

European Union funding 1997-2010:

Support totalling €142 million in the Health and Social sectors

Major achievements since 2005:

Policy and legislation:

- Two major policy documents – National Plan of Action 2005-7 and the Child Action Plan 2008-11.

- Adoption of laws on Social Assistance, Foster Care and Adoption.

European Union

The European Union tackles the social dimension of the cooperation with Georgia

Since independence, Georgia has made remarkable progress from a planned economic system to a modern market economy. The European Union is supporting Georgia in becoming a full-fledged peer partner by helping Georgia to develop mechanisms and tools to achieving the world wide recognised level of social and health welfare of its citizens in such areas as improving primary health provision, child welfare, better information on health risks and diseases, and ensuring the most up to date skills are available for its professional staff.

For the period 2006-2012, the European Union is providing overall support of €142 million to the social and health sectors. Projects will be carried out to improve health care, poverty reduction and associated social reforms.

Development of the primary health care services

With €1.5 million, the EU has supported the government in the implementation of the Primary Health Care Reform Programme aiming at delivering better and quicker health care services to the citizens in several districts of Georgia.

Easier access to health care services

The assistance provided to the Government of Georgia, through grants and equipment, has allowed the:

- rehabilitation of over 50 primary health care facilities and medical laboratories.
- training of family doctors and nurses in villages of the regions of Kvemo Kartli, Samegrelo, Kakheti, Imereti, Adjara, Shida Kartli.
- setting up well equipped dispensaries able to provide primary health care services such as radiology examination and blood tests.
- additional funding for the development of a specific IT programmes to improve health care management.

Health education programmes totalling €5 million, besides better education of medical staff, will promote information on:

- healthy lifestyles and
- health risks related to common diseases among residents of the regions.

Increased awareness on Reproductive Health

With a € 2.5 million support to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, (€1.1 m for Georgia), the European Union has addressed youth in the South Caucasus and increased their awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health (S&RH). This programme has promoted awareness campaigns among youth between 15 and 24 in urban and rural areas about unprotected sexual activity and experimentation with drugs. The purpose of the project is to empower youth to become aware of their rights, to ensure easier access to services and to improve prevention through information and knowledge.

The civil society is an active part in the process of the social and health care reform, since it is also a beneficiary of the EU funding.

In 2006-2009 the EU has also provided policy advice on the pension reform in Georgia and assistance in the assessment of the health sector for the total amount of € 342.000.

Social reform to protect vulnerable people and foster poverty reduction

Child Welfare Reform

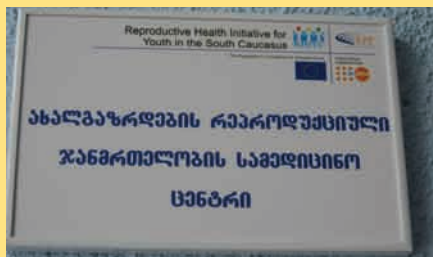
Child welfare reform is also a field in which the EU is very active. Special support has been provided to Georgia for the reform of the national child care system in line with the principles and standards laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Between 1997 and 2010, a total of €109.7 million have been allocated for this aim.

The European Commission is the European Union's executive body

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".



European Union



What has been achieved

- improved quality and coverage of the services provided to children, ensuring that all children in need of support in Georgia can benefit from quality, individualised social services;
- children in need are, where possible, kept in their families or in a family-like care environment;
- better protection of children from all types of abuse, exploitation and neglect;
- the number of children in residential care has been cut by half (from 7887 in 2006 to 3422 in 2008). At the same time, the number of children in foster care or family-like care has increased from 40 in 2000 to 745 in 2008.

The legislation and child welfare policy have been strengthened and specialised bodies of control have been set up. Furthermore, local administrations have been backed in their services to vulnerable children. In addition, this project has raised awareness throughout the country about a better understanding of the importance of growing up in a family environment, and what can be done to create such environment.

Support to local development

From 2008 to 2012, the European Union committed € 24.3 million in support of:

- local development, and poverty reduction amongst 4,000 farming family members in 5 remote communities in Racha-Lechkhumi region (municipalities of Oni, Tsageri and Ambrolauri), more than half of them being women. Specific support has been granted to rural communities and local authorities to better design income generating activities;
- the Ministry for Regional Development and Infrastructure in elaborating a regional development policy for rural areas;
- Vocational Education Training targeting for population, employers and civil society, in urban and rural areas will foster strategic sectors for the Georgian economy. It will facilitate access to professional education by the Georgian labour force and will have a direct positive impact on the creation of new jobs.

30.000 young people have been educated on health issues

During 2005-2007, the Youth Reproductive Health Programme in the South Caucasus had an audience of 30.000 young people. Specific training sessions encouraged participant to think about themselves, interact with the others, learn new things, unlearn some old things on a range of sensitive matters. David, is one of the educators volunteering for the programme. He was trained in a 5 day workshop about HIV and Sexually Transmissible Diseases, ways of preventing infection, safe sex strategies, family planning, as well as violence against women and abortion, gender roles, reproductive health and family planning. Since he has joined the programme, he has had the opportunity to address students in his University encouraging them to discuss about reproductive health. He is working in the Reproductive Health Consultative Centre opened in his University with the support of the programme. People can consult the Centre for advice for problems they are having with their parents, partners, or just talk about problems of their friends and how to solve them and change their behavior.



"Thanks to this experience, I understand that it was really possible to talk to people about reproductive health topics without any conflict. I study medicine, so an activity like peer education has taught me responsibility towards patients. Empowering adolescents to make informed decisions on their reproductive health, became part of my life," says David.

Services:

- Establishment of academic qualifications in social work.
- Increase in social workers from approximately 50 (in 2005) to 200 (in 2009), with a social worker present in almost every district.
- Rehabilitation of 50 primary health care facilities and medical laboratories. 4.000 farming families have benefited from EU funded programmes for local development and poverty reduction

Delegation of the
European Union
to Georgia
38, Nino Chkheidze, 0102
Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: (+995 32) 94 37 63
Fax: (+995 32) 94 37 68
DELEGATION-GEORGIA@ec.europa.eu
www.delgeo.ec.europa.eu