



European Union^{*}

Support to conflict-affected people in Abkhazia

More than 20,000 vulnerable persons received long-term food aid

Three hospitals were renovated and doctors and nurses trained

More than 600 war-damaged houses were rebuilt for the local population, including returnees

6,000 inhabitants got access to safe drinking water

More than 1500 households received a more stable income through small-scale farming projects

500,000m² of mine fields were cleared

Three turbines of the Enguri Hydro-Power Plant were fully rebuilt with EU funds, providing electricity to people on both sides of the Enguri River

Since the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict of 1992-1993 the European Union has been implementing many programmes to support people affected by conflict in Abkhazia.

The projects financed by the European Union aim at improving the living conditions of the local population that suffered from the consequences of the conflict.

At the same time, these actions are designed to assist in creating conditions for the return of displaced persons, who had to flee their homes.

The European Union remains the largest donor organisation supporting people in need in Abkhazia with the following projects:

- Starting with humanitarian aid after the war of the early 1990s, which then gradually broadened to more longer-term reconstruction and development projects;
- Reconstruction of essential local infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and drinking water systems;
- Rebuilding of war-damaged houses for the local population and displaced persons who returned to their houses.
- Small-scale income-generation projects helping farmers and other small entrepreneurs getting out of the poverty trap (such as greenhouses, bakeries and carpentry workshops);
- Support to non-governmental organisations working (amongst others) with children, youth, women and disabled persons;
- Dialogue and confidence building meetings bringing together individuals from both Georgian and Abkhaz sides (from civil society, youth, academia, etc.);
- Clearance of mine fields;
- Large-scale renovation works at the Enguri/Vardnili hydro-power plant.

These projects are channelled through international organisations (United Nations and others) as well as international and local non-governmental organisations.

The European Union is committed to continue its programmes to improve the living conditions of people affected by the conflict in Abkhazia.

** All the geographical denominations except for the UN-established names are indicated as pronounced in both Constitutional languages (Article 8, Constitution)*



What has been achieved with European money?

- Since the conflict of 1992-1993 humanitarian aid relieved the immediate needs for **food, shelter and psychological support** for the most vulnerable people (around €100 million to reach more than **20,000 vulnerable persons** over eighteen years).
- Three **local hospitals** in Gal/Gali, Ochamchira/Ochamchire and Tkvarchal/Tkvarcheli towns were fully **renovated** and doctors and nurses received medical training;
- The drinking water system in Gal/Gali, Ochamchira/Ochamchire and Tkvarchal/Tkvarcheli districts was largely restored, giving more than **6,000 persons** access to **safe drinking water**;
- More than **600 war-damaged houses** were **rebuilt** for the local population, including displaced persons and families who have returned to Gal/Gali district;



- Income-generation activities were set up with the European funding to give a more stable income to people living in poverty. These included, for example, setting up farmer groups for cattle and goat breeding or greenhouses, and creating small businesses, like village shops, bakeries or car and electrical repair workshops. Many of these small entrepreneurs become self-sustainable within two to three years;
- Local rule of law projects provided **legal support** for the local population, included the monitoring of human rights in court cases and free legal aid;
- Youth houses developed **activities for young people** from all backgrounds, such as training of human rights and tolerance, psycho-social support and summer camps.
- More than one hundred individuals from both sides joined in different **dialogue and confidence building meetings**. For example, through joint visits to Northern Ireland and Cyprus Georgians and Abkhaz could share and compare European lessons learned in finding ways to transform and overcome conflict situations;
- More **than 500,000 m² of minefields** were **cleared** from hundreds of mines and unexploded ammunition, which made it safe for the local population to move around safely and re-use their farmland;
- And last but not least, the European Union financed, together with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, **large-scale renovation** works at the **Enguri/Vardnili Hydro-Power Plant**. Its dam is situated on Georgian controlled territory while its power station is located on Abkhaz controlled territory.

With €16,5 million three of Enguri's five turbines were fully rebuilt. They are now working again and provide **electricity to the population on both sides of the Enguri River**. This project also showed that cooperation between the Georgians and Abkhaz is possible.

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For a full list of the European Union-funded projects in Abkhazia, please see the monthly updates on: www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia

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