



**PROVISION FOR POST PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND
Contract NO.PD:C0110/10**

EVALUATION REPORT



**UDF-GEO-09-333 Participatory Rights of Physically Disabled
Persons in Georgia**

Date: 30 December 2013

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this report are those of the evaluators. They do not represent those of UNDEF or of any of the institutions referred to in the report.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(i) Background

The project ran from 01 May 2011 ± 30 April 2013, with a total grant of USD 165,000. It was designed by the Qualification Center for Trainers (QCT), Georgia, and was implemented in Tbilisi, Georgia. It was implemented in partnership with the Center for the Protection of Rights of the Disabled at the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the House for Social Therapy (association for people in need of special care). The target population consisted of persons with physical disabilities aged 14-25 years, their family members, personnel working with persons with physical disabilities, journalists, teachers, and

Activities were completed according to plan and in most cases the grantee exceeded the targeted outputs. 7KH SURMHFW



Given the extent to which the grantee managed to elaborate more and improved sources of information on the rights of the persons with disabilities, there is little doubt that the project has been successful. However, it is also a fact that despite this promotional effort and the provision of vocational training, 89% of the former club trainees are still facing unemployment.

Continued lobbying of government structures, policy makers and more piloting of vocational training will be needed to ensure full implementation of the rights of persons living with disabilities. To overcome the currently **limited effect and sustainability** (1) a re-launch of its public relations activity, which could be achieved with relatively little effort and at relatively limited expense; and (2) a review of its strategic approach towards the donor community to secure future funding.

(iv) Recommendations

In accordance with our **observations on impact, we recommend to UNDEF** to emphasize vis-à-vis applicants not only the importance of generating comparative data (baseline vs. outcome), but to also provide guidance about its effective use. **We encourage the grantee** to cover project achievements systematically, as this will enable QCT to improve its current assessment in qualitative terms and thus enhance the project's visibility. This will also help to attract new donors and implementing partners for an expansion of the original project. We therefore also **suggest that UNDEF considers** that applications including solid outcome survey approaches will be given preference.

Based on our comments on sustainability, we recommend to the grantee to re-activate the QCT website, and to use it for continued dissemination of the project's findings. We also suggest to:

- Continue awareness raising of the public, organising a series of round tables, with representatives from government authorities (i.e. members of the coordination committee, business community and the media);
- Use findings based on advanced monitoring indicators in future project proposals, in order to provide donors with better information on the project's impact on beneficiaries with access to society and labour market;
- Intensify cooperation with the business sector to identify labour market needs. By offering the added value of a skilled workforce, QCT may also find new ways to attract co-funding for its future vocational education offer from potential private sector partners;
- Deepen the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, which in 2014 has established training centres, thus ensuring coordination, complementary activities, and a maximum of synergy.

II. INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

i. The project and evaluation objectives

7KLVUHSRUWFRQWDLQVWKHHYDOXDWLRQRIRWKHSURMHEWFRQVWOPICsically
Disabled Persons in Georgia7KHSURMHFWUDQIUURPMay 2011 ± 30 April 2013, with a total
grant of USD 165,000 (out of which UNDEF retained USD 16,500 for monitoring and
evaluation).

The project was designed by the Qualification Center for Trainers (QCT), Georgia, and was implemented in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. It was implemented in partnership with the Center for the Protection of Rights of the Disabled at the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the House for Social Therapy (association for people in need of special care). As defined in the Project Document, the overall objective was to undertake an advocacy campaign in support of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which was signed by the government RI HRUJLD LQ EW ZDV VWLOO WR EH UDWLILHG EWKH FRQVWOPICment. The target population consisted of persons with physical disabilities aged 14-25 years, their family members, personnel working with persons with physical disabilities, journalists, teachers, and university students attending the faculties of Law, Education, and Social Science.

UNDEF and Transtec have agreed on a framework governing the evaluation process, set out in the Operational Manual. According to the manual, the objective of the evaluation is to QGHUWDNHQ both analysis of UNDEF-funded projects to gain a better understanding of what constitutes a successful project which will in turn help UNDEF devise future project strategies. Evaluations also assist stakeholders to determine whether projects have been implemented in accordance with the project document and whether anticipated project RWSWVKDMEHHQDFKLHMG´

(ii) Evaluation methodology

and 31 project beneficiaries, comprising of persons with disabilities, some of their family members, persons working with persons with physical disabilities, journalists, teachers, and university students.

(iii) Development context

It is commonly claimed that it is due to Soviet legacy that various segments of the Georgian society base their attitude towards persons with disabilities on discriminatory perceptions. This has led to almost total social exclusion, preventing physically challenged people from claiming access and obtaining their legitimate stake in modern Georgian society¹. In contrast to the UNCRPD, disability in Georgia is still not seen as a matter of social integration, but as a medical issue only.² A lack of appropriate infrastructure causes accessibility issues in all areas of public life.³ Inclusive education has not been introduced at the level of vocational and higher education yet⁴, and in the absence of legal requirements and tax benefit incentives for businesses, accessible workplaces and employment are hard to find for persons with disabilities⁵. There are also negative impacts on family members of persons with disabilities, e.g. misinformation has led to the widely spread belief that for genetic reasons one should avoid to engage in partnership with siblings of disabled people.⁶

The Georgian government recognizes the need to change this situation at all levels. Its main counter-argument is, however, the lack of financial means required for immediate adjustment in all areas of life. This approach is documented e.g. in the recent draft law on the (OLPLQDWLRQRIDOO)RUPVRI'LVFULPLQDWLRQ. The need to promote equality and fight against all kinds of negative discrimination is recognized (articles 1 to 3). When it comes to disability, a reservation concerning the ODZT ratione temporis states that for discrimination based on disability the law will enter into force by the year 2018 only (article 23). Civil society representatives believe that, if political will existed, public funds could have been used in a better way to start introducing necessary changes step by step. They try to promote their vision through participation in the high level State Coordination Council on Issues of Persons with Disabilities under the Prime Minister of Georgia.⁷

Formally, the government expressed its political will to treat people with disabilities in accordance with international standards. On 10 July 2009 Georgia signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its Optional Protocol. In June 2013 parliament debated its ratification and decided to return it to the government, asking the latter to re-submit Convention and Protocol together with a package of all legislative changes required to properly implement the Convention. On 1 November 2013 the President of Georgia re-submitted Convention, Protocol and the package of draft legislative amendments⁸, which are currently pending issues on the parliamentary agenda.

as:

- The definition of disability and conditions for granting disability status;
- Accessibility of the physical environment;
- State programmes and services for persons with disabilities;
- Education and employment;
- Perception by and attitudes of the Georgian society.

The study visit and, subsequently, the elaboration of reports on the study visit and on German and British best practice were activities designed to raise the capacity of QCTV staff and to generally improve access to relevant information. More specifically, the objective was to (1) enhance

options added upon UHTM VWR IWK HGH DISHR SOH Y Q L R Q ed hair styling and massage therapy training.

(ii) Effectiveness

The final narrative report describes a generally successful project. While evaluators noted

The above demonstrates that the grantee managed to bring about change, since (1) the beneficiaries of the QCT club training display clear signs of increased self-esteem and empowerment, which in turn encouraged them (2) to pro-actively SDUWLF LSDWHLQWKHFRQWU political and social life, pushing for their rights and raise awareness among public stakeholders about issues the physically challenged typically face. However, when it comes to the government structures ¶DWWLW&is-à-vis co

**With almost no access to professional education,
employment is a problematic issue**

The fact that club trainee **Mariam Devidze** LVGHDIGRHVQWVSUHMQRWHL being an artist: while meeting the evaluators she demonstrated her artistic skills by completing a

(v) Sustainability

While evaluators do not dispute the project's achievements (cf. sections on effectiveness and impact), it is also a fact that at the time of the evaluation visit (a) the grantee was still

unable to ensure a continued vocational training offer for persons with physical disabilities, and (b) the pace at which the government of Georgia intended to encourage or enforce compliance with UNCRPD (once it is ratified), remained unclear.

1. The grantee failed to secure continued financial support for the club

Given the lack of vocational education possibilities in Georgia, the grantee made efforts to maximize the number of club participants, i.e. the three groups QCT trained were double in size compared to the SURIHVVLRQDO WUDLQHUV. Many persons with disabilities, who learned from friends or the club, expressed their interest, but still had to be turned down. expectation that successful piloting of the club would ultimately lead to a commitment for continued financing by another donor or relevant government institution. The grantee reportedly made a number of attempts to apply for donor funding, but unfortunately these turned out unsuccessful.

Taking into account that more intervention will be needed to promote and achieve the protection of

2.

V. CONCLUSIONS

i. The project was solidly established on the findings of the JUDQWHH base. Accordingly, it was designed to inform the Georgian public about the purpose of UNCRPD, DQGWRSXKVWDNHKROGHUVRIWKHFRQWUJRMUOP to put in place a legislative framework protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Taking

certain UNCRPD provisions and employment.

iv. The grantee committed significant levels of expenditure for the acquisition of relevant knowledge and mobilization of expertise, in order to be in a position to administer the club and attempt to promote the rights of people living with physical disabilities (QCT expanded its focus onto this target group only in 2010). In view of the slow progress and given the low levels of public awareness, evaluators are of the opinion that the project, **while not particularly efficient, represented a necessary first investment** to work in a comprehensive way towards a change of attitude vis-à-vis UNCRPD ratification and an improvement of the living conditions and employment prospects for a first group of young persons with physical disabilities.

v. Despite impressive results, six months after the closing date evaluators have come across a number **shortcomings that risk to limit the sustainability** of its target group that the grantee will play a lasting key role in providing access to vocational education, QCT failed to secure continued financial support for the club. Unfortunately, (1) attempts to convince another donor or relevant government institution to provide continued financing for the club did not bear any fruits; (2) UNCRPD implementation remains unclear. A coordination council assigned with the monitoring of two consecutive, almost identical, action plans implementing the provisions of the Convention and achieved little progress. At the same time, the club has not yet

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the outcome and similar projects in the future, evaluators recommend to UNDEF and project grantees:

i. The fact that QCTV DSSURDFKDQGPHWKRGRORJLQFOGSHGWKHFRQGW of baseline research and the formulation of outcome indicators is highly commendable, as this usually enhances a SURMHF relevance and significantly facilitates the **assessment of impact**. We, however, highlight that the usefulness of measuring the (likely) impact of projects, and the identifi

- and the former UNDEF SURMHFWYMSRVHDFWLMWLHVDQGDFKLHMPHQVV
- Continue awareness raising by disseminating via the QCT ZHEVLWHWKHSURMHFWY main outputs, i.e. the Situation Analysis Report, the Best Practice Report, the flyer presenting UNCRPD provisions, and selected TV and information spots;
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ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

UNDEF

- Final Narrative Report
- Mid-Term/Annual Progress Report
- Project Document
- Milestone Verification Reports
- Financial Utilization Reports

QCT

- Situation Analysis Report, Rights of Disabled People in Georgia
- Study Visit Report, Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in the German Federation
- Report on Best Practice, Rights of the Persons with Disabilities In Germany and the UK
- Flyer, Selected UNCRPD provisions
- Newspaper clippings
- Presentation, Disability in the UK
- Presentation, Situation in Georgia
- Presentation, Inclusive Education
- Presentation, Practices in Germany
- Presentation, UNCRPD
- Correspondence from written exchanges with 8 government institutions
- Audio-visual media products (TV and radio programmes, information videos)
- Vocational training materials (IT, Call Centre Operation)
- 3URIHVVLRQDOWUDLQHHVTVW&HQWVWHDESKJUN&RSM training materials
- Sample training certificate
- Images, QCT club trainees, professional trainees, project events

Laws, conventions:

- Draft law on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination;
http://www.legislationline.org/download/action/download/id/4909/file/238_NDISCR_GEO_18%20Oct%202013_en.pdf
- 5HVROXWLRQRMUQPHQWRIRUJ ia), 15 December 2009
- 5HVROXWLRQ8UHVVLGHQWRIRUJLD1RMPEHU
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 13 December 2006 (entered into force on 3 May 2008); <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=12&pid=150>

Other sources

- There Are No Invalids in the USSR! A Missing Soviet Chapter in the New Disability History;
6DUDK3KLOOLSVLQ'LVDELQW6W&LHV48UWHUO99ROKWWSGVT -
sds.org/article/view/936/1111
- Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, 2009, section on the rights of persons with disabilities, p. 250f

ANNEX 3: SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEWS

Tbilisi, October 7th, 2013 (am):

- x Zoia (Maya) Khasia, Project Director, QCT Director & Co-founder
- x Rusudan Kohodze, Project Coordinator & QCT Board Member
- x Miranda Merkviladze, Project Officer & QCT fundraiser
- x Salome Kusikashvili, Legal Consultant
- x Salome Kusik

ANNEX 4: ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EQUITAS	International Center for Human Rights Education
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation (now part of GIZ, German Society for International Cooperation)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
QCT	Qualification Center for Trainers
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VET	Vocational Education and Training