



March
2018 / #13

Newsletter

**CHCA operates
in four program
areas**

Livelihoods and Economic Development

Community Development and Advocacy

Children and Youth Protection and Development

Peace and Confidence Building



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Information Meeting in Anaklia - Zrda Activity in Georgia



On March 23, at the Palm Beach Hotel, CHCA held an information meeting in Anaklia, which was attended by an entrepreneur from the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. David Guchua, CHCA's livelihood and economic development program manager, presented to the participants the organization's current project "Zrda Activity in Georgia". A clip was also shown at the meeting, which included biennial results and success stories of project beneficiaries.

About 30 entrepreneurs attended the information meeting. Among them were potential beneficiaries, as well as old beneficiaries, who received an interest-free loan from the project. According to the decision of the loan committee, by the end of April, the author of the 15 best business proposals will receive interest-free loans up to 10,000 GEL.

"Zrda Activity in Georgia" is a five-year-long project. CHCA has implemented the project in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. In 2016-2017, 59 entrepreneurs received financial support for developing guesthouse business, agriculture sector, and other services. "Zrda" will continue until 2020. In total, 150 local entrepreneurs will receive financial support in the framework of the project, the total loan amount is 625 000 GEL.



Marina Sordia - Anaklia / Zugdidi Development of Guest House

Marina Sordia lives with her family in Anaklia. She started the guest house business in 2012. In 2017, Marina received 7 000 GEL in the framework of the project "Zrda". The money was spent on improving the upper floor of the guesthouse. Now the hotel "White House" can receive 50 guests simultaneously.

In the summer season of 2017, Marina Sordia managed to earn 20 000 GEL. Eight people are employed at the summer season in the guest house and their average salary is 500 GEL. Marina Sordia says that the only source of income for the family is money earned from the hotel, and therefore she will make much effort to expand her business.



Video Clip - Success Story
<https://bit.ly/2IkNTIo>



Gocha Kvaratskhelia - Kutaisi / workshop for the production of furniture

Gocha Kvaratskhelia is from Ochamchere, Abkhazia and now lives in Kutaisi. Within the framework of the project, he received a grant in the amount of 1 200 EUR and purchased new equipment and tools - a saw, a cutting tool, an electric drum, a carver, etc. - for his furniture workshop. Since 2004, he is engaged in the production of furniture. "With new equipment, my work is easier than

before, and now I can take more orders. In my workshop, I mainly produce kitchens, bedrooms, rooms for guests, furniture, etc. In the workshop, the main equipment and tools were obsolete and without the timely support of this project, it would be difficult for me to buy a new one", he says. In the workshop four people are employed.

CHCA continues to support the people in conflict with the law

16 convicts from Penitentiary Institution #16 participated in a four-month vocational training course - "handmade items and leather accessories" - from September to December 2017. The course participants have mastered their working skills at a professional level, which will enable them to develop the design and work independently on the production of the different kinds of leather accessories in future. In addition, the participants attended social skills training course that covered four different topics.

Social training will help the convicts to adapt to a new environment after they are released and better prepared to begin a new life. The next phase of the vocational training will be launched in April in Penitentiary Institution #16. 12 convicts will be involved in the four-month training course and they will acquire skills of working on enamel during remaining four months. Participants will be able to master various techniques of enamel work; moreover, with the help of an instructor, they will be able to create several pieces.



Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment



Young women living in Zugdidi municipality will learn soutache technique for three months. Currently, 11 people are attending soutache technique classes. "Some participants learn soutache technique faster, while some of them need more time and explanations. It is three weeks since I started teaching them and we have made significant progress already. I always tell my students that in order to create an accessory, it is very important to be careful and concentrated while working, and of course, having a taste in fashion is significant, too" – says soutache technique teacher Irina Korshia.

Salome Kardava - Zugdidi / Soutache Technique



Salome Kardava is an IDP from Abkhazia and currently lives in Zugdidi. She has an educational background in theology but has never worked with her profession. Several years ago Salome learned to embroider and started selling embroidery goods. Since March 2018 Salome has been involved in the project. "My friend told me about the project and I decided to participate in it with great pleasure as I would like to learn soutache technique. I already know embroidering and beadwork, which helps me to learn soutache technique much easier. I think, knowing new handicraft will help me to start a small business and ensure diversity in my products in order to sell them more effectively. With soutache technique, I plan to design hats, handbags, shoes, etc. and start vending them".



Lela Gortamashvili / 18 years old

“I like working here. The products made with my participation are sold in markets and it is very pleasant for me. I’m a part of this”.

Lela lives in the village Kisiskhevi, Telavi municipality and currently, she serves an internship with her four peers in the dairy farming “Shuamta”. Prior to this, she attended social skills training, which consisted of eight different topics. These pieces of training help young people to improve their social skills, which, in turn, help them to find a job and promote independent living.



Project - Enabling Youth to Become Productive Contributing Adult Citizens



Forum-theater week Telavi / Saguramo / Gori

How do we deal with the conflict? - This was the main question during the forum-theater week held on March 28-30 with youth in Telavi, Saguramo, and Gori. The main goal of the forum-theater was to evaluate the knowledge received during the training within the framework of the project - “Enabling Youth to Become Productive Contributing Adult Citizens”. The forum-theater intended to assess the youth ability to use different types of behavior if specific conflict situations occur.



As a theme for the forum-theater, the initiators of the event chose a scenario when the conflict arises between the teacher and the pupil. In this simulated conflict, the adolescents were attentive and actively tried to find ways to solve the conflict with the positive approach. During the assertive behavior, people respect themselves and others and have open communication with those who are holding the opposite position, which in this case was ultimately the best way to solve the conflicts.

“Identification and Prioritization of Problems” Training in Poti, Senaki, Tskaltubo, and Kutaisi



On March 8-9 in Poti and Senaki, and on March 16-17 in Kutaisi and Tskaltubo, the training was held for the representatives of CSO of IDPs on the topic “Identification and Prioritization of Problems”. 43 participants attended the session. During the training, the participants worked in small groups and presented various problematic issues that are present in their communities. In addition, each problem was prioritized and then ranked.



For IDP community it is important to identify the main problems because with their active participation in the framework of the project they will conduct the advocacy campaigns, roundtable discussions, meetings with representatives of local authorities and etc. The purpose of this activities is finding a positive solution to the problems existing in the IDP community. The project involves 35 IDP centers in Kutaisi, Tskaltubo, Senaki, and Poti.



Thekle Chichua - Senaki Representative of CSO

The 19-year-old Thekle Chichua is from Abkhazia but now she lives in the former building of the boarding school in Senaki. She is the chairwoman of a community organization in her community. “I would like to take an active part in the activities planned within the framework of this project. We have a lot of problems in the community, but the most important of them is the arrangement of the courtyard. In the summer there is terrible dust, and in winter - impassable puddles. From this training I get the knowledge and experience that will help me cope with the challenges in my community,” says Thekle.