



თქმის ბანკოთქარების კრმბრათის საქმონანმობის ანბაროში

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თქმის
ბანკოთქარება

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 2019 within the frames of BFW and UNDP programs, CSRDG continued intensive cooperation with 31 Community Groups (Kakheti – 18, Samegrelo – 8, Guria – 1 and Shida Kartli - 1) and additionally approached three new community organizations through CDRC announced open grant competition. In Total CSRDG with its deifferent services worked with 31 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 up to **200** organizations registered in the database) – by the end of the year CSRDG initiated in depth research/ CBO mapping throughout the country, that will give us more precise information about acting community groups and their main priorities.
- 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.

This year the Forum was dedicated to the International Day of Women Living in the Village, accordingly, it was held in a more solemn atmosphere (October 17-18, 2019). Similarly to the previous stage, the forum was held in the form of panel discussions, nomination of community leaders (the best community initiative) and their subsequent awarding. The results of the projects were demonstrated through stories told by leaders themselves and by means of video films that were met with great interest from the participants. The following topics were discussed at the panel discussions: 1. Municipal financing mechanisms for local CSOs and CBOs; 2. Women's economic empowerment - review of existing opportunities; and 3. Problems and prospects of rural development. Each panel was represented by speakers from government, civil and private sectors. The number of forum participants exceeded 150 people.

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 one open competition (within the BFW) was announced for CBOs and Community groups countrywide. The open competition was announced in February, 2019 for community groups and organizations which aimed to promote the local / community problem solving. Total 17 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 April 2; 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 three project proposals out of four was made. These proposals are:

#	Community	Project Name and Value	Short Description
1	Chkhorotsku – Mujava Mujava Community Group	Youth for Changes Grant Amount: 7606 GEL	Promoting healthy life style in young people of Mujava Community through arranging football stadium.
2	Mestia - Phari CBO “Empower Rural Youth”	Youth Center Phari Grant Amount: 7600 GEL	Increasing access to informal education of Phari community through arrangmenet of well equipped community space
3	Akhalkalaki - Bavra CBO “Bavra Group”	Arrangement of outdoor lighting in Bavra village Grant Amount: 6759 GEL	Creating comfortable and safe environment in Barva community

All 3 projects are already finalized.

The previous open grant competition was announced in 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 41 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 February 5; as a result of the session, 12 candidates for granting were selected.

The final decisions were made on following project proposals:

#	Community/Implementing agency	Project Name and Value	Short Description
1	Lagodekhi Municipality, Apeni Community Union "Kedeli"	Transparent Hands <i>Fund: GEL 4000</i>	Implementation of transparency and accountability processes in the activities of the community union "Kedeli" and promotion of the organization among local population, civil society organizations and public sector.
2	Sighnaghi Municipality, Tsnori Pensioners Association	Elderly people for strengthening themselves and the community <i>Fund: GEL 3990</i>	Support association members to develop necessary skills for provision organizations transparency and accountability; Motivate members of the organization to become active and plan different activities with the engagement of the local government.
3	Tetritskaro Municipality, Tetritskaro Tetritskaro Youth Center	Let know - Tetritskaro Youth Center <i>Fund: GEL 3999</i>	Promotion of the youth center and increase transparency of the organizations activities.
4	Kakheti Region Association of Women Winemakers and Grape Owners	We become stronger by interconnection <i>Fund: GEL 3995</i>	Improve the connection with the target group members and increase organizations visibility and legitimacy in Kakheti region.
5	Gori Municipality Gori Community Radio Mosaic	Local media for promoting local civil society organizations <i>Fund: GEL 4000</i>	Improve the connection between the civil society organizations operating in Gori and their target group members, increase their visibility and legitimacy.
6	Imereti Region New Way	Strengthen transparency and visibility of the N(N)LE New way <i>Fund: GEL 3713</i>	Ensure continuity of harm reduction program with the support of local authorities through promoting organizations activities, increasing visibility and credibility of the organization.
7	Imereti Region Step Kharagauli	Accountability and transparency - a way to success <i>Fund: GEL 3912</i>	Promotion of the organizations activities in the Kharagauli municipality; Creating data bases of the people with disabilities living in the municipality, assess their needs and organizing advocacy campaigns on revealed issues.
8	Imereti Region Centre of Regional Initiatives "Bright Future"	Increasing accountability and transparency of the organization across the region <i>Fund: GEL 3993</i>	Increase organization's visibility and recognition across the region; Ensure accountability and transparency of the organization's activities;

9	Tsalka municipality, Gumbati Multi Profile Education Center "Gumbati"	With us every colour is bright <i>Fund: GEL 3977</i>	Strengthen education center "Gumbati" in terms of transparency; Promotion of the organizations activities.
10	Kakheti region Georgian Public Interests Defence Association	Investment at an early age - Best Future <i>Fund: GEL 4000</i>	Promotion of the child care services development in the Kakheti region through promoting organizations activities and achievements among the decision makers and other stakeholders; Improve organization's financial transparency.
11	Samegrelo region Ili - Parents of children with hearing impairments for making changes	We are for changes <i>Fund: GEL 3800</i>	Promotion of the organization in the Samegrelo region in order to create tolerant attitude towards the children with hearing impairments
12	Kvareli Municipality, Eniseli Civil Society for Development	Youth Fest <i>Fund: GEL 3995</i>	The purpose of the project is to promote the organization through organizing cultural events.

All projects are finalized.

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 based on the lessons learnt we have revised the concept of the Student Component and according to it selected new target Universities in Tbilisi with relevant departments: 1. Tbilisi State University; 2. Ilia state university (IliaUni); 3. Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA); 4. Caucasus University (CU); 5. The University of Georgia (UG); 6. Free University of Tbilisi; 6. Georgian Technical University (GTU).

With assistance of University administrations, information about students contest was disseminated to relevant faculty students - such as Management, BAB, MBA, Social Science and etc. The most suitable period for the implementation of the Student Competition was identified from January till October, 2019. 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 six community organizations, the case-studies depicting community and CBO problems were developed, this year we made also video cases on these problems to be published together with contest conditions. Within the project, 6 cases were prepared, 3 cases were about

CBOs in Samegrelo (Lesichine, Khabume, Chkhorotsku) and 3 cases about Kakheti CBOs (Shroma, Vardisubani, Appeni).

Eventually, all universities took part in competition and altogether 12 applications were submitted. Eight winner groups out of 12 were selected at the first stage; these groups started to work on relevant problem-solving project proposals. Two one-day and one two-day training workshops were arranged for students' groups. One participant from each group.

- Project Planning and Proposal Writing – altogether 8 participants
- Planning the Information Campaign; – altogether 8 participants
- Local Self-Government Competencies – altogether 8 participants

One more news for the student component in this year is on spot study visits. Before the submission of final proposals, members of selected groups visited target communities (2 visits – Samegrelo and Kakheti regions) in June, 2019. Students visited places and personally met with CBO members to get additional information on the village and its problems (described in the cases). Totally 17 students took part in field visits.

Final proposals were submitted by the end of June of 2019. 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 two winner groups from Tbilisi State University and Ilia State University. The winner projects were: “library in the village Lesichine” and “step to the better future” – in the Shroma village.

1. **“Library in the village Lesichine”** - In frames of this project students closely communicated with library. After preliminary needs assessment the group launched various activities. In particular, two campaigns were organized: the first one, conducted under the slogan “Present the book to Lesichine” (hashtag: [#achuqetsignilesichines]) managed to collect 51 books; another one - “Pay it Forward” was organized in cooperation with British-Georgian Academy and collected 81 books. Also, the book shops and publishing houses joined the project and helped to collect additional 96 books, while Children’s Educational Center “Atom Kids” donated to the Lesichine library 5 sets for chemical experiments. All in all, Library received as a donation 320 books, 5 board games and 5 chemistry lab sets.

2. **“Step to the Better Future”** – In frames of this project students’ group aimed to organize information meetings in public school of the village Shroma. Meetings were devoted to the topics of general discrimination of persons with disabilities, bullying, using the wrong terminology and positive discrimination. Project activities included the meetings with parents of persons with disabilities and with senior students, cleaning and arrangement of the school yard and CBO office yard (new seedlings were planted, the yard was paved with new tiles, decorative compositions from old tires were updated); CBO was provided with materials necessary for needlework, as well as with various objects that help developing fine motor skills.

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.

In 2018 the retreat of CoDeCo coalition of organizations working on community development was organized; during this and follow up meetings coalition members reviewed strategic plan, defined the next steps and schedule of activities, approved the Coalition logo 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) for future joint work.

In November, 2019 CSRDG organized the coalition members' coordination meeting. The following issues were discussed on it: progress towards the development of joint project proposals; the format of next regional meeting of 2020.

During the reporting period, the main work have been carried out towards communication with potential donors and elaboration of project concept on assessment of Micro-Projects Social Impact on Community Development. Dialogue also have been carried out with relevant expert of social sciences from Birmingham University for involvement in the project (technical assistance). On December 12, 2019 CSRDG organized meeting of CoDeCo members with expert Angus McCabe from University of Birmingham. The topic of the meeting was "Measuring Social Impacts and Social Value" and participants also discussed with the speaker the possible format of joint research on Social Impact of Community Projects.

The proposal was submitted to the Open Society Georgia in October, 2019, but unfortunately in 2020 we have received negative answer. Coalition plans to continue fundraising on the same issue and also to develop new project proposals, for this reason the CoDeCo meeting is planned for the spring of 2020.

- ECFI

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 Germany and soon became the first Georgian Community Foundation Support Organization (CFSO) in ECFI ([the link to the ECFI world atlas](#)). 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.

In October 2019, the consultant of ECFI from the Centre for Philanthropy (Slovakia), Boris Strecansky visited Georgia. With support of CSRDG he conducted two meetings 1. Workshop on "**Community Foundations: What are these and how can they be developed**" - attended by CSRDG relevant staff and CoDeCo Coalition members and 2. Discussion of ECFI's possible

assistance to the CSRDG for initiation of community foundation in Georgia, in particular implementation of feasibility study in two target regions. As the result CSRDG started work on design of study concept to be submitted for co funding to ECFI in 2020.

- The Funding Network

In December, 2019 two representatives of CSRDG visited head office of International organization The Funding Network-TFN in London (https://www.facebook.com/groups/126014814767331/?ref=group_header). TFN is an open network which links potential donors to charitable cases and social entrepreneurs through live crowdfunding. Its aim is to raise money for small non-profits driving social change and help both individuals and businesses to combine their giving with others, to make a bigger impact.

CSRDG attended TFN's fundraising event and consultaion/experience sharing meeting after it. CSRDG got better familiar with Giving Circle (Collective Giving) methodology and decided to became the member of the Network. It is planned to orginize fundraising events for small community projects in 2020, TFN will provide some technical and fianncial support for that.

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 CSO "Hub for Development" in Samegrelo region. This component is funded through the UNDP-funded project "Empowering Women for Change", Bread for the World program and GEF-funded 2 projects: a) "Household waste reuse and recycling practices – viable alternatives to open waste burning and associated unintentional PoPs releases " and b) "Global Warming Campaign - chance to change our future" (June 2019 – May, 2020).

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 28 community groups and organizations, whose activities cover altogether 31 communities in four 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, different thematic workshops 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, 28 regional working meetings (19 for first half and 9 for second) devoted to the annual Action Plans' development and Reporting were organized. As a result of these meetings and online consultations, by the beginning of 2019, annual action plans for 27 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 644 (with approximately 22 800 participants) different types of activities (411 for first half and 233 for the second). 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 481 (370 for first half and 111 for the second) consultations (online, individual) and 89 monitoring visits (64 for first half and 25 for the second) 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. During the year, total 40 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 56 (35 for first half and 21 for the second) issues / recommendations were considered out of presented 100 for the reporting year.

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.

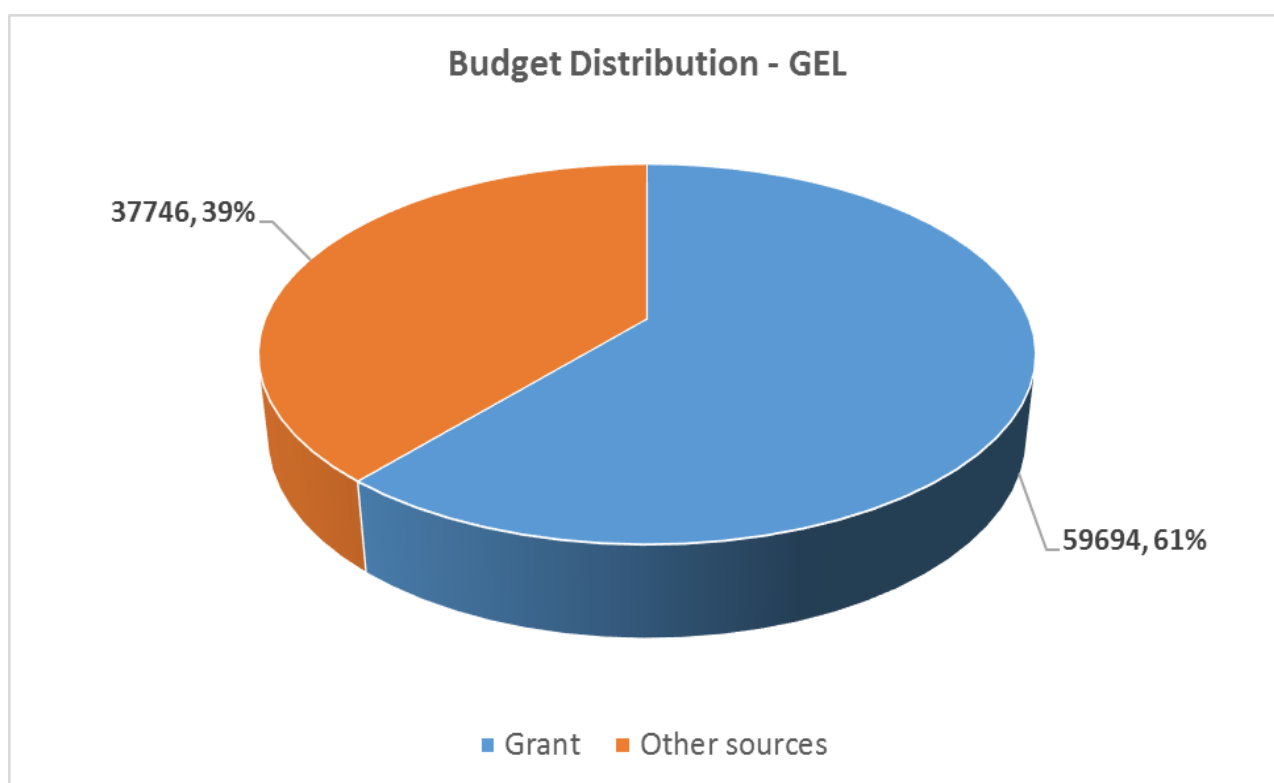
During the 2019 one closed grant competitions for target community groups and organizations was announced in January (in frames of BFW program and UNJP funded project "Empowering Women for Change"). The maximum grant amount for experienced community groups was GEL 8000 and for newly created community groups – GEL 2000. The Constanta Foundation (Ltd) also contributed amount of 5000 Gel to the grant fund and its representative respectively joined the grant committee. The competition was announced in two rounds: I round - call for project concepts and II round – submission of full proposals on preselected project concepts.

Altogether 11 project proposals of preselected concepts (out of 23) were submitted to the Grant Committee consisting of 6 members (representatives of the UN, Community Development Center, Elkana, CSRDG, Constanta and gender expert). The Grant Committee met on March 1, reviewed all proposals and has made decision to fund 9 projects:

#	Community/Implementing agency	Project Name and Value	Short Description
1	Telavi municipality Ruispiri Initiative Group from Village Ruispiri	"Healthy Food for our Children" Fund: GEL 1969	Project aims to raise awareness on biodynamic agricultural production issues by means of training workshops and seminars, theoretical and practical lessons in viticulture, vegetable growing and other essential topics.
2	Telavi municipality Khodasheni Initiative Group of Village Khodasheni	"Improve your Education and become Confident" Fund: GEL 7980	Creating space for Women and Youth Center (venue rehabilitation and equipment; organization of computer, language, math and art courses).
3	Telavi municipality Napareuli Union Nafareuli	"Animation Studio in Support of Community's Cultural Life" Fund: GEL 7986.50	Creation of a free Animation Club (organization of classes, provision of equipment). Youth will be able to attend classes and learn the technique of animated films and commercials production; products of the studio will be demonstrated to youth from other villages; Club graduates will then be able to train / teach other interested peers.
4	Telavi municipality Pshaveli Community Development Center "Aisi"	"By the Tracks of the Past" Fund: GEL 7868	Popularization of historical and cultural monuments of the Pshaveli community; traditional needlework training for local women. Project activities include a cycle of trainings on these topics, clean-up of the territory, marking tourist trails, creating photo- and video-collage of selected historical and cultural monuments, as well as printing of an information banner and flyers.
5	Dedoplistskaro municipality Khornabuji Women and Youth Center "Tamaris Tsikhe"	"Our Space – Road to Success" Fund: GEL 7944.60	Creating space for a Women and Youth Center (building rehabilitation, provision of equipment, organization of events, such as an exhibition of handmade items, meetings with famous people, etc.)
6	Lagodekhi municipality Tsodniskari Community Center	"Modern and Comfortable"	Setting up the Community Center (renovating the venue within administration building followed by the organization of various activities like movie screening, English language courses, etc.).

	"Tsodniskari"	space for Future development"	
		Fund: GEL 7995	
7	Telavi municipality Saniore Initiative Group "Putkari"	"Strong Women" Fund: GEL 1987.10	Organizing training workshops and seminars on various topics of interest such as project writing, effective presentation, research, advocacy, legal and psycho-emotional activities, domestic violence and others
8	Chkhorotsku municipality Napichkhovo Women Initiative Group "Omarte"	"From Past to Future" Fund: GEL 7986	Rehabilitation of Culture House in village Napichkhovo followed by organization of various events such as intellectual games, youth evenings, etc.
9	Abasha municipality Samiqao Women Initiative Group	"Sport and Development" Fund: GEL 7976.95	Setting up the Health and Wellness space for youth through the installation of training equipment on a territory of public garden. It has to be added that among these nine projects, two are already initiated, while others are in preparatory phase. Program intensively monitors the observance of the projects' action plans; there were 32 monitoring visits realized during the reporting period.

All funded projects are finalized.



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 21 trainings and seminars were conducted (15 for first half and 6 for the second):

- Three one-day seminar that intended to present the project visibility materials was conducted in Kakheti and Samegrelo regions (Telavi meeting on February 26, 2019; Lagodekhi meeting on February 27, 2019 and Samegrelo meeting on March 6, 2019). The meeting aimed to guarantee that community organizations / initiative groups are well informed about formal requirements and rules related to the project implementation process. For these meetings, special visibility document was prepared; document describes in detail, how community organization/ initiative group should proceed while spreading the information about the project and / or preparing various project-related publications. Seminars were attended by total 38 representatives of organizations and initiative groups that are currently implementing small projects funded by CSRDG. Apart from the visibility materials presentation, meeting also reviewed several very basic online applications that will help community organizations and groups to better highlight and present their activities.

- Two one-day trainings were conducted on "Crowdfunding as a modern mechanism of funding" in Kakheti and Samegrelo regions (April, 2019). The training discussed the funding possibilities for community projects through online public funding platforms. The training was attended by 39 community leaders.

- Two seminars were conducted for CIG members in KakheTi and Samegrelo regions on Women Involvement in implementation of local gender policy, attended by 47 participants. The seminar was led by experts from Women Information Center. Some inputs were made also by invited responsible officials from Kakheti Gubernia (Regional Administration) and Gender Equality Council at Zugdidi Municipality. The aim of the seminars was to inquire community leaders with institutional mechanisms of gender equality in Georgia and also to discuss Gender Equality Action Plans of local municipalities and what can be the role of leader women in its implementation.

- In the period of May-July 2019, the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia, has delivered in total 8 two day trainings for community organizations / initiative groups countrywide on "Tools of 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;
- Public Relations – its meaning and basic tools;
- Basic principles of communication strategy;
- Main tools of external and internal communication;

- Communication with traditional media
- Use of Social Media
- Forms of internal communication

Trainings took place in 8 different locations of Georgia attended by 113 representatives of CBOs and regional CSOs prior the planned small grants competition to be announced in July, 2019.

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 September, 3-day training for Girl Scout leaders was conducted. In order to identify interested leaders, the training was preceded by 2 information meeting / presentations on "Scouting, Girl Scouts Organization "Dia" in Kakheti and Samegrelo regions. After the meetings, 10 leader scouts went through the training. During the training participants received the information about informal education and its principles, scouting, its conditions and rules and also program directions of "Dia"; they received practical recommendation on how to form the scouts team and on the main principles of its operations; they reviewed the difficulties related to the leaders' work and talked about the ways to handle them.
- In September – October, the 3 rounds of the training "**Think Globally - Act Locally**" were conducted in each of three target regions – Guria, Samegrelo and Kakheti. Training was attended by community leaders and eco-leaders of target villages, as well as by teachers from educational institutions. Training aimed to build participants' knowledge and improve their skills in preparing project proposals related to the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. Each training session lasted two full days; one part of it was devoted to the review of the energy efficiency issues, and the second - to initiating relevant project ideas and mastering the proposal writing skills. During the training, participants learned about the environmental protection and energy policy both in the local and international context; about sustainable energy systems, methods for mitigating the impact of climate change and adapting to these changes, about the latest technologies and the possibility of creating their budget counterparts by means of the workshops and video-lessons. They also got acquainted with project application form and conditions / criteria of the grant competition. In total, 74 people (61 women and 13 men) took part in the training.

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.

Three experience sharing tours were also conducted in May for relatively new and/or low developed CIGs within Kakheti (2 visits) and Samegrelo Regions (1 visit). a) 10 leaders from Lagodekhi and Dedoplistskaro WIGs visited more experienced Community based organization in Pshaveli and Napareuli Communities. The CBO coordinators made presentation of their activities, also guests made on site visits to already implemented micro projects. They also visited biodynamic farm, where they got introduced to the techniques of producing bio agricultural products. b) 8 representatives of 4 CIG from Telavi municipality visited Leliani Community Education Center, Bio Firm and Dry fruit production in Phona community and CBO "Hereti", also cooperative founded by CBO members. The hosts in each community introduced them the main activities and services of their entities, provided information on production of biologically sound products, bio certificating process and establishment and challenges of cooperatives c) 12 leaders from Samegrelo CIGs visited Senaki and Jvari Community Education Centers and Community Based organization "Toliskuri". In Jvari community they also visited Social Enterprise – Café "Coffee time", where got introduced to its work and history.

As for joint workshops, in total 28 meetings (19 for first half and 9 for the second) 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 two projects 1. " Household waste reuse and recycling practices – viable alternatives to open waste burning and associated unintentional PoPs releases " and 2. "Global Warming Campaign - chance to change our future" (June, 2019 – May, 2020)".

Following activities were conducting during the reporting period:

1. Grant Competitions (2 announcements).

- The first call was announced in March, 2019 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. Total 17 project proposals were submitted in frames of this grant competition (Kakheti – 8; Samegrelo – 5 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 19). According to the decision of the commission, 5 project proposals were approved; grantees have signed relevant contracts and received their grants via bank transfer. Currently all 5 projects are finalized and information on its results is published on [Facebook page](#) created in frames of the project.
- In November, the second closed grant competition was announced for target communities' CBOs and eco-leaders. The main objective of the grant competition was to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, carry out activities for mitigation of the climate change impact, as well as to promote the introduction of efficient and renewable energy technologies locally. The maximum grant amount was 6,000 GEL with at least 30% mandatory contribution by the local municipality and community inhabitants. According to the plan, total three project proposals will be awarded.

Total 8 project proposals were submitted in frames of this grant competition (Kakheti – 4; Samegrelo – 2 and Guria – 2). Project proposals were reviewed by a commission of three people, established on the basis of the organization (commission meeting took place on December 13). According to the decision of the commission, 4 project proposals were selected for further improvement. They were provided by relevant comments. At the same time on sport visits together with energy efficiency expert were conducted to all 4 locations and professional recommendations were provided for finalization of the submitted proposals. The final decision will be made on resubmitted project proposals in January, 2020.

Summary of 2019 implemented Micro-Projects (from previous call of 2018 and call of 2019)

➤ Lagodekhi Municipality, Village Heretiskari, Project “Let’s care about Environment”

In frame of the project a) informational meetings “we want clean village” for local people including youth were conducted, the issues of negative impact and threats of environment pollution were discussed at the meetings; b) demonstrative lessons on practical reuse of different items for school children of three villages were conducted at community center; c) the composter from secondary materials was made and installed at the backyard of community center (bio waste from cleaning up activities have been placed in the composter) d) the cognitive excursion was arranged for youth involved in the project to Straw House at the final stage of the project.

➤ Khobi Municipality, Torsa Community, Project “Our eco-friendly square”

The implementing organization “Education and Development center - Toliskuri” conducted the following activities within the frame of above-mentioned project: a) Warning Information stand on open burning was designed and installed in village square b) 2 big containers for plastic waste and decorative banner made from secondary bottle caps were placed in the square again.

➤ **Municipality Khobi, Village Khamiskuri, Project “First Steps”**

In frame of the project, the Initiative Group composed from community and eco club leaders initiated arrangement of the village square in the center of the community, on the place of illegal landfill. The project has been still implementing and will be finished for September, 2019. It envisages active involvement of local municipality, stone workshop and bay leaf processing enterprise (local small businesses), fencing the territory, arranging decorative paths and placement of trash bins and lights in it.

➤ **Ozurgeti Municipality, Village Meria, Project “Making our environment better – reducing negative impact”**

The following action were fulfilled by the Initiative Group within the frame of the project: a) 2 seminars on open burning were conducted by teacher of Biology and Eco club leaders for school children, the seminars stressed on negative effects of open burning, its threats and negative impact on health; b) the secondary tires and paper were collected in the village, the money raised from paper delivery was spent on purchasing evergreen decorative seedlings; c) the school yard was cleaned up and prepared for planting of new flowers – the needed equipment and labor force was provided by the school administration, the teachers and parents were also actively involved; d) Flower pots, swing and sport constructions were made from secondary wires. Thus, the space for sport competitions and lessons have been created in the school yard.

➤ **“Recycle Waste, not Nature” Project of Village Shroma, Lagodekhi Municipality.**

Project aimed at raising the environmental awareness of Shroma teenagers and promoting the clean, healthy and safe environment in the village. Within the project, school students were invited to take part in a competition for a best environmental slogan. Winner slogan was printed on 230 textile bags and 200 information leaflets produced in frames of the same project. Bags were distributed through the various community shops and outlets.

➤ **“Green Library” Project of Pirveli Maisi Village, Khobi Municipality.** The project aimed to reduce the environmental impact caused by the open burning of waste. On the initiative and with participation of children from eco-clubs existing at public school of four villages, the inhabitants of these villages were informed about the benefits of paper waste recycling. At the initiative of the Toliskuri Education and Development Center, 10 volunteers from four public school eco-clubs made waste paper containers; for this purpose, they painted 5

cardboard boxes in different colors and glued the information stickers on them. Four containers for waste paper were installed in public schools in the villages of Torsa, Kheta, Khamiskuri and Pirveli Maisi; the fifth container was placed in the office of the “Mercury” Association.

- **„Think about the Future” Project of Village Nokalakevi, Senaki Municipality** – the aim of the project was to reduce the open burning of the waste in the locality. It was decided to involve eco-club children in the information campaign about the contemporary approaches to the waste management; with this purpose, the information meetings with local inhabitants were organized consequently in all three districts of Nokalakevi village. Apart from this, eco-club members in cooperation with organization “House of Initiatives” cleaned the territory of the public park. Special banners were installed at the river bank. During the spring works on hazelnut plantations, youth made 2 containers for collecting waste, using the rods left after cutting the hazel bushes. One of these containers was installed in the park, and the second in the courtyard of the museum. The organization continues to work actively in this direction.
- **“Let’s Live in the Clean Environment” Project of Village Arboshiki, Dedoplistskaro Municipality.** The project initiated by the Arboshiki Women and Youth Community Center aimed to reduce environmental pollution and gradually eradicate the open burning of the waste by increasing the level of public awareness about importance of recycling biodegradable household waste. As part of the project, a garden vacuum cleaner as well as other gardening tools were purchased and model (demonstration) composter was installed. Total 40 people were involved in the implementation of the project, including the women initiative center members, eco-club members, as well as local population of the village.
- **“Learn to Support the Earth” Project of Village Natanebi, Ozurgeti Municipality.** In frames of the project, a special environmental resource classroom was set up at the public school of the village. The room is comprised of cognitive, entertaining, presentation and reading zones and serves to improve the operations of the local eco-club. The resource room is particularly popular among young people; its doors are constantly open to host various events and curious visitors.
- **Stakeholder dialogue meetings on waste management/open burning issues** – Under this activity the special questionnaire on waste management concerns, including open waste burning issues was designed and about 1000 respondents were approached by project team and community leaders in the end of 2018. The filled in questionnaires were analyzed and relevant report was prepared in February, 2019.

Report findings and project results were presented and discussed at 3 stakeholder dialogue meetings organized at regional administrations of Kakheti, Samegrelo and Guria regions in May-June, 2019. Each meeting was attended by selected community target group members (community and eco club leaders),

local CSOs, media and representatives of respective state institutions/departments functioning at local and regional levels. In total 136 people attended the meetings.

2. Educational Eco-Camp

In August 2019, in the Lagodekhi Protected Area, an Eco-Camp was organized for those active community leaders and eco-club members who won the small grant competitions and were involved in corresponding projects. The camp aimed to introduce active project participants from all three regions, present successful / winner projects and analyze / discuss future community plans in terms of waste management. The camp program included two adventure tours to the Rocho and Machistsikhe Falls, as well as daytime and evening sports and creative events. The camp was attended by 59 people (43 women and 16 men).

3. Information / Launching Meetings

In the period of June – August, the information meetings were organized in administrative centers of program target regions (namely, Ozurgeti, Khobi, Chkhorotsku, Dedoplistskaro, Lagodekhi and Telavi); total 6 such meetings with 108 participants (among them 70 women and 38 men) were facilitated. The main purpose of the meetings was to introduce the newly launched project “Global Warming Campaign – Chance to Change our Future” and its activities, as well as discuss the cooperation perspectives with municipal self-government (city hall) and other administrative agencies. The meetings were attended by representatives from municipality, kindergartens’ union, public schools as well as community leaders.