part of the movement CSRDG will introduce and promote the idea of community foundations through trainings and workshops for CSOs, CBOs, Business and public organizations, as involvement of all sectors in the community is crucial for the local development.

Besides direct activities under CSRDG, we contribute to the popularization of community foundations in academia, through teaching provided by our staff member in the department of Social and Political Sciences of Tbilisi State University. He regularly participates in learning and experience sharing activities of ECFI since the first thematic meeting.

ECFI has a program Community Foundation to Community Foundation, the grant opportunity for exchanging experience and learning more about the community foundation development. The communication started in the UK visit between CSRDG and Roots and Wings Foundation (Hungarian organization) on possible partnership, was continued via skype and e-mails during the reporting period. Exchange goals, activities, timeline and budget were discussed. As a result, CSRDG and Roots and Wings foundation developed and applied for CF2CF exchange grant to the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) with the plan for two visits:

1. CSRDG members visiting Roots and Wings Foundation - the main partner and the community foundation support organization, and three community foundations in Budapest and two regions in Hungary.
2. Roots and Wings Foundation visiting CSRDG and one of the regional community organizations of Georgia.

By the end of June, CSRDG and the Roots and Wings Foundation exchange application was awarded the grant and both organization started planning the details. Skype, e-mail and facebook communication was utilized to ensure more focused agenda and other topics related to both visits. As a result, two productive trips were planned and organized in Hungary and Georgia. Besides the five direct participants of the exchange program, over 30 local representatives attended the meetings at different sites.

Visit 1: Three representatives from CSRDG visited Hungarian CFSO - the Roots and Wings Foundation and three CFs in Budapest, Pecs and Miskolc;

Three representatives of CSRDG met the R&W Foundation staff and board members at their office in Budapest, where they discussed organizational history, structure, main directions of their work, fundraising campaigns and opportunities, sub-granting and implementation of projects, capacity-building methods for local CFs etc.

Besides the R&W Foundation, CSRDG participants visited the Ferencvaros Foundation, the oldest CF in Hungary, founded in 2011. The story about their start-up and development was especially important, as we are considering promotion of the CF movement in Georgia. During the meeting, the topics such as pre-conditions of CF development, diversification of fundraising approaches, different types of funding and expenditures, ensuring the organizational functioning etc. were elaborated. Observing the relationships between the CF/CFSO and local population, including business operators was a very important learning experience, as it was rather an equal partnership. We also met the representative of the university, who coordinated the linkage between academia and practice sites for students.

Visiting two, relatively new CFs in Pecs and Miskolc, was very important too, as they are undergoing the processes and challenges faced by the newly established/developing organizations.

Visit 2: Two representatives from the Roots and Wings Foundation visited CSRDG and two community centers in Kakheti.

It was important for CSRDG staff and our partner organizations to have two colleagues from Roots and Wings Foundation in Georgia to come to mutual understanding of Georgian context and its differences/similarities to Hungarian. As a start of the second visit, the guests introduced their organization and CF movement in Hungary to the colleagues from CoDeCo coalition member organizations (see activity 1.1.1.5) gathered in CSRDG office. They briefly discussed the history of CF development and the activities of R&W Foundation and answered questions coming from the audience about specifics of CF work as well as fundraising ways and possibilities.

Besides introductory and summary meetings in CSRDG office, the R&W Foundation and CSRDG representatives visited two community centers in Nukriani and Pshaveli, as well as branch office of CSRDG in the small town in Kakheti region, where they met several other community center representatives. Both sides shared their working experience with each other.

As a conclusion, Cooperation with the Hungarian Community Foundations Support Organization – Roots and Wings Foundation, was very valuable for CSRDG. During the two-way exchange program, funded by the European Community Foundation Initiative, both organizations had an opportunity to learn the details about context, organizational structure, operation and communication with stakeholders. Main conclusion

we made during the exchange is that despite of contextual similarities and differences, there is a quite good precondition for piloting Community Foundation in Georgia, though it requires intensive fundraising efforts. CSRDG team discovered that although important, raising funds is only one part of community foundation. It is about sense of belonging and empathy to each stakeholder, whether it is business, marginalized groups of population/civil society or the local government.

1.1.2 Capacity building of target community groups and CBOs in three pilot regions

This component is implemented by means of CSO network with the Centre in a coordinating and leading role. Other members of the network are Georgian Civil Development Association in Kakheti region and Association "Atinati" in Samegrelo region. This component is funded through the UNDP-funded project "Empowering Women for Change", Bread for the World program and GEF-funded project "Household waste reuse and recycling practices – viable alternatives to open waste burning and associated unintentional PoPs releases".

Georgia has received the \$2,500,000 grant from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) to implement the "Strengthening Poor Communities and Micro-Entrepreneurs Involved in Georgian Tourism Sector" project administered by the World Bank and implemented by the Biological Farming Association "Elkana". The project supports implementation of the community projects and initiatives in the villages that are located nearby the tourist destinations in Kakheti and Imereti regions of Georgia; to this purpose the competition for Georgian CSOs was organized. Our organization took part in the competition and submitted 2 project proposals for rehabilitation of the infrastructure (namely the public garden's improvement) in program target communities of Udabno village and town of Lagodekhi. Mandatory 20% co-funding was fully provided in both proposals. Both projects were funded and are already finalized.

1.1.2.1 Provision of organizational development and financial support to target community groups

In addition to the services offered by the Resource Center throughout Georgia, the organization, through its various programs, offers more focused and intensive assistance to a limited number of target community groups and organizations operating in certain regions of the country; this assistance implies both technical and small financial support. At this stage, by using this approach, the organization mainly cooperates with 26 community groups and organizations, whose activities cover altogether 29 communities in three regions of Georgia. Community organizations and groups develop short-term and long-term action plans, the financial support of which is provided by our program. The general priorities of the action plans include creative and educational activities, ecology and environmental protection, local government and participation of the community in the life of the community, as well as provision of various services to the community (e.g. computer services, vocational training, Liberty Bank, etc.).

In community groups, emphasis is made on better engagement of women and young people. According to the level of institutional development, there are three clusters of community groups identified: a) weak / newly formed groups b) groups that are in the middle of their development c) strong and stable organizations. Program applies tailored strategy while working with each of these clusters.

During the reporting period, 18 regional working meetings devoted to the annual Action Plans' development and Reporting were organized (13 in first half and 5 in second half of 2018). As a result of these meetings and online consultations, by the beginning of 2018, annual action plans for 20 community groups, fully adjusted to the local needs and capacity have been prepared and submitted for Center's approval. Accordingly, the Centre has concluded the agreements with each community group and started the phased administration of the funds. As for Reporting working meetings, the main purpose is to exchange information on achievements and challenges with other CBOs working in the same region on every half a year basis.

During the year, community groups have implemented altogether 550 (with approximately 16 000 participants) different types of activities. Main directions of the community groups' activities included ecology and environment protection, culture, sport and healthy lifestyle, self-government and involvement of villagers in community life, provision of various services to the communities (such as computer services, workshops, informational meetings, trainings, etc.).

During the year up to 200 consultations (online, individual) and 46 monitoring visits were realized.

One of the main directions of the community group activities is related to the solution of local problems. This is why, at the end of the year, each community group presents several most pressing community issues to its respective municipality and require to adequately budget these issues for the next year. By the end of 2018, total 13 similar meetings were organized between decision-makers and representatives of community groups; during those meetings women leaders presented the problems / issues existing in their communities and recommendations for their solution. As a follow-up to the presentation, community groups sent to the municipalities the formal signed letters with the listed problems, recommendations for their solution and a demand to take into account the problems while working on the budget of 2019. As a result of that activity, altogether 65 issues / recommendations (31 in the second part of year) were considered out of presented 114 for the reporting year.

1.1.2.2 Supporting civic activism and advocacy of target community groups/CBOs through limited micro-grants completions, monitoring and evaluation and outreach/publicity of their on-the-ground activities (3 grants of size 3000 EURO each annually;)

For the same target community groups, once or twice a year the grant competitions supporting local advocacy campaigns are announced (it has to be clarified that these target groups cannot participate in open grant competitions by CDRC). All these initiatives help community groups to strengthen community work skills and effectively build the trust and support of their constituencies. Because priority is given to the cooperation-oriented projects, they also encourage the cooperation with local self-government; at the same time, 20% co-funding on behalf of the community is mandatory. In frames of this program we plan to finance at least 9 community projects. Each funded project is subject to the intensive on-site monitoring carried out by partner organizations or local members, while Center is providing the evaluation of the project at its key milestones.

During the 2018 one closed grant competitions for target community groups and organizations was announced in April (in frames of BFW program and UNJP funded project "Empowering Women for Change").

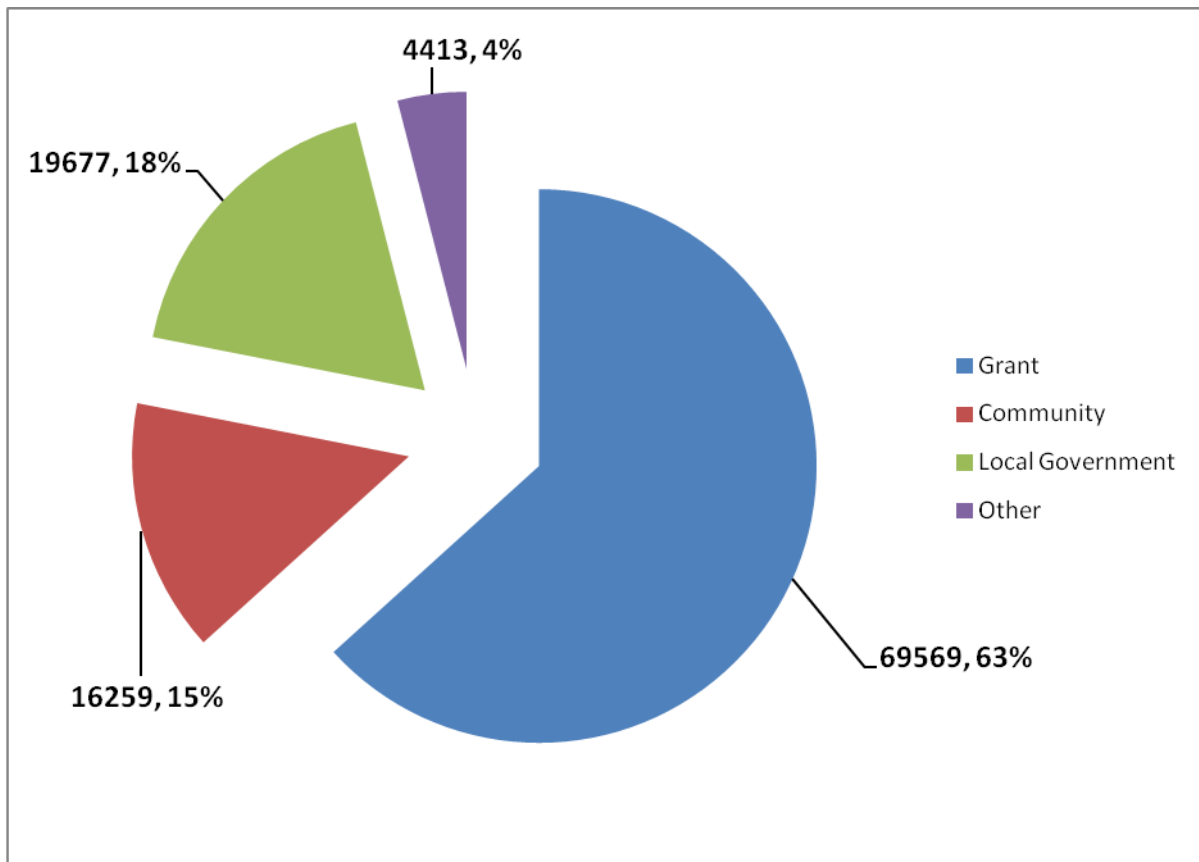
The maximum grant amount for experienced community groups was GEL 8000 and for newly created community groups – GEL 2000.

Altogether 18 project proposals were submitted to the Grant Committee consisting of 5 members (representatives of the UN, Community Development Center, Elkana, CSRDG and gender expert). The Grant Committee met on May 31, reviewed all proposals and has made decision to fund 9 projects:

All above mentioned projects have been successfully implemented.

Lagodekhi Municipality		
1	Tsodniskari Initiative Group	„Violence, Which Became a Norm“ – project aims to increase awareness about negative impact of bullying and violence in students and youth of Tsodniskari community, which account for 45% of the whole community population. GEL 1972
2	Vardisubani	“Women’s Way to European Village“- project aims to improve the labor conditions and propose alternative income source for women in four villages of Vardisubani community through creation of EU standard experimental mini-farms and professional training in production of berries. GEL 7966.5
Chkhorotsku MUNICIPALITY		
3	Mukhuri Initiative Group „Magvidzara“	„Motivation for Action“ – project aims to improve working conditions for initiative group and its satellite club members, promote skill-building in youth and increase their civic engagement. GEL 8000
4	Napichkhovo Initiative Group	“Realized Dream” – project aims to arrange the recreation space / park for inhabitants of both districts of Napichkhovo community. GEL 1971
5	Lesichine Initiative Group	„Dreaming is Going on” – project aims to support organization of cognitive and information events in the village; in particular, equip the assembly hall of the Lesichine Public School #2 that would contribute to better creative and cognitive capacities of the local youth GEL 2000
Dedoplistkaro MUNICIPALITY		
6	Arboshiki Women Initiative Group	„Multidisciplinary Center for Women and Youth – Arboshiki” – project aims to provide all necessary facilities to Multidisciplinary Center for Women and Youth Development GEL 7995
7	Khornabuji Women Initiative Group	„New Footprints on the Traces of History“ – project aims to support tourism development and promote cultural and creative activities of the population by arranging beautiful and healthy cultural environment in the People’s Friendship Museum Garden GEL 7.891
Telavi Municipality		
8	Kvemo Khodasheni Initiative Group	„Healthy Future Generation – Sports and Development” – project aims to develop physical skills of youth and promote the healthy lifestyle in the village GEL 2000
9	Pshaveli Community Development Center “Aisi”	„More Opportunities for Youth“ – project aims to create the space for sports / culture / entertainment, which would promote independence and personal development of youth, help them to become active citizens, introduce them to the healthy lifestyle and facilitate for them the meaningful free time. GEL 7966.5

#1 Diagram depicting the redistribution of funding sources within the program funded and implemented micro projects (in GEL):



1.1.2.3 Building knowledge and professional skills of community group/CBO leaders in general management, advocacy, oversight, and various thematic areas particularly, in provision of social services and environmental protection (6 training/seminars annually)

Based on community groups' needs and interests we organize for them various trainings and workshops several times a year (minimum 6 events per year). Trainings are conducted both in Tbilisi and on-site, in target regions, by invited experts or Center members themselves. During the reporting period altogether 25 trainings/seminars (11 for I half and 14 - II half of the year) were conducted:

- In March 2018, for total 16 representatives of Women Initiative Groups from Kakheti and Samegrelo regions (relatively new representatives), the 2-day training on Project Planning and Proposal Writing was conducted. The following topics were discussed during the training: project cycle and phases; information necessary for planning and how to obtain it; problem analysis method – problem tree; hierarchy of goals and goal wording; indicators and how to develop them, standard application form.
- Two 2 day training of trainers (TOTs) were conducted in June in Kakheti/Samegrelo regions by CSRDG trainer/expert. Target audience of the training was represented by 25 members of Women Initiative Groups of Kakheti and Samegrelo regions. Training program included the following topics: : adult learning cycle; training cycle and training design; training methodologies (presentation, panel discussion, role games, simulation); group facilitation – art of questioning in facilitation process. The

aim of the training was to introduce participants to main principles of training planning, organization and evaluation and help them to exercise / improve relevant skills.

- In October, 2-day training on “Active Citizenship and CVA Methodology of Advocacy” was conducted in Tbilisi; altogether 21 leaders took part in the training. The following topics were covered in the course of training: Active Citizenship; Advocacy, its essence and aim; CVA Method of Advocacy, its essence and aim; CVA implementation phases. Training was delivered by the qualified trainers from the organization “Mziani Sakhli” (Sunny House);
- In October, 2-day training on “Gender Equality Principles” was conducted in Tbilisi. Training was attended by leaders of newly formed community groups, altogether 19 people. Following topics were covered in frames of the training: difference between sex and gender; examples of gender inequality; gender statistics of participation in social and political life; gender politics in Georgia and strategies / local institutional mechanisms for achieving equality;
- On October 16 in Telavi and on October 19 in the village Khabume of Chkhorotsku municipality, two 1-day working meetings / trainings on “Office Work Principles” were organized. Working meetings were attended by total 24 participants representing advanced community groups and organizations. Following topics were covered by the training: preparing / organizing documentation (correspondence, orders, applications, agreements, acts of acceptance, power of attorney), procurements, inventory taking, internal regulations in the organization, tax liabilities, obligatory monthly declarations, service and procurement taxes, banking and cash operations, book-keeping and record-keeping.
- In the period of March-May 2018 and October-November, 2018, the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia, has delivered in total 16 one day trainings for community organizations / initiative groups countrywide on "Transparency and Accountability of CSOs".

The aim of the training was to provide information and practical advice to participants on the following issues:

- The importance of accountability and transparency of the public organization; Connection with the efficiency of the organization
- Basic principles of accountability and transparency and development phases
- The concept of participation and its levels
- Practical tools for accountability and transparency

Both rounds of trainings took place in 8 different locations of Georgia attended by 211 representatives of CBOs and regional CSOs prior the planned small grants competition to be announced in May and December, 2018 (see info above under Activity 1.1.1.3)

The training was conducted within the framework of the EU-funded project "Georgian Civil Society Sustainability Initiative", aimed at improving the environment for civil society in Georgia, strengthening civil society organizations, increasing their accountability towards beneficiaries and other participants.

- In the beginning of October, 2 seminars on Village Tourism were conducted in regions. Altogether 46 people took part in seminars delivered by invited expert from organization “Elkana”. Seminar aimed to inform participants about the essence of village tourism, preconditions for tourism development in villages, basic touristic offers, communication patterns, service quality (standards) assessment and successful touristic business. Some of the participants who are already involved in tourism business expressed their desire to join “Elkana”, get professional consultations and register in booking system.

1.1.2.4 Linking target CBOs with each other as well as with more advanced regional or national-wide CSOs and foundations for knowledge building and sharing and resource mobilization (3 study tours; 8 joint workshops annually)

To enhance the cooperation, information exchange and coordination of activities between the target community groups and organizations, we periodically plan a) working meetings devoted to the reporting /summarizing past activities, b) various topical meetings as needed and c) exchange tours between target regions as well as study tours to advanced community organizations operating in various regions of Georgia.

In May, 2018 representatives from relatively new created community groups and new members of other CBOs were invited to **the Exchange / Study tour to Kakheti region**. During 2 days, 11 representatives of **9** community groups have visited **5** community organizations (CBO – Nukriani in Nukriani Village; “Hereti” in Heretiskari; Women and Youth Center “Vardisubani” in Vardisubani; Fund “Leli” in – Leliani; and Community Center “Aisi” in Pshaveli) and got acquainted with their projects and other ongoing activities.

As for joint workshops, in total 18 meetings have been organized during the reporting period (see description above, under activity 1.1.2.1).

1.1.2.5 Engaging school children of target communities in civic activism and community development through school-based Eco Clubs (8 trainings for Eco club members; one summer Eco camp of 24-30 Eco Clubs students in third year)

Based on the experience from the previous program, while working in target communities, the current program puts stronger emphasize on young people's participation in community activities through eco-clubs operating at schools. The program intends to promote closer cooperation between community groups and eco-clubs in the target communities, thereby facilitating more efficient solution of local environmental problems. This component have been implemented in cooperation with the expert from organization "Eco-Alliance" and co-financed by the GEF funded project " Household waste reuse and recycling practices – viable alternatives to open waste burning and associated unintentional PoPs releases ".

Following activities were conducting during the reporting period:

1. Trainings. Training modules and materials on waste recycling and project planning and preparation topics were developed. For community leaders and eco-club members 5 seminars (half day each) and 5

trainings (day and a half each) were conducted on above mentioned topics. These trainings and seminars were conducted for both community and eco-club leaders, altogether up to 260 people. The photo materials from the trainings and seminars are available on the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1td9Shi7YX1WVaONqiCieviewuvkilmkE>

2. Grant Competitions (2 announcements).

The grant competitions were announced for representatives of 50 communities from target regions. The competition aimed to support community groups, activists and eco-club leaders during their activities related with demonstration and introduction of innovative technologies for organic waste recycling and reuse.

- The first call was announced in April, 2018. Total 16 project proposals were submitted in frames of this grant competition (Kakheti – 6; Samegrelo – 6 and Guria – 4). Project proposals were reviewed by a commission of three people, established on the basis of the organization (commission meeting took place on April 30). According to the decision of the commission, 4 project proposals were approved; grantees have signed relevant contracts and received their grants via bank transfer. Currently all 4 projects are finalized and information on its results is published on [Facebook page](#) created in frames of the project.
- The second call was announced in October, 2018. Total 15 project proposals were submitted in frames of this grant competition (Kakheti – 6; Samegrelo – 6 and Guria – 3). Project proposals were reviewed by the same commission (its meeting took place on December 10). According to the decision of the commission, 4 project proposals were approved; Contracts with grantees are under preparation.

Summary of Implemented Micro-Projects

➤ Akhmeta Municipality, Village Zemo Alvani, Project “Leaf Fall”

Project intends to inform population about negative effects of open burning and introduce alternative ways of the waste recycling. In frames of the project it is planned to collect fallen leaves on territory of two public schools and the adjacent neighborhood with the purpose to shred them and prepare the mulch. Further in the project it is planned to organize the Fall festival, which would promote / popularize various domestic waste recycling methods among village population, thus helping to adopt them locally and cease the open burning practice.

➤ Chkhorotsku Municipality, Town Chkhorotsku, Project “Completed Clean Space”

There is the Cleaning Center in Chkhorotsku, which serves its various districts. Trash containers are installed almost in all districts in Chkhorotsku except one of the street stretches. Due to absence of trash containers inhabitants of this street are burning their waste or dump it on illegal landfill near the river. The aim of the project is to install the necessary number of containers on above mentioned stretch of the street, regulate waste disposal schedule, organize separation of organic and inorganic waste and stop the harmful tradition of open waste burning.

➤ **Ozurgeti Municipality, Village Jumati, Project “Together for Better Environment”**

The aim of the project is to introduce simple methods of waste composting in the areas adjacent of Jumati Public School (with consequent use of obtained mulch), lay out a garden of decorative plants and develop / conduct thematic educational programs locally. In frames of the project it is planned also to install trash bins in Jumati community and organize domestic garbage removal. To achieve this goal, project implementers plan to organize advocacy campaign and actively cooperate with relevant self-governing structures.

➤ **Ozurgeti Municipality, Village Kvemo Natanebi, Project “The New Life for Useless Waste”**

Project aims to decorate the school garden and set up the entertainment / recreation area for schoolchildren using the second-hand car tires. Space build up with tires will also be used for sports / physical culture lessons.

3. Investigation/ Collection of target communities waste management concerns, including open waste burning issues – Under this activity the special questionnaire was designed and about 1000 respondents were approached by project team and community leaders. The filled in questionnaires are under processing for preparation of relevant report with recommendations to be prepared for February, 2019.

Compiled target community issues and recommendations will be presented and discussed at 3 government meetings to be organized at regional administrations of Kakheti, Samegrelo and Guria regions in May, 2019. Each meeting will be attended by selected community target group members, representatives of Environmental Supervision Department and Waste Management Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection.