

Georgia GP20 Plan of Action

Thematic Priorities: Data / Durable Solutions / IDP Engagement / Law and Policy

Timeframe: 2019 – 2020

Stakeholders: Government authorities – IDPs – Host communities – UN agencies – Development actors

Problem Statement

20% of the territory of Georgia is occupied and the IDPs constitute nearly 7% of the total population of Georgia. To this day they live in protracted displacement as there is no progress in terms of the implementation of their right to safely return to their places of origin. Until this is possible, the Government of Georgia (GoG) is working towards providing them with Durable Housing Solutions (DHS) through multiple accommodation programs. However, considering the limited budget of the country, the government needs external support in order to accelerate the process of accommodation.

There is a further need to move from a status-based to a needs-based assistance to IDPs. As of now, the IDPs receive “IDP allowance” according to the “Law of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons”.

Objective

The GoG is committed to providing Durable Housing Solutions for IDPs and supporting their social integration. The Government will also work on developing a new IDP allowance policy.

Activities

1) Reforming IDP monthly allowance

It is planned to elaborate a new model of IDP monthly allowance, which will be based on the findings of IDP needs assessment. IDPs and other stakeholders will be involved in the process of elaboration. The objective of the reform is to assist vulnerable IDPs, fairly distribute resources that are assigned to IDP programs, and to decrease dependence on state assistance of those IDPs, who are less vulnerable.

2) Information campaign

In order to adequately inform IDPs and to support their involvement in livelihood programs, IDPs will be informed about assistance programs through different information channels, namely via brochures, short text messages (SMS), forums, door-to-door visits etc.

3) Accommodating under durable housing program

In order to support durable solutions for IDPs, the GoG provides accommodation to approximately 2000 IDP families each year. Moreover, the government offers different accommodation alternatives, so IDPs can make a choice, and choose a place that better suits their needs, which contributes to their successful integration. The IDPs, who are accommodated under durable housing programs, can register the allocated housing units into their private property.

In 2019-2020 the Government plans to close at least 40 collapsing buildings, where living is hazardous for health or live of IDPs. About 700 IDP families living in such buildings will be accommodated under durable housing program.

4) Increasing access to livelihood opportunities

In close cooperation with international development partners, the government will continue to support IDPs, so they can have access to livelihood sources. In 2019, a grant program to assist IDPs living in rural areas will be implemented in cooperation with a USAID project ZRDA. In 2020, the government plans to support at least 200 vulnerable IDPs with livelihood grants.

Activities planned by the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Georgia, with the participation from the Government

- 1) High level event to mark the 20th Anniversary of GP with participation from government, UN country team, donor community, in order to discuss the progress achieved and ways forward in terms of achieving durable solutions in the context of protracted displacement;

- 2) Organize an event (forum) for IDPs dedicated to 20th anniversary of UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, as part of strengthening the participation of IDPs in decision making process and keeping a record of their views and remaining needs, the event will be organized by UNHCR legal partner LAG.